

- A GRAIN OF MUSTARDSEED -

Dear Friends in Christ:

October 2016

St. Paul, in *Colossians* 4:14 refers to St. Luke as “the beloved physician” so it is probably safe to assume Luke, whose feast we celebrate on the 18th Day of this month, was fairly concerned with health. In fact this notion is readily supported by a quick read of his great two-part treatise: *The Gospel according to St. Luke*, and *The Acts of the Apostles*. Of course Luke, though concerned for the well-being of the whole man, seems especially concerned for the spiritual health of mankind and the Body of Christ (the Church) in particular. Much could be said of Luke’s recommendations for a healthy Christian Fellowship, but surely his best prescription is his own life and, for that matter, the lives of the other Evangelists and Apostles (like Saints Simon and Jude whose Feast we keep on the 28th). *Faithfulness* is the key to success in all our Christian endeavors (not the other way around!). And the only way I know to increase faithfulness is to increase knowledge (as faith is a type of knowing) while increasing charity (love) which will in turn increase hope (our desire for the things of God). So, I reckon I would be in the company of Luke, Simon, Jude and the rest of those holy men and women of old if I commend to you the simple virtues of daily prayer and Bible reading, regular (at least weekly) fellowship in the Church and a seizing upon every opportunity you conveniently have to deepen your Christian faith. Many are highlighted in this letter...please consider taking advantage of them. Finally, as you all now know, we have hired Mr. Tyler Phass as our Sexton and Verger. We all know Tyler from his presence among us as a seminarian and we expect the fine work he has done in that regard will be equaled by a similar performance in these new duties. Please welcome Tyler, Holly and baby Salome anew as they move onto the property and settle into a new phase in their life and ministry with us.

In Christ, Edward L. Rix

ADULT EDUCATION - FALL SCHOOL OF RELIGION

Within our parish, many opportunities present themselves for individual Christians to deepen their relationship with the Lord Jesus in study and fellowship. Our Tuesday Morning Study Group (meeting from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.) is currently reading *25 Books Every Christian Should Read*. The Thursday Bible Study is continuing a wide-reaching study on the themes of covenant and marriage, focusing on the Book of *Exodus*. Our Sunday Adult Forum series (11:30 a.m. to noon) is a study of *The Song of Songs* with occasional talks from some of our outreach partners (Ron Elkin of Ammi Ministry joins us on October 2nd, and Elliot Simko of CCO [Coalition for Christian Outreach...a college campus ministry] and Bill and Norma Jean Jancewicz of Wycliffe Bible Translators come later this autumn). Our annual October midweek evening classes begin on Wednesday, October 5 at 7:00 p.m. and continue throughout the month at the same day and time (the 12th, 19th and 26th). Our talks this autumn will focus on the Christian doctrine of Marriage, an institution assaulted from within and without the Church in our current age. While the sessions follow, more or less, a lecture format, free and open discussion will be encouraged. This will be a great refresher course for married couples and anyone interested in just what ‘traditional marriage’ is.

PRAYER BOOK SOCIETY SEMINAR

We are honored to host an important seminar on “Marriage and Gender in the Bible and the Book of Common Prayer” sponsored by the Prayer Book Society of America and featuring two highly regarded Speakers: Dr. Anthony Esolen of Providence College and Dr. Roberta Bayer of Patrick Henry College. Dr. Esolen, who speaks on Friday Evening, Oct. 28th, is one of the leading cultural critics of our time. Dr. Bayer, editor of *Anglican Way* magazine will speak the next morning, Saturday the 29th.

THE REV. KALEB ZEPHANIA

Father Kaleb Zephania from Kigoma, Tanzania will be visiting us from Oct. 6th to 12th. He is a priest of the Diocese of Western Tanganyika where he is a regional Dean under Bishop Sadock Makaya, an old friend of our parish. Fr. Rix recently spent time with him during his June visit to East Africa. Anyone wishing to host Fr. Zephania for a meal or to meet him and learn of his ministry should contact Fr. Rix directly.

EVENING OUTING TO LINVILLA ORCHARDS

This month’s parish gathering will be an autumn moon hayride and bonfire (not at the same time!) at Linvilla Orchards on Saturday October 22nd. All are invited to come, bring friends, and join in a more casual form of fellowship in the beautiful Pennsylvania countryside. While carpooling is encouraged, everyone is asked to make their own way to Linvilla and meet as a group at 7:00 p.m. Cost is \$7.50 per person.

CHOIR FUNDRAISER CONCERT

Our annual Choral Concert “*For All the Saints*” is offered this year on Sunday, October 30th at 4:00 p.m. Note that, unlike the last three years, the concert is not held on the Sunday in the Octave of All Saints’ (when we keep our feast of title) but on the Sunday before (which is actually the Sunday closest to the feast). This is *the* major fundraiser for our music ministry so we encourage you to come out, bring friends, make a donation and distribute the enclosed flyer in your building or neighborhood.

