



May 2018



# Anglican Church of the Holy Trinity

*Christ-centered, biblically grounded, worshipping in the Anglican Tradition*

## **Your "Unattached" Christian Friends**

*By Father Rob*

A Christian polling organization known as the Barna Research Group identifies a segment of the Christian population they call the "Unattached." The *Unattached* consider themselves to be Christian but without any personal interaction with a regularly-convening, mutually supportive faith community. In other words, the *Unattached* are those Christians in our neighborhoods who have no church family. It is likely that we all have friends who consider themselves Christian yet are not actively involved in any church family.

The reasons for being among the *Unattached* varies greatly, but a popular sentiment among them goes something like this: "Church wouldn't be so bad if it weren't for all those other Christians." Some of you reading this right now may hold this sentiment; hopefully not. Others among the *Unattached* do not consider it worth the time and resources it takes to be part of a church, given the busyness of their lives and the worldly demands for their time and money. To some, church is simply not important and does not matter, given the other foci of their lives.

Let us, however, look at this from God's perspective and see if being part of the church matters to our Lord. Let us start by considering why God created humanity in the first place. As Christians we know that we are created to be in a relationship with Him and, by extension, in a relationship with each other as the Family of God. We also know that we were created out of God's unbounded, unconditional love to be the objects of that love; thus, being in God's image, we are to relate to one another with that same unbounded, sacrificial, unconditional love with which God first loved us (1 John 4:19). But how and where do we learn to do that?

To better understand this, we can look at where all Creation is pointing- that is, the destination of all redeemed and yet to be redeemed humanity. Our destiny as God's people is to be gathered into the full presence of God, but not just with God- also with each other, into what we know as the *Communion of Saints*. The Church on Earth (what the Church Fathers called *The Church Militant*) is the embryo of the *Communion of Saints* in Heaven (*The Church Triumphant*). It is as if this life in the Church is our opportunity to learn to love one another again (i.e. un-learn the "Fall" of Genesis 3). It is in Christian community that God teaches us to love others as He first loved us. In a way, to shun Christian community in this life is to miss the dress rehearsal for that great gathering of the saints in heaven. The truth is that eternity (Heaven), and thus life as part of the *Communion of Saints*, begins in the here and now.

From all this, it would seem that stepping away from intentional fellowship with God's people is not a Godly option. As we have heard it said, "God did not create us to be Lone Ranger Christians." We in this church family should be proactively inviting our *unattached* Christian friends to come enjoy this church family with you. They will discover, as you most surely have, the blessings of Godly community, something we are designed and destined to enjoy forever.

***First Tuesday Prayer was launched in April...*** and will be held the First Tuesday of every month after the Ladies' Bible Study lesson concludes. We look forward to our monthly prayer gathering when we join together agreeing in worship, confession, and intercession before the Throne of Grace to lift up our Church and all of its needs before our Great Intercessor Jesus Christ. Join us in praying for the lost, for prodigals, for the sick, for our Pastors and those who serve us, for our missionaries and any need you might have. Everyone is welcome to partake in this call to tarry in the presence of Jesus for an hour at the Cross of Love. Prayer is "love on its knees" and the golden key to growing in our love relationship with Jesus. Please join us each month as we come faithfully to meet with our King of Love and love one another in intercessory prayer.

***Jackie Fekula***

Newsletter

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*A beacon drawing people to God and into the fellowship of God's people.*

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## Contact with God: A Daily Calling

Father Rob

I attended a church school from grade school on. First thing every morning we would form up in our classes and go to chapel. Some of the enduring memories of those years are the words and prayers of those chapel services- “Open our lips, O Lord,” “forgive us those things done and left undone,” “O be joyful in Lord all ye land,” “Create in me a clean heart, O God,” “You brought us in safety to this new day,” “We give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving kindness.”

These are childhood memories of the great tradition known as the “Daily Offices.” With Daily Morning Prayer, along with Sundays at my home church and the guidance of my Godly mother, I had little doubt about “who I was” and “whose I was.” In those days, I did not know how to articulate it, nor did I always live it, but my identity was anchored deeply in Christ. This identity in Christ, formed in me at an early age, served me immensely as I have moved through life. Nancy and I sought to give this great gift to our children, as every Christian parent desires to do?

I learned that that my walk with the Lord was a daily endeavor and that neglecting daily contact with God had spiritual consequences. I learned much of this the hard way. I quickly discovered in life that the World, the Flesh and the Devil can easily step in to drive our agendas and shape our minds, even while knowing that it is God who wants to drive our agendas and shape our minds. Part of the remedy is the intentional and daily discipline of contact with God, such as the Daily Offices.

The Daily Offices of Morning and Evening Prayer are not a new concept to God’s people. The Old Testament speaks of the Hebrew tradition of Morning and Evening Sacrifices. Jesus in His earthly ministry was constantly checking in with the Father in prayer. The Early Church Fathers understood regular prayer to be the underpinning of the Christian life and our defense against the evils of this world. The Early Church Fathers, the Desert Fathers and the later Monastics had disciplines of praying the “Offices” throughout the day. When Islam took shape in the 7<sup>th</sup> Century, it was no doubt influenced by the Christian tradition of praying specific hours of the day. During the 15<sup>th</sup> C. Protestant Reformation, Archbishop Thomas Cranmer, knowing that a relationship with God to be a daily pursuit, made the rich and well established tradition of daily prayer accessible to common, everyday Christians by including the “Daily Offices” in the Anglican Book of Common Prayer, which we use to this day.

A Prayer Book with its Daily Offices is a good tool to have in your spiritual toolbox, but you can also find the Daily Offices on our church’s website:

(<https://www.achtna.org/daily-offices-morning-prayer>).

Along with the Daily Lectionary in your Prayer Book, or some other systematic reading of Scripture, or the weekly lectionary reading on our website

(<https://www.achtna.org/readings-for-upcoming-sundays>)

you can, in just a few minutes each day, affirm “who you are” and “whose you are” before taking on your day.



### How to Double Your Money

#### The Road to Truth Project

#### Fr. Dan’s \$10,000 Challenge Match

On Sunday April 15<sup>th</sup>, Father Dan Brown offered a challenge to the ACHTNA congregation. He will match any gifts toward *The Road to Truth Project* given from Sunday April 15<sup>th</sup> through the completion of the project up to \$10,000. This is an excellent opportunity to double what the Lord leads you to give toward this project now. As you recall, *The Road to Truth* will be a road constructed between Merovan Drive and Walnut Lane allowing direct access to ACHTNA and a safer exit traffic pattern back to Edgefield Highway.



### Pomp and Circumstance at Holy Trinity

How excited we are to have three graduating high school seniors in our church family! On June 3<sup>rd</sup>, we will honor Avery, Daniel, and Kate in our 10 o’clock worship service and afterward at a covered dish luncheon. Mark your calendars and stay tuned for details.

### Feast of Pentecost, Sun. May 20

The Christian celebration of Pentecost occurs 50 days after Easter Sunday. It therefore is always on a Sunday. It is also the 10<sup>th</sup> day after Ascension. The Feast of Pentecost is a celebration of the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and other followers of Jesus as described in the Acts 2:1–31.



Family Promise guests have come and gone! **Well, it was fun while it lasted! What a blessing it was for us to host two moms and their three daughters for the week in our church building.** Many of us prayed, cooked, hosted, stayed overnight, unloaded and loaded bedroom furniture to accommodate the two families. Thanks go out to those who served as Jesus' hands and hearts in this ministry. God is at work all around us, and what a privilege it was for us to be a part **of His work.**

### Telling Your Story

God tells us that He has a message for us to give to others...

- **1 Peter 2:9-** *"You are the ones chosen by God, God's instruments to do His work and to speak out for Him to tell others of the night and day difference He made in you"*
- **Psalms 96:2,3-** *"Every day tell how He saves us. Tell the nations of His glory. Tell all peoples of the miracles He does."*

The Bible is also full of many examples of people sharing their story...

- **King David:** *"Come and listen and I'll tell you what God's done for me."*
- **The woman at the well:** *"Many of the Samaritans of the town believed in Him because of the woman's testimony."*
- **The man who was born blind:** *"I don't know whether He's good or bad but I know this: I was blind but now I see."*
- **John 3:11:** *"Listen carefully, I am speaking sober truth to you and I speak only what I know by experience."*



The great thing about telling your story is that it is "Your Story!" No one can challenge your experience of God. Additionally, you don't have to have it all figured out. You don't have to have all the theology down pat. You don't have to be a Bible scholar. Your story is simply... your story! Such as- "All I know is Jesus Christ changed my life." That can be your testimony. You can, of course, go on from there to tell what difference Jesus has made, how you have been blessed by God, how God brought new direction, hope and purpose to your life, etc. A personal testimony is a powerful form of communication.

Madison Avenue uses personal testimonies with huge effectiveness. Your story can be equally effective.

What is your story? How would you go about telling someone about your walk with the Lord such that it will encourage them to and lead them to consider their own relationship with God? Look for opportunities to tell your story; you never know when someone's salvation may depend on it. **Father Rob**

<b>May Lay Ministry Chart</b>					
<b>2018</b>	<b>May 6 6<sup>th</sup> Sun of Easter</b>	<b>May 13 7<sup>th</sup> Sun of Easter</b>	<b>May 20 Day of Pentecost</b>	<b>May 27 Trinity Sun</b>	<b>June 3 2 Pentecost</b>
<b>Euch. Min.</b>	Mike S	Paula W	Sandra S	Jerry N	Mike S
<b>Ushers / Greeters</b>	Judy C Donna L Richard M	Jason N Mike S Monte S	Margaret W Joseph A Bill B	Judy C Deborah K Richard M	Jason N Monte S Joseph A
<b>Presenting Bread/Wine</b>	Pat C Terri F	Joe & Yeraldin G	Ginger H Nancy H	Billy & Amy H	Mike & Amber H
<b>Prayer Team</b>	Nancy H TBD	TBD Margaret W	Ginger H Monique T	Nancy H TBD	TBD Margaret W
<b>Lector-OT</b>	Jackie F	Daniel H	Ginger H	Billy H	Sue J
<b>Lector-NT</b>	Richard M	Annette M	Avery S	Jami W	Jason N
<b>Altar Guild [week of]</b>	Annette M Donna L	TBD JoEllen B	Virginia F Marguerite P	Ginger H Monique T Terry N	Annette M Donna L
<b>Acolyte Guild</b>	Jackie F	Oke I	Avery S	Sandra S	Jada T
<i><b>If you are unable to fulfill your ministry obligations please find a replacement and let Fr. Rob know.</b></i>					

# May, 2018

<i>Mark Your Calendar</i>	1	2	3	4	5
<p><i>June 3- Covered-Dish Luncheon honoring our Graduates</i></p> <p><i>June 10- Daughters Gathering</i></p> <p><i>June 17- Father's Day</i></p>		<p><i>St Philip &amp; St. James, Apostles</i></p> <p><b>10:00 am</b> 1<sup>st</sup> Tue Prayer</p> <p><b>No</b> Women's Bible Study</p> <p><b>6:00 pm</b> Choir</p>	<p><b>6:00 pm</b> Fellowship Supper</p> <p><i>Nursery available</i></p>		<p><b>9:00 to 10:30am</b> Men's fellowship &amp; Bible Study</p>
6	7	8	9	10	11
<p><b>6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</b></p> <p>8:00 am Eucharist 10:00 am Eucharist 11:20 am Coffee 11:30 am Christian Ed</p> <p><i>Nursery available</i></p>		<p><b>No</b> Women's Bible Study</p> <p><b>6:00 pm</b> Choir</p>	<p><b>6:00 pm</b> Fellowship Supper</p> <p><i>Nursery available</i></p>	<i>Ascension Day</i>	<p><b>9:00 to 10:30am</b> Men's fellowship &amp; Bible Study</p>
13	14	15	16	17	18
<p><b>7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</b></p> <p><i>Mother's Day</i></p> <p>8:00 am Eucharist 10:00 am Eucharist 11:20 am Coffee 11:30 am Christian Ed</p> <p><i>Nursery available</i></p>		<p>10:00-11:30 am Women's Bible Study</p> <p><b>6:00 pm</b> Choir</p>	<p><b>6:00 pm</b> Fellowship Supper</p> <p><i>Nursery available</i></p>		<p><b>9:00 to 10:30am</b> Men's fellowship &amp; Bible Study</p>
20	21	22	23	24	25
<p><b>Day of Pentecost</b></p> <p>8:00 am Eucharist 10:00 am Eucharist 11:20 am Coffee 11:30 am Christian Ed</p> <p><i>Nursery available</i></p>		<p>10:00-11:30 am Women's Bible Study</p> <p><b>6:00 pm</b> Choir</p>	<p><b>6:00 pm</b> Fellowship Supper</p> <p><i>Nursery available</i></p>		<p><b>9:00 to 10:30am</b> Men's fellowship &amp; Bible Study</p>
27	28	29	30	31	
<p><b>Trinity Sunday</b></p> <p><b>1<sup>st</sup> Sun after Pentecost</b></p> <p>8:00 am Eucharist 10:00 am Eucharist 11:20 am Coffee 11:30 am Christian Ed</p> <p><i>Nursery available</i></p>	<i>Memorial Day</i>	<p>10:00-11:30 am Women's Bible Study</p> <p><b>6:00 pm</b> Choir</p>	<p><b>6:00 pm</b> Fellowship Supper</p> <p><i>Nursery available</i></p>	<i>Visitation of the Blessed Virgin</i>	

## Links to the ways we communicate

Parish Website:	<a href="http://www.achtna.org">http://www.achtna.org</a>
Monthly Newsletters (web + mailed):	<a href="http://www.achtna.org/newsletters">http://www.achtna.org/newsletters</a>
Sunday Bulletin & Announcement Pg.:	<a href="http://docs.wixsttic.com/ugd/4a5efa_d2f2833708fd4cb786e26341d2b7e364.pdf">http://docs.wixsttic.com/ugd/4a5efa_d2f2833708fd4cb786e26341d2b7e364.pdf</a>
Holy Trinity Mobile App:	<a href="http://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/4a5efa_80ea18e8be5a4eb69541c319aa89a00f.pdf">http://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/4a5efa_80ea18e8be5a4eb69541c319aa89a00f.pdf</a>
Email Distr. News & messages (If you are not receiving HT emails, please provide your email address to <a href="mailto:robhartley@comcast.net">robhartley@comcast.net</a> )	
Prayer List (Sun. Bulletin & Web):	<a href="http://www.achtna.org/parish-prayer-list">http://www.achtna.org/parish-prayer-list</a>
Rector's Blog (North Augusta Anglican):	<a href="http://holyltrinityna.blogspot.com/">http://holyltrinityna.blogspot.com/</a>

*Holy Trinity is a congregation of the Anglican Church in North America*  
**Christ-centered, biblically grounded, worshipping in the Anglican Tradition**

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Bishop: The Rt. Rev. Steve Wood Rector: The Rev. Rob Hartley

Assisting Clergy: The Rev.'s Dan Brown and Theophilus Iwuji

Vestry: Annabelle Shepherd, Jason Nault, Dianne Havird, Avery Shapiro Senior Warden: Mike Fekula, Junior Warden: Darren Newman