

the Sursum Corda

News & Inspiration from Epiphany Anglican-Boulder



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Dear Epiphany,

Article Four of the statement of belief of the new Anglican Church in North America, of which we are a part, reads: "We confess as proved by most certain warrants of Holy Scripture the historic faith of the undivided church as declared in the three Catholic Creeds: the Apostles', the Nicene, and the Athanasian." It seems whenever one is around Anglicans (particularly Anglican theologians) the subject of church creeds pops up. What's so great about the creeds of the early undivided church?



Take the Nicene Creed for example. It was formed as a statement of Christian faith - to clarify differing opinions as to whether, and in what ways, Jesus Christ is God. The source of the dispute that had precipitated the Nicene convention was that of a presbyter named Arius from Alexandria (in today's Egypt). Arius had stated that Jesus: "... is not equal to God, nor yet is he of the same substance." In response, the creed adopted by the Council that met at Nicea (now Iznik, Turkey) articulated the belief that Jesus is "of one substance" with God the Father. It reflected the biblical teaching of both the total divinity of Jesus as well as his full humanity. It confirmed the truth about Jesus.

The Nicene Creed is important for several reasons. First, it reflects the role of the Church (its bishops in particular) as keeper and protector of orthodox faith. Secondly, it affirms that community processes can be used by God to reinforce biblical truths to church communities and individual believers. Thirdly, it is an example of a biblical synthesis of truth so the church can understand the full counsel of God. (For example, I don't believe I would come to

an awareness of the Trinity by reading the Bible alone). Fourthly, it defines the essentials of Orthodox belief to act as a yardstick to judge our beliefs and those of others. (It doesn't tell us what to believe but what is believed by professing Christians over the centuries).

While not a perfect guide, the Nicene and other Creeds of the undivided church keep the Church from error *when taken seriously*. Almost every aberration of Christian orthodoxy from liberalism to legalism, from Spong to O'Steen, represents a departure from the Nicene and other catholic creeds. The current postmodern struggles of "churchless Christianity" as well as what Michael Horton calls "Christless Christianity" are examples.

Let's be thankful and serious about the fact that God has entrusted truth to the care of His Church (John 16.13-15). May we be faithful to the recognized three Catholic Creeds of the Church as our expression of both belief and life. No creed is worth the paper upon which it's printed without a faithful living of its truth.

Yours for truth,

Dick Miller

My Story: Carl Drews



Have you experienced a miracle, or felt a presence in your heart that had no better explanation than Jesus?

I have, in Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, Good Friday, 1981.

I spent part of my Junior year at Stanford University studying overseas in England. During a break I left England and traveled by rail to Paris on my way to Spain. I arrived in Paris on Good Friday and found a bed in a youth hostel.

I had grown up attending and enjoying church. But during my college years I had made the mistake of not finding a home church in Palo Alto. During those years I fell away from Christianity, partying at school and ignoring my faith. I was not recognizable as a Christian. On this Good Friday in Paris I decided to attend a worship service in Notre Dame that evening. I went to the cathedral by myself, found a comfortable chair, and sat down.

I didn't understand much of the service, but I expected it. Toward the end I saw lines of people forming to go forward. It appeared to be Holy Communion, and the invitation seemed to be open. I joined a line and moved slowly forward.

When the last person in front of me moved aside

Catfish a-Jumpin' for Summer Events



You'll want to highlight your calendars and BlackBerrys with the following summer dates. There will be more to follow, so listen carefully for updates on Sundays.

*June 1: Justin Martyr at Rome, 167 A.D.**

June 6: New sermon series "Life Together" begins

*June 11: St Barnabus, the Apostle**

June 13: Fr. Gerry presiding at Communion

*June 13: GK Chesterton, apologist and writer, 1936**

June 20: Father's Day with Guest Community Artist - Romund Anderson, jazz musician

June 26: Friendship Party at the Kuepper's, Boulder

*June 29: Sts Peter and Paul**

July 4: Outdoor service with EAF-Longmont at Left Hand Park, Pike Rd. and 0.3 mile east of Sunset, 9.30

**Some of the Anglican Calendar of Saints in italics.*

"St. Dietrich"

I got a rude shock. This was not Communion at all, but an opportunity for worshipers to bend over and kiss a marble crucifix of Jesus instead! What could I do? I couldn't back out now. I leaned over and kissed the statue. It was cold. The attending priest dutifully wiped off the statue as usual. I returned to my seat, angry and disgusted.

A short time later the lines formed again. I peered forward and determined that this time they were really offering Communion. I'll try again, and I was hopeful there wouldn't be any surprises. I moved forward.

When I got to the front of the line I knelt down to receive the Communion wafer. At the moment the bread was placed in my mouth God touched me in a way that is difficult to explain. Suddenly I felt the unmistakable presence of God, a warm and loving touch all over. I burst into tears - tears of relief, joy, and some regret. God told me in words without sound: "I want you back. You come back to me." It was the most gentle admonishment one could imagine, a message of acceptance and love and reminding me of who I really was. It felt like a bucket of warm water was poured over me when receiving the Body of Christ.

This time I returned to my seat with tears pouring down my cheeks. I sat there softly weeping through the end of the service, until most of the other worshipers had left. God wants me back. I need to come back. I will come back to Him.

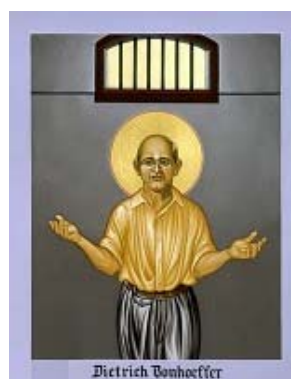
I made my way back to the hostel alone that night, then continued my trip through southern France, Andorra, and Spain. The odd thing is, I did not return to a Christian life right away. I kept on partying during my Senior year, and still did not join a faith community. But from that moment in Notre Dame Cathedral I knew that I would come back. And somehow I felt the assurance that I would be given sufficient time to return, that I would not die before repenting.

After graduation I moved to a new city and state. I immediately looked through the Yellow Pages for a church, and visited two every Sunday morning until I found one that I liked. I have been faithful in worship ever since

Who better to face the greatest evil of the 20th century than a humble man of Christian faith?

"One act of obedience (to Christ) is better than one hundred sermons"- Dietrich Bonhoeffer

As Adolf Hitler and the Nazis seduced a nation, bullied a continent, and attempted to exterminate the Jews of Europe, a small number of dissidents and saboteurs worked to dismantle the Third Reich from the inside. One of these was Dietrich Bonhoeffer-a pastor and author, known as much for such spiritual classics as The Cost of Discipleship and Life Together, as for his 1945 execution in a concentration camp for his part in the plot to assassinate Adolf Hitler.



Modern artist's concept of a Bonhoeffer "icon"

Bonhoeffer's life is controversial. But rather than stay in England after the rise of Hitler to power, this pastor returned to the horrors of wartime Germany to be with his people.

The humble pastor was hung by the Nazis less than a week before the Allies liberated the prison. The camp doctor who witnessed Bonhoeffer's execution wrote: "I saw Pastor Bonhoeffer ... kneeling on the floor praying fervently to God. I was most deeply moved by the way this lovable man prayed, so devout and so certain that God heard his prayer. At the place of execution, he again said a short prayer and then climbed the few steps to the gallows, brave and composed. His death ensued after a few seconds. In the almost fifty years that I worked as a doctor, I have hardly ever seen a man die so entirely submissive to the will of God."

Bonhoeffer is remembered in the Anglican Calendar of Saints on April 9.

"Silence in the face of evil is itself evil: God will

encountering Jesus every Sunday through praise, fellowship, prayer and, of course, Holy Communion.

"Life Together" Series

A series of sermons planned for summer (Ordinary Time) will focus on Christian community-- the Church. Here are the dates and titles currently planned with lectionary references:

- June 6- Source of Our Call (Gal. 1.11-24)
- June 13-Source of Our Faith (Gal.2.15-21)
- June 20- Gettin' Schooled (Gal. 3.23-29)
- June 27- The Church at War (Gal. 5.1,13-25)
- July 4- When Caring Gets Tough (Gal.6.1-16)
- July 11- A Pastor's Prayer (Col. 1. 1-14)
- July 18- Christ at the Center (Col.1.15-29)
- July 25- The Church's Greatest Enemy (Col 2.6-15)
- Aug. 1- The Amphibious Church (Col.3.1-11)
- Aug. 8- Faith Defined by Life (Heb.11.1-16)
- Aug. 15- God's Guarentees in Hardship (Heb. 12.1-15)
- Aug. 22- Community Purity #1(Heb.12.18-29)
- Aug. 29- Community Purity #2 (Heb. 13.1-8)
- Sept. 5- Obedience When the Chips are Down (Philemon 1-21)

You're invited to take an active part in these messages by being on the lookout for stories, illustrations, and insights that may be used to enhance the message. Share your suggestions with Pastor Miller.

not hold us guiltless. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act." - Dietrich Bonhoeffer

House Blessing



A house blessing is a time for a family to gather together and seek God's blessing and protection upon their home. It's a perfect time to

invite new neighbors and old friends and have them take part. Prayers are offered throughout the house and Holy Scripture is read. Quite often refreshments with neighbors and friends follows.

If you would like to schedule a house/apartment blessing, please contact Fr. Miller.

Friendship Party!



Boulder will be the scene of our next Friendship Party. We'll meet at the new home of John and Page Kuepper (1980 Floral Dr.) on the evening of June 26. Details will follow, but begin inviting your friends from work and neighborhood as well as family members to this summer event. The fun & food will be unmatched!

What a wonderful way to use our homes as lighthouses to light up our Boulder neighborhoods! **Want to host our July party?**

"A friend is someone who sees through you and still enjoys the view." - Wilma Askinas

Summer Faithfulness

Summer is the season many of us take to the roads, waterways, and air for a bit of fun and relaxation. As you go, please remain connected to your church so we can stay connected to

you. So this might happen, I suggest we do the following:

- 1) Remain in prayer for your congregation, leaders and other worshipers. Each morning, begin with a short prayer especially if you're away on Sunday morning;
- 2) Send a postcard or bring back a photo of you (or your family) doing something fun on your vacation. We'll add it to the map in Fellowship Hall;
- 3) Remain regular in your offerings and gifts as the expense of ministry continues;
- 4) Try to attend church or campground service while away. It's a great way to meet local people adding color to your vacation. If possible, bring back news of a local Anglican congregation;
- 5) While at home remain faithful in church attendance. Invite any guests you're hosting to worship with us. Make worship a "given" and build your plans around the worship service;
- 6) Let us know how we might pray for you (or your family) even while away.

Have fun, be safe, and let's stay connected!

All of God's protection,

Dick+

Epiphany Anglican Fellowship-Boulder

Quick Links

www.epiphanyanglican.org

www.theamia.org

www.acna.org

<http://www.colbertnation.com/the-colbert-report-videos/174352/june-19-2008/bishop-n-t--wright> Bishop Tom Wright interviewed by comedian Stephen Colbert (laughs & serious points)

www.epiphanyanglican.org/photogallery.html See pix of recent EAF events

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Epiphany Anglican Fellowship | 1067 S. Hover St. | Unit E-18 | Longmont | CO | 80501