

# Community of Grace

## DAILY WALK WEEK OF JULY 18, 2022

Partners in Ministry: Listen & Learn

Written by Vicar Jared Fischer

**July 18, 2022**

“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything.” (Colossians 1:15-18) When we are partners with others in ministry, we are partners with Christ in his ministry. Jesus is among us and in us at all times. So when you are entered into the body of Christ, you support Christ when you support your neighbor. You deny Christ when you deny your neighbor. The secular powers of the world that demand your attention and interest are also created through Jesus Christ but do not let them take your eyes and ears off of the commandment to love one another. Take the time today to consider how you would speak to Christ if He were in the place of the next person you interact with; because you are! Prayer. “Good and gracious God, we give thanks and praise for you in our midst. We are thankful that Christ is with us and among us and we pray that we treat each other as we would treat Christ. Amen.”

**July 19, 2022**

“And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him, provided that you continue securely established and steadfast in the faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven.” (Colossians 1:21-23) In Holy Baptism you have been claimed by Jesus! You are justified and reconciled to the sin that is in you. You are both sinner and saint. It is now time to share

that blessing with one another through partnership in ministry. Pray for wisdom that you can find ways to bless others as God has blessed you. That two sinners, saved by God, can do their best to show appreciation to God by putting aside the earthly desires in favor of the Holy Gospel. We are capable of great things individually, but we are so much stronger when we are partners working together. Prayer. “Good and gracious God, we give thanks and praise for the new covenant through Jesus Christ that our sins are forgiven. We pray for the strength to pay that love forward to others and forgive them as you have forgiven us. Amen.”

Partners in Ministry: Stronger Together

Written by Wanda Mulkey

**Wednesday, July 20, 2022**

**Lesson: John 6: 41-51**

Most of our married lives, David and I have had a dog. Different breeds, colors and attitudes. Abbie is our current dog. She is a Labradoodle. Before Abbie, I had two Yorkies, Sam and Sadie. Sam was 4 ½ pounds of cuteness but he was (as my mother would say) dumb as a box of rocks. He didn't have to be smart. He had Sadie. She weighed in at 15 lbs. and had long ears that did not stick up like a true yorkie. (The people that sold us Sadie said she would be small like Sam and that she was a registered Yorkie with papers. I should have known that this was not true. As a puppy her paws were twice as big as full-grown Sam's and her ears hung down like a Bassett Hound.) Now Sadie was smart so Sam didn't have to know anything, He waited for Sadie to go outside and he followed. When he saw Sadie eat, he ate. When Sadie learned to go upstairs, he learned to climb the steps to go upstairs. When Sadie barked, he barked. You get the idea. I knew that Sam would be devastated if something happened to Sadie. He depended on either her or me to get through his days. She was independent and, so I thought, did not need anyone. Unfortunately, the day came when Sam was diagnosed with bladder cancer. I grieved as I watched him dying. Sadie went about her business until the day he died. When

# Community of Grace

## DAILY WALK

I got home from the doctor's office, she knew. Instinctively, she knew. The next day, I put her in the crate (they were both crate-trained while I was at work. The crate was a piece of furniture with wooden slats.) When I returned home that afternoon, Sadie was waiting for me at the door. She had left me a puddle that I immediately stepped in and was whining. How could she have gotten out of that crate? I went to see. She had "eaten" out of the crate. It was destroyed. The next day, she "opened" the metal crate she had been put in and once again met me with a puddle at the door. For 6 months my poor Sadie mourned Sam. She never went in a crate again because he was not with her. Sometimes we feel we do not need anyone or anything. It is enough if other people need us. But we do need others. We need our families, our friends our church, and our neighbors. And of course, we need God. It is good for you to accept the help when you are in need. Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, Please send us the helpers we need when in crisis. Be with us in times of stress and confusion. And have us appreciate the all the ones that come to our aide when they are so needed. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

**Thursday, July 21, 2022**

**Lesson: Psalm 138**

About three months ago, I broke my arm. When asked about it, I usually say I was skydiving (which I've never done nor intend to do) or engaged in a bar fight. What's funny is that no one believes the sky diving. The truth is much more confusing. There was a tall, yellow painted curb outside of a store in Myrtle Beach that I never saw coming. I landed on my ribs which I thought were broken, knocked the breath out of me and broke the top part of my humerus bone near the shoulder. That night a visit to the ER and the next day driving home from Myrtle Beach was excruciating. When I went to see my Orthopedist, I found out (thankfully) that I would not need surgery, the bone would heal on its own, but more than likely, I would never have the range of motion that I did before the accident. My body would get used to that and I

probably would never miss it. After three weeks of a sling, the doctor sent me to Physical Therapy. This is where I met Dr. Pain (as I like to call my physical therapist.) Now Dr. Pain is an extremely professional young man. Of course, when you are my age, almost all in the medical field are younger. For the first week, therapy was easy. I would go in and do some stretches, "rode" a bike with my arms only, exercised with pulleys and then he would stretch my arm back and forth in a few different positions. (At this point I was calling him by his given name.) I enjoyed going to the "gym" and I love meeting new people. That's the way I am. But after that week, his name changed real fast! The manipulations on my left arm were different, more range, more severe. It was not fun. It was hard. The exercises got more difficult and harder to perform correctly. I would leave there and all the way home pray that God would help me through this. That he would show me that all this pain was doing some good. (What I actually wanted was for Him to just heal the arm.) Somehow, I kept going. Somehow, with God's help, I persevered. It was then that I noticed that I could move my arm easier. The aches and pain were still there but did not hurt as bad as before. When I started, I felt that raising my hand to my cheek was monumental. Now I can raise my arm almost straight up over my head. That's real progress. God's progress. Because without Him I might have quit. And I have come to believe He sent me to Dr. Pain (or Gabe, as I like to call him now.) Daily Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, We are so thankful that you listen to us in our time of need. We know that your outstretched hand is less than a prayer away. Help us now. Help us always. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

**Friday, July 22, 2022**

**Lesson: John 20:1-2, 11-18**

Several years ago, my sister, Judy was in search for a church. It had been several years since she and her husband had attended one and she was looking for a forever church home. Unlike me,

# Community of Grace

## DAILY WALK

she wanted a large church. One that she would feel comfortable and wanted and loved. She found the one that she thought would fit the bill. It was one of several satellites of a large non-denomination. For a while, they attended on Sunday only. It is hard to feel loved and wanted by just being a Sunday worshiper. Then Judy had some major problems with her life. And these church women rallied around her and made her feel special. After that, she and her husband started to become regular attendees of this church's small groups and even volunteered to help in the church. I have never seen her happier. Then one day, she called, crying. The main church had decided to dissolve her satellite. She was devastated. We talked about God's plan for her. Maybe this was part of it. She prayed and prayed that God would change their mind. But they didn't. And she was hurt and angry and sad. She finally wound up seeking another church. It is also a large non-denominational church. But this time, they found that a lot of the people that had attended the other one, had been drawn to this new church - some of the same people that had covered her in love during her bad time. Today, as we were talking on the phone, she brought up the subject of God's plan. She now knows that He has a plan for all of us. And sometimes, we can't see it. Now, OUR church is facing a change. It is a change that no one saw coming. But one that will test our abilities to adapt. Pastor Matt and Pastor Jill are moving. The church in Savannah will be getting one of the best! And we will be on the look out for our new pastor. My heart is breaking for me. But my soul is celebrating with the Hennings. The one thing I do know is that God has a plan. Judy has taught me that. Daily Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, We do not know the plans you have for us. Please help us to be patient when life does not go the way we want and may we remember that your plans may not be what we expect but what we need. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

**Saturday, July 23, 2022**

### **Lesson: Luke 8; 22-25**

Fifty years ago, on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, David and I made a commitment to each other. We were married. With that one ceremony, we started our lives together. The wedding started at 6:30. After the ceremony, we had a southern reception in the fellowship hall of the church; Cake, punch (NO alcohol,) nuts, mints and a few hors d'oeuvres. Everything went smoothly. Except I have very little memory of the day. We had an "okay" photographer (to cut down on expenses) and I had my eyes closed in two of the pictures. After all these years, I cannot remember how I felt or remember any unusual or cute things we did. So, for our Fiftieth Anniversary, I talked David into renewing our vows. Over our 50 years together, he has always been adamant that we would not do a renewal. But this year was different. He said yes. We decided that it would be simple. Just our little family and a few friends. Our granddaughter, Lyla, escorted David to the front of the church. And our grandsons, Sawyer and Knox escorted me. As we walked in, we were surrounded by the song "In My Life" by the Beatles. (A surprise for David from me because it is our favorite Beatles song.) When I saw David waiting for me with a big smile, I felt like I was nineteen again. We kissed the grandchildren and sent them off to sit with their parents. Then it was David and I. I saw no one else in the room. The renewal itself was spiritual. I felt God's presence and I knew He was pleased. When I looked at David, I knew he felt the same. We could not stop smiling. When it was over, David took my hand, and we left the chapel to (my surprise from David) the song "You're my Best Friend" by Queen. As we walked, I flashed back to our life together. The good, the bad and the ugly. But I would do these 50 years over again. In a heartbeat! We are so honored that Pastor Matt officiated, and Alexia did so much work to make this a night to remember. Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, Thank you for all the blessings you have given us. Because of these blessings, we are able to have a joyous life. Without your help, we are

# Community of Grace

## DAILY WALK

lost. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

**Sunday, July 24, 2022**

**Lesson: Luke 11:1-13**

I was blessed with two wonderful children. One, Derek, is smart, strong willed, competitive, funny, athletic, artistic, rebellious. Two, Allison, is loving, smart, strong willed, competitive, funny, artistic, athletic. On paper, they look similar but in real life, they could not have been more different. Derek received a lot of attention his six years of being an only child, but I worked. Allison received a lot of attention because I didn't work and for several years while Derek was in school, she had me to herself. Because of this, Allison became my little running buddy. She participated with me as a volunteer for several good causes. And she went with me to our former church every Wednesday to Bible study and once a month to the women's group. Allison was a good child. She never complained except when she had to go to the church nursery. She had friends there, she liked the woman who ran the nursery, but she wanted to be with me. One day for the women's group, I had to do the devotional. And I decided that I would have the best devotional I could come up with. So, I wrote one about my sainted father-in-law who had passed away. This was going to be the devotional to end all. There would not be a dry eye in the house. I was not going to read it, just say it from the heart. It would go down in history. Allison, age 3, and I proceeded to the church, running a little late. We pulled up to the building that housed the nursery, got out of the car and walked toward the door. Allison started crying. She had been to the nursery the day before and she was not going back today. I told her that it would not be long, that I would buy her ice cream afterward, we would go to the park. The more I talked, the louder she got. Big tears, runny nose. I looked at my watch. I was going to miss my devotion time. Someone else would just get up and do one and here I was discussing the merits of going into the building with my 3-year-old. Nothing I said

worked. I tried to pick her up. She then attached herself to the door frame. I looked at my watch again and all reasoning went out of my head. I lowered myself. I was blood red in the face. And through clenched teeth, I loudly said, "Allison! You are going in that building because I have the D\_\_\_ Devotional." Then I felt a hand on my back. I turned my head and looked up. The new nursery worker was standing behind me. Listening to me curse at my child. Something I wish I had never done. Nothing should have been that important. There wasn't a thing I could say. I'm sure her first impression of me stayed with her. She's probably still talking about that terrible mother. She took Allison by the hand and led her to the nursery. I took my notes and walked into the fellowship hall. Everyone was relieved to see the devotion speaker had arrived. I walked up to the podium, put my notes in front of me and said, "I had the perfect devotional for you ladies. It would have made you cry. I worked so hard on it. But now, I have a better one." So, I told my truth. The story of my daughter's tears. Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, Pour upon us your abundant mercy. Forgive us those things that weigh on our conscience. Help us to remember that if we only ask, we will receive. In Jesus' name, Amen.