

AUGUST 2009

"It is the right, good, old way you are in; keep in it."

— dying words of Nicholas Ferrar (obit 1637)

**In the small church** of St. John's in the village of Little Gidding in rural Cambridgeshire, England, there is a window, on which are written the last words of Nicholas Ferrar (Feastday Dec. 1st). Ferrar was the founder of a religious community in England in the early 17th century; a kind of experiment in Christian community life made up of his family and some of his relatives. They lived frugally, structured their day and year in accordance with the Book of Common Prayer's services and pattern for living, taught the children in the area to read and write, visited the sick, and had a scriptorium in which various books were assembled for educational or spiritual purposes. A place favored by King Charles I, the community was broken up by the Puritans during the English Civil War (c. 1640-49). Yet this brief chapter in Anglican history has had, and continues to have, a remarkable impact on our ideals.

For those who know of it (chiefly through T.S. Elliot's poem "Little Gidding" from the *Four Quartets*), the story of Little Gidding is often seen as a romanticized dream: a kind of *Little-House-on-the-Prairie*-meets-the-Mitford-books picture of being Anglican. Yet the day-to-day reality in that community, when viewed carefully, suggests a life remarkably familiar to us...one of responsibilities to others, the need to get chores done, the unexpected intruding on plans made...with one significant exception: it was a life founded on, and steeped in prayer. Prayerful communion with God was THE priority.

Just saying that sounds remarkably naïve and impractical in our day. How can one possibly base a modern American life on prayer? Isn't that a luxury? Isn't exercise, or medication, or even denial more effective? How can we commodify "prayer?" How can something so elusive fit into our "lifestyle?"

Perhaps the answer is simple: we cannot fit prayer into the modern American

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way of life. We cannot make prayer into a kind of pill we swallow in the morning and then forget about till the next dose. Prayer does not cost anything, so it cannot be considered of value in a society that judges most things by their price. In other words, to be a truly prayerful person is to be at odds with our society as it is.

Yet this is true about all aspects of Christian discipleship. No matter how each era and each culture try to domesticate it, the Gospel and the life Jesus sets out for those who would follow Him is so demanding, so difficult, that it is only possible through a radical *dependence on God*. Usually, good health and favorable circumstances allow us to think we are quiet capable to living on our own terms. But, when our fragility is exposed by trials or loss, we find out just how vulnerable we are. The Christian is called to live in a state of continual dependence on God's grace. This is the message of the Beatitudes, and a major focus of the Church Year (especially Lent). Our various sins all spring from a fundamental sin: the choice to live apart from God's will, God's purpose and love.



Nicholas Ferrar had been a rich man before he founded the community at Little Gidding. He had been a director of the Virginia Company (an early version of today's multinational corporations), and had become aware of various abuses in the company and its governance. He helped expose those abuses (a kind of corporate whistle-blower), and after the investigation and dissolution of the company, he decided that the life he had led was no longer of deep meaning to him. He radically simplified his life, took deacon's orders, and immersed himself in the "right, good, old way" of living found in the Gospels and taught by the Christian Church (in all of its imperfection) since the Apostles. He gave himself to prayer, works of mercy, and a counter-cultural way – yes, even then! – of simple Christian living. To those who would come after him, he had only one piece of advice about this prayer-soaked, Gospel-imbued, Prayer Book-based life: "keep in it." Much has changed since Blessed Nicholas Ferrar's time; but the challenge and the key to discipleship remain the same. We have the same tools: the

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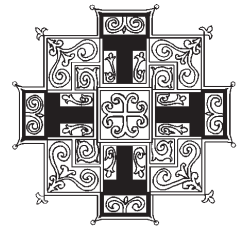
Scriptures, the Sacraments, the Offices in the Prayer Book, silent prayer and contemplation, and the various other tools developed by Christians to carry a conscious sense of God's presence into each part of their life. When truly lived, they are more radical and life-giving than any ideology or "-ism."

Living a prayerful life will open our eyes, as it did Nicholas Ferrar's, to the very real needs in the world around us. We will see with Christ's eyes ("that awake, we may watch with Christ" from Compline), and will feel a profound tug to be involved in ministering the Gospel. While St. Timothy's certainly has its limitations, we are a place that teaches the life and art of prayer; let us "keep in it," so that we might see with Christ's eyes and serve as His hands in these confused and troubled times.

Your fellow-servant in Christ,



Brandon Lee Filbert, Rector




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## Habitat for Humanity

Sign up for the August Habitat Build! Choose the morning (8 AM) session, or the afternoon (1PM) session, or both. Anyone can help, and you will receive training for your assigned job. The building site is at 5729 Samaritan Lane SE (Google "957 Mildred Lane SE" for directions.) St. Tim's and Holy Cross Lutheran Church are partnered with the Gonzales family to build their new home.



Habitat for Humanity invites you to a picnic in Bush Pasture Park on Monday, August 17 from 6 to 8 PM. Last names starting with A through M, please bring a large dessert. Last names beginning with N through Z, please bring a large side dish. Come and relax with Habitat staff, families, and volunteers.

<i>Pent. IX</i> 2 8 am HE 10 am HE Reception Coordin. Meeting	3	4 10 am HE	5 Court Child Care 9:30 Crafts 10 Potluck and Games, 5:30	<i>Transfig- uration</i> 6	<i>John Mason Neale</i> 7  Yakima Reservation Trip-----	<i>Joseph of 1 Arimathea Convo- cation Dominic 10</i> 8
<i>Pent. X</i> 9 8 am HE 10 am HE  --Yakima---	<i>Lawrence</i> 10	<i>Clare</i> 11 10 am HE	12 Court Child Care 9:30 Crafts 10	<i>Jeremy Taylor</i> 13	<i>Jonathan 14 Myrick Dan- iels</i>  HE & Fiesta 6 pm	<i>St. Mary 15 the Virgin</i>
<i>Pent. XI</i> 16 8 am HE 10 am HE Bridal Shower 3	17 Tidings Deadline	<i>William 18 Porcher Du- Bose</i> 10 am HE Diocesan Meeting 1:30 Vestry 7 pm	19 Crafts 10  Potluck and Games, 5:30	<i>Bernard</i> 20	21	22  Habitat Build 8 am & 1 pm
<i>Pent. XII</i> 23 8 am HE 10 am HE	<i>Saint 24 Bartholomew</i>	<i>Louis</i> 25 10 am HE	26 Crafts 10  Potluck and Games, 5:30	<i>Thomas 27 Galludet</i>	<i>Augustine 28 of Hippo</i>  Wedding Rehearsal	29  Snow-Fast Wedding 2
<i>Pent. XIII</i> 30 8 am HE 10 am HE  ---SIHN-----	<i>Aidan of 31 Lindisfarne</i>	<h1>AUGUST</h1> 				

## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

2 Fr. Bill Watson

3 Kathryn Lucht

5 Helen Dilkes  
Debbie Markee

8 John L. Rector  
Elizabeth Gaupo

10 Mary Raney  
Evelyn Paret

13 Mariah Padrick

23 Anne Whitmey

25 Rick Gaupo

27 Ginny Kuhlman  
Ron DeWilde

29 Sharon Earl

30 Donna Reedy

# CALENDAR NOTES FOR AUGUST

**Sunday, August 2:** Reception Coordinators' Meeting, 11:30 AM

**Friday, August 7:** Yakima Reservation Trip (through Sunday)

**Wednesday, August 12:** NO Wednesday Potluck & Games (Please come on Friday at 6 for St. Mary's Day!)

**Friday, August 14:** Eve of St. Mary; Holy Eucharist & Fiesta, 6 PM — Bring a potluck dish — Mexican food is especially welcome



**Sunday, August 16:** Bridal Shower for Katie Snow, 3 PM

**Monday, August 17:** Deadline for September Tidings

**Tuesday, August 18:** Vestry, 7 PM

**Wednesday, August 19:** Wednesday Potlucks resume, 5:30 PM

**Saturday, August 22:** Habitat Work Day, 8 AM and 1 PM

**Wednesday, August 26:** Final Wednesday Potluck & Games

**Saturday, August 29:** Snow-Fast Wedding, 2 PM; reception following

**Sunday, August 30:** Please Note Change: Salem Interfaith Hospitality Network Aug. 30 - Sept. 6 (Host days Tue., Wed., & Thu., this week only)



**Coming Up in September:**



Parish Campout, Sept. 4-7  
Mass on the Grass, Fall Preview, and Parish Picnic, Sept. 13  
Church School begins, Sept. 20

Eve of the  
Feast of St. Mary the Virgin  
Friday, August 14

Child  
care



Dinata

Holy Eucharist & Fiesta, 6 pm

Bring a potluck dish,  
and be ready to have fun!

# Bridal Shower



All members of the parish  
are cordially invited  
to a bridal shower  
for Katie Snow  
on Sunday, Aug. 16  
at 3 pm  
See Sandy Noble  
for information.



You are invited  
to witness the wedding vows  
of Katie Snow and Jason East  
on Saturday, August 29th at 2 pm;  
A reception follows the service,  
in the parish hall

**St. Timothy's Episcopal Church**  
**PO Box 7416**  
**Salem, OR 97303**  
**503-363-0601**  
**[www.sainttimothys.org](http://www.sainttimothys.org)**

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