



St. David's
Episcopal Church
Southfield

Staying in Touch

Connections

November 2020

Balancing Act



If the Christian life is a balancing act, is Jesus trying to steady us or tip us over?

He's trying to do both.

Steady us because the storms are bad and frequent.
Topple us over because there's no way to grow without disruption.

And he is trying to do both of these at the same time—bumping us into discomfort zones—then gently pulling us back in due time.

Both are done out of love. Both are part of a bigger plan.

The life of faith calls us to make peace with this and at this time of Thanksgiving to ask these questions: What is our discomfort today? How are we being pushed off balance? What are we learning in that space? And how is God pulling us back?

Answering these questions not only helps us make sense of the randomness of life, but it helps us see

that we're never alone on the wire—we walk with another who catches and tips—because that's what love does.

Happy Thanksgiving!

†Fr. Chris

***A Portable Paradise* from Karen Henry**

May we be able to create a small spot of paradise, especially during these times. And even though the poet, Roger Robinson, is not describing the horrors of the corona pandemic, the message remains true.

Mr. Robinson is a Trinidadian poet who lives between Trinidad and England.

***A Portable Paradise* by Roger Robinson**

“And if I speak of Paradise,
then I'm speaking of my grandmother
who told me to carry it always
on my person, concealed, so
no one else would know but me.
That way they can't steal it, she'd say.
And if life puts you under pressure,
trace its ridges in your pocket,
smell its piney scent on your handkerchief,
hum its anthem under your breath.
And if your stresses are sustained and daily,
get yourself to an empty room – be it hotel,
hostel or hovel – find a lamp
and empty your paradise onto a desk:
your white sands, green hills and fresh fish.
Shine the lamp on it like the fresh hope
of morning, and keep staring at it till you sleep.”

**“Zoom! ...
My concept of
“zoom” meant
‘go fast’ as in
travel, but now I
zoom into a
meeting quickly.”**

Not a Fan until.... by Pat Tilley

Computers and all they entail are not my favorite method of communication—until these last few months.

For me, computers were for writing agendas, ideas, or recipes, but other areas of life, not so much.

I never thought or considered that one day I would “talk with a person face to face” using a computer. Wonders of wonders! Computers are not limited to my ideas on how to communicate.

Zoom! Not a word that initially was considered a method of talking to someone, having a one-on-one meeting or with many other people. My concept of “zoom” meant “go fast” as in travel but now I zoom into a meeting quickly! What has the change brought into my life? Well, don’t be a stick in the mud, Pat...get with it; recognize that ‘new’ is not really so new. For business, look at how applying and interviewing for a job, screening new applicants, has been handled online for some time now. In this new age, (I know, new age does not mean what it did a few years ago), but new as to what technology is doing in everyone’s life.

So, how do I view technology and Zoom today? I see it as a gift God has provided us to create what is needed in our lives as we are now living:

- ~Safe distancing
- ~Mask wearing
- ~Staying at home
- ~Shopping (limited in-store for our safety)
- ~Saving on gas (less need for gas as people travel less)
- ~Ordering online (groceries, clothes, furniture, books (me, of all people, books online) and more

~Attending church (being together for support, common mission and sharing the Eucharist)

~Conversing with friends and family

The list keeps growing. and I am learning to grow into the 21st century, and my idea of what is, and isn’t, the best way to communicate is changing.

One other area of using the technology that many of us are getting used to is how we speak and see one another in real life.

We are learning to walk in one another’s shoes, be it slippers, sandals, loafers, tennis shoes— the list is endless.

What is your concept of today’s mode of communication?



God is our wisdom for all of life and I believe He planned for us to be able to stay in touch, so “Zoom” and other methods were given to us just for this time that we are experiencing.

Thank you, Lord.

Has my concept, attitude and view of what should be changed? Yes! And now it is time for me to activate the ‘changed’ attitude for a more understanding and useful life.

Welcome Back Miles Doolittle *by John Hawkes*

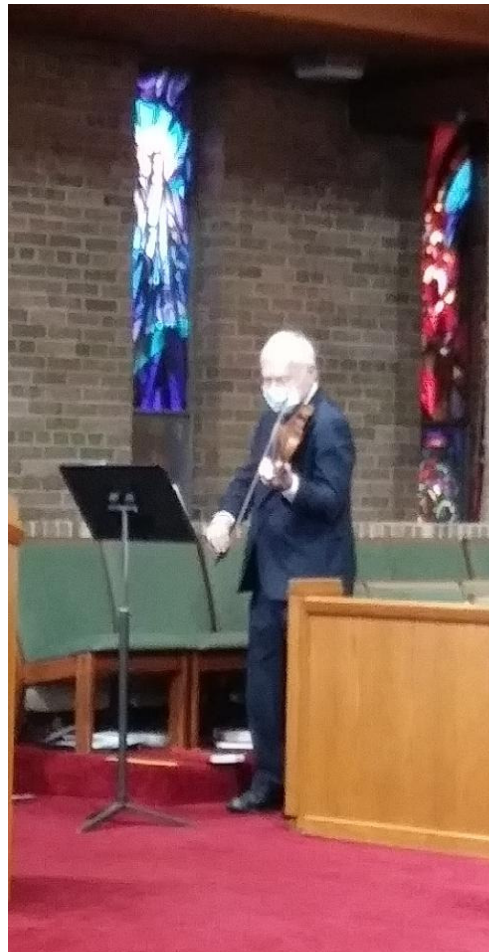
In recent weeks, those who have attended Sunday services either in person or online may have noticed the presence of a violinist that has enhanced the musical portion of our worship. He should be familiar to many St. David's parishioners. After spending twenty-one years living in southwestern Alabama, Miles Doolittle returned to the area in August and has attended church for the past couple of months along with his daughter and son-in-law, Kristin and Francois Eudier.

Miles originally became a member of St. David's in 1978. He joined the chancel choir and often would play violin alongside Edna Buday on Sunday mornings. He is a past vestry member and once served as our Senior Warden.

Miles began playing violin when he was just five years old, but it is not the only instrument he has mastered. He also plays other woodwind instruments such as flute and the recorder. Miles used to perform on recorder with a local musical ensemble called "Good Neighbors All," that would play Renaissance music at a variety of events and festivals.

Born and raised in upstate New York, Miles is a cradle Episcopalian. Although an accomplished musician, Miles went to college to be an engineer. He received his Masters degree from General Motors Institute, now known as Kettering University, in Flint. Eventually, he was hired by Chrysler Corporation.

In 1966, his job took the Doolittle family to Spain where they would spend the next twelve years living and traveling throughout Europe. The Doolittles were avid campers and every summer they were able



to take six to eight-week vacations that allowed them to visit countries such as Yugoslavia, Switzerland, Holland, Belgium and others. They once drove all the way to Greece and on another trip crossed the English Channel to Great Britain. Later, other business trips would take Miles to South America where he visited countries such as Brazil and Argentina.

Kristin, who also has an older brother named George and a younger sister, Karol, recalls visiting "campgrounds galore" and mentioned that the family would always stay in tents while camping. Each year, they would upgrade to a larger one to accommodate the family of five. The parents would get their own "room."

In 1999, Miles and his wife Dolores relocated to Lillian, Alabama, just outside of Pensacola, Florida for retirement. They helped form a Mission to build a church that would eventually house a congregation of about 30 retirees. The Doolittles were

married for over 50 years until Dolores died in 2011. She is interred in the St. David's Memorial Garden.

Back in Michigan to be closer to family, Miles is living at Westlake Villas, a retirement community in Commerce Township. On the "campus," the Villas has a clubhouse where seniors can get a meal and participate in various social activities. He has six grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Kristin and Francois live nearby, as does their son Jared who lives with his wife and daughter in West Bloomfield. Karol lives in Northville.

Meanwhile, like all of us, Miles is anxiously awaiting for an end to the pandemic. He said, "I'm looking forward to the days when we can get back to regular worship and have the full choirs participating in our services."

We welcome Miles Doolittle back to St. David's.

Outreach Activity *by Jan Ernst*

St. David's stepped up and filled 100 bags in one hour! Forty backpacks for men and sixty handbags for women were stuffed to overflowing with toiletries to be distributed to those men and women in the emergency housing programs. Jan and Steve Ernst delivered them to Lighthouse in Pontiac on Monday. Lighthouse staff gratefully accepted the donations and assured us that their clients would be very happy to receive the toiletries.



Thank You, Volunteer Super Packers
Julie Araujo, Desiree Dial, Jan & Steve Ernst, Kathy Graham, Audrey Humphrey, Marian Pank, Janet Richards, Joanne Sackett and Judy Walsh.

Thanks also to Lorraine Tyler and Barb Morton for their contributions to the mask-making outreach project last month.

Ascension Southeast MI Community Health



Community Flu Immunization Fair

Monday November 30, 2020
9-12pm
St David's Episcopal Church
16200 W 12 mile Road
Southfield, MI 48076

**Vaccine Provided For Anyone
6 Months Of Age Or Older
Written Consent Is Required
For All.**

Walk-ins Will Be Served
For question call 248-849-3365

Join the
flu fight!



**Mask, Social Distancing & Covid-19
Precautions will be in place**