

THE MAGDALENE



**From the Desk of
Fr. Neil...**

RESTORING THE KINGDOM

In the first chapter of The Book of Acts, the Apostles asked Jesus, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” They asked Jesus this question just as He was about to ascend into heaven! On the one hand, it would have been natural for them or any Jew of that day to ask a question like this. Jesus had been speaking lately about the Kingdom of God (v.3). He had been talking to them about the outpouring of the Holy Spirit which would come very soon. References like this would have caused them to think about their own scriptures. The prophet Ezekiel wrote, “*And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the LORD.*” (Ezekiel 37:14, ESV)



On the other hand, it is the wrong question to ask. Jesus never came for that purpose. He came to fulfill all that Israel failed to fulfill throughout her history. Ultimately, the coming of Jesus the Christ was to show the end of these things. The end of temple worship, the end of ritual sacrifices and the end of the Temple. The disciples were still seeing Jesus as a possible political figure. One that would restore the

kingdom of Israel. They were hoping that the messiah would unshackle the nation of Israel from Roman occupation and restore God’s earthly kingdom of Israel.

The bigger picture here, however, which the disciples failed to see, was that God’s plan was to one day restore His creation, not Israel. Israel existed to symbolize God’s people - his *fallen* people - and how He was saving them. He was not then, nor is he now working to have Jerusalem and the Temple rebuilt and Israel restored in a literal sense. Rather, God is working to bring about the full restoration of His creation. God is calling people unto Himself out of every nation, tribe and tongue to be a part of his Heavenly Jerusalem.

Our view of creation and history is to be aligned with this view. We are to view our own time as simply and extension or an ongoing part of the unfolding history of the church and God’s plan to save His people. But it is very difficult sometimes because we tend to act and think the same way the disciples did when they were with Jesus at His ascension. We tend to think that if we can just get the right people into political office all things will be “restored” and “ok”.

Having good and godly people in political office should always be our goal, but if we are only thinking about this temporal world and not about the big picture then we will be let down again and again by politicians, even if our guy wins. Neither our own local city, nor the United States as a whole is the kingdom of God. The kingdom of God is not of this world. Neither should we be. Nor should we think of our politicians as messiahs. We may not verbalize it, but we do tend to put a lot of hope and prayers into our politicians to in some sense “save” us.

It is a fact that God has been gracious to the United States and her people in particular and in many ways the freedoms and prosperity we enjoy are preferable to an oppressive government with intrusive powers. We should do all we can to preserve it for future generations, including electing the best people we can. But Christians should be thinking differently or more broadly. If our desire is to bring moral reform to our nation, then that is done by the spread of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. If we want to see change, then we must rely on the Holy Spirit to make change in the hearts of men. It certainly matters who we vote for and how we conduct ourselves in life but let us not be like the disciples and think that salvation depends on an earthly ruler and this nation's survival. Our salvation depends on supreme King of kings and governor of all nations, the Lord Jesus Christ. May God continue to bless this nation as a place where His Gospel can continue to flourish.

Acquiring Truth

“What are some recommended resources on the English Reformation and Thomas Cranmer?”

These are fascinating areas of study which, perhaps to some, are more easily digestible as they involve history and biography as well as theology and law. Unfortunately, there is a decent amount of misinformation, misunderstanding, and oversimplification at the popular level.

There are a host of books written on the English Reformation. For a primary source collection, Gerald Bray's *Documents of the English Reformation* is a useful book to reference. Diarmaid MacCulloch is regarded by many as the foremost modern authority on the English

Reformation and Thomas Cranmer. MacCulloch's *The Later Reformation in England*, *The Reformation*, and *Thomas Cranmer: A Life* are highly recommended. A.G. Dickens' book *The English Reformation* is an excellent work which is a standard in the field.

One of the most hotly debated topics is the attitude of the laity before and during the English Reformation. Claire Cross in *Church and People* maintains the "traditional" approach of Dickens. On the other side are important works by what some term "revisionist" historians such as J.J. Scarisbrick's *The Reformation and the English People*, Christopher Haigh's *The English Reformation revised*, and Eamon Duffy's *The Stripping of the Altars*. Rosemary O'Day's *The Debate on the English Reformation* is also helpful on the topic.

In other related areas, Brian Cummings' *The Book of Common Prayer: The Texts of 1549, 1559, and 1662* is an extremely valuable resource. *The Principles of Theology* by Griffith Thomas is a useful text on the 39 Articles. Lastly, Richard Rex provides an informative look at the pre-reformation group following John Wycliffe in *The Lollards*.

I found the study of Thomas Cranmer to be intriguing and captivating. For primary source material, his works can be found in *The Remains*

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Sunday Services:
8am Mass
10am Choral Mass &
Children's Sunday School

Wednesday Service &
Anointing of the Sick: 9am

of Thomas Cranmer. As stated earlier, Diarmaid MacCulloch's *Thomas Cranmer: A Life* is seen as a standard. It is a very thorough treatment at 650 pages. Other recommended books are Jasper Ridley's *Thomas Cranmer*, Paul Ayris and D.G. Selwyn's *Thomas Cranmer: Churchman and Scholar*, and Peter Newman Brooks' *Thomas Cranmer's Doctrine of the Eucharist*. Finally, for non-text options, Ashley Null has some engaging and informative video lectures/presentations on YouTube and Vimeo on both Thomas Cranmer and the English Reformation.

CURRENT EVENTS

DR. DAVID FREEMAN SPEAKS ON CHURCHILL IN AUGUST

Dr. David Freeman from the International Churchill Society (ICS) will speak at our August Brown Bag lecture series. The ICS, founded in 1968 shortly after Churchill's death, is the world's preeminent member organization dedicated to preserving the historic legacy of Sir Winston Churchill. *[This is a schedule change from last month]*



Mark your calendar for **August 25th at 11:30am** in the Parish Hall.

A delicious Taco Salad Lunch buffet will be served at **\$8.00 per person** instead of a sack lunch.

CRAFT GUILD COMPLETES THE CADENCE HOSPICE PROJECT

The Craft Guild will be meeting to finish up their "Adult Aprons" project for Cadence Hospice of Orange. Fr. Neil will bless these items the

following Sunday so they can be given to recipients in August.

The next project on the list is "lap blankets" for wheel chair recipients. These can be knitted, sewn or crocheted.

The Craft Guild meets every third Sunday at 11:30am. **Mark your calendar for August 18th.**

THE WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL TEA IS SOLD OUT!



Our special thanks to the seven women hostesses who sold out their tables at the speed of light! Thanks to these women we have \$1,050 to add to our Outreach Missions program before the day of the event.

Sharon is working on a "Wait List" in the event that a seat becomes vacant. If you would like to be placed on this list, please let her know.

WE NEED YOU LABOR DAY WEEKEND

Starting on Friday, August 30st through September 1st, our Church Parking Lot will become a Concession Parking Lot for the **Labor Day International Street Fair**.

We will be selling parking spaces for \$10.00 per car and need EVERYONE to support this fundraiser event. This is the only fundraiser we have that supports our own church. The money earned goes towards church parking lot maintenance and repair.

Do I have To Park Cars? No, you don't have to park cars, just take money. The owners park their own cars.

Does The Church Offer Lunch Or Dinner? No. Many volunteers turn their shift into a Picnic. If you don't feel like fair food, entice your church friends into volunteering for the same time slot and have a picnic potluck.

Am I Standing Out In The Hot Sun All Day? No. We have a Pop-Up tent set up with a table and chairs for the volunteers. We do suggest bringing a hat and wear shorts or something cool. Fr. Neil allows this dress in church for the early Sunday shifts.

How Long Do I Have To Stay? Two hours is the typical shift but stay as long as you want. Some parishioners take a couple of shifts then go to the Street Fair.

It's truly lots of fun. You get to enjoy the fair music right from our own outdoor tent.

Please sign up in the Narthex. Any additional questions, please contact Elizabeth Sneddon.

Elena Gilliam, an astonishing jazz vocalist for more than 20 years was the perfect compliment for Michael's diversity. The two are completely bonded yet free to bring these jazz compositions to their fullest.

CDs are offered for sale in the church lobby. Don't miss out on buying this gem.

SAVE THE DATE

PATRIOT'S DAY SERVICE

Mark your calendar to show your support to our military service men and women by **wearing red, white and blue on September 9th at 10am service.**

MEMORIAL & ESTATE PLANNING AT THE LAST BROWN BAG LUNCHEON

On **September 29th at 11:30am**, Fr. Neil will be providing us with an opportunity to plan for or update our own Memorial Service instead of your family. He will be joined by Lisa Zaradich, Attorney, who will also give us some pointers on Estate Planning (trusts and wills).



PACK-A-SACK FOR MARY'S KITCHEN

September 28th at 9am, we will gather in the Parish Hall to make 200 sack lunches.

MEN & CIGARS

Fr. Neil's casual Men's get-togethers on the **2nd Sunday of the month** are a great way to meet your parish brothers. Join him after the 2nd service.

NEWS

CD RELEASE PARTY – A SMASHING SUCCESS

Organist Michael LeVan's CD Release party at CAMPUS JAX was electrifying with a "sold out" audience. A KKJZ 88.1 Radio announcer acclaimed "**Then Another Turns**" as Grammy worthy.

The audience was astounded at the variety of songs this CD has to offer from "Backwater Blues" to "Cheek to Cheek". "Then Another Turns", the title tract is Michael's own original composition. In fact, all of the nine songs on the CD were musical arrangements of Michael. This was truly a Michael LeVan production.