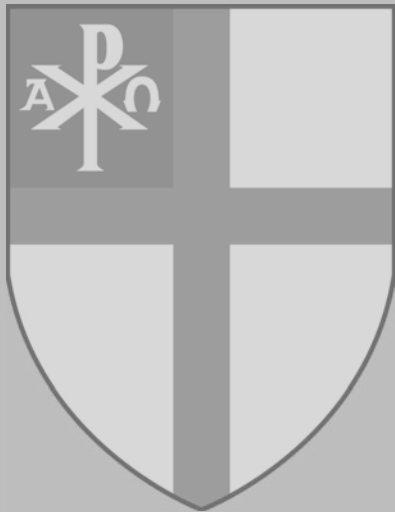


St. Barnabas Journal

The Monthly Newsletter of
St. Barnabas Anglican Church
Dunwoody, GA
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THE ANGLICAN JOINT SYNODS 2017

Beloved in Christ,

The leaders of four Continuing Anglican Churches have announced plans for Joint Synods to meet in Atlanta, Georgia, the week of October 2nd to 6th 2017. At the conclusion of the week it is the intention of the Churches to sign an agreement establishing full communion (*communio in sacris*) among the four Churches as well as a pledge to pursue in a determined and deliberate fashion increasingly full unity. The Churches also will discuss common plans for mission and evangelism. Each Church will hold its own mandatory business meetings and Synods, but the four will join together throughout for common worship and social occasions.

The four Churches and their episcopal leaders are the Anglican Church in America (Brian Marsh), the Anglican Catholic Church (Mark Haverland), the Anglican Province of America (Walter Grundorf), and the Diocese of the Holy Cross (Paul Hewett). The Joint Synods will meet at the Crowne Plaza Atlanta Perimeter at Ravinia in north Atlanta.

The four Churches have grown increasingly close in recent years, and look to the Congress of Saint Louis (1977) and the Affirmation of Saint Louis as common historical and theological touchstones. The Churches are united by commitments to credal orthodoxy; to traditional Anglican worship, rooted in the historic Books of Common Prayer; to the threefold Apostolic ministry of male bishops, priests, and deacons; and to traditional morality in issues affecting the sanctity of life and human sexuality.

While all four Churches seek closer relations with other ecclesial bodies with Anglican backgrounds, they differ from most of them in a firm belief that innovations since the mid-1970s such as modernist liturgies and the purported ordination of women to Holy Orders constitute unacceptable developments that remove Anglicans from the central Tradition of the

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Undivided Church of the first millennium.

The four Churches have about 300 congregations in the United States as well as larger memberships in Africa, South America, Oceania, Asia, and England.

A special service of Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament will be celebrated at Saint Barnabas Church on the Wednesday night of Synod at 8pm (4th October), which service is to be followed by a 'open house' reception for everyone attending the Synods - and all Saint Barnabas parishioners and friends are also invited to attend. The Synod Banquet will be Thursday evening 5th October at the hotel, and the official signing of the full communion agreement is planned for Friday morning 6th October at the hotel. The Synod Mass at the hotel on Friday morning 6th October, following the plenary session, will be a joint celebration expressing the sacramental communion of the four Churches. We hope that as many Saint Barnabas members and friends as possible will attend the Eucharist on Friday morning at the hotel.

We are expecting 500 to 600 people to attend, so it is critical that if one wishes to attend as an official observer that one register immediately. Registration for our APA Provincial Synod will be offered solely online.

One may visit the APA website on www.anglicanprovince.org and under the 'APA News' tab will find 'Registration open for 2017 Joint Synods.' This link will take one to our basic information and to the instruction page for delegates. At the bottom of the page is located the Cvent link to the Joint Synods page, where one may register. Also found on the Cvent page is the link to the hotel website for reservations. Hotel reservations must be made by 1st September in order to secure the group room rate; those who register for the Synods before 1st September receive a discount.

All interested people are joyfully and enthusiastically urged to make plans now to attend this unique history-making event. Please do join us!

God bless you!

+Chad

TRANSITUS

Of your Christian charity, pray for the blessed repose of the soul of **Gordon Bigg**, who entered eternal life on 15th May, and for the comfort and peace of **Cathey Eves** his wife and the entire Bigg family.

Assurance of Salvation

Dcn William Johnston

“How do you know you are going to Heaven?” In some Christian denominations, having a “personal assurance of salvation” is a core teaching. Lacking such assurance, in fact, might indicate a spiritual deficiency, and may even mean that one is not really saved at all. It is taught that you can be sure you are going to heaven in the following ways.¹ First, there are God’s promises in Scripture - “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved” (Rom. 10:13). In the back of my pocket New Testament published by the Gideons is a section called “Assurance as a Believer” which lists additional Bible verses. Second, there is also “the inward witness” – “The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God” (Rom 8:16). Finally, we can know for sure we are going to heaven by evidence of a changed life – “And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments” (I Jn. 2:3). These assurances rely on a combination of knowing that certain Bible verses apply to me (number one) and a reliance on my subjective experience (numbers two and three). For some Christians, this is all that is needed.

There is another way of thinking about assurance of salvation, however. For this, we first need to explore the idea of “election.” In the *Collect for All Saints Day*, we affirm that God has “knit together thine elect in one communion and fellowship, in the mystical body of thy Son Christ our Lord.”² We also know that the Mystical Body of Christ is His Church (Eph. 4:12; I Cor. 12:27). And we know further that we became a member of His Church at our Baptism.³ Do you want to know who the elect are? They are the faithful members of the Church. Anglican theologian C.B. Moss refers to this as “ecclesiastical predestination” (as opposed to “personal predestination”) and describes it as follows: “The only kind of election or predestination which we can accept with certainty is election to the privilege of membership of the Church by baptism.”⁴

Do you want to know if you are part of the elect? Do you want assurance of salvation? Stay in Church. It is through the Church that we receive the Sacraments, those outward and visible signs of an inward and spiritual grace. Sacraments are the means whereby we receive grace “and a pledge to *assure* us thereof” (my italics).⁵ At the conclusion of every Holy Eucharist, we thank God for feeding us in the holy mysteries, and that He does “*assure* us thereby of thy favour and goodness towards us” (my italics).⁶ This kind of assurance goes far beyond believing that certain Bible verses apply to you, or a reliance on your own subjective experience, as comforting as those may be. This kind of assurance comes from *what we know God will do for His Church*, of which “we are very members incorporate.”⁷

We must not think, however, that just because we attend church regularly that Heaven is inevitable for us. The Apostle Peter encourages us to “make your calling and election sure” (2 Pet. 1:10). Such an admonition would have been unnecessary if Baptism alone meant the inevitability of one’s salvation. It is for this very reason, in fact, that we pray for the person who is being baptized that this new Christian would “*ever remain* in the number of thy faithful children” (my italics).⁸

We must avoid two errors. The first is the constant doubt of “Am I saved? Am I really saved?” We know that “God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind” (2 Tim. 1:7). On the other hand, we should avoid the sin of presumption, for “heaven must be won by penitence,

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mortification, growth in virtue and above all, patient prayer and use of the sacraments.”⁹ We can avoid both despair and presumption as faithful members of His Mystical Body, the Church. Here is our assurance: The Heavenly Bridegroom will come for His Bride, the Church (2 Cor. 11:2).

¹ Steven J. Lawson, Aug. 2, 2010, www.billygraham.org/story/how-to-be-sure-of-your-salvation/, accessed April 25, 2017.

² *The Book of Common Prayer*, 256.

³ *The Book of Common Prayer*, 290.

⁴ C. B. Moss, *The Christian Faith* (1961), p. 192.

⁵ *The Book of Common Prayer*, 292.

⁶ *The Book of Common Prayer*, 83.

⁷ *ibid.*

⁸ *The Book of Common Prayer*, 279.

⁹ F. P. Harton, *The Elements of the Spiritual Life* (1950), 49.

Our Anglican Liturgy: The Psalms

Dcn Richard Hitchcock

The Book of Psalms is a huge chunk of books and verses that are found in the Old Testament of the Bible and in a section of the Book of Common Prayer as well. The 150 psalms or the Psalter, as it is sometimes called, are both numbered and titled in Latin in the Prayer Book. Psalm 51, for example, is titled *Miserere mei, Deus* – “Have mercy upon me, O God.” As the psalms were used as part of temple liturgy by the cantors of the Temple, they were often meant to be sung.

Sources of the Psalms

Since the psalms are known as the Psalms of David, many people assume that David wrote them all. He did write at least seventy-five, and was the subject of many others, but King David did not write all 150. Some were written by members of his court; other were written by the liturgists in the Temple. And as the psalms were collected from a number of centuries, some were purportedly written by the Old Testament patriarchs, like Solomon and even Moses.

The psalms are available to us in many translations and versions. The Anglican world knows both the Coverdale translation, which appeared in the 1549 *Book of Common Prayer* and all subsequent prayer books, including our 1928 version, and the King James Bible version, translated fifty years later in the early 1600s.

Other translations can be found in Roman Catholic Bibles like the Navarre, the Douay Rheims, and the Jerusalem Bible. More modern versions of the psalms are in the Revised Standard Version and the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible.

Differences in word choice in the many above translations are interesting and thought-provoking. Sometimes the words are simply more melodic in one than the other -- “fat bulls of Bashan gape upon me with their mouths, as it were a ramping and a roaring lion” in the Coverdale version. But often word choice has a profound effect on the meaning of the verse. In Psalm 49:7, for example: “But no man may deliver his

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brother” (Coverdale) versus “Truly no man can ransom himself” (Navarre) versus “Truly, no ransom avails for one’s life” (NRSV).

Divisions of the Psalms

The psalms are not the monolithic block they would appear to be. There are several natural divisions. The 150 psalms are divided into five books of varying lengths. Psalms 1 and 2 introduce the whole book. Psalms 3 through 41 constitute Book I; Psalms 42 – 72, Book II; Psalms 73 – 89, Book III; Psalms 90 – 106, Book IV; and Psalm 107 – 150 make up Book V. Each book ends with a blessing and a doxology -- Psalm 41:13: “Blessed be the Lord of Israel, world without end. Amen.”

There are various types of psalms also: psalms of entreaty, psalms of thanksgiving, psalms of wisdom; psalms of trust, lamentation psalms, and royal psalms. Psalm 51, from our Penitential Office, is clearly a lamentation psalm. Psalm 100 (“O be joyful in the Lord”) is a psalm of praise.

There are themes that run throughout the psalms, recurring again and again: the themes of prayer, blessings, enemies, vengeance, names, long-suffering, and local geography.

Reading the Psalms

The psalms are most normally read in our Anglican liturgy in the daily offices of Morning and Evening Prayer. The psalms can be integrated into these services in two ways. We can find “the psalm appointed for the day” in the long chart at the beginning of the prayer book. Or, the psalms are numbered in the prayer book by days – Day 1 through Day 30 – usually about six psalms per day.

When we read by the chart, we find that some psalms are repeated and some psalms are never appointed for the offices. Reading by the day assures that all psalms will be read over a three-month period.

The psalms are indeed a huge chunk simply to launch into – the massive body of work may become overwhelming. But reading them in the daily offices allows for a gentle repetition over the years, and the words become familiar. The fat bulls of Bashan become our friends, and will no longer frighten us.

Whitsunday.

Listen sweet Dove unto my song,
And spread thy golden wings in me;
Hatching my tender heart so long,
Till it get wing, and flie away with thee.

Where is that fire which once descended
On thy Apostles? thou didst then
Keep open house, richly attended,
Feasting all comers by twelve chosen men.

Such glorious gifts thou didst bestow,
That th’ earth did like a heav’n appeare;
The starres were coming down to know
If they might mend their wages, and serve here.

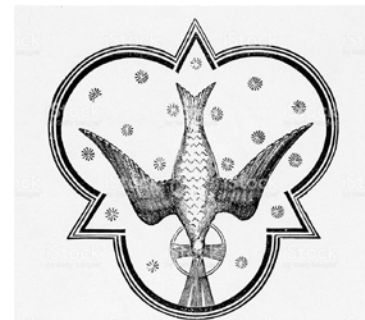
The sunne, which once did shine alone,
Hung down his head, and wisht for night,
When he beheld twelve sunnes for one
Going about the world, and giving light.

But since those pipes of gold, which brought
That cordiall water to our ground,
Were cut and martyr’d by the fault
Of those, who did themselves through their side
wound,

Thou shutt’st the doore, and keep’st within;
Scarce a good joy creeps through the chink:
And if the braves of conqu’ring sinne
Did not excite thee, we should wholly sink.

Lord, though we change, thou art the same;
The same sweet God of love and light:
Restore this day, for thy great name,
Unto his ancient and miraculous right.

George Herbert, 1633



NEWS AND NOTES

- Beginning Sunday 21st May and continuing through Sunday 25th June, parishioner photographs will be taken following both the 9am and 11am services for an Online Photo Directory. Please register on the sign-up sheet available in the narthex to schedule your photo. Online access to the directory is free, printed copies will be \$5. The photography itself will be easy, free, and taken by volunteer parishioners here at Saint Barnabas.
- Adult Sunday School meets weekly at 10.15am in June; Children's Sunday School has ended for the season.
- The Youth Group Book Discussions meet every Sunday at 10.15am.
- The Wednesday Bible Study, held each week at 11am, will meet regularly throughout June.
- The Thursday evening Bible Study on the scriptural content of the Apostles' Creed, held each week at 7.45pm, will meet regularly throughout June, except on Corpus Christi, 15th June.
- The Society of Mary will meet for prayer on Thursday 1st June at 6.15pm.
- Holy Communion will be celebrated daily in Whitsuntide, Monday 5 June and Tuesday 6 June at Noon, Wednesday 7 June and Thursday 8 June at 7pm, and Friday 9 June and Saturday 10 June at Noon.
- LifeLine Screening returns to Saint Barnabas Monday 5th June - come by the Church to receive an evaluation.
- The Anglican Church Women will enjoy luncheon on Tuesday 6th June at the Sweet Potato Cafe, located in Stone Mountain: please don't forget to sign up in the narthex so that we may make our reservations for the right number of people.
- Holy Communion will be celebrated on Wednesday 7th June at 7pm; the Noon service will be cancelled. The 7pm Eucharist will commemorate Father Robert Bader's 30th Anniversary of Ordination to the Sacred Priesthood. Everyone is invited to the liturgy and a special reception to be held in Father Bader's honor in Harvey Hall after the Eucharist.
- The Youth Group is planning a tubing and waterpark trip to Helen, Georgia on Saturday 10th June: please contact David Turney on david.e.turney@gmail.com for more information.
- Anglican Legacy Camp, Diocesan summer camp, will be held at the Vineyard Campground in Surry County, North Carolina, from Sunday evening 11th June until Friday 16th June. The Rector will be away at Camp.
- Holy Communion will be celebrated for the Feast of Saint Barnabas the Apostle, Monday 12th June, at Noon.
- Winers and Diners will be held on Wednesday 14th June - social time at 6.30pm and dinner at 7pm.
- Holy Communion, with Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament, will be celebrated for the Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ, Corpus Christi, Thursday 15th June, at 7pm.
- The Parish Work Day will be held on Saturday 17th June from 10am until Noon.
- A new summer Adult Confirmation Class taught by Bishop Chad for those desiring preparation for Confirmation or a 'refresher' will begin on Sunday 18th June at 1.15pm and will meet regularly throughout the summer months: breaks will be frequent. Please contact the Rector on [404.313.9448](tel:404.313.9448) to enroll.
- Men's Group will meet for Evening Prayer, dinner, and monthly meeting at 6.30pm on Wednesday 21st June.
- Holy Communion will be celebrated for the Feast of the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist, Saturday 24th June, at Noon.
- Sunday 24th June, Altar Guild celebration luncheon and training session: on this day, we shall celebrate the Altar Guild and start a new season of ministry and service together. The Guild is invited to attend the Eucharist at Noon, to be followed by a special luncheon for all members of the Guild and then a time of discussion and instruction. This time will be tremendous fun and most beneficial to all Guild members. All members of the Altar Guild are joyfully urged to attend!
- On Sunday 25th June, Table Topics Lunch for '20-Somethings.' Join other college-age adults (18-29) every fourth Sunday of the month at 1pm for an informal outing to a nearby restaurant or local cultural event. Be sure to get on the mailing list by contacting david.e.turney@gmail.com
- The Vestry will meet at 2.30pm on Sunday 25th June.
- Holy Communion will be celebrated for the Feast of Saint Peter the Apostle, Thursday 29th June, at 7pm.
- Holy Communion is celebrated Wednesday at Noon, Thursday at 7pm, and Friday at Noon.

Summary of the April Vestry Minutes

The Vestry held its regular monthly meeting on Sunday, April 30, 2017.

March income was \$31,384 (\$3278 above budget) and March expenses were \$29,929 (\$1895 under budget), giving us a YTD surplus of \$29,814. The value of the Endowment Fund was \$488,469. St. Barnabas Church's current insurance policy is in the process of being reviewed and updated.

The members of both the Adult Sunday School and the ACW have donated funds to the APA Lenten Appeal, benefiting St. Philip's/ Blacksburg, VA. These donations will be combined with the other Lenten Appeal funds raised in the parish, and will be presented to Father Wade Miller, Vicar of St. Philip's Church, on May 7 when he is guest speaker at St. Barnabas.

The Thursday Evening Lenten Series was a big success, averaging nearly 40 people each week. There was very good attendance for the Holy Week services, with 50 people on Maundy Thurs. and 90 on Good Friday. The three services for Easter were attended by a record total of 560 people.

The Vestry voted to adopt a formal policy concerning ground markers in the Weston Garden. Plans are being finalized for the Parish Photo Directory; photos will soon begin to be taken of parishioners.

The following motions were passed:

- 1) A motion unanimously passed to devote to the APA Lenten Appeal 2017 the amount of money given by participants in the Adult Sunday School from the first Sunday in 2017 to Easter.
- 2) A motion unanimously passed to add from the Vestry Designated Fund to make a total of \$6000 for a donation to St. Philip's from St. Barnabas.
- 3) A motion unanimously passed to allocate funds, not to exceed \$2000, to obtain an alternate appraisal for the purpose of determining the cost of reconstruction of the church building for insurance purposes.
- 4) A motion unanimously passed to accept the new policy concerning ground markers in the Weston Garden.

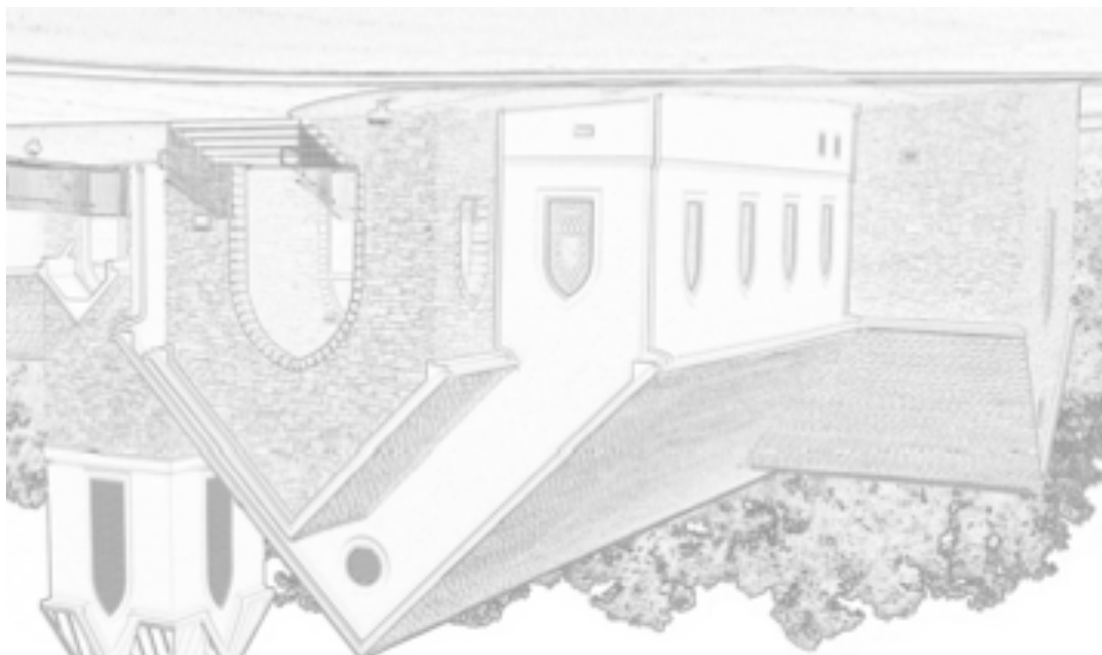
This is a brief summary of the approved Vestry meeting minutes. A complete copy of the minutes is posted on the bulletin board. For questions please speak to any member of the vestry.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

2nd	Chidi Amah	10th	Laurel Sharp		
2nd	Fr. Burgreen	11th	Adaugo Amaihe	18th	Juli Withers
4th	Katrina Harlow	12th	Chioma Elekwachi	19th	Nan Ward
4th	Lily Harlow	13th	Michael Benjamin	20th	Barry Sharp
5th	Ken Carreker	13th	Mary Tippins	21st	Edith Amah
5th	Chinedum Okeke	14th	Ifeanyi Ezunu	22nd	Eugenia Smith
6th	George Amah	15th	Chiemezie Ibekwe	22nd	Ashleigh Kimmons
6th	Paul Price	15th	Chiedozie Ibekwe	25th	Barbara Prechter
7th	Lee McFall	15th	Neville Uchendu	29th	Onochie Agogbua
7th	Gloria Tucker	16th	Mildred Efland	30th	Daniel Orizu
7th	Sarah Harlow	16th	Nwora Okeke	30th	Femi Adenugba
8th	Nigel Olumba	17th	Cecelia Ibekwe		
9th	Otito Ezunu	17th	Edwina Palmer		
9th	Irene Wadsworth	18th	Jeanette Penn		

Parish Kalendar, June 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
				Office Hours 10am-2pm Society of Mary 6.15pm Holy Communion 7pm Bible Study 7.45pm	Office Hours 10am-Noon Holy Communion Noon	Office Hours 10am-Noon
Whitsunday 4 Holy Communion 9am Holy Communion 11am Adult Sun School 10.15a Youth Group 10.15am	Whit-Monday 5 Holy Communion Noon LifeLine Screening	Whit-Tuesday 6 Holy Communion Noon Anglican Church Women Luncheon – Sweet Potato Café, Stone Mountain	Ember Day 7 Office Hrs 9.30am-Noon Bible Study 11am Father Bader's 30th Anniversary Priesthood 7pm Holy Communion and Reception	Whit-Thursday 8 Office Hours 10am-2pm Holy Communion 7pm Bible Study 7.45pm	Ember Day 9 Office Hours 10am-Noon Holy Communion Noon	Ember Day 10 Office Hours 10am-Noon Holy Communion Noon Youth Group Tubing Trip to Helen, Georgia
Trinity Sunday 11 Holy Communion 9am Holy Communion 11am Adult Sun School 10.15a Youth Group 10.15am	Saint Barnabas 12 Holy Communion Noon Braves 400 Club Board Meeting 6pm	13	14	Corpus Christi 15 Office Hours 10am-2pm Holy Communion 7pm Bible Study Break	16	17
Trinity I 18 Holy Communion 9am Holy Communion 11am Adult Sun School 10.15a Youth Group 10.15am Adult Confirmation 1.15pm	19	20	21	22	23	Saint John Baptist 24 Office Hours 10am-Noon Holy Communion Noon Altar Guild Celebration Luncheon and Training
Trinity II 25 Eucharists 9 & 11am Adult Sun School 10.15a Youth Group 10.15am '20-Somethings' 1pm Adult Confirmation 1.15pm Vestry Meeting 2.30pm Last Day for Photos	26	27	28	Saint Peter 29 Office Hours 10am-2pm Holy Communion 7pm Bible Study 7.45pm	30	
			Office Hrs 9.30am-Noon Bible Study 11am Holy Communion Noon	Office Hours 10am-2pm Holy Communion 7pm Bible Study 7.45pm	Office Hours 10am-Noon Holy Communion Noon	



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