

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)



In This Issue

[Churchless
Christianity?](#)

[Resolved!](#)

[Rwanda](#)

the Sursum Corda

Inspiration and Information from Epiphany Anglican
Fellowship - Boulder
June 2011 (Eastertide and Pentecost)

Special Sundays in June

5- Ascension Sunday -
"Footprints of God"
sermon
12- Pentecost Sunday
"The Day Heaven
Burst Open" sermon
19- Trinity Sunday

Dear (Contact First Name),

"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people in order that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light." 1 Peter 2.9

Churchless Christianity?

This week (23 May) the cycle of prayer for those engaged in praying Anglican prayer beads includes the verse above. It is suggested as a cruciform stop on the prayer beads so that one using this discipline daily will recall this verse 28 times this week. More than any other verse, St Peter reveals the reason for the church "...in order that you (plural) may proclaim the mighty works" of God.

God has always desired a people through whom he can witness to the world of his mighty works amongst all people (Ps. 66.4). First, that people was the Jewish nation through whom he introduced our Saviour to the world. Salvation has always had a strong corporate sense.

In this Easter season we recognize that God has fashioned a "new Israel" as a public witness to the world. Jesus established this new nation in Mark 1 when he chose the apostles that would lead this new nation and gave them the mandate of fishing for people. (We often think of Pentecost as the "birthday of the church" but I think it actually begins earlier. See Matt. 18.17, for example). For the apostles and early believers to live one's faith outside participation in the wider faith community was unthinkable.

But now we see the rise of a concept and practice that some call "churchless Christianity." In part, the reason for its emergence has been poor theology. We have spiritualized to a fault the "body of Christ." Truly, there is an important spiritual, mystical, and universal reality of the church. But for each believer, the body of Christ is also physical, local, and specific. Without the expression of our faith in and through a local body of believers, we actually



"Seven Stanzas at Easter" by John Updike

**Make no mistake: if He
rose at all
it was as His body;
if the cells' dissolution did
not reverse, the molecules
reknit, the amino acids
rekindle,
the Church will fall.**

It was not as the flowers,

each soft Spring
 recurrent;
 it was not as His Spirit in
 the mouths and fuddled
 eyes of the eleven
 apostles;
 it was as His Flesh: ours.

The same hinged thumbs
 and toes,
 the same valved heart
 that - pierced - died,
 withered, paused, and
 then
 regathered out of
 enduring Might
 new strength to enclose.

Let us not mock God with
 metaphor,
 analogy, sidestepping
 transcendence;
 making of the event a
 parable, a sign painted in
 the
 faded credulity of earlier
 ages:
 let us walk through the
 door.

The stone is rolled back,
 not papier-mache,
 not a stone in a story,
 but the vast rock of
 materiality that in the
 slow
 grinding of time will
 eclipse for each of us
 the wide light of day.

And if we will have an
 angel at the tomb,
 make it a real angel,
 weighty with Max
 Planck's quanta, vivid
 with hair,
 opaque in the dawn light,
 robed in real linen
 spun on a definite loom.

Let us not seek to make it
 less monstrous,
 for our own convenience,
 our own sense of beauty,
 lest, awakened in one
 unthinkable hour, we are
 embarrassed by the

practice a Gnostic error that totally spiritualizes Christianity and one's participation in it. The result is a "churchless religion" (it can't really be called Christianity) of the individual's own creation.

Despite all its flaws and failures the Church is the one body commissioned by God with making people's lives, not just better, but different. Before the summer begins, let us dedicate ourselves to active regular participation in the Church and the fellowship that continues to call us "out of darkness into his marvelous light."

In the spirit of Christ,
 Dick+ Miller
Feast of Augustine, First Archbishop of Canterbury

Resolved!

A note of thanks for your attendance at the congregational lunch on April 3 and your contribution to the discussion regarding the possibility of congregational particularization -- the notion of becoming a separate Anglican congregation to better reach the Boulder community. I feel strongly that the congregation has spoken and that God has spoken through the prayerful comments of the congregation. We will gladly stay a congregational branch of EAF. Of course, we will be always be praying how to best reach out to the Boulder community while remaining in association with other EAF congregations.

I am very happy about the resolution of this issue and want to be a pastor dedicated to spiritual direction and the care of souls allowing God to plant ideas and plans for ministry in the hearts of members.

If you have any questions regarding this subject, please don't hesitate to contact me. **Also in this regard, the majority of the EAF Administrative Council will answer questions from our congregation after the June 5 worship service regarding the EAF budget and organization.**

Every blessing in Christ,
 Dick+ Miller

Because Boulder needs an epiphany!

Reconnaissance in Rwanda

re·con·nais·sance also re·con·nois·sance

(rĭ-kŏn'ē-sāns, -zāns) n.
 An inspection or exploration of an area, especially one made to gather information. [French, from Old French *reconnaissance*, *recognition*, from *reconoistre*]



miracle,
and crushed by
remonstrance.

June Church Calendar



1 - Justin, Martyr at Rome, 167 A.D.
4 - Life Choices Crisis Pregnancy Center Walk for Life
5 - Rob Crow from Land of 1000 Hills coffee
5 - Budget Q&A after worship
9 - Columba of Iona, 597 A.D.
10 - EAF Healing Prayer Service
11 - St Barnabas, Apostle
12 - Feast of Pentecost
13 - G.K. Chesterton, Apologist & Writer, 1936
15 - Evelyn Underhill, Mystic & Writer. 1941
19 - Fathers' Day, Rich Bledsoe, guest speaker
24 - Nativity of St John the Baptist
16 - Fr Gerry Schnackenberg officiating
29 - St Peter & St Paul, Apostles

Join Our Mailing List!

From 13-28 June our pastor will be visiting in the African nation of Rwanda traveling with Land of 1000 Hills Coffee Ministry. While in Rwanda, he hopes to learn first-hand the work that Land of 1000 Hills Coffee ministry is doing for the people of Rwanda.

Plans include visits to St Etienne's Anglican Cathedral in Kigali and the Genocide Memorial and Museum, dedicated to the 800,000 human lives taken in the genocide. Near Musanze in the north he will visit the villagers of Bukonya, work with them in gathering fine Rwandan coffee for washing at a cooperative station built by both Huutus and Tutsis. He will also worship at the St John the Baptist Anglican Cathedral in Musanzi and visit the women of Inyakurama who are making a life for themselves after losing a husband or father in the genocide. Land of 1000 Hills make micro-loans to these women so they can finance their own cottage industries and become self-sufficient.

Please pray for him as he prepares for travel, the necessary adjustments to time, food, travel and culture, and his safety while traveling.

* Rob Crow, Land of 1000 Hills Coffee representative, will be at EAF~Boulder on June 5.

**"The proof of Easter is not a rolled
away stone but a carried away
church."**

- Clarence Jordan, founder Koinonia Farm

[Forward email](#)



Try it FREE today.

This email was sent to newsletters@epiphanyanglican.org by demiller211@comcast.net | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Epiphany Anglican Fellowship | 1067 S. Hover St. | Unit E-18 | Longmont | CO | 80501