



THE LION'S PAUSE



Greetings!

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 9)

[Read This Week's Lesson](#)

Frankly Speaking



FIFA WORLD CUP
RUSSIA 2018

The Beautiful Game

by the Rev. Dr. Scott Stoner (Living Compass Weekly Words of Wellness, June 29, 2018)

It's World Cup time and so the last . . . [few] weeks have been heaven for soccer fans. . . .

Soccer is often referred to as, "The Beautiful Game." For me, there are many reasons for this; here are my top three.

Simplicity. Soccer is perhaps the most simple sport there is. All that is needed to play is a ball and a couple of make-shift goals. No fancy or expensive equipment is required. An example of this was shared recently with me by a friend of mine with whom I have the honor of playing soccer each week. He told me about growing up in Tunisia and how his family and his friends' families did not have enough money to buy a soccer ball. This didn't stop them as they regularly made soccer balls out of rolled up newspaper and then used garbage cans as goals.

Another example of soccer's simplicity is its rules. There are only seventeen rules, known as the seventeen "laws"

of soccer, and with the exception, perhaps of the offside rule, they are easily understood. Compare this, for example, to American football which has close to four hundred rules.

A celebration of diversity. No other sport has the worldwide popularity both for players and spectators. Right now you can watch teams from all corners of the world playing in the World Cup, countries as diverse as Panama, Iceland, South Korea, Senegal, Poland, Iran, Uruguay, Mexico, Japan, and Russia.

I started playing soccer in my mid-thirties, and twenty-five years later I am still fortunate to be able to play. Among the group of men I play with, we have players who grew up playing soccer in Ireland, Tunisia, Greece, Argentina, Mexico, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Nigeria, England, South Africa, Peru, Columbia, and Russia. We are men with different backgrounds who love the sport, and that commonality is a great connector. Our games and friendships are also a reminder to us of our shared humanity and the universal desire to have fun with friends. These men, unlike me, all grew up with a ball at their feet, and clearly play a more beautiful version of the game than I ever will!

Celebrating the flow of play, and not just the results. It is not uncommon to hear Americans say that soccer is boring because there is so little scoring. People are perplexed as to how anyone could enjoy watching a ninety-minute match that ends in a score of 1-0 or even 0-0. The beauty of soccer though is not only about scoring but in the continuous flow of the game. Because there are no timeouts or commercials (except at halftime), the game is always in motion, ever-changing, and the players as a team must continuously adapt, communicate, and improvise in the flow of play.

Soccer fans understand that goals are rare and so learn to celebrate the beautiful dance and flow of the entire game. The focus of the team with the ball is always to keep moving forward, knowing that goals will be few, but with

discipline and perseverance, goals will come in time. If you want to thoroughly appreciate the beauty of the flow of the game, next time you watch a game, don't just watch the player with the ball, but watch all the other players as they make runs to create space and possible scoring opportunities.

Simplicity, celebrating diversity, and learning to appreciate the flow of the game and not just the results . . . sound like a good description not only of the beautiful game but also, of a beautiful life.

Thanksgiving For the Diversity of Races and Cultures
O God, you created all peoples in your image, we thank you for the wonderful diversity of races and cultures in this world. Enrich our lives by ever-widening circles of fellowship, and show us your presence in those who differ most from us, until our knowledge of your love is made perfect in our love for all your children; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen
Book of Common Prayer, p. 840



As we move closer to identifying our Search Committee and setting congregational meetings, the Vestry has developed a congregational survey for your input. During the Vestry's visits to other parishes, similar surveys were administered and viewed as extremely

helpful tools for their search committees.

Our brief survey will help inform the Search Committee of the congregational priorities and preferences of the characteristics, skills, and abilities of our next rector. It will also provide comprehensive data to pair with the personal and conversational input at the congregational meetings.

The survey will be released on July 20th and close on August 13th. It will be offered in an online and hard copy format. We ask every parishioner to participate but that only one survey is submitted per person. A brief informational session will be held On July 22nd after the 8:00am and 10:00am services for those with questions about the survey.

Notable *Music this Sunday*

The late Gordon Young was a prolific composer. Among the finest of his works was a set of variations on the hymntune NETTLETON to which we sing "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing." Selected portions of this masterpiece will be played this Sunday.



Diocesan Capital Fund Grant

Over the last couple of months, your finance committee (Sara Strattan, John Willoughby, Emily Gordon, Rev. Beth Frank, and Charlie Kiesling) has been working on a Capital Fund Grant sponsored by the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio. After some investigation, Sara Strattan and Rev. Beth uncovered a possible Capital Assistance Grant. The grant has six categories, one of which, Major Repair/Maintenance, fits this Spring's portion of our restoration initiatives. The grants are based on 1/3 parish upfront payment, 1/3 loan from the diocese, and 1/3 grant from the diocese. The month of May was spent gathering data, preparing financial files, and completing the required forms.

At the May 30th meeting the Vestry approved a motion to submit a Capital Assistance Application to the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio for assistance funding proposed HVAC repair/maintenance projects planned for spring 2018. The estimated cost of the HVAC/maintenance and repairs detailed in the application was \$46,870.

Your vestry and finance committee want to thank Susan Leishman, CFO Diocese of Ohio, the Diocesan Finance Committee and the Diocesan Council for their efforts and approval of the application on June 21st. St Mark's will receive a \$15,600 grant and a loan of \$15,600 for our new heating/air-conditioning units and updated controls.



THE EPISCOPAL
DIOCESE OF OHIO

This Week's Bicentennial Prayer

comes from:

St. Alban's Church

O God of the stranger, the unwelcomed,
and the one without a place to call home,
look favorably upon St. Alban's church.
Allow it to be a place of radical welcoming,
hospitality, and prayer,
modeled after your son Jesus' life and ministry.
In difficult times, may we remember that you,
O Lord, are always making all things new.

In joyful times,
may all of our praise be directed toward you, the creator and
sustainer of all;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
Amen.



Monday, July 9th:

Knitting, 1:00pm
(Family Room)

Wednesday, July 11th:

Men's Prayer Breakfast,
7:30am (Family Room)
Casual Evening Prayer, 5:30pm

Thursday, July 12th:

Cooking with Care Meeting,
12:00-2:00pm (Hall)



Family FUNday at Canal Park

St. Mark's teams up with St. Timothy's Massillon

Sunday, July 22nd at 2:05pm

Akron Rubber Ducks V. Richmond Flying Squirrels

Kids get to run the bases after the game.

Special pre-game activities, too!

Tickets are \$7. Please sign up and pay by July 11th.

Make checks payable to "St. Timothy's Episcopal Church" Leave your payment in an envelope with your name in the church office.



PRAYER CONCERNS

Ken Pakenham, Joan Werren, Ron Hill,
Peg Hill, Ken McPeek, Maxine Kit, Conley Family, Paul
Welch

Family and Friends: Susan, Johnny Willoughby, Doug King,
Gabe Russo (cousin of Kate Cerrone-Arnold), Jim Mesko
(friend of Jim Weaver), Edna Glinsky (aunt of Pam
McCarthy), The Shafer Family (friends of the Gordons),
Justine Grosick and daughters (friends of the Mulls), Layna

(friend of Boyds), The Moore Family (friends of Nadels),
The Latora Family, Judy and Mark McIlvaine (Sandi
Kaustinen's sister-in-law and brother), Erin, Chad Patch,
Allison & Family, Carol Morton, Barry (friend of Gordons),
James McIlvaine (Sandi Kaustinen's father), Dave McQueen
(friend of the Mulls)

For all those serving in the armed forces:
Jake Binder - Korea (husband of Amanda Hines Binder)

For all those who have died:

-Please share updates with Bobbi Gordon.-

PRAYER CHAIN:

St. Mark's has a group of prayer warriors who pray for specific needs of those on the prayer chain. If you would like to place yourself or a loved one on the prayer chain, please contact Bobbi Gordon at ggordon24@sbcglobal.net

Please note, prayer requests may be placed on the Prayer Chain, in the Sunday bulletin's Prayer Concerns, or in both places. Please let Bobbi know your preference.

Upcoming Servers

Servers this Sunday, July 8th: Morning Prayer

Acolytes, 8:00am: Sharon Ryan

Acolytes, 10:00am: Joe Hoot, Karen Violand, Lauren Hoot, Colin Jenkins

Eucharistic Minister, 8:00am: Diana Cornell

Eucharistic Ministers, 10:00am: Tom Turner, Pam McCarthy

Ushers: Bob Kennedy, Derek Gordon, Ron Brown

Altar Guild 8:00am: Sharon Ryan, Sara Strattan

If you are unable to serve, please try to find a sub as soon as possible and notify the office. Thank you!

Yours in Christ,
St. Mark's Episcopal Church

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We seek to unite all people with God and each other in Christ through worship, fellowship, education, and service.

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