



Otey Notes



RECEIVING SCRIPTURE RIGHTLY

(SECOND OF TWO PARTS)

In a line from his 1814 Bampton Lectures at the University of Oxford, then-Regius Professor of Divinity (and later Bishop of Durham) William Van Mildert provides us with our first piece of advice in learning to receive Scripture rightly. Reflecting a portion of John 7.17, "If any man shall do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God," Van Mildert says the phrase 'if any man be willing' is of paramount importance in the Christian search for truth, and refers most properly to "the specific character of a person free from prejudices unfavourable to the object of inquiry, and prepared, nay desirous, to profit by its researches." In other words, in order to receive the things of God rightly, our will, or character, has to be free of prejudice against God and the Scriptures; and not only that, but through our study we have to want to profit from our study. As Thomas Cranmer wrote, centuries before Van Mildert, "[Just] as drink is pleasant to them that be dry, and meat to them that be hungry, so is the reading, hearing, searching, and studying of holy Scripture to them that be desirous to know God or themselves, and to do his will."

So it is that the first consideration in rightly interpreting the Scriptures is to determine whether or not we recognize and appreciate their authority. As Archbishop William Laud once wrote, "The credit of the Scripture... depends... upon the author himself, and the opinion we have of his sufficiency, which here is the Holy Spirit of God." In other words, the Scriptures might be authored by God, but it matters a great deal whether or not we accept them as such. Thus the first question that ought to precede the interpretation of Scripture is, "Why, exactly, am I picking up this book? What do I hope to get out of it? Am I prepared to receive it humbly, to learn about myself and about God? Am I prepared to adjust my faith, hope, and love according to its contents, rather than set my own understanding against it?" More concisely, one might ask, "In picking up this book, am I eager to encounter my Lord and my God, or am I seeking an opponent or a debate partner?" True understanding

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TAKE NOTE

JANUARY 31

- ✓ Faith and Film 6:30 p.m. -
"The King's Speech"

FEBRUARY 28

- ✓ Faith and Film 6:30 p.m. -
"Amazing Grace"

MARCH 5

- ✓ Ash Wednesday services:
[7 am St. Augustine]
12:25 Otey
[4:30 St. Augustine]
7pm Otey

FIRE ON THE MOUNTAIN

- ✓ FEBRUARY 2: Super Bowl party. More information to follow.
- ✓ FEBRUARY 28: Movie Night

HUNGER FAITH IN ACTION

- ✓ FEBRUARY 2—Christian Formation Committee panel... What's happening in Lent at Otey Parish?
- ✓ FEBRUARY 9 Sheri Smith, Anti-bullying training
- ✓ FEBRUARY 16 TBA
- ✓ FEBRUARY 23 Lent 4.5-- Sr. Madeleine Mary, CSM

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will come only to those who are sympathetic, rather than hostile, to the content of the Scriptures, and to their author. It is a matter of the will, not of knowledge.

A second consideration in interpretation involves the relationship of the whole to the parts. That is, we cannot read one part of Scripture so that it contradicts the whole of the Bible. But more than simply saying that ‘the whole’ refers to all the pages between the two covers of your KJV, as is usually meant nowadays, we do even better to understand that the ‘whole’ is contained most fully in the Rule of Faith, that is, the traditional, apostolic understanding of the person and work of Jesus Christ. After all, as our Lord said to the Jews, “had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me; for he wrote of me” (Jn 5.46). Testimony to the Rule of Faith is found in the Scriptures and the Creeds, most certainly, and also in the works of great Fathers of the faith such as St. Athanasius, St. Gregory of Nazianzus, St. Ambrose, St. Augustine, and the like. The classic Prayer Books of the Anglican tradition, especially the Eucharistic prayers, are another wonderfully rich apostolic reflection on the identity of Christ and the nature of his work in us. If our interpretation of Scripture doesn’t harmonize with “the form [or pattern] of sound words” (2 Tim 2.13) as found in the Apostles and Fathers of the Church, and in accordance with our prayers, then our reading is in serious danger of shipwreck.

A third consideration on how to receive Scripture rightly involves the basic tools of literacy and, again, a close and sympathetic attention to the actual text which lies before us. Engage Scripture on its own terms. What does it actually say, and how does it say it? What are the author’s own goals in writing? They are often explicit, sometimes implicit. A sensitive reader will often come to a more-or-less correct understanding simply by paying attention. A careful reader will also watch for movements and shifts in the author’s presentation, and through these quite often be able to discern the outline or structure of the text.

Last of all, getting back to the apostolic method for the right reading of Scripture, no reader (or interpretation) ought to stand alone. As St. Peter tells us, “[Know] this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost” (2 Peter 1.20-21). Those who desire to receive Scripture rightly, and hoping to be changed for the better in the process, will seek to understand the text within Scripture’s native land and among its friends, that is, the church. Only by reading with other Christians, in a parish committed to the ancient Rule of Faith and united in its shared love for Christ, can we arrive at an understanding of the Scriptures that has any substantial correlation to the truth. And it is only through such reading that Scripture will be “drink [which] is pleasant to them that be dry, and meat to them that be hungry.” JWB

Rev. Dr. Jeremy W. Bergstrom, by permission.



Rev. Dr. Jeremy Bergstrom whose article on Scripture appears in Part II above, is currently a transitional deacon at Saint John’s Parish, Savannah. His doctoral work was concluded at Durham University, England, where he led seminars and taught before he did so again at Nashotah House. “My teaching and research interests are in Christian Scripture, and in late-antique Christian theology and practice, especially: Christology, prayer, asceticism, early Christian notions of marriage, hermeneutics, and the intersection of classical culture and Christianity.”

ON JANUARY 5, 2014....

Over 25 children and youth led us through the first of the dreary rainy winter nights to find the Star of Bethlehem and the Christ child in all His glory! What a glorious night it was to remember Mary, Elizabeth, Joseph, angels and shepherds, animals, and the Magi who brought gifts of frankincense, gold, and myrrh to the Baby wrapped in swaddling clothes. Special thanks to our creative director, Mary Beth Williams, and her team of pageant helpers Cameron Swallow, Neil Patterson, Jeannie Babb, Sophie Swallow, Brenda Matthews, Nicole Noffsinger-Frazier, and Jeff Frazier. We are grateful to our musical director, Kathy Sturgis, who with Ruth Swallow on guitar, led the children in the best singing Otey has heard in years! After the service, a festive reception, prepared by Jill Mollica and Kelley Black, was held in Brooks Hall for all. What a night to remember!! Many thanks to all who made the Epiphany Pageant the best ever!



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN CHRISTIAN FORMATION?...

After primarily addressing the human hunger for physical needs, we are turning our focus toward our human hunger for social justice, dignity, and right relationships. Lea Colvill, Soft '15 opened the new year with a wonderful presentation based upon her experiences in Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) this past summer. Her experiences led her back to work by Dr. Ira Byock, "The Four Most Important Things." We were invited to discuss with all our loved ones the importance of being "right" or in a reconciled place of peace. Dr. Byock's work encourages us to talk with one another to say, "Thank you"; "I forgive you"; "Please forgive me;" "I love you." These four simple statements, while challenging at times to share and discuss, can bring healing, forgiveness, and reconciliation.

Last week, Ben Beavers of the Sewanee Utility District, shared the history of water and waste management here on the Domain. He noted that we have some of the cleanest and safest water in the world right here. We can

be good stewards by watching our water use, using low flow toilets and fixtures, and by contributing to our own Community Action Committee (CAC) funds that are given to families who can not afford to have clean water in their homes.

In February, we will welcome students from the Gay-Straight Alliance at the University (February 2nd), Sherri Smith Anti-bullying trainer for Franklin County Schools (February 9th), and a panel of our Christian Formation members who will discuss our Lenten offerings, Lent 4.5 and Two Cents A Meal.

Come join us each week as we open our eyes and ears, hearts and minds to those crying on this very mountain for social justice and right relationships. May we be open to hearing our brother's and sister's needs and becoming involved in helping share with them our time, gifts, and talents.

---Robin Reed---

BISHOP OTEY SUNDAY

Bishop Otey Sunday is scheduled for Sunday, February 9. Each year we celebrate the birthday of our patronal Bishop, the founder of the parish, on the last Sunday in January. But this year, because of the celebration planned to honor Betty Carpenter, our new Deacon, on January 26, we will observe Otey's birthday on the 9th. Homilist for both services will be The Rev. Dr. Ben King, Professor at the School of Theology and a Church historian. Plan to join us!



The Bishop Otey Society was founded in 2009 as a way to recognize parishioners and friends of Otey Parish who have made or are making plans to leave a bequest to Otey. We invite all members of the congregation to consider a bequest to our parish to insure its bright future. For more information, contact the Rector, or any of the folks listed below.

We look forward to seeing you at one of the services on February 9, and the reception after the 11:00 service, hosted by the reception committee at Brooks Hall.

Laurie and Jay Fisher, Anne Griffin, Brown Patterson, Leah Rhys, Ann and Doug Seiters



“How will what we do here affect or involve people living in poverty?”

As I live each day into the job as Director of Community Action Committee and listen to the voices of desperation I understand that what we do here affects the lives of many who live in poverty. There is a war going on against poverty and we are not winning it. We've won some battles and can celebrate small victories but we are not winning. Our client list is growing and job opportunities for the clients are shrinking. Many of our clients are elderly or disabled and no longer can work. These are not people looking for handouts; they come to CAC looking for help in finding jobs. The ministry

of CAC has been a constant at Otey Parish and this year we can celebrate 40 years of outreach to those in need. As we enter into the New Year there are plans for several projects which will empower our clients to help themselves. We are currently exploring suitable locations for community gardens. We have mapped the client base and will use that information to determine the right locations. It will be a collaborative effort involving the Parish, the Community, University students and CAC clients. Although in the early planning stages, this project has great potential for success. Soon we will be in the new space and that will allow us limitless possibilities. Please continue to pray for all who are involved in the work of CAC.

February is Peanut Butter Month. Pick up an extra jar when you grocery shop.

Betty Carpenter

**EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN TO MEET
MONDAY, MARCH 3**

Marcia Mary Cook will be the speaker for the first spring meeting of ECW on March 3 at St. James.

She will talk about Hildegard of Bingen, noted 11th century German writer, composer, philosopher, Benedictine abbess and visionary, continuing the luncheon theme of, “Notable Women of Faith”. One of her works as a composer, the “Ordo Virtutum”, is an example of early liturgical drama and probably the oldest surviving morality play. Considered a saint by many in the Roman Catholic Church, she was named a Doctor of the Church by Pope Benedict XVI on Oct. 7, 2012.

Ms. Cook has a Masters of Arts in Theatre and much experience as an actress and director. Since 1995 she has been on the faculty of the University of the South Theatre Department.

All interested women of the area are invited to join in the learning experience and fellowship of the noon luncheon meeting at St. James Parish Hall in Midway. Reservations for the lunch should be made by 6:00 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 28 by calling Peggy Lines at 598-5863 or e-mailing her at plines@sewanee.edu.

OUR FAITH AND FILM SERIES

... continues Friday, January 31 with "The King's Speech," hosted by Carol Sampson. Please join us at 6:30 PM in Brooks Hall for light refreshments and engaging discussion about this award winning movie. "The King's Speech" won four Academy Awards: Best Picture, Best Director, Best Actor, and Best Original Screenplay. Mark your calendars for Friday, February 28th with "Amazing Grace," at 6:30 PM hosted by Fr. Jess Reeves.

Friday
School

THIS SPRING will mark the 38th year of Friday School at Sewanee Elementary. Friday School is a unique and exciting enrichment program that offers parents, community members, and University students the opportunity to engage with SES students in Kindergarten through 5th grade by offering a 45-60 minute "class" of their choice four Fridays in the spring. Past year's offerings have been varied; examples include Hiking, Basketball, Poetry, French, Exploring Nature, Lego Building, Healthy Snacks, and Photography. The options are endless. This is an opportunity for you to share your unique gifts with our children. This year's program will take place on March 28, April 4, April 11, & April 25. To volunteer, please contact Bess Jenkins at bessjenkins@sewanee.edu

Lent
Almost, not yet....

CHRIST HAS MADE THE SURE FOUNDATION

In 1981 I first discovered the hymn, CHRIST HAS MADE THE SURE FOUNDATION as I watched the marriage of Prince Charles to Lady Diana Spencer. It was a truly regal hymn based on I Corinthians 12: 12-31a. You can find the full text of the hymn on page 518 in the Hymnal 1982. Unlike many hymns which are commissioned for royal occasions, this hymn text dates back to 7th century Latin roots. It was then translated in 1861 for HYMNS ANCIENT AND MODERN by John Mason Neale.

The hymn tune is attributed to Henry Purcell (1659-1695) and was dubbed Westminster Abbey by Purcell. It was adapted for our hymnal in 1929 by James Gillespie. Earlier it was adapted by Ernest Hawkins. The Hymn is strong and a great tribute to the devotion of the many groups who built and rebuilt the Abbey. Henry Purcell, the composer, was involved in the Abbey all of his life. He at first tuned the organ, then served as organist. In fact he is buried beneath the organ at its foundation.

Volumes have been written about Purcell. He was probably the best celebrated English born composer until Edward Elgar. He was born just a short distance from the Abbey. After their father's death he and his brothers became wards of their uncle who fostered their musical education. Though composing for the theater from time to time, Purcell was dedicated to sacred music most of his life. He studied organ with John Blow, organist at the Abbey until he passed it on to Purcell. Purcell died at either 35 or 36 at the height of his fame. Speculation is he died of either pneumonia or tuberculosis.

Purcell had six children with his wife Frances. Four died in infancy. His wife, a son, Edward (also an organist) and daughter Frances survived him. Many of his works were published by his wife after his death until her death in 1706. Though a Baroque composer, Purcell continues to delight audiences today. We will enjoy this hymn as we discover the ministry of Jesus Christ in the coming weeks. Whether in his theatrical or sacred genre, Purcell left a lasting impression of the music of England and the world.

Kathy Sturgis

 THE POWER OF THE WORD

It is bone-soaking cold day that dawns so pale this January morning, 1800. Although light the sun neither shows his face nor spreads his warmth – it is a gray, gray day. Seated at a casement window of “his” house in Clapham, London, a man of small stature and modest bearing grimaces. He feels the painful stress of internal contractions associated with aggravated colitis, as we would call it, and so severe have his attacks been lately that he has more and more resorted to laudanum, a sweetened alcoholic tincture of opium. He takes a small sip from the vial he carries, but it cannot relieve the greater pain in his heart which aggravates his physical distress.

William Wilberforce has been up all night in sweats and prayer, grieving the dismemberment of his child: his bill before Parliament to end the slave trade in the British Empire. For 12 years every session, beginning in the fall, most often, from 1787, he has introduced a bill into the House of Commons to halt the murderous slave trade, murderous to almost 11 million souls to this point in time. He has tirelessly devoted his fortune (and today he must rent the house in which he sits, having temporarily exhausted his once-vast means) to the campaign to end British furtherance of the sale of black Africans to white plantation owners. Every year, again and again, he has worked and fought and smiled, suffered rebuke and castigation, seen friends and fortune evaporate in his fight to end the misery of human bondage. He will even be impugned as a traitor when fears of France and its sprawling, bloody revolution overtake England.

Nearly 15 years before he had come to believe that real Faith and Jesus Christ’s Lordship over his life meant that Biblical religion must guide and govern his entire life and career. How long ago was it now.....?...that John Wesley had written him, in his last letter, eight years ago (?), ***Unless God has raised you up for this very thing, you will be worn out by the opposition of men and devils. But if God be for you, who can be against you?*** Apparently a lot of people? His friend Buxton has just been here to tell him that owing to the political climate of London and the nation, he cannot bring his bill for the abolition of the slave trade even on the floor this year.

Has he been wrong was he wrong-headed in his crusade to apply the Bible to life? To take on all the powerful shipping interests which had made Britain the greatest empire on the face of the earth? *Are all of them stronger than God?* Wesley had written him. His head nods from the opium and he falls into a restless, exhausting sleep.

A Biblical faith, indeed? To end slavery. Taking on the whole British establishment. It ruined his life and very nearly broke him. But **21** years after he began his constant crusade, through the loss of friends and fortune and health, once the specter of war with France and revolution had temporarily eased, the Commons and Lords did finally abolish the slave trade in 1807. It was finally while William Wilberforce lay dying in 1833 that Parliament fully abolished the institution of slavery in the British Empire. What kind of Faith, based on what kind of promise does that history display? What Word to William Wilberforce so inspired his life and sacrifice???

William Wilberforce is perhaps the best known of the abolitionists. His struggle is dramatized in a fine production with an all-star cast, *Amazing Grace*, showing with commentary by Father Reeves on Friday, February 28, 6:30 in Broks Hall. This family fellowship event is open to all.

JUST AND ETERNAL GOD, we offer thanks for the stalwart faith and persistence of thy servant William Wilberforce, who undeterred by opposition and failure, held fast to a vision of justice set forth in the Gospel that no one suffer in enforced servitude and misery.

Grant that we, drawn by that same Gospel vision, may persevere in obedience by serving the common good and caring for those who are oppressed, that they may be raised up through Jesus Christ; who with thee and the Holy Spirit liveth and reigneth, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

SOON IT WILL BE TIME to update our Parish Directory. Please check your entry information in your directory and let Frieda know if there are any changes. If you do not have the most current directory (March 2013) at home, come by the Otey office

A PRAYER OF ST ANSELM

Lord Jesus Christ; Let me seek you by desiring you,
and let me desire you by seeking you;
let me find you by loving you,
and love you in finding you.

I confess, Lord, with thanksgiving,
that you have made me in your image,
so that I can remember you, think of you, and love you.

But that image is so worn and blotted out by faults,
and darkened by the smoke of sin,
that it cannot do that for which it was made,
unless you renew and refashion it.

Lord, I am not trying to make my way to your height,
for my understanding is in no way equal to that,
but I do desire to understand a little of your truth
which my heart already believes and loves.

I do not seek to understand so that I can believe,
but I believe so that I may understand;
and what is more,
I believe that unless I do believe, I shall not understand.

Source: *The Oxford Book of Prayer*, George Appleton (gen. ed.), 1985, 2002.

SAVE THE DATE: *Join us on Shrove Tuesday, March 4 at Cravens for the all new Pancake Supper. Doors open at 5:45. Costumes encouraged.*

Otey Memorial Parish

The Rt. Rev. John Bauerschmidt

Bishop of the Diocese of Tennessee

The Rev. Jess Reeves

Interim Priest

Frieda Hawkins Gipson

Parish Administrator

oteyparish@gmail.com

Church Office Hours

Monday – Friday

8:00 am – 12:00 pm

1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Telephone and Fax

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Gary Sturgis, Choir Director

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VESTRY

Doug Seiters, Senior Warden, '15

Roy Millar, Treasurer

Amy Burns, Junior Warden '14

Alexander Bruce '15

Carol Sampson '15

Karen Keele '14

Pratt Paterson '14

Ann Aitkin, Clerk,

Larry Barker, '16

Steve Ford, '16

Laura Willis '16

The parish prayer list, Prayers of the People, e.g. need to be renewed and refreshed seasonally. Therefore, please notice that we will seasonally clear the list with the earnest invitation that if you have names that you would like included—you will need to submit or resubmit them. This will assure us a current list. Let us look forward to starting afresh on Ash Wednesday, March 5, 2014.

PRAY FOR THE SICK AND SUFFERING AND THOSE WHO HAVE ASKED OUR PRAYERS:

Linda Bachand, Elvie Biddle, Carl Bloeser, Ann Brewster, Jonathan Burnett, Stuart Cook, Meta Crane, Maureen Donohue, Sally Franklin, Brooks Gunn, Shannon Hackett, Nelda Hastings, Patricia Hawkins, Patrick Irwin, Donald Jackson, Angela Jacobs, Robert Jones, Marion Kearley, Lisa Keele, Howell Lynch, Mary Farris Lynch, Julie Marsman, Ruth Matlock, Ray Meeks, Zach Meeks, Lucy Morgan, Cheri Peters, Michelle Preston, Jennifer Roberts, Marion Rectenwald, Mary Sears, Dessie Taylor, Lethia Watson, Elizabeth Wells, and Kathy Woods. We pray for those serving in Afghanistan and for their families, especially Cole Adams, Nick Bauer, and Nathaniel Gallagher.

We pray for those serving in Afghanistan and for their families, especially Cole Adams and Nick Bauer

Don't Forget!

The deadline for submissions for the March 2014 issue of Otey Notes is:

Wednesday, February 19
 Email submissions to:
 spicergang@gmail.com

Please include "Otey Notes" in the subject.



February Birthdays

- | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| 2/3 Elliot Duncan | 2/13 Brenda Matthews | 2/19 Amy Neubauer |
| 2/6 Jay Fisher | 2/14 Miree Wood | 2/19 Tim Nelson |
| 2/9 Tim Graham | 2/15 Kelley Black | 2/19 Maddie Van de Ven |
| 2/9 Mac Croom | 2/15 John Gatta | 2/22 Jett Fisher |
| 2/9 Gus Croom | 2/16 Jeannie Babb | 2/23 Thomas Bosley Macfie |
| 2/9 Freya Colvill | 2/16 Jane Holmes | 2/23 J.T. Jenkins |
| 2/10 Debbie Ball | 2/17 Beth Hill | 2/24 Liz Camp |
| 2/12 Laurie Fisher | 2/17 Brooks Murphy | 2/27 Hampton Mauzy |
| 2/12 Willie Cocke | 2/17 Jimmy Blythe | 2/28 Bonnie McCardell |
| 2/12 Beth Wiley | 2/17 John Fisher | |
| 2/13 Trudy Cunningham | 2/18 George Dick | |