

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Southampton, PA---St. John's Anglican Church, Southampton, Pennsylvania, is pleased to announce that Dr. Steven McCollum, Professor and Director of Choral Activities in the School of Music at Cairn University in Langhorne, Pennsylvania, has been appointed the church's Director of Music, effective immediately.

Dr. McCollum holds Master's and Doctorate degrees in Choral Conducting from the University of Washington and a Bachelor's in Music from Biola University. He and his family reside in Warminster, Pennsylvania.

"His command of the theology of worship cannot help but to enrich and enliven the music program at St. John's, as she seeks to

"Know Christ and to Make Christ Known," said the Reverend Mark Rudolph, St. John's rector. St. John's is very thankful for the Rev. Deacon Phil Shade, who has served as St. John's Music Director and Choral Leader for the past three years and is a deacon with The Convocation of Anglicans in North America (CANA). Additionally, Mr. Shade is the founder of "The Broad Street Grind" a start-up coffee shop in Souderton, PA, (<https://www.broadstreetgrind.com/>). Mr. Shade will continue as St. John's organist under Dr. McCollum's leadership and Sarah Brown, a graduate of

Cairn University School of Music, will continue as St. John's pianist intern.

"The Lord has brought together an excellent — even

unique — convergence of people, skills, and godly piety in Dr. McCollum, Mr. Shade, and Miss Brown and this music team will be of great benefit to our local church and to the kingdom of God," continued Mr. Rudolph. "Praise God from whom all blessings flow!"



**New Sunday  
 Worship  
 Times!**  
**8am &  
 10am**  
**Starting on  
 Sep. 2nd**

## "Fervent Prayer" Again By Ken Cook

What do you mean, "Fervent Prayer" again? Some readers of this month's St. John's newsletter will not know what this means. Many people of the St. John's community will know to what I am referring. If "Fervent Prayer" is a new or undefined term to you, it in-

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dicates that you have come to St. John's in the last year and a half and in divine response to fervent prayer (!). Previously, our diocesan bishop, Bishop Steve Breedlove, had forcefully called for the people of St. John's to give themselves to ongoing, communal and fervent prayer, asking the Triune God to raise up 25

new people to begin attending St. John's. I believe that Bishop Steve gave us this charge some three years ago. At the last count, more than 30 new people have shown up at St. John's and have begun to attend our worship services. Praise God! If you are relatively new at St. John's, you're a Godsend!

And, indeed, none of us should be surprised at this tangible evidence that God answers prayer. Just consider these statements (gracious promises with contextualization) which Jesus spoke to his disciples in the Upper Room less than half a day before his crucifixion: "If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it" (John 14:14), "If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples" (John 15:7-8) and "Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full" (John 16:24).

So what am I suggesting by way of fervent prayer at this present time? I call on us to regularly pray in all settings and at all meetings for another 25 (35-50!) people with a focus on young people. In particular, let us be united in asking God to graciously add to our number (Acts 2:42-47) young adults, young couples, families with young children, and teenagers. As we consider this, I am struck by the generalized statement of Jesus' half-brother James concerning human nature and prayer: "You do not have, because you do not ask" (James 4:2). Let us pray! To God be the glory!

## *Baker Library Book Brief*

*By Ken Cook*



In a commentary on Psalm 73, a portion of St. Augustine's remarks have been popularly abbreviated as "He who sings prays twice." The history of the Christian Church in all its expressions certainly bears out the instinct of disciples of Jesus to sing praise to our Triune Lord. Obviously much of our tradition of worship is influenced by the widespread use of the Psalms, the prayerbook and hymnal of Israel. By this means we readily encounter the common exhortation to sing our praises to our Creator and Redeemer. Consider the opening verses of Psalm 95 - "Oh come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!"

Indeed, throughout the Scriptures, the Church is given inspired examples of praise and worship that reflect God's saving mercies in the original historic context which spur on the present-day Church to give thanks for the many gifts and deliverances which we experience in our lives. After the Exodus, Moses was inspired to thank Jehovah for the salvation of his covenant people. "I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea. The LORD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation!" (from "The Song of Moses",

Exodus 15:1-2). Isaiah 26 is described as a "song", and includes these memorable lines - "You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts you" and "Your dead shall live; their bodies shall rise. You who dwell in the dust, awake and sing for joy!" (vss. 3, 19). Prior to Christ's birth, Mary's song of praise, *The Magnificat* includes these words - "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior" (Matthew 1:46-47). This propensity for sung worship continues within the last book of the Bible, Revelation. There we behold the vision of saints who suffered and overcame earthly suffering, now singing in heaven their own take on "the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb [Jesus Christ]": "Great and amazing are your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty! Just and true are your ways, O King of the nations! Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify your name?" (15:3,4).

Now being added to our library is a three-volume set which helpfully examines the Church's hymnody from ancient times to the near-present day. Look for *Then Sings My Soul* by Robert J. Morgan. Morgan is a pastor and author, having served the Donelson Fellowship in Nashville, TN for 38 years (and counting). Volumes one and two introduce the reader-singer to 150 hymns apiece. In each case, the hymns being considered are given in chronological order. The very first song account from volume one tells the story of the archaeological find in 1979 of an ancient text of Numbers 6:24-26 - dating from the 14th Centu-

ry BC - and the oldest source of "The Lord Bless You and Keep You". My favorite hymn, "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" (1529) is only 12 pages away! It is fair to say that there is a focus upon favorite hymns from the 19th and 20th Centuries. However, volume three offers a 51-page introduction to the history of hymnody at large. As well, the last volume provides more in-depth considerations of six very common hymns; in each case the background proves to be anything but common-place!

Here is your chance to learn a great deal. I greatly enjoyed learning just a little bit more Stuart Townend's *How Deep the Father's Love for Us* (1995) and Keith and Kristyn Getty's *In Christ Alone* (2001). Many of the authors and composers prove to be quite ordinary and unavoidably saintly. God in Christ seems to have left them with no other choice, given the outcomes of their circumstances and lives. This gives me great hope as we gather regularly to sing God's praise! Some of the hymns considered are quite popular, and, perhaps, outside of our tradition; others are likely to be seen as comfortable favorites; however, Morgan's introduction will probably provide new insight into what had seemed thoroughly familiar. Taking the time to consider these hymns and their background is certain to prove enriching. One way or the other, these volumes - and the hymns they contemplate - are a feast which will serve to enrich our worship of Almighty God.



## *Inviting Our Neighbors in Southampton to Enjoy Good Music and Food*

*Let brotherly love continue. <sup>2</sup> Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. Hebrews 13:1-2*

By God's grace the recent Sunnyside Bluegrass & Pig Roast outreach event was a huge success with approximately 215 attendees and guests.

This event wouldn't have come off as well without the service of so many within the St. Johns congregation. Particular acknowledgment goes to Ray Freisheim, Irene Maguire, Joanna Smith, Rachael Roddy, and Ferrell Miller.

Ferrell deserves particular recognition for having done an excellent job of formalizing committee leaders, communicating schedules, and coordinating with outside ven-



dors.

Other volunteers were: Debra Hedrick, Ron and Eleanor Fell, Peter Welz, Lorraine Roddy, Mark and Lynn Rudolph, Denise Simone, Dave Williamson, Jim Cushing, Chris

Freisheim, Alex Munoz Diaz, and Phil and Matthew Tolbert.

Those of you not mentioned, you know who you are. Thank you again for everyone's service and efforts!



*Under the Sovereign,  
Chuck Steege*

*The Elephant in the Examination Room: Why Are Medical Professionals Reluctant to Talk to Women About this Common Medical Procedure?*

*By Lauren Kretzer*

Seeing a new medical provider means you get handed the brown clip board from the receptionist with that tedious multi-page "new patient form."

Some questions are quite detailed and frankly, embarrassing.

Others may make us squirm in our seats; e.g., weight, smoking, daily wine intake, etc.

But if you are like me, there is one question that hit me harder than

any other; HAVE YOU EVER BEEN PREGNANT?

As someone who experienced abortion, and was unable to conceive as a result of complications from the procedure, the answer had ALWAYS been, “No”.

I didn’t think about it.

I didn’t agonize over it.

I simply answered, “No”.

This is the denial that marks the daily lives of millions of women and men touched by abortion.

Until someone breaks through that blindness and sheds some light on how abortion may have hurt you, and the good news of spiritual and emotional healing, you remain in the darkness.

I learned about an abortion recovery program, Rachel’s Vineyard, and made my retreat in March, 2013. The program gently allowed me to lower my denial defenses built up over many years. The experience cleansed the gaping spiritual and emotional wounds left from participating in the death of my unborn children.

### **This Doctor’s Visit...Is Going to Be Different**

Fast forward to 2017. I went to see my primary care physician. Her medical practice is part of the Abington Hospital network. Because Abington Hospital provides abortion services, I was in conflict about continuing with my current doctor.

But I have been with this doctor for over 15 years and did not want to be hasty making the switch. And I have always felt very comfortable with her.

Since that Rachel’s Vineyard weekend in 2013 I have grown stronger spiritually and emotionally. In 2017 I became part of the Silent No More Awareness Campaign. The Campaign has connected me with a network of other women and men called to share about their abortion loss and recovery.

Coming out of that foundation of healing and peace I decided that this medical appointment was going to be different. This was going to be an honest encounter where I was going to share my “complete” medical history.

In my evaluation with the doctor she asked if I had any questions. I told her, “There is something very important in my medical history that should be added to my records.”

I began to tell her about my abortions and some of the common emotional and physical complications many women suffer after abortion. She looked at me with compassion, but she did appear a bit taken aback. The doctor agreed to add it to my records. I was pleased when she told me, “In the future, if a patient shares with me a history of abortion, I will be sure to ask them how they are doing emotionally.”

I shared some pamphlets and contact info with the doctor for anyone looking for emotional and spiritual recovery for their abortion loss.

I spent the next couple of days praying for this physician, that her heart and mind would open up to the physical and emotional damage many women suffer after abortion.

### **“How Many Children Do You Have?”**

Now here we are a year later and time for my annual check-up. This time I did not see my regular doctor. Instead, I saw a nurse practitioner, Susan.

Susan pulls out her lap top and begins to ask me a bunch of questions. It is clear she is using a very detailed but standard questionnaire for physicals. She even asked me if I ever smoked. When I told her, "yes as a stupid teenager," she went on to ask me how much I smoked and the ages I started and quit. That was over 40 years ago!

Another question. Have you ever had surgeries? I am thinking major with general anesthesia so I answered no. Then she said any surgeries? Wisdom teeth? Yes, I had my wisdom teeth out (30 years ago).

I then told her, "Susan, there are also two surgeries that I had that should be in the records. I had two abortions."

This revelation clearly shook her up as she fumbled at the lap top. She was very quick to respond, "No I do not see them...they do not need to be in the records." I replied "I had requested them to be there."

Avoiding any eye contact, she went on to the next question on her form.

Much to my surprise, a minute later came the question...are you ready for this?

*How many children do you have?*

I told her that I lost two children to abortion and that the reason why I do not have living children today is very likely due to the physical damage caused by those abortions.

For a second, she looked angry, annoyed, and horrified at the same time.

But being professional, she composed herself and said, "We don't need that information." She then went on to the next question.

I left there feeling sad and angry because when it comes to abortion, the "right to choose" takes precedence over "the right to complete, accurate medical information and care."

Abortion is looked at as some medical "non-event." Yet it is a life-changing experience, and certainly a medically significant part of the medical history of millions of women.

I thought about that nurse practitioner, Susan, as I processed our encounter in the days after my appointment. Perhaps her reaction comes out of her personal history. It is quite possible, given her role at Abington Hospital, an abortion provider, that she may have helped in some way to facilitate the death of unborn children.

It is possible a family member, even her daughter had one. Or maybe she herself had lost a child to abortion, and what I shared touched that sensitive wound in her heart.

I am grateful for my journey to recovery and connecting with the Silent No More Awareness Campaign. This equipped and empowered me to find my voice, and share the truth about my abortion losses. It has empowered me and many other women to share our experiences, bringing light to the darkness, even behind the closed doors of doctor's examination rooms.

## *Upcoming Events at St. John's*

\*Sunday, September 2  
Month Potluck Meal "Hoagie Fest"

\*Sunday, September 16  
Access Services Presentation

\*Sunday, September 23  
Georgette Forney, Anglicans for Life

\*Sunday, October 7th  
Monthly Potluck Meal "Native American Powwow Party"

\*Sunday, October 21st  
Annual Shoebox Packing Party for Operation Christmas Child

\*These events will follow our  
10am Worship Service.

ing, why not plan to read Hebrews once or twice before our first meeting together on September 10<sup>th</sup>. Everyone is invited to attend. We meet on a weekly basis.



## **Fellowship & Bible Studies Return!**

Monday, September 10th  
Evening Women's Fellowship in Abington begins 7pm at Cooks' home, 1843 Rockwell Road Abington PA 19001 Starts with dessert and fellowship with bible study to follow.

Monday, September 10th  
Evening Bible Study 7:00-8:30 pm in the Church Library  
This Fall, we are reading, discussing and studying the Letter to the Hebrews. If you are considering attend-