



## Summer Notes

The Church of The Transfiguration  
6909 Maryland Avenue  
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My Dear Friends in Christ,

I'm ashamed to admit it now, but there was a time, in my early adult years, when I refused to stand for or sing the National Anthem, to pledge allegiance to the flag, or demonstrate any sign of patriotic feeling. I foolishly thought then that I was being brave, or that I was simply following my conscience, and so "making a statement" about what I viewed to be the wrongs committed in and by the America of my generation. The war in Vietnam was still raging, with no end in sight. My youthful heroes had all been killed--John and Robert Kennedy and Martin Luther King--as had four of my classmates at Kent State University. It felt somehow strange and alienating to be a young person. There just didn't seem to me to be a reason for celebration, a reason for honoring the nation's memory. I wasn't sure why I was an American.

What I thought was principled dissent turned out to be, in retrospect, mostly self-indulgence, perhaps even cowardice. After all, I had the luxury of protesting the problem without actually having to take part in working for a solution. And I had advantages in education and financial security that many others lacked. It wasn't until I started going into beleaguered neighborhoods, serving in food pantries and soup kitchens, or knocking on doors for candidates running for office--and thus meeting people struggling with life experiences more desperate than I could ever imagine--that I realized how blind and how removed from the real world I had been. There I met persons of different races and backgrounds who themselves had come out of these communities, but who had not given up on the potential for change, had not abandoned their faith in God or in the ideals upon which the nation was founded; and now they were putting that faith into practice. Their lives in this country had been very hard indeed, but they had not abandoned hope in their country.

Slowly, I began to see what they already knew--that though there was much hard, healing work remaining to be done, and though violence and injustice still thwarted our efforts, we had made great progress; we had come a long way from where we began. Even through the darkness a light was shining. My heroes were dead, but their dream lived on; and there would be new heroes and new dreams, and new ways to praise and give thanks to God who had "shed his grace" on our imperfect and striving and beloved nation. So as a renewed spirit and hope in me returned (and as I started to sing the National Anthem again!), I thought of what the psalmist declares: "O Lord, you are my portion and my cup; it is you who uphold my lot. / My boundaries enclose a pleasant land; indeed, I have a goodly heritage" (16:5, 6).

May these memories and this vision help guide us through this year of decision. May we remember the goodness and greatness we already possess, the strength and courage we already own. And may these gifts be the source, under God's bending love, of all that we will become.

Many Blessings,

*Fr. Gordon +*

Reverend Dr. Gordon De La Vars, Rector



## August 2016 Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>1</b> 9:00a Morning Prayer  12:00p AA	<b>2</b> 9:00a Morning Prayer	<b>3</b> 9:00a Morning Prayer  12:00p AA  7:00p Vespers/ Rite of Healing	<b>4</b> 9:00a Morning Prayer  12:00p AA	<b>5</b> 9:00a Morning Prayer  12:00p AA  8:30p AA	<b>6</b> 9:30a AA  7:30p AA
<b>7</b> <b>FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION</b> Healing - both services 10:15a H.E. II/hymns 11:15a Hospitality  PM - AA	<b>8</b>  12:00p AA  7:30p Outreach	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>  12:00p AA	<b>11</b>  12:00p AA	<b>12</b>  12:00p AA  8:30p AA	<b>13</b> 9:30a AA  7:30p AA
Rector Vacation						
<b>14</b> 8:00a H.E. II 10:15a H.E. II/hymns 11:15a Hospitality  PM - AA	<b>15</b> 9:00a Morning Prayer  12:00p AA	<b>16</b> 9:00a Morning Prayer  7:00p B & F	<b>17</b> 9:00a Morning Prayer  12:00p AA  7:00p Vespers/ Rite of Healing	<b>18</b> 9:00a Morning Prayer  12:00p AA	<b>19</b> 9:00a Morning Prayer  12:00p AA  8:30p AA	<b>20</b> 9:30a AA  7:30p AA
<b>21</b> 8:00a H.E. II 10:15a H.E. II/hymns 11:15a Hospitality 11:45a Vestry  PM - AA	<b>22</b> 9:00a Morning Prayer  12:00p AA	<b>23</b> 9:00a Morning Prayer  6:30 Men's Dinner	<b>24</b> 9:00a Morning Prayer  12:00p AA  7:00p Vespers/ Rite of Healing	<b>25</b> 9:00a Morning Prayer  12:00p AA	<b>26</b> 9:00a Morning Prayer  12:00p AA  8:30p AA	<b>27</b> 9:30a AA  7:30p AA
<b>28</b> 8:00a H.E. II 10:15a H.E. II/hymns 11:15a Hospitality  PM - AA	<b>29</b> 9:00a Morning Prayer  12:00p AA	<b>30</b> 9:00a Morning Prayer	<b>31</b> 9:00a Morning Prayer  12:00p AA  7:00p Vespers/ Rite of Healing			

### OF SPECIAL NOTE:

The produce sale is now in progress - make sure to stop by Memorial Hall and take home some truly fresh and locally grown produce. Just leave a donation.

The Mountain Herald will return in September, so start putting together your articles and notices - the deadline for submissions will be August 27.

**Sunday Services: 8:00 a.m. & 10:15 a.m.**  
**Morning Prayer: 9:00 a.m. Monday - Friday**  
**Vespers with Rite of Healing: Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.**

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