



## Summer Notes

The Church of The Transfiguration  
6909 Maryland Avenue  
Braddock Heights, MD 21714  
301-371-7505

### A note from Fr. Gordon

Dear Friends in Christ,

In 1942 the U.S. State Department published a book called *Fair Is Our Land*, containing beautifully photographed scenes from across the landscape of America (all in glorious black-and-white!). Published in a time of war (whose outcome was then still uncertain), each scene also reminded Americans what it was they were fighting for. My mother had bought one of the first copies, which sat on our living-room coffee table while I was growing up.

The pictures were indeed beautiful; but the written introduction was extraordinary, and surprisingly critical. The first sentence reads: "Patriotism, like other forms of love, finds its truest expression in the hidden chambers of the heart, in the secret places of the soul--not in our mouths." What follows is a stern rebuke to the attitudes and assumptions that (in the writer's view) had led the nation to become complacent as dictatorships arose and war clouds gathered over Europe and in the Far East. It was our isolationism--our turning inward, our lack of engagement with the world--that had contributed, in great part, to the current crisis. We had been too ready to profess our patriotic love merely with our mouths, as a result failing to give our hearts and souls to the hard, global work of resisting oppression and seeking peace.

I've thought of this book and that essay recently, even as a new spirit of nationalism seems to have emerged, in our nation as well as across Europe. Calls for "America first" and for "taking back" our country appear (to me at least) reminiscent of those nativist and inward-looking attitudes that have not served us well in the past, and which have led too often to suspicion and hatred at home and a surrendering of our role abroad as citizens of the world.

People of good faith can, of course, disagree on the nature of our role in the world as well as on the best way to protect ourselves in very dangerous times. Still, I believe, in the end, our vision (both national and spiritual) can and should be directed outward, not remain inward and insulated. Through the prophet Isaiah, the Lord says, "I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness" (42:6-7). Even for a "chosen people," God's call is to look beyond human boundaries to reach human needs.

I believe our identity as Americans is enhanced, not diminished, by a welcoming respect for other peoples and cultures. Our own light shines brighter when it is shared. If history is any guide, we become wiser and stronger when our circle is widened, when we choose to engage rather than exclude, when we build bridges instead of walls.

Many Blessings,

*Fr. Gordon +*

*Reverend Dr. Gordon De La Vars, Rector*



**JULY 2016**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
					9:00a Morning Prayer 12:00p AA 8:30p AA	9:30a AA 7:30p AA
<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
Healing - both services 9:00a Christian Ed 10:15a H.E. II/hymns 11:15a Hospitality  PM - AA	<b>INDEPENDENCE DAY</b> Office Closed  9:00a Morning Prayer 12:00p AA	9:00a Morning Prayer	9:00a Morning Prayer  12:00p AA  7:00p Vespers/ Rite of Healing	9:00a Morning Prayer  12:00p AA	9:00a Morning Prayer  12:00p AA  8:30p AA	9:30a AA  7:30p AA
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
8:00a H.E. II 9:00a Christian Ed 10:15a H.E. II/hymns 11:15a Hospitality  PM - AA	9:00a Morning Prayer  12:00p AA  7:00p Bridge Club	9:00a Morning Prayer	9:00a Morning Prayer  12:00p AA  7:00p Vespers/ Rite of Healing	9:00a Morning Prayer  12:00p AA	9:00a Morning Prayer  12:00p AA  8:30p AA	9:30a AA  7:30p AA
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
8:00a H.E. II 9:00a Christian Ed 10:15a H.E. II/hymns 11:15a Hospitality 11:30a Vestry  PM - AA	9:00a Morning Prayer  12:00p AA  7:00p Bridge Club	9:00a Morning Prayer	9:00a Morning Prayer  12:00p AA  7:00p Vespers/ Rite of Healing	9:00a Morning Prayer  12:00p AA	9:00a Morning Prayer  12:00p AA  8:30p AA	9:30a AA  7:30p AA
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
8:00a H.E. II 9:00a Christian Ed 10:15a H.E. II/hymns 11:15a Hospitality  PM - AA	9:00a Morning Prayer  12:00p AA  7:00p Bridge Club	9:00a Morning Prayer  6:30 Men's Dinner	9:00a Morning Prayer  12:00p AA  7:00p Vespers/ Rite of Healing	9:00a Morning Prayer  12:00p AA	9:00a Morning Prayer  12:00p AA  8:30p AA	9:30a AA  7:30p AA
<b>31</b>						
8:00a H.E. II 9:00a Christian Ed 10:15a H.E. II/hymns 11:15a Hospitality PM - AA						

**OF SPECIAL NOTE:**

**SUNDAY, JULY 10 - Be at church for the unveiling of the Memorial Hall renovation plans**

**PAST PRIME PLANT SALE is in full swing - the yard in front of Memorial Hall is covered with flower & vegetable plants plus hanging baskets. Take your pick and leave a donation.**

**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.**

**Office Phone: 301-371-7505**