

SAINT BART'S MONTHLY

Lay Ministry: 7/1

Chalice Bearer– Bobby Drew

Lessons and Psalms– Susan Ashley-LaFitte

Prayers of the People– TBA

Ushers– Tom Scholl and Darrell LaFitte

Lay Ministry: 7/8

Chalice Bearer– Lee French

Lessons and Psalms– Helen Panetti

Prayers of the People– Lisa Bayh

Ushers– Charlie Menke and Bobby Drew

Lay Ministry: 7/15

Chalice Bearer– Darrell LaFitte

Lessons and Psalms– Nancy Wilson

Prayers of the People– Susan Ashley-LaFitte

Ushers– Lee French and Tom Scholl



This Thread Between Us

By Lee French

Every Sunday Father Frank consecrates the priest host and lifts it from a small silver tray called a paten. He elevates it in front of us and genuflects as Susan rings the bells three times. This happens every Sunday, at every wedding and funeral, every service. This small silver tray is literally at the center of the altar every time we celebrate the Eucharist.

This is the same paten that was used by Wendy Huber, Bob Merrill, Bob Moore, Chris Prince, Jon Sonnen, John Binford, and on back. It has been a part of Saint Bartholomew's Episcopal Church since at least the 1960s, probably far earlier. It has been washed and cared for and polished by Ann and Kay and the faithful hands of others with kind, loving hearts. It is simple and clean and rooted in the very foundation of our worship service. It is central to our tradition and our very identity... turns out, in more ways than one.

On the underside of our paten—which most of us wouldn't even think to investigate—lies inscribed a glimpse into our church history:

Lay Ministry: 7/22**Chalice Bearer**– Tom Scholl**Lessons and Psalms**– Helen Panetti**Prayers of the People**– TBA**Ushers**– Charlie Menke and Bobby Drew**Lay Ministry: 7/29****Chalice Bearer**– Bobby Drew**Lessons and Psalms**– Lisa Bayh**Prayers of the People**– Nancy Wilson**Ushers**– Darrell LaFitte and Tom Scholl**Suggestions?**

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*In memory of my father and mother
 Dr Philip S. Clarke 1834 – 1895
 Barbara M. Clarke 1838 – 1887*

Dr. Philip Clarke was a community pillar in what became the town of Hempstead. He married Barbara Mack Groce Clarke, who was the daughter of none other than Jared Ellison Groce, owner of the Bernardo Plantation on the Brazos. It was to the front yard of Bernardo that the *Twin Sisters* were delivered in 1836. And it was there that Sam Houston and the Texas army crossed the Brazos on the decks of the steamboat *Yellow Stone* before marching east and then south toward that fateful day in San Jacinto.

The paten that is at the center of our weekly worship service was given to the church by the grandson of one of the most influential people ever to live in this part of Texas. So I did a little looking in the draft version of *A History of Saint Bartholomew's Episcopal Church*, printed in 1955 in fulfillment of Reverend Frank Spindler's Master of Arts degree from the University of Houston. And right there, on page 281, listed as a parish founder, is the name Jared Ellison Groce.



A piece of me is in awe of this fact. It means that our church is rooted in the very beginnings of this community, and in the beginnings of what became first the Republic, and later the State, of Texas. It just makes sense that a community founder would also be one of our church founders. But, Groce is more or less a legend on the road to Texas independence—at least in my mind. And right here in our church, are direct links to this man and his family—not just in a book, but in the very ceremonies we perform during every worship

service.

Of course, looking back with today's sensibilities, I also feel sadness and grief at the exploitation of black Americans in the antebellum South. This paten clearly ties us to that legacy. But, it also stays with us as we welcome and celebrate all God's people today. And it reminds me that we are a part of history as it is unfolding.

This small, simple, silver tray was with us through Vietnam and the civil rights struggles of the 1960s, through the decadence of the 1970s, through the terrifying time of AIDS in the 1980s, through wars on drugs and wars in the Middle East. It was with us when we welcomed the first woman priest in Saint Bartholomew's. And it was here when the head of the Episcopal Church—who happens to be

African American—preached a sermon in front of the Queen of England (and millions of watchers around the globe) on believing fully in love, and on using that belief to dare to change the world.

This paten has been with us through a great deal. And it will be with us through a great deal more. The next time you glimpse it as Fr Frank prepares the elements, see it for what it is—a thread linking our past with our future, sewing each of us closer together every Sunday in a community rooted in and seeking love.

JULY CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Sunday Service at 10:00 am!	2	3	4 Independence Day!	5	6	7 Birthday! Joshua Kluna
8 Sunday Service at 10:00 am and Vestry Meeting after! Birthday! San Juaita Rodriguez	9 Birthdays! Melissa Rodriguez and Bella Hillman Anniversary! Krystal and Justin Allen	10	11 Birthdays! Kendal Vines and Aubrey French	12 Birthday! Sarah Hillman	13 Birthday! Peter Vines	14 
15 Sunday Service at 10:00 am! Birthdays! Clayton Kiesling and Larry Dennis	16	17 	18	19	20 Birthday! J.R. Vines	21
22 Sunday Service at 10:00 am!	23	24 Birthday! Woody Kramer and Mason Wellmann	25 Birthdays! Gerald Ladig and Cassie Poulos	26	27	28
29 Sunday Service at 10:00 am!	30					

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry meets backstage with U2, Bono to talk about Reclaiming Jesus

By David Paulsen

[Episcopal News Service] Presiding Bishop Michael Curry met backstage this week with U2 and front man Bono at New York's Madison Square Garden, where the Episcopal Church leader and the globally renowned rockers discussed Curry's [Reclaiming Jesus initiative](#).

The meeting happened in the evening June 25 just before the first of a series of U2 concerts in New York on [the band's Experience + Innocence tour](#). A photo released by the band shows the foursome posing with Curry.

"I know of no other group that has sung and witnessed more powerfully to the way of love than U2," Curry said June 27 in a written statement to Episcopal News Service. "It was a real blessing to sit with them to talk about Jesus, the way of love, and changing our lives and the world. They are an extraordinary community gift to us all."

U2, which formed in Ireland in the late 1970s, has been one of the most popular rock bands in the world for more than 30 years, and Bono – among that rarefied group of musicians known globally by a single name – makes headlines these days as much for his support for humanitarian causes as for his music.

Curry, too, has become something of a minor global celebrity since his sermon on the power of love at the royal wedding on May

19. After the wedding, he was invited to discuss the sermon on a [dizzying variety of media outlets](#), from the BBC to celebrity gossip site TMZ. Curry told ENS last month that he sees the sudden attention as a unique opportunity for evangelism, as he tries in interviews to bring the conversation around to what he often calls the "Jesus Movement."

Reclaiming Jesus is a [new initiative he spearheaded this year](#) with the Rev. Jim Wallis of Sojourners to address "a dangerous crisis of moral and political leadership at the highest levels of our government and in our churches" and to affirm what it means to be followers of Jesus in today's world.

U2 and Bono have not yet commented publicly on Reclaiming Jesus, though Curry said he spoke with them about its origins and intention.

"I shared with them our commitment to reclaim Jesus of Nazareth as the center of Christian faith and life," Curry said in his statement to ENS. "And this means a way of faith with love of God and Love of neighbor at the core. A love that is not sentimental but a disciplined commitment and spiritual practice infusing every aspect of life, personally, intra personally and politically." [Episcopal News Service]

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faith with love of God and Love of neighbor at the core. A love that is not sentimental but a disciplined commitment and spiritual practice infusing every aspect of life, personally, intra personally and politically." Curry didn't say whether he was a fan of U2's music, though he stayed June 25 to attend the concert at Madison Square Garden. He had at least one prior connection to the songs before this week: A sermon he delivered in 2006 at a U2charist service in Columbus, Ohio.

The U2charists were a popular trend in the Episcopal Church at that time, structured as a Eucharist that incorporates songs from the band, whose catalogue is thoroughly infused with Christian imagery. (Bono's father was Catholic, and his mother was Anglican, [according to this New Yorker report](#) on the band's faith background.)

Celebrating a U2charist also held a deeper purpose, calling attention to the push to achieve the United Nations' [Millennium Development Goals](#), such as eradicating extreme poverty, reducing child mortality and fighting HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases. The ONE Campaign, co-founded by Bono, was a key advocate for the Millennium Development Goals – U2's megahit "One" became its rallying cry – and the Episcopal Church endorsed the organization's work in a [2006 General Convention resolution](#).

More than 700 attended the U2charist in Columbus in 2006. Curry, the bishop of North Carolina at the time, preached in support of the Millennium Development Goals and the ONE Campaign, telling those gathered to "be a witness" for Christ. He called the goals "a way for us to discover life again as a Church ... a compelling vision of the world God intended from the beginning," according to an [ENS report on the service](#).

It wasn't clear whether Curry referenced U2's music directly in the sermon, though in [one unconfirmed transcription](#) of the sermon he is quoted as referring to the band's leader as "Brother Bono."

– *David Paulsen is an editor and reporter for the Episcopal News Service. He can be reached at dpaulsen@episcopalchurch.org*

