

May 5, 2010

Grief has no predictable time, no conveniently assigned space in our hearts. It must be acknowledged and dealt with, by us as individuals and as a community of God. We are grieving, over the loss of loved ones, loss of places to gather and pray and temporary frustration over not feeling useful. However, having come to grips with this, we as God's people can and must use the tools which God has given us – the head and heart that reaches out to comfort and, in doing so, is comforted and strengthened.

If you have found yourself in this place, look around. We are there with you. We the people of St. George's Church are rising in response to the call of our Lord to minister to His people. If you are able, go to our website www.stgeorgesnashville.org and register at “ Volunteer for Church Cleanup.”. There will be plenty of work to do soon. For now, remember the words of the Psalmist, “I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry” Psalm 40.

The work of retrieval, removal and renewal continues. Your clergy and staff are tirelessly involved in the process. They deserve your daily prayers. The desire for corporate worship runs strong in our Christian tradition and is God-inspired. However, your wardens and vestry are responsible for determining when and where that may be done in safety. The need for gathering to study God's word is also strong, so strong that some classes are now meeting in homes, while others are prepared to meet even in our parking lot. In all of this, we will ask for your trust. We believe that our Great Commission is best served by using the heads and hearts that he has given us, so that all things might be done decently and in good order. *1 Corinthians 14:40*

Today's appointed reading from 1 Thessalonians
offer great instruction and comfort:

“12 But we appeal to you, brothers and sisters, to respect those who labor among you, and have charge of you in the Lord and admonish you; 13 esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves.”

And finally, we claim the blessing to all Christian believers:

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

John Fitzgerald, Chairman
Worship and Christian Discipleship Commission
St. George's Vestry