

## Weekly Musing + May 16, 2011



Saint Dunstan (died 988) was what we now call a polymath. That is to say he was learned on many fronts including music (he built, among other things, organs) metalworking, illuminating of manuscripts (the monk above doing homage to Jesus may be Dunstan and further, may be drawn by him). He was the most revered saint in England until the time of Thomas Beckett.

Dunstan reformed monasteries bringing them into line with the strict Benedictine observance. During the short reign of King Edgar, he helped Edgar reform both the church and state. This was a rare and fortunate political alliance that did good for all. I know of no English saint (and precious few others) who did not in one way or another become involved in the politics of the state. We do well to remember that this is long before our cherished American belief in the separation of church and state (which of course, did not happen in England and has not to this very day). It is important to point out that no notion of the separation of church and state really occurs in scripture. Jesus, living as he did in a theocracy (albeit under Roman rule) would have found the whole concept puzzling. Like virtually all of the earlier saints (and by that I mean for the first three quarters or so of Christianity) Dunstan was a great supporter of learning. All mainline churches have been enthusiastic supporters of education and have built schools and universities. The newer forms of Christianity seem less interested in this unless the school is very doctrinaire in tandem with that particular church's teachings.

Dunstan's remains were interred in Canterbury Cathedral. There was some controversy about where his remains were so Henry VIII's archbishop, William Warham, had them dug up and did indeed find bones. Saint Dunstan's shrine, like that of Thomas Beckett's, was destroyed during the English reformation, partly for stripping them of their gold and jewels, but also because, in Beckett's case, he defied the king and in Dunstan's, influenced the king. Henry VIII established himself as head of the church ("in so far as the laws of God allow"). If you watched the movie, *The King's Speech*, one of the reasons that was given for the abdication of Edward the VIII (the elder brother of the movie's protagonist, George VI or "Bertie") was that as head of the Church of England he could not marry a divorced woman. The church was never entirely comfortable with giving the monarch that title and it could be said that this was part of her revenge.



## News from St. Luke's

Those interested in going to Camp Marshall need to get their applications into the church office. The camps are filling up more rapidly than usual. Return them to us here at St. Luke's as the Memorial Foundation will pay the cost.



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## News from St. Luke's cont.

Last Sunday was a busy time with the UTO ingathering, a baptism and the honoring of our high school graduates. Congratulations to Samantha, Devin, Hillary, Jessica, Alexander, and Christian.

The youth group meets Wednesday at 6 pm for dinner and a trip to Barnes and Noble. The vestry meets Tuesday at 6:30 pm. There will be no Bible study that night.

Remember that the summer schedule starts the first weekend in June. There will be one service on Sunday at 10:00 A.M. The Saturday service continues at 5 pm. The Wednesday noon Eucharist is not held during the summer.

The preschool will have their end of the year programs next week. I do chapel for each group (3 and 4 year olds, 4 and 5 year olds) every week.



Chapel is a simple affair and short (to match their attention spans). The preschool (Child Enrichment Center) has been here since 2003. That means I have done chapel about 240 times for a total of 120 or so kids. This is an important part of who we are at St. Luke's.

*The Rev. Canon Gary Waddingham  
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