



The St. John's Newsletter

St. John's Episcopal Church 254-803-3800 Marlin, Texas www.stjohnsmarlin.org April 2008

We are a church community rooted in Anglican traditions and committed to sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ through faith, prayer, compassion, and encouragement.

On Being a Christian: Identity and Mission

I've tried to find an exact reference, but Google can't provide me with the name behind the voice I heard, or give me more of his words than the ones that hit me so hard. I was driving from work to home, and the radio was playing an interview with a Christian advisor to the Bush Administration. I listened to the man's description of being a Catholic in a predominantly Evangelical administration, and I grew more interested as he talked about his faith.

Specifically, he spoke of what it meant to him to be a Catholic, how being Catholic was part of him. He said several things about that, and he said this: Catholics do things, like opening and running schools in poor, inner-city neighborhoods. They do this without the expectation that they will be serving Catholics or that the children attending those schools will ever become Catholics. "We do it," he said, "not because they're Catholics, but because we're Catholics."

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Now, doctrine was not a part of the interview, and it's not a part of my point here. I'm not touching the subject of Catholic theology, but the subject of identity and of mission.

I was really struck – I could feel it in my chest – by this simple, practical way of seeing the role of the Christian. To be out in the world, doing the difficult, the thankless, the complicated, the little-by-little. To be doing it *not only* not to be seen or to gain acceptance on a personal level, but not even because it will get the word out about the church, or because it might expand the membership, or because they've resolved to reach out this year. This man, not a priest or a Church spokesman but someone who had given much thought to his faith, said this is just what we do. This is what it means to be a Catholic: to serve, without thought of gain.

And I thought about that, and about my own faith. What is it that I do, because I am an Episcopalian? What is it that we do, because we are St. John's?

I have less of an answer to this question than most people in our Church. In contrast to the generous and committed folks who share the pews with me, it seems like my spiritual life is a mixture of half-implemented resolutions, five-minutes-late arrivals, and good intentions. Nevertheless, I deeply identify myself with the Episcopal Church, and part and parcel with this I have seen both in St. John's and in the larger Communion things that make us unique. We seek not merely to do things right – in the liturgy, the worship, the decorations, the coffee-hour refreshments – but we seek also to do the right things. Deeply we probe issues of personal faith and accountability; we study the Word of God in action, and we intellectually approach the inherent contradictions posed by life *in* the world but not *of* it. For some Christians, the doubts and failings of individual faith might be a cause to feel separated from their

Church; for Episcopalians, it seems, the difficulties are acknowledged and even embraced. Ours is a shared experience not of simply following rules, but of passionate seeking and struggling toward God.

I think because I am an Episcopalian, I seek God with my mind as well as with my heart and actions – and because I am part of St. John’s, I can do this within a community of shared study, shared discipline, and shared service: a place where I am fed, supported, guided, loved, and nurtured.

Guest article by Megan Henderson



St. John's Leadership

Vestry:

Senior Warden, Mike Meyer
Junior Warden, Mark Patterson
Bill Forson
Bobby Peterson
Joe Owen
Cathy Phillips, Clerk and Treasurer, Ex-Officio

Rector: The Rev. Judy Filer

Minister of Music: Sue Visser

Parish Administrator: Cathy Phillips

Altar Guild Chair: Louise Burton

Altar Flowers Chair: Polly Gaeke

Special Events: Libby Price and Pattie Bosnack

ECW President: Pattie Bosnack

ALTAR FLOWERS

If you wish to request flowers for St. John's altar, contact Polly Gaeke, chairperson, phone number 584-4464.



COFFEE HOSTESS

April 6 – Willie Null
April 13 – Sherri Patterson
April 20 – Antonette Peterson
April 27 — Libby Price and Pattie Bosnack



APRIL BIRTHDAYS:

April 8 – Margaret Spelce
April 11 – Nicole Estes
April 16 – Mike Meyer
April 20 – Chris Farmer
April 25 – Amanda Estes
April 27 – Frank Goodrich
and our other members whose birthdays remain shrouded in mystery.

“Grant, O Lord, that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord.” *Amen*

You are cordially invited

to celebrate all parish March birthdays and anniversaries on Sunday, April 27th.

Please join us following the regular Sunday

service for wonderful food and fun in the Parish Hall, St. John's Episcopal Church.

MEMORIALS

Anyone wishing to make a memorial should contact Jean Trice, chairperson in charge of memorials. Telephone number is 883-2611.

ST. JOHN'S MEN'S ASSOCIATION

The St. John's Men's Association will meet at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 29th at St. John's Parish Hall. Come join in the fellowship!



CURSILLO

If you are interested in attending a Cursillo weekend, please contact either Polly Geake (584-4464) or Kyla Smith (584-2461). Applications to attend Cursillo can be obtained on the Diocesan Cursillo website at texascursillo.org.

2008 CURSILLO WEEKENDS

June 19-22, 2008

August 7-10, 2008

November 6-9, 2008(campsite)

Annual Cursillo Reunion

April 25-27



Lenten Study

We are reading and discussing *What's So Amazing About Grace?* by Phillip Yancey. This Lenten Study will continue through May 4th. This book is highly recommended for all St. John's parishioners. My prayer for this study is that it will positively impact our St. John's community. Books and work books are available in the Parish Hall. Please join us and/or pick up a book to read. The remaining sessions are listed below.

Session 6: April 6, Cathy Phillips-facilitator, Chapters 12-13, pages 147-176

Session 7: April 13, Mary Smith-facilitator, Chapter 14, pages 177-192

Session 8: April 20, Mike Meyer-facilitator, Chapters 15-16, pages 193-224

Session 9: April 27, Mark Patterson-facilitator, Chapters 17-18, pages 225-252

Session 10: May 4, Kyla Smith-facilitator, Chapters 19-20, pages 253-282



The first Daughters of the King training session will be held on Saturday, May 17 at 11:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall. Mary Price, Diana Miles, Molly Walker and Weezie Burton will be the co-leaders for the training sessions. If you are interested in attending the Daughters of the King training, please contact either Mary, Molly or Weezie.



ECW

St. John's ECW will hold a meeting Saturday, April 12th at 11:00 a.m. Susan Shobe will be our guest speaker. All members of ECW are invited to attend.

The 2008 ECW Spiritual Growth Retreat will be held on April 18-19 at Camp Allen. Janet Davis will present *Real Women, Real Differences, Real Growth*. The cost is \$90 for single room occupancy or \$75 for double room occupancy. ECW Texas has 7 scholarships available. For a scholarship, please contact Ginny Reinhardt at 903-581-0283 by April 5, 2008. If you wish to attend, please pick up a registration form from the office. The registration deadline is April 12, 2008.



ALTAR GUILD

The Annual Altar Guild Workshop & Spiritual Enrichment Retreat will be held April 6 through April 9 at Camp Allen. Please see the information posted on the bulletin board. For more information, contact Katrina Packard at 979-743-4574.

Bishop Coadjutor Nominees

On Thursday, March 27, the Diocese of Texas announced 6 nominees for bishop coadjutor.

They include:

The Rev. David Alwine, rector, Christ Church, Temple

The Rev. C. Andrew Doyle, Canon to the Ordinary, Diocese of Texas

The Rt. Rev. Dena A. Harrison, Bishop Suffragan, Diocese of Texas

The Rev. Gary Hill, rector, Christ Church, Nacogdoches

The Rev. Neal Michell, Canon Missioner for Strategic Development, Diocese of Dallas

The Rev. James Stockton, rector, Resurrection, Austin

Answers to questions and autobiographies will be included in the April issue of the *Texas Episcopalian*. You can also go on line to www.epicenter.org to read the information. The election will take place at a special session of the 159th Council, May 24, at Christ Church Cathedral.

THANK YOU!!

Thank you Molly Walker and Pam Williams and Sam Bosnack for gifting St. John's parish with such a beautiful nursery. You have all worked very hard and your efforts brought forth a nursery that is unsurpassed and a wonderful place for our beloved children to learn about our beloved Savior. We are truly fortunate at St. John's to have people who are so committed to the church and willing to spend the time, energy and often personal funds that large volunteer projects take. This project has been a gift of love to the parish by Pam, Sam and Molly. Please thank them for their important work in the vineyard.

AND THANK YOU AGAIN!

To everyone who worked very hard this year to make the Lenten season meaningful and the Easter service a true joy in every way. With a number of different liturgies and requirements at the altar for different types of services, the work given to prepare ourselves for our Lord's incredible gift of love to us was enormous. It meant attending to myriads of details, it meant checking and re-checking, assigning and re-assigning, and preparing an Easter altar that is memorable forever. The altar at the Easter service couldn't have been more beautiful. Thank you to Weezie Burton and the Altar Guild for all their work, to the office staff (of one) and to the many volunteers and readers who made this a beautiful re-telling of The Easter Story. Thank you too for the sumptuous feast after the Easter service, for a wonderfully creative Easter egg hunt and for those who have led and are leading the Grace discussions in Christian Ed.

We may be small in number, but we are mighty in spirit, thanks to the dedication of so many. The Lord does bless us indeed!



FOOD FOR APRIL:

Please bring either peanut butter and jelly or macaroni and cheese for our outreach ministry to the Salvation Army.

"For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat..." Matthew 25:35



OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY

The Marlin Ministerial Fellowship invites the Marlin community to join them in a week of Prayer and Praise during the week of March 30-April 5. The schedule is:

March 30, 4:00 p.m. – Courthouse
 March 31, 5:15 p.m. – Marlin VA Hospital
 April 1, 5:15 p.m. – Marlin Middle School

Parking Lot

April 2, 5:15 p.m. – Booker T. Washington Resource Center

April 3, 5:15 p.m. – City Council Chamber Room

April 4, 5:15 p.m. – Boys & Girls Club

April 5, 8:00 a.m. – Marlin Senior Center

For more information, contact Minister Deborah Raphael at 803-2715 or Rev. Jimmy Phillips at 803-3351.

WELCOME TO THE WORLD, JAKOBY LAMONTE BLEDSOE!



Jakoby Lamonte Bledsoe was born on March 5th weighing 8 lbs. 7 oz. His mother Nicole is doing well, as are his proud grandmother and great-grandmother, Cathy Estes and Margery Schumann.

"Heavenly Father, you sent your own Son into this world. We thank you for the life of this child, Jakoby, entrusted to our care. Help us to remember that we are all your children, and so to love and nurture him, that he may attain to that full stature intended for him in your eternal kingdom; for the sake of your dear Son, Jesus Christ our Lord." *Amen* (BCP, p. 841)



Working for Christ Housing Rehab Project

The 8th Annual Working for Christ Housing Rehab Project has been scheduled for the week of June 23-27. Applications for home repair site selections are now being taken. If you know of any families in your church or elsewhere that need assistance, please have them call Rev. Jimmy Phillips at 883-2157 or pick up an application form from the church office.

This is a very worthwhile project and if you are able, please volunteer.

Parish News

Sean Farmer was presented as a symphony brass at the Waco Symphony Concert on March 29, 2008. He was also voted junior class favorite at Mart High School.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please remember: The deadline for newsletter submissions is the 25th of each month. In the shorter months, this is very critical. Also, if you have any information or articles you would like to share in the newsletter, please drop them off at the office, place them in the basket in the Parish Hall, or email them for consideration. Thank you!

FRAUD ALERT!

Be on the lookout for any mail from a company calling itself Starmark Financial, Inc., International Claim Department, 101 King Street, Morrilton Ont. NOB 2C3. It boldly states "WINNING FINAL NOTIFICATION" and also encloses a check payable to you. The letter states that you "are one of the declared winners" of a sweepstakes. The "sole purpose" of the check "is for the payment of applicable Government Taxes on your big winnings."

The Waco office of the FBI advised that this and many other scams are perpetuated throughout the country. Most people realize that it is just a scam and throw it away, but many unsuspecting people deposit the check, pay the so-called "tax amount" only to learn that the check they deposited was no good, and the thieves had wiped out their bank account. The FBI advised that many banks are already on alert regarding these phony checks and will not accept them. The FBI further advised that no lottery or sweepstakes demands that you pay money in order to collect money.

The Bracelet Race

Sometimes it is time for plain talk. With so many people working so hard for the church in the past weeks, some of our most generous volunteers and hardest workers have been discouraged by critical questions and comments. I am certain that none of us means to discourage anyone else. God does not call

us to be discouragers. In fact, I challenge anyone to find a scripture that invites us to complain.

I am inviting you to put your bracelets back on. It is easy to become discouraged and think that we will never succeed in going 21 days without complaining. So we whine about the task, and give up. A wimpy response at best. Let's get competitive. I am challenging you to a race. There will be a prize for anyone who succeeds in overcoming the 21 day challenge. The prizes of changing these destructive habits in our lives will be greater than any material prize that can be given. However, a material prize will be given for first finisher, second and third and then to all who complete the race.

Keep in mind too that this challenge will not benefit only you, but all those around you too. So by competing in the challenge, you are actually serving others. Habits of discouraging one another are only that: bad habits. Our God is a creative God who gives life. When we discourage and undermine one another, we are destroying, rather than living in and reflecting the abundant life of Christ.

So come on, St. John's parishioners, put your bracelets back on and get serious. It's a race, and you can truly be a winner in this one!

ENTERED INTO LIFE ETERNAL:

Alene Taylor

May her soul and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. We offer our deepest sympathy and prayers to family and friends.

O God, whose mercies cannot be numbered: Accept our prayers on behalf of your servants and grant them an entrance into the land of light and joy, in the fellowship of your saints; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen*

Those for Whom our Prayers are Requested:

Gary Evans, Alice Ferda, Horace Goodrich, Candace Hill, Alice Madsen, Archie Lee Maguire, Ronnie Oltorf, Steve Price, Joe

Roppolo, Te Andria Mason, Louise Rozario, Connie McLelland, Alyssa Hudler, Merrit Schumann, Charissa Goodrich, Mel Rodgers, Kay Evans, Charlene Luedke, Lionel Gleason, Helen and Adam Marsh, Nina Leeth, Shirley King, Pattie Bosnack, Betty Maxey, Anne and Cory Burrough, Willie Null, Christi and Baby Ticknor, Paula Wade (Polly Gaeke's daughter), Brandon Henderson, Brittany Bates, Rob and Melissa Douglas, Wes Filer, Sue Visser, Vestal Cook, H.T. Torgerson, Tom Pulos, Tommy and Betty Goodrich, Dr. Harold and Margaret Clifton, Mena Nichols, Aiesha Spratling, Joanna Newnam, Mary Winters, Forest King, Marilee Painter, Joe Kurtz, Jo Phipps, Carol Lane, Judy Lloyd, Dick Lewis, Sam Bosnack, Leslie Franklin, Tracy Burch, Rev. Don Legge, Louis Polchinski, Lisa Hall, Dolores Grant, Falma Branch, Dawn Bates, Ed Moody, Charlsie Brown, the family and friends of Levi Goodrich, Dorothy Benedict and Alene Taylor.

Cathy's Corner:

Lent, Holy Week and Easter 2008 are over. What an introspective and emotional time during the Church year. It was a very busy time, but we agonized, organized and hopefully, the 2009 season will be less hectic. I did not do as well in my Lenten discipline as I would have liked, but God in His grace slowed me down and allowed me to actually hear. I know I have much more to learn.

In case you need to reach me and I am not at the office, you can contact me at (254) 252-0971.

Leadership:

“No amount of talking about God and the Bible and ethics and theology is equal to the smallest action taken in behalf of another human being.”

John Killinger

Be kind and gentle with one another.