



St. Margaret's Episcopal Church "The Messenger Newsletter"

"Our purpose is to be a faithful and inviting community focused on the worship of God, growing in our relationship with Jesus Christ, and sharing His life in all that we do."

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Volume III Issue II

February 2009

Anglicanism—Are we fundamentalist?

A term that gets thrown around a lot in this day and age is the word fundamentalism. Like many words in the English language, its original meaning, and what it has become to mean in contemporary society, has morphed over the years. When we call someone a fundamentalist, or say that someone is advocating a fundamentalist position, do we really know what we are talking about? And most importantly, are we using the term the way it was originally intended?

The word fundamentalism, as defined at dictionary.com, means "strict adherence to any set of basic ideas or principles." Other sources go on to describe fundamentalism as a movement that arose during the early part of the 20th century. Its purpose was to defend the faith against certain intrusions made by modernism – namely, the idea of evolution vs. creation. While I believe that there is cause for debate over the issue of evolution vs. creation, which may include the fact that the two positions may be more reconcilable than we sometimes think, there were five basic beliefs held dear by the fundamentalist movement:

1. The inerrancy of Holy Scripture
2. That Jesus was born of the virgin Mary
3. That Jesus died on the Cross, as an atonement for our sins
4. That Jesus was bodily resurrected
5. That there will be a second coming of Jesus Christ (some insert the historical reality of Jesus's miracles here, but I equate them to inerrancy in Holy Scripture)

All five of these fundamental, core beliefs, are not only my beliefs as your rector, but are also core, fundamental beliefs of the Anglican Church, of which the Episcopal Church is a constituent member. Some of you may have heard the term "formularies of the Anglican Communion." These formularies are the instruments (both documents and groups of people) that form our theology as it stands today, and they consist of three things – the 39 Articles of Religion, The Book of Common Prayer, and the Instruments of Unity. The first of these formularies – the 39 Articles – can be found in the Historical Documents section of our Book of Common Prayer (starting on page 867). I would refer you specifically to Articles VI, VIII, and XX (6, 8, and 20).

Articles VI and XX both contain specific references to Holy Scripture in them. Article VI describes Holy Scripture in the following way: "Holy Scripture containeth all things necessary to salvation:...In the name of the Holy Scripture we do understand those canonical Books of the Old and New Testament, *of whose authority was never any doubt in the Church.*" (emphasis added by me) In addition, Article XX warns us against trying to violate the inerrancy of Holy Scripture. "...it is not lawful for the Church to ordain any thing that is contrary to God's Word written,

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“Academy of St. Margaret”
Every Wednesday Evening...
Fellowship and Bible Study for All Ages!
Dinner served at 5:30 p.m. / Bible Study at 6:00 p.m.

Rector's Article continued from front page

neither may it so expound one place of Scripture, that it be repugnant to another. Wherefore, although the Church be *a witness and a keeper of Holy Writ, yet, as it ought not to decree any thing against the same*, so besides the same ought it not to enforce any thing to be believed for necessity of salvation.” In short, Article XX makes it clear that we are to respect this concept of the inerrancy of Scripture, by not establishing theological positions that are contrary to it, and to not have such a focus on one part of scripture, that we discredit another part of it.

The other Article that I mentioned, Article VIII, establishes the Nicene and Apostles' Creeds as the official creeds of our Church. If we look specifically at the Nicene Creed, since we say it every Sunday as part of our Eucharist services, you will find clear and convincing evidence for points 2-5 above. “By the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary and was made man (point 2). For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried (point 3). On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures (point 4); he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. (point 5)”

For the reasons that I have listed above, the Anglican faith that we profess to believe in is clearly a fundamentalist tradition, if you look at the classical definition. It simply means that we have a basic set of fundamental beliefs that were given to us by God, and we do not go against them.

Unfortunately, throughout time, the term fundamentalist has come to have a more pejorative connotation. People widely consider “fundamentalism” to be a dirty word. I would maintain to you that this pejorative understanding has probably been defined by people's interactions with the worst of its members. Fundamentalists are widely seen as stark-raving-mad lunatics who preach hail, fire and brimstone, and are just angry at the world. The definition has also now been attributed to radical Muslim groups that commit acts of terror against innocent people. It is rather the same as the college football world. Many times, we judge a rival school's fans by the worst of them, because many times, it is those experiences that stick most prevalently in our minds.

I would maintain that there are those of us, myself included, who adhere to certain basic fundamentals of the Christian faith. If that makes me a fundamentalist, then let me know where to buy the T-shirt. If by being a fundamentalist, using the term as it has come to be understood (or misunderstood?) today, as one who is angry, not acting in love, always preaching sin without mention of the gift of salvation that conquers that sin, then I would tear that T-shirt up and mop the floor with it.

Those of us who adhere to the fundamentals of the Christian faith are not necessarily angry people who are looking to condemn as many as possible. Instead, we act as those whose hearts are so thankful for the wonderful love, healing, forgiveness, and salvation that we have received through Jesus Christ. We want that for other people from the bottom of our hearts, and we understand, like our Articles of Religion say, that Scripture contains all things necessary for that salvation.

During this season of Lent, I encourage each of you to recommit yourselves to the study of Holy Scripture, making sure to keep a focus on what it says to you. If you get to a point where you are saying, “Oh that could never apply to me,” then call yourself up short. It may be God trying to talk to you – to invite you to go deeper. May God bless you richly as you study His Holy Word during this holy season.

In Christ,
 Fr. Townsend+

Chronic Pain / Illness Support Group



Hopekeepers is a support group for sufferers of chronic pain or illness, physical or mental. We focus on the positive, living joyfully with our illness. Join us on the **Third Saturday of each month** at 10:00 am at St. Margaret's Episcopal Church, 12663 Perkins Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70810 across from Calandro's. All faiths are welcome. For more information call 337-1633. Thanks, Janelle <http://www.geocities.com/janriche/JansPage.html>

"MEN'S GROUP"

The Men's Group at St. Margaret's meets the First Monday of every month at 6:30 pm. starting with a meal. Our program differs from month to month between bible study and tapes. We continue our ministry and let God provide.

The Proclamation deadline is Wednesday at Noon. All submissions must be in writing and may be brought or e-mailed to the church office.

Scout Appreciation Sunday

On Sunday, March 1, we will celebrate with those young parishioners who are Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts.

ECW Ladies Retreat

Theme: "Power Over Life's Challenges"

Led by Karen Wheat and Anne Hays
Music and Worship led by Murphy Toerner

March 6th, 7th & 8th

At Solomon Center Robert Louisiana

Cost \$100.00—Scholarships are available

Deadline to enroll is February 20th

www.thesolomoncenter.org

Life Line Screening ... The Power of Prevention

St. Margaret's will host an Annual preventive Health Testing on Saturday March 21, 2009 from 8:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

Consider the facts...

♦ **4 out of 5 stroke victims had no apparent warning signs.**

♦ **80% of strokes can be prevented**

Pre-registration is required. Call: 1-800-679-5192.

Offer a Helping Hand

Mark your calendars for the **"Helping Hands Days"** planned in March for St. Margaret's.

Saturday, March 7th at 9:00 am will be our **"Indoor Spring Cleaning" Day.**

Saturday, March 14th at 9:00 am will be our **"Outdoor Work and Clean-up" Day.** This is a wonderful opportunity for service as a Lenten discipline.

To help, call Shelia at the church office or sign-up at

Children's Chapel

Children in Kindergarten through 4th grade are invited to participate in St. Margaret's Children's Chapel directed by Sally Evans. The class will meet each Sunday during the 10 o'clock Eucharist Service. The liturgy of the Children's Chapel is specifically designed to meet the needs of each child on an individual level and encourages free expression of thoughts and ideas through group participation, creativity, and understanding by each child.

Instruction follows a structured liturgy, presented on appropriate levels, in a friendly, flexible, and relaxed atmosphere. A brief prayer service is followed by songs of praise and worship, and the presentation of the Bible story or Gospel lesson. The children will be encouraged to discuss the lesson and present their own ideas and thoughts. In addition to these responses to the specific story, crafts, dramatizations, and additional activities will be planned. Before dismissal, the children will be encouraged to offer their own prayers of thanksgiving and praise and ask for prayers for loved ones or matters of concern to them. The children will be dismissed at an appropriate time in order for them to have the opportunity to join their families and celebrate the Eucharist together.

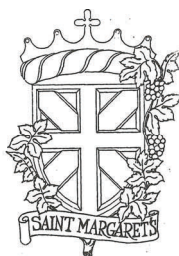
Ash Wednesday Services

Wednesday, February 25, 2009—6:00 P.M.—In the Church

Parish Life Calendar

Jan. 6 Feast of Epiphany
 Jan. 11 Feast of Baptism of Our Lord
 (Baptisms)
 Jan. 25 Annual Parish Meeting
 First "Potluck" of the New Year!
 (One Service—10:00 a. m.)

Feb. 1 Super Bowl Party (Parish Hall)
 Feb. 7 Diocesan Congregational
 Development Seminar 10 am—1pm
 In St. Margaret's Parish Hall.



Weekly Services of Worship

Sunday

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist with no music
 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist with music

Stewardship Minute...

"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me'."

Matthew 25:34-40

"February 2009"

Birthday Blessings To...

2/5

David Curtis

2/18

Dick Truman

2/22

Kathy Foster

2/28

Marie Smith

2/28

Renee Desporte

***"Nations shall
 come to your light,
 and kings to the
 brightness of your
 rising."
 Isaiah 60:3
 BCP 38***

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 SUPER BOWL PARTY!	2 MEN'S GROUP @ 6:30p.m.	13 AA Meets @ 6:30 p.m.	4 Bible Study Resumes! Dinner: 5:30p Bible Study: 6p Choir: 7:30p	5	6	7 Diocesan Congregation Seminar 10am—1pm
8	9	10 AA Meets @ 6:30 p.m.	11 Bible Study Resumes! Dinner: 5:30p Bible Study: 6p Choir: 7:30p	12	13	14
15 Fr. Townsend's Installation @ 4pm Reception Follows. "Olivewood Sale"	16	17 AA Meets @ 6:30 p.m.	18 Bible Study Resumes! Dinner: 5:30p Bible Study: 6p Choir: 7:30p	19	20	21 HopeKeepers Meet @ 11am
22	23 Vestry meets @ 6:00 p.m.	24 AA Meets @ 6:30 p.m.	25 ASH WEDNESDAY Lent Begins!	26 Lent Begins!	27	28

St. Margaret's Service Schedule February 2009

	February 1	February 8	February 15	February 22
LEM	8:00 David Cassidy 10:00 Fee Hamilton	8:00 Peter Barrios 10:00 Bill Leblanc	8:00 Dave Foster 10:00 Jay Weber	8:00 David Cassidy 10:00 Denise Westphal
LECTORS	8:00 Herb Dyer 10:00 S. Newton	8:00 Wayne Barnett 10:00 Marie Montalbano	8:00 Peter Barrios 10:00 Ruth Leblanc	8:00 Sally Evans 10:00 Bob Obier
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE	8:00 Herb Dyer 10:00 S. Newton	8:00 Wayne Barnett 10:00 Marie Montalbano	8:00 Peter Barrios 10:00 Ruth Leblanc	8:00 Sally Evans 10:00 Bob Obier
ACOLYTES	William Jefferson Chad Edwards	Demi Newton Gracie Newton	Chad Edwards William Jefferson	Jordan Weber Olivia Bridges
USHERS	8:00 Barnett 10:00 H. Hamilton	8:00 Foster 10:00 Truman	8:00 Barnett 10:00 Bridges	8:00 Foster 10:00 Lawrence
HOSTS	8:00 TBD 10:00 Suzie Coffee	8:00 TBD 10:00 Bridges	8:00 TBD 10:00 Kathy Curtis	8:00 TBD 10:00 Suzie Coffee
ALTAR GUILD	Kathy Foster Doris Weber Ryan Weber Fay Barnett	D. Westphal H. Westphal	Ruth Leblanc Grace Brown Susan Henderson	Marguerite Gaines Irma Jackson Patty O'Malley
LAWN TEAM		Leblanc Bridges		Weber Smith
CLEAN-UP	Hewitt	Weber	Hewitt	Weber
FLOWERS	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN

If you can not serve at your scheduled time, please arrange for a replacement and notify Jay Weber – jjweber@yahoo.com, as well as the Church office – secretary@saintmargarets.com

"Lord hear our Prayers"

"A Place To Call Home"

St. Margaret's Episcopal Church
12663 Perkins Road
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70810
(225) 766-8314 E-Mail: secretary@saintmargarets.com
Web Site: www.saintmargarets.com

*Prayers of the
People*

Taylor Andrews
Karen
Tom
Helen
Ashley
Marguerite
Louie
Katie
Ronald
Donna
Debbie
Cindy and Bob
Teresa & Family
Angelle
Heather & Gray
Loretta
Ernie
Dee
Marie & Sean
Miriam
Art
Sheryl

Sunday Service Schedule

8:00am....Holy Eucharist Rite II

9:00am.....Christian Education

*10:00am...Holy Eucharist, Rite II
with Music*

Nursery Available

"Academy Of St. Margaret"

Wednesday Evening:s

Dinner at 5:30pm

Bible Study for all ages at 6:00 pm

-CHURCH STAFF-

Shelia Gilds..... Secretary Ext. 203

Maria Curry.....Music Director Ext. 206

Kathy Foster.....Treasurer Ext. 204

Annie Pecue.....Nursery Director

Phone / Fax# 766-8314

Office Hours:

9:00am-3:00pm Mon—Fri

RECTOR

Fr. B. Townsend Waddill, III

766-8314 Ext. 200

The Rev. Cynthia Obier...Deacon

VESTRY

Ashley Bridges—Jr. Warden

Peter Barrios

Patty O'Malley

Fee Hamilton

Jennifer Christian

Chip Blair

Dave Foster

Doris Weber

