FROM THE RECTOR:

Dear Ones,

I was reading an article last week that discussed one of the words we don’t use in The Episcopal Church very much. Sometimes, we go out of our ways to avoid it. That word is “EVANGELISM”.

For most of us, the concept of being an Evangelist conjures up some most unpleasant images. The prospect of standing on a street corner (or anywhere else) and telling the story of Jesus of Nazareth to perfect strangers is terrifying. God knows each hair on our head, but contemplating the above might make having each one plucked out a preferred end.

Proselytizing on a street corner isn’t the only way to be an evangelist; I’m not even sure it’s a very good way.

I’m also not sure that large audience events, like tent revivals, do very well either. The current discomfort of many African provinces of the Anglican Communion with The Episcopal Church (and others) is rooted, I believe, in the evangelization (conversion?) of the native peoples. That doesn’t seem to have worked very well either.

Too often, I think we approach evangelism from entirely the wrong perspective. Can’t you hear someone saying, “If we just had more members, everything would be taken care of.” I can. I’ve heard it. I’ve probably even said it. Worse yet, it isn’t true, because if the programs and staffing necessary to support a larger parish aren’t in place, it will take time and resources to create them. There is no free lunch.

I think evangelism isn’t something that we do.

I think evangelism has to be something that we are.

To borrow from the Buddhist tradition, I think evangelism is about “being” and “mindfulness”. We must “be” authentic in our faith and “mindful” of Our Lord’s presence within us, every minute of every day.

If we are “being” and “mindful”, we will “talk the talk” and “walk the walk”. Those around us will notice and we will be recognized as followers of the Christ.

As we make our way through the New Testament, the image of Jesus as a figure that drew people to him is inescapable. I’m sure some would say that he was charismatic, but I think the attraction of Our Lord was in the way he lived his life in congruence with his words. He talked the talk; he walked the walk.

Luke (24:13-35) tells us of two people walking to Emmaus who didn’t recognize Jesus walking with them. Jesus talked with them and walked with them. They finally saw him when he broke the bread at their meal.

When people recognize us as Christians because they see that what we say and what we do originate in our Lord Jesus Christ and are part of our core being, we are being true evangelists.

—Thomas
HIGHLIGHTS OF THE AUGUST LITURGICAL CALENDAR

The Transfiguration of Our Lord
We will celebrate the Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord Jesus Christ on Friday, 6 August at 12:10PM. This will be a said mass commemorating Jesus’ physical and spiritual re-manifestation. The Roman calendar didn’t include the Transfiguration until just before the Reformation, and in The Episcopal Church, we didn’t include it until the 1892 Prayer Book. It has, however, been in the Eastern church’s calendar for a very long time. In their theology, the Transfiguration prefigures Jesus’ resurrection and ascension.

Clare of Assisi
Clare of Assisi’s life was changed after she heard Saint Francis preach to his new order of Franciscans. Raised in a wealthy family, Clare found her calling as a monastic, dedicated to works of mercy for the poor and committed to absolute poverty. Clare became the superior of the Poor Ladies of St. Damian of Assisi, a position she held for forty years. We will commemorate Clare at our Said Mass on Wednesday, 11 August, at 10:00AM

Saint Mary the Virgin
The Feast of Saint Mary the Virgin is known in the Roman church as The Assumption and in the Eastern tradition as The Dormition of the Theotokos. Perhaps the Greek Theotokos gets us to a place where we can truly grasp Mary’s importance. It means “God bearer”, that is the one who was mother to Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The tradition for this day cannot be supported by scripture, but is older than any surviving texts: Mary, for her service to God as Theotokos did not suffer earthly death, but “fell asleep in God” and was taken to heaven. One of the Major Feasts of the Church, we will remember Saint Mary the Virgin on Sunday, 15 August, at 10:00AM mass and commemorate her on Monday, 16 August, at a Said Mass at 12:10PM.

William Porcher DuBose
William Porcher DuBose was probably the most original thinker of the Episcopal Church. Born in South Carolina in 1836, DuBose studied at The University of Virginia and the Episcopal seminary at Camden, SC. He was ordained in 1861 and served as a chaplain to the Confederate Army. DuBose taught at the University of the South and his writings brought him great respect as a theologian in the US, as well as England and France. We will remember William Porcher DuBose at our Said Mass on Wednesday, 18 August, at 10:00AM

Saint Bartholomew
One of the Twelve, Bartholomew is known only by his inclusion in the list of disciples in the Gospels of Mark, Matthew, and Luke. Some sources credit Bartholomew with the writing of a Gospel that was known to Saint Jerome and the Venerable Bede. Eusebius reports the existence of copy of the Gospel of Matthew in Hebrew that was purportedly given to the church by Bartholomew. We will celebrate Saint Bartholomew on Monday, 24 August, with a said mass at 12:10PM.

Louis of France
Louis IX of France was born in 1214 and crowned king of France in 1226. A crusader king, Louis never wavered from the ethics that Christianity brought him. As a reminder of humility and suffering, Louis wore a hair shirt under his royal attire. Louis was killed while on a crusade in Tunis in 1270 and was canonized by the church in 1297. La Sainte Chapelle in Paris was built by Louis as a shrine for the relics of Our Lord’s passion; it serves as Louis’ final resting place. We will commemorate Louis of France at our Said Mass on Wednesday, 25 August, at 10:00AM.

On behalf of the Episcopal Churchwomen, please accept our heartfelt thanks for participating in our “Invisible Dessert” project. You were very generous and we appreciate it very much. So far, we have collected over $1,700. There is no deadline for this moneymaker, so if you haven’t bought your “icky sticky” dessert yet, just send a check, made payable to St. John’s, designated for ECW. We hope to do some renovations in the kitchen with the money collected, and this will be a tremendous help. Again, thank you very much.

Joyce Lee, Chairperson
Invisible Dessert project
The crew has been very busy this summer. Five of the scouts, Sam Escobio, Anthony Hall, Jennings Halliday, Chris Smillie and Nick Bettner have been on staff at BSA Summer Camp. They have been teaching merit badge classes for first aid, weather, cooking, soil and water conservation, wood carving and aquatics. Chris also went to Costa Rico in May with Dauphin Way United Methodist to help build a school. Josef Straughn was Senior Patrol Leader for the 14 scouts from Troop 227 that attended summer camp in June.

The big news, of course, is our adventure to Canada. Ron Brown shuttled us to New Orleans to catch the train north to St Paul, MN. Then it was just a 7 hour drive to the base camp in Atikokan, Ontario. After gathering our food and gear, the boys spent the next five days and 75 miles paddling canoes through the lakes in the Canadian wilderness. The scouts also participated in a lake monitoring project as well as trail and campsite maintenance. They also earned the Duty to God award for being involved in a number of religious services and daily devotionals. We saw bald eagles, loons and deer. We got up at 2:30am one morning for a dawn paddle to watch the sun rise and jumped off massive granite rocks for cool dips in the lakes. These scouts worked together as a team far beyond my expectations and I'm very proud of the work they did on this trip. Of course it wasn't all canoes and portages.

The crew would like to give a special thanks to all of our St John's family who have supported us in getting established. Your generous contributions have allowed us to get much needed gear, t-shirts and patches.

You all have given us a wonderful start and hopefully we can pay back the kindness with continued service to the church

Scott Escobio

**COURTYARD NOTES**

This is to thank everyone who helped give the courtyard and grounds the “once-over” on Saturday, July 17, in preparation for the Bishop’s visit. We started at 7:00 a.m. and were packing up and ready to depart by 9:15 a.m.!

We had some plant donations (the donors wish to remain anonymous) and the plants really enhanced the courtyard. I hope you noticed.

Everyone worked hard before it got too hot and we accomplished a lot. Thanks go to: Marie Brown, Janet Buckley, Cindy Gass, James Christiansen, Ron Waites, Alan Picardy, Pat Pritchard, George Taylor, Andrew Lee, and Laura Merchant (my niece). Irene Yeager brought us a tray of muffins to enjoy.

Thank you!!

Happy gardening,

Joyce Lee
Butch Yeager, Marie Brown, and Connie & Bud McLean listening to the bishop’s answers to their questions.

Fr. Heard, Bishop Duncan and Meagan Partsch at the blessing of the icons of the Holy Mother of God and Saint John the Evangelist.

Left: Nikki Shaw, Fr. Heard, and Mary Sheffield at the Bishop’s Reception. Above: Mary Lou Varnes and Lois Hamby at the reception.
Left: Jan Dabney and Leslie Dabney Lundberg. Leslie was confirmed by Bishop Duncan.

Back Row: Bishop Duncan, Mary Jones, David Jones, Fr. Heard
Mary and David were confirmed by Bishop Duncan.
Front Row: Mary Frances, Caroline, Ali, and Lisa Chestang.

Above: Bill & Bessie Southall, Bob Ross at the reception.
Mackenzie came from DeFuniak Springs to be confirmed by Bishop Duncan.
**New Icons at Saint John’s**

During Bishop Duncan’s visit to Saint John’s, he blessed two new icons for the parish.

The first is an icon of the Holy Mother of God, or *Hagia Theotokos*. It is a gift to Saint John’s from Nikki Shaw. While at the National Cathedral Bookstore, Nikki found this icon and purchased it for us.

The Holy Mother of God hangs above the Litany Desk on the Epistle side of the Nave, close to the Chancel Steps.

The second is an icon of our patron, Saint John the Evangelist.

Father Thomas commissioned this icon of Melissia Brown Daggett, a local iconographer.

Saint John the Evangelist hangs above the altar rail on the Epistle side of the Sanctuary.

Icons serve as visible reminders of things we cannot see and focal points for our hearts to be drawn to what can only be seen through the eye of faith.

**The Prayers of the People**

If you haven’t noticed, the Family & Friends portion of our Prayer List seems to keep growing. That we have many names means that our attention is outward and we have concerns for those outside of our number. But, when the names on the list have been there for a long time, it is hard to remember why those folks are on the list and who asked to have them on the list.

Beginning in September, the Family & Friends section will be cleared out. As always, if you have someone you would like us to include in our prayers, please get that information to the rector.

**Directory Update**

Please make the following changes to the directory you received in May.

Add:

Mary C. & David L. Jones  
3893 Audubon Dr. E  
Mobile, AL 36619  
(H) 251-660-0668

Ping Duke is now a resident of Brookside on Cody and would love to hear from you. Her address is:  
Brookside on Cody  
680 Cody Road South  
Mobile, AL 36695

Mail call is the highlight of most of our “shut-in’s” day!

**Memorial Donations**

Saint John's wishes to extend a sincere thank you to the following individuals who made memorial donations honoring Mary Lou Johnston and Stephen Lee:

**In memory of Mary Lou Johnston:**
Connie & Bud McLean  
Joyce Lee  
Lella Lowe  
Arnie Nelson & Fred Lloyd

**In memory of Stephen Lee:**
Audrey Garner
For healing grace and continued strength, we pray for our members:
Betty Taylor, Neva Bache, Mazie Cleveland, Chick Wohlert, Alice Schablinski, Matt & Margie Mattoon, Bessie & Bill Southall, Leah Betts, Shannon Newberry, Ashley Garris

For our Homebound:
Alice Cieutat, Mae Dunn, Will Elam, Corinne Faust, Gwen Johnson, Violet Kosko, Angela McGuire, Audrey Meador, Jane Tate Moore, Betty Plash, Dot & Chick Wohlert

For victims of war and their families, and members of our Armed Forces and their families: Jeffery Yeager, Ellis Eugene Garner, Eric Mattoon, Cheryl Garner

For our Friends and Family:
Karen Twilley, John Duralde, Mark Chandler, Madyson Blackwell, Gloria Berry, Martha Morget, Christina Morget, Velma Pearson, Vicky Green, Leta Volking, Vieva Steele, David Yeager, Robbie Hinson, Anne Brabner, Marian Yearby, Julie Hinton, Joe Stroecker, Gracie Stroecker, JoAnn Alioto, Shirley Mayson, Michelle Walker, Jim Owens, Maddie West

For those who have died:
Jane Johnson, Sara Scrivener

Contact Us

Staff:
The Reverend Thomas Heard
Rector
rector@stjohnsmobile.org

John L. Hobbs, Jr.
Organist/Choirmaster
music@stjohnsmobile.org

Lella Lowe
Financial Secretary
finance@stjohnsmobile.org

Jack Ruppe
Sexton

Vestry:
Ron Brown
Janet Buckley
James Christiansen
Bill Duke
Cindy Gass
Eugene Johnston
Connie McLean
Bill Sundie
Ron Waites

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY
Curtis & Cindy Gass  08/19

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
Mac Pearce  08/01
Andrew Lee  08/03
James Christiansen  08/11
Eugene Johnston  08/21
Bill Sundie  08/22
Alberta Cieutat  08/26
David Rich  08/27
Marion Wallace  08/27
Mazie Cleveland  08/29
Come Worship With Us!
Monday—Friday:
8:30AM  Morning Prayer

Sunday:
9:00AM  Adult and Youth Christian Formation
10:00AM  Holy Eucharist

Wednesday:
10:00AM  Holy Eucharist; Healing on the 1st Wednesday of the month.

Other Feasts and Holy Days are observed throughout the year; see our website for the latest schedule.

Parish Office
Monday-Thursday
9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Telephone: 251-479-5474
Fax: 251-473-1230
www.stjohnsmobile.org

Thee Store Episcopal Books
Mon-Wed & Fri:
10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Sundays after church and by appointment

Telephone: 251-479-5086

SAINT JOHN’S: THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN MIDTOWN MOBILE
Grounded in shared sacramental life and moving into the world to be the hands of Our Lord.
# August 2010 at Saint John’s

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**MP** = Morning Prayer  
**HE** = Holy Eucharist  

**Save the Date:** Baptism of Gavin and Tanner Dunham on Sunday, 5 September 2010
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<th>1 August HE-II</th>
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<th>15 August HE-II</th>
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<td>C Pentecost 11 Proper 14</td>
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