FROM THE RECTOR:

Dear Ones,

I’ve just returned from Clergy Conference at Beckwith and would like to share with you some of what our presenter, Diana Butler Bass, had for us.

Dr. Bass is a writer with a PhD in Religious Studies from Duke University. We’ll get back to her later.

At the last clergy conference, we were gifted with another great presenter, Phyllis Tickle, who spoke on the topic of Emergence Christianity. Our adult Sunday School spent about 10 weeks on some of her work; it was amazing and at the same time unsettling.

In a nutshell, Tickle holds that the Generation Y and Millennials operate on a different model of life in general than their earlier counterparts. They tend to be much less centralized in organization, more spontaneous in action, and very committed to what they believe in.

When this model of behavior is applied to the Church, the following emerges:

- There is always a question of authority: Who’s in charge and why should we listen.
- Things need to be done now, not after months of meetings and planning: We need to do something.
- The Church has forgotten what it is supposed to be about: It is not living out what Jesus said.

I have to confess strong agreement with numbers 2 and 3. I have problems with number 1, I think because I’m part of the authority being questioned. I think more confession is required!

Ms. Tickle’s presentations were amazing groundwork for the clergy to be ready to hear what Dr. Bass had for us. Consistent to both presentations is the idea that Church as we have grown up with it is in the midst of change, whether we like it or not. What is key for us is to understand what is motivating the change and to discern what direction it will take us.

Dr. Bass said that there are basic shifts in how Believing, Behaving, and Belonging (the 3 Bs) are being perceived and lived. At the root of these shifts is a recovery of spirituality. She calls it “a new spiritual awakening.” From what I’ve seen around Saint John’s, it is not limited to the Gen-Y or Millennial groups. Let’s look at each of the 3 Bs.

Believing - the shift is away from “what” to “how” we believe: creeds, doctrine, confessions, etc. moving toward reason and experiences of the presence of God.

Behaving - shifting away from “how” to “what” we do: rules, rubrics, techniques, etc. and moving toward discernment of actions and sense of purpose.

Belonging - shifting from formal membership, joining by overt choice, etc. and moving toward belonging through relationships and communities formed out of commonality of purpose.

In short, the Church that most of us have grown up in is being challenged to maintain its current existence. I actually think that’s not a bad thing. Looking back at Dr. Bass’ 3 Bs, I think that what she’s suggesting is about what the Church can be, and in some places is becoming. By that I mean a return to the behaviors and ideals that Jesus taught and lived. Here at Saint John’s, I see as signs of that a willingness to engage and study that which challenges where we have been, and to grow spiritually from that engagement. For example, the Prayer/Study group that Joan-Marie Elam has led, the study of the non-canonical gospels, and engaging in Phyllis Tickle’s Emergence Christianity program, all of which call us to become the Church that God has intended us to be. We’re not there yet, but I think we’re definitely headed in the right direction.

“Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful people and kindle in us the fire of your love.”

-- Thomas
Saint Philip and Saint James, Apostles
The feast commemorating the lives and ministries of Philip and James is appointed to be 1 May. Our knowledge of these two apostles comes primarily from the gospels of John and Mark. James and his brother, John, were sons of Zebedee. We know Philip was from Bethsaida. Jesus encountered Philip in Galilee and called him to be a disciple. It was Philip who told Nathaniel “We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.” We will celebrate these two apostles at a Said Mass at 12:10PM.

Athanasius of Alexandria
We will celebrate the feast of Athanasius on Wednesday, 2 May, at our 10:00AM Said Mass. Athanasius lived from about 296 to 373. He was one of the collection of folks referred to as the Church Fathers, and is best known for his defense of Trinitarian Theology. Athanasius was the 20th bishop of Alexandria and suffered 5 different exiles under four different Roman emperors. Athanasius is perhaps best remembered for his stance on the Arian Controversy which occupied much of the First Ecumenical Council in Nicaea in 325. The Arians held that Jesus could not be coeternal with the Father, since he was begotten by the Father. Arius was declared a heretic, but the issue never died out.

Gregory of Nazianzus
Also known as Gregory the Theologian, Gregory is one of the Cappadocian Fathers. His particular contribution is the introduction of Hellenist philosophy to the early Church. He is also noted as one of the significant contributors to Trinitarian Theology, particularly regarding pneumatology, or the theology of the Holy Spirit. We will commemorate Gregory on Wednesday, 9 May at our 10:00AM Said Mass.

The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
This commemorates the visit of the mother of Our Lord to her cousin Elizabeth as recounted in Luke’s Gospel. It is from the Annunciation and the Visitation that the words for Magnificat are drawn.

VIOLET E. MOORE
24 JUNE 1921 – 27 MARCH 2012
Our sister, Violet, entered new life with her daughters at her side. Born in London, England, Violet served Churchill’s War cabinet, and had some great stories to tell. She and her husband, Thomas, were opera singers and loved music. They moved to the U.S. in 1955 and lived on Long Island, NY. Violet started her business career as a file clerk in 1968 and retired as a bank officer in 1982 and moved to Mobile. In the past few years, Violet suffered with Alzheimer’s. One of my favorite memories of her is her singing: a bell-like voice, no hymnal in hand, and singing the descant if there was one, something I’ll miss greatly.

For healing grace and continued strength, we pray for our members:
Mac Pearce, Art Youngblood, Dot Wohlert, Paula Ross, Christopher Shine, Joyce Lee, LaVerne Foster, Alice Schablinski, Ashley Garris

For our Homebound:
Ray Campbell, Mae Dunn, Will Elam, Corinne Faust, Lois Hamby, Gwen Johnson, Nell Kirk, Violet Kosko, Margie Mattoon, Angela McGuire, Jane Tate Moore, Betty Plash, Mary Lou Varnes, Alice Walker, Catherine Warren, Dot & Chick Wohlert

For victims of war and their families, and members of our Armed Forces and their families:
Eric Mattoon, Cheryl Garner, Michael Brabner

For our Friends and Family:
Bernice Davis, Larry Kent, Mary Lamey, Markie Prior, Kim Brown, Warren Bishop, Tom Ford, Jim Cieutat, Robby Shelton, Michael Stewart, John & Pat Cranston, Dot & Herbert Trehern, Gabe Pippin, Tom Dabney, Steve & Muriel Donald, William & Barbara Dorsey, Erich Albrecht, Steven Garner, Joy Russ, Andrea Murray, Anna Marie Brown, Betty & Gayle Chenoweth, Mark Stiber, Maddie West
After hearing the wonderful speakers during our Lenten series talk about their efforts in Mobile to reach out to people who fall through the cracks in our society, the Outreach Committee has decided to help these organizations in a number of ways. We have taken the proceeds of our Lenten suppers, added a bit to it from our Outreach budget, and are donating $200 to each of the organizations that were represented: Penelope House, Winners, Catholic Social Services, McKemie Place, and 15 Place. You can reach out too, and if you keep reading, we’ll tell you what you can do in addition to donations of money.

Penelope House does a superb job in helping abused people (not just women) to be safe, to understand how to break the cycle of abuse, and to get back on their feet. Your donations of gently used clothing and household items to Penelope’s Closet can help in their fundraising.

Winners helps to acclimate and support women who have just been released from prison by offering shelter, food, expectations of a better life including routine chores, help in transportation, in finding work or needed schooling. They meet weekly in our Great Hall to hear speakers and to spend time together in conversation and goal-setting. Your donation of cleaning supplies, paper goods, personal hygiene products and money is welcomed.

Catholic Social Services is one of the premier service agencies in our community, offering everything from housing to food, from assistance with education and the medical community to helping with skill improvements and job counseling. They do a superb job of screening their applicants, and have a large network of other churches and organizations to help, including St. Johns. When Fr. Thomas sees a client sent by CSS, he knows they are genuinely in need of the bus ticket, or gas money, or food card that they request.

15 Place is a model for providing services to our homeless neighbors, including counseling, medical and dental referrals, laundry, lunch, phones, and an address for receiving Social Security or military benefits checks. A group from St. John’s serves lunch there every month, and we can also support them through our directed donations to Goodwill Industries in the name of 15 Place. Of course, your checks are always welcome too!

McKemie Place is the only homeless shelter for women in the Mobile area. They offer dinner, coffee, counseling and support, and a safe place for women to sleep and shower. St. John’s has helped for several years in supplying dinner once a month. We will be doing a number of “Giving Tree” events to further support McKemie Place, including a “BOGO” and an “Undie Sunday”. “Buy One Get One free” (BOGO) is a common sight at many of the groceries stores in the area, and we encourage you to “BOGO”, and give the extra ones to McKemie Place. In specific, they are always in need of paper goods, feminine hygiene products, personal care products, and toilet paper. The complete list is posted on the bulletin board. Because McKemie Place provides showers, they also supply clean underwear to their homeless clients, and we will be doing an “Undie Sunday” (or two or three) where NEW underwear for women of all sizes will be collected. Another need for McKemie Place is used suitcases, duffle bags, cosmetic cases, backpacks—anything that is easy to carry by homeless women so that they can keep their few precious belongings together and portable.

One last word on directed donations to Goodwill: McKemie Place, Catholic Social Services, and 15 Place all benefit from the voucher system used by Goodwill. If you donate a toaster as a directed donation to 15 Place, for example, Goodwill gives an estimate of what it can be sold for (let’s just say $5.00). Rather than you dropping off your toaster to 15 Place, Goodwill issues a voucher for $5.00 which can be given to a client who is moving into her own apartment, or who needs a new coat or shoes. Vouchers can really add up, and when you take your things to the main facility, you may specify which organization you’d like to receive the voucher. It helps your donation match the need of the recipient: Goodwill sells it, you get the tax write-off, and someone in need uses the voucher(s) for something they need, and they get to choose that something.

-Cheryl Winters-Heard
The April meeting of St. John’s ECW began with President, Marie Brown, saying a prayer. The “Thought for the Day” was given by Paula Ross. There were 15 members present...a great group!

The Minutes of the March meeting were read by Paula, along with several pieces of correspondence, thanking the ECW for gifts, memorials, and food. The Treasurer’s Report was given by Treasurer Bootsie Cieutat.

It was decided that Irene Yeager and Donna Waites would pass out the United Thank Offering boxes, with an accompanying letter explaining what the UTO is, with the request that they would be brought back to church, with their thanksgiving offerings, on Mother’s Day, May 13th.

Seven ladies are registered for Spring Day at St. Paul’s, Daphne, and transportation was discussed.

McKemie Place faces the daily challenge of meeting the needs of the homeless, single women of Mobile. They need our help and on a consistent basis. That’s where the BOGO’s come in! When you’re out shopping, and a BOGO catches your eye, think of the ladies of McKemie Place. Not certain what the ladies need? Look for the list on our colorful posters in the parish hall or ask a member of the Outreach Committee. And to the men of St. John’s, this means you too. Scan the list; there are items even you won’t be embarrassed to purchase.

Make a BOGO/McKemie Place box. It can be any size, any color and any place in your home. Don’t wait until it’s full to take it to McKemie Place. Not headed their way; then bring it to church each Sunday and we’ll see that it gets there.

The homeless, single women of Mobile need our help on a consistent basis. This is a one-size-fits-all ministry opportunity for each of us. Ministry? It sounds too simple, doesn’t it? Kind of like salvation. Give what you can, when you can and know that when you do, you are Christ.

-Kathe Gieseler

A motion was made, and seconded that we give the church a donation in memory of Mrs. Laura Anderson, a former longtime member of St. John’s, and the mother of Bob Anderson. This was requested by Connie, in lieu of food for the family.

Irene had obtained from Mary Jones a quote for cocktail napkins with St. John’s name printed on them. It was decided that we would purchase 1,000 of these napkins to be used for special events, at a cost of approximately $90.00, with a $10.00 cut/die charge. Irene is going to ask Mary to order for us.

Bootsie advised all that Dot Wohlert was home from the hospital after having heart problems. ECW will provide for the family.

Marie advised that we need a secretary, and asked all to be thinking about it.

-Paula M. Ross
VENTURE CREW 3 UPDATE

The boys have had a very busy year so far. They earned the Silver award in BSA’s Journey to Excellence which is the national standard of measuring a unit’s success for the previous year. One of our adult leaders, Leo Straughn, earned the District Award of Merit for outstanding service to Scouting.

Sam Escobio, Anthony Hall and Jennings Halliday attended the Order of the Arrow Section Seminar in Meridian in January and National Leadership Seminar in Nashville last month. Looking over the agenda, the NLS is very similar to management training you’d find in any major corporation. They learned a lot and brought back some exciting ideas for the Crew to put into practice.

All of the crew worked on staff at the Order of the Arrow Conclave at Camp Pinetreat in April. Over 430 scouts attended the weekend event for training, competition and fun. Jennings Halliday was in charge of registration, Josef Straughn oversaw facilities management and Sam Escobio was shows chair. Daven Ervin, Anthony Hall and Sebastian Weaver were part of Josef’s facilities crew. It was a great success.

The boys are hard at work on their Eagle projects too. Sam, Josef, Jennings and Anthony should have their projects and requirements finished before the end of summer and Davin and Sebastian should wind things up by the end of the year.

It hasn’t been all hard work and training though. We had a backpacking trip to Oak Mountain State Park and the group won the Troop 227 annual cook off in March. There are plans for a weekend canoe trip in the Tensaw Delta and a few of the guys might be traveling to one of the BSA High Adventure bases this summer. If the next eight months are as productive as the first four, then 2012 will be a successful year for Crew 3.

MARC—WITH TWO OF ST. JOHN’S OWN

A recent visit with Jane Tate Moore brought back memories of the founding of MARC—Mobile Association for Retarded Citizens. MARC was founded in 1956 by the Mobile Mental Health Association after being contacted by Mrs. Jane Tate Moore, who had a Downs Syndrome son, Frankie. At that time there was nothing at all in Mobile for the mentally retarded. Special classes in the public school system started the next year at Russell School on Broad Street.

The Mobile Civitan Clubs took the new effort on as their main project. The Paul Danner family donated their former family home at the Loop on Government Street, and the Training Center for Retarded Children opened. Mrs. Joan Marie (Smith) Elam was the Executive Director. Her brain-damaged son, Mark, attended the school, as well as Frankie Moore.

This was the beginning of what is now MARC. They currently operate a large center, a United Fund agency, at the Gordon Smith Center.

-Joan Marie Elam

It’s time for a church directory update. So that we may get the best information to you, please make sure that we have all the latest in address, e-mail and telephone changes turned in to the church office by Sunday, May 13. New parish directories will be available by the following Sunday.
Since its inception in 2006, the NetsforLife® program partnership has distributed a total of 8.5 million mosquito nets as part of its campaign to fight malaria, according to the program’s 2011 annual results. Combined with the community education and net monitoring work of nearly 74,000 trained Malaria Control Agents, these nets have saved the lives of over 100,000 children under five and reduced the overall malaria-related death rate by 45% in communities where NetsforLife® is active.

NetsforLife® combats malaria by training community agents to deliver life-saving nets, educate community members about proper net use and maintenance, and provide ongoing monitoring and evaluation of net use. Launched in 2006, after a successful pilot program in Zambia, the program is now active in 17 countries throughout sub-Saharan Africa. Five of these countries – Angola, Ghana, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Zambia – have adopted aspects of NetsforLife’s methodology as part of their national malaria policy, and many more have solicited the program’s input in country-wide strategic planning.

Using its unique networks to access remote communities that are typically unreached by national health programs, NetsforLife® has developed and modeled successful technical distribution strategies. In addition, the program’s proven monitoring and evaluation methods are being widely implemented in order to ensure better overall results. Building on its successes, the program will continue to distribute nets and work in malaria-endemic African countries while collaborating with international agencies, national programs and local malaria stakeholders.

NetsforLife®’s success has been made possible through the support of corporate partners with Episcopal Relief & Development as both a funding and implementing partner. Despite NetsforLife®’s progress, the program and its partners recognize that the gains are fragile and the fight against the disease is not yet won.

For more information, or to support the NetsforLife® program through donations, please visit the NetsforLife® Inspiration Fund online at www.inspirationfund.org. Donations can also be made over the phone by calling 1.855.312.HEAL (4325). Gifts can be mailed to Episcopal Relief & Development, PO Box 7058, Merrifield, VA 22116-7058. Please put “NetsforLife/Malaria” in the memo line of all checks.

United Thank Offering
Sharing Blessings with Thanksgiving and Love

We are all so blessed. Let’s show our thanks by helping others through United Thank Offerings to expand the mission and ministry of the church. Recent UTO funds have been granted to the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast to help Wilmer Hall, Church of the Advent in Lillian, St. Anna’s in Atmore, St. Mary’s in Coden, and our companion diocese in the Dominican Republic.

United Thank Offering boxes and envelopes were distributed at St. John’s on Sunday, April 15, and additional boxes are available in the narthex. Please return your offerings during the offertory on Mothers’ Day, May 13, or mail a check for the total to the church. Contact Irene Yeager or Donna Waites for more information.
Contact Us

**Staff:**

The Reverend Thomas Heard, *rector*
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The Reverend Jayne Carson, *deacon*
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Louis Daniel
Organist & Choir Director
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Sexton

**Vestry:**

Ron Brown
Janet Buckley
James Christiansen
Bootsie Cieutat
Jan Dabney
Chris Gass
Cindy Gass
Nikki Shaw
Butch Yeager

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**Memorial Donations**

Saint John's wishes to extend a sincere thank you to those who made memorial donations honoring the following:

Laura Mae Anderson
- Bud & Connie McLean
- Eugene & Emily Johnston
- Joyce Lee
- Butch & Irene Yeager
- Bob & Paula Ross
- Bootsie & Tina Cieutat
- St. John's ECW

Richard Cunningham
- Pam, Bill & Bryce Privett

Sebra L. Strong
- Sheri Boulo
- Nick & Nancy Hearn & family
- Billy Hammond & Lea Durdun
- Curry Hammond & family

Violet Moore
- Eugene & Emily Johnston
- Frances & Mike Barbour
- Chloé Tyner
- Pat Pritchard
- Bob & Paula Ross
- Bud & Connie McLean
- Audrey Garner
- Joyce Lee
- Joan Marie Elam
- Bob & Connie Anderson
- Frank Hall
- Eric Dupree & Robin Gadsden-Dupree
- Council Traditional School Cafeteria Staff
- Butch & Irene Yeager
- Bootsie & Tina Cieutat
- Deborah Calhoun
- Vivian Thompson
- Western Kentucky University
  - Training & Technical Assistance Services
- Neva Bache

Tony Seymour 5/03
Carrie Fairley 5/05
Kurt Ollhoff 5/07
Cookie Rich 5/09
Tanner Dunham 5/10
Mike Barbour 5/11
Paula Ross 5/15
Trey Johnson 5/20
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; please 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

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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.