FROM THE RECTOR:

Dear Ones,

In my sermon for the Third Sunday after Pentecost, I talked about how our belief in Jesus and our rebirth to new life through baptism are supposed to change us. To expand on that, I think we like to overlook a word that makes us (as Episcopalians) really uncomfortable: Conversion.

At our baptism, we undergo a change in our very being, an “ontological change” to use a really fancy word. It speaks to an alteration in our “beingness”, a change in our very core. We may not be able to see it, but through our baptism and sealing we are changed into:

- Evangelists, ones who tell the Good News of God in Jesus;
- Stewards of God’s creation, ones who strive to protect and defend all that God has made; and
- Ministers of the church, ones who act as Jesus did and finding our unique ministries.

Beneath each of these three roles is an abandonment of self-interest – a kenosis or self-emptying, a giving up of ego, a giving up of self in favor of the other. Moreover, we really don't have a choice – this is who, as Christians, we are called to be.

Living into or becoming who we are called to be doesn’t seem to happen in an instant, like flipping a light switch. It is a process, it is a progression, sometimes forward, sometimes back, that continually moves us as we work toward our new identities.

When our role as Evangelist is considered (another word that sends shivers up the spines of most Episcopalians), I suspect most think about the TV variety of evangelist. Who can’t remember seeing clips of Jimmy Swaggart, Ernest Angley, or Jim Bakker doing their thing? But being an evangelist doesn’t have to be on television or in a revival tent.

In our role as Stewards, we could join any number of organizations who work to protect the environment or human rights or stand up in demonstrations. But, being a steward doesn’t mean we have to join anything more.

As Ministers, Stewards, and Evangelists, our best way of living into our calling is simply to constantly think about how Jesus would have approached daily life. If we think about being ministers, stewards and evangelists, we will begin to behave differently. Quantum Mechanics tells us that the act of observing or measuring a phenomenon causes the phenomenon to be altered. I think it works that way, too, for our calling: we will be changed, we will grow into, we will continue to become Ministers, Stewards, and Evangelists, simply because we have thought about what it means for us take these roles on in our daily lives.

Ultimately, this has deep consequences for us. Our becoming will alter us. To some, we will be unrecognizable. To others, we will be seen truly for the first time.

Jesus did not come to us to uphold the status quo; he did not come to us to further entrench the powers and principalities; he did not live among us to divide one from another; he did not become like us to make one better than another.

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.” John 1:14

As much as we fear and avoid change, we need to embrace it, allow it to make us uncomfortable, let it move us to new places, help us to move to self-less-ness. As he lived, so should we. It is the life to which we have been called.

--Thomas
Independence Day
Independence Day is one of the “Other major feasts”, which include apostles, evangelists, Saints Mary the Virgin, Joseph, Mary Magdalene, James of Jerusalem, Stephen, and Michael and All Angels, as well as The Holy Innocents and Thanksgiving Day.

Independence Day entered the calendar with the proposed prayer book of 1786. It didn’t make into the 1789 Prayer Book, due to concerns of appropriateness since most of the clergy of the church had been British loyalists. Independence Day finally entered our calendar with the 1928 Prayer Book. We will observe Independence Day at our 10:00AM Said Mass on Wednesday, 4 July.

Benedict of Nursia
Benedict is perhaps the person most responsible for the shaping of monasticism in the Western Church. Founder of the Benedictine order, Benedict’s written rule by which all of the monks governed their lives survives today in its original form. Benedict’s true innovation was the division of the day: four hours of liturgical prayer, six hours of work, five hours of spiritual reading, one hour to eat, and eight hours of sleep. In the Divine Office, all of the Psalms were read each week, and the entire Bible read each year. We will commemorate Benedict at our Wednesday Said Mass on 11 July at 10:00AM.

Saint Mary Magdalene
We will celebrate the feast of Saint Mary Magdalene on Monday, 23 July at a 12:10PM Said Mass. Surnames were not a feature of Palestine in the first century, so it was customary to use genealogical and geographical annotations to differentiate between people of the same name. Saint Mary Magdalene features prominently in the Gospels of Luke and John. In Luke, she was healed by Our Lord who cast out seven demons from her. She became a follower immediately. In John’s Gospel, Mary Magdalene is the “Mary” at the tomb who recognizes the resurrected Jesus and tells the disciples, “I have seen the Lord.” In the Eastern tradition, Mary is held as equal to the apostles.

Saint James the Apostle
James is sometimes called “the Greater”, to differentiate him from James the brother of our Lord, and the other apostle named James. With his brother John, the sons of Zebedee were also known as the “Sons of Thunder”, due to their dispositions. James is accorded the honor of being the first of the apostles to be martyred for Our Lord. We will celebrate James at our Wednesday Said Mass on 25 July at 10:00AM.

The regular meeting of the Vestry & Wardens of Saint John’s was called to order at 11:40 on Sunday, 10 June 2012. The meeting was held in the Great Hall.

Butch Yeager reported that Carrie Fairley and Irene Yeager will be leading the Children’s Sunday School (6-12 years) in the Fall. After a room has been selected, the men of the church will get it ready.

Reporting for Outreach, Butch Yeager reported the success of the Giving Tree program benefiting 15 Place and Winners.

Janet Buckley reported that July’s fourth Sunday Potluck will be our Parish Picnic. Details will follow.

James Christiansen reported that he is still looking for volunteers to help with removal of the old and installation of the new ceilings in the Baptistery and the Chapel.

A committee of Butch Yeager, Ron Brown, and James Christiansen was appointed to oversee the conclusion of Sam Escobio’s Eagle Service Project.

Fr. Heard reported that the family of Audrey Meador has given a new hearing assistance system for the church.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 PM.

Saint John’s will begin an Enquirer’s Class On Sunday, September 9. The class will meet for 4 Sunday afternoon sessions from 12:30 until 2:00PM, beginning with a light lunch. Anyone interested in being Confirmed or Received into The Episcopal Church or Reaffirming their Faith should speak to Fr. Heard in the coming weeks. The actual meeting dates will be mutually determined by the group at its first meeting.
**UNDIE SUNDAY**
**JULY 22, 2012**

In keeping with our plans to focus our summer Outreach activities on the needs of the women at McKemie Place, our next Giving Tree request is for underwear of all kinds for all sizes of women. These homeless women are given the opportunity for a daily shower before going to bed at McKemie Place each night, but having a nice shower and feeling fresh goes away pretty quickly if you have only dirty underwear to put on. And since we’re all residents of this tropical city called Mobile, we know how hot it can get, and how much we perspire, and how nice it is to have clean and fresh clothing to wear after showering off the daily sweat.

We have declared July 22 to be “UNDIE SUNDAY”. On that day, we ask that you bring in new underwear of all kinds, all colors, all sizes. We understand that there are many sizes of bras and it’s difficult to pinpoint a common size, but we suggest that “sports bras” or something similar will work for a variety of sizes. We respectfully ask that it be new underwear for our neighbors at McKemie Place. The Giving Tree will remain up throughout the summer as we collect items for McKemie Place and Winners. It is never too late to BOGO and bring in cleaning supplies as well! Thank you everyone for your generosity.

-Cheryl Winters-Heard

**WE’RE ROLLING OUT THE (FOOD) BARRELS AGAIN!**
**SUMMER FOOD DRIVE AT ST. JOHN’S**

Starting Sunday, July 1st and continuing until September, the food barrels will be out in the church and in the great hall. We will, again, be sponsoring a food drive to assist the Bay Area Food Bank and local food pantries.

Our last food drive generated about 400 pounds food; we’d like to increase that amount this time! This is a chance for us to help the larger community during the summer.

We are going to schedule a volunteer day at the Food Bank in September (don’t worry we’ll work around the football games!!). Last time we volunteered we had two different tasks: one group sorted, cleaned and categorized food donations and the other group assisted the staff in getting the newsletter stamped and addressed. More information about the date will be in the next newsletter.

Take this list shopping with you so you won’t forget... one can, two cans or a case of cans...it will make a difference in the lives of families in our community and help demonstrate our mission as a community of Christ.

-Janet Buckley

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**St. John’s Food Drive “Most-Wanted” List**

- canned veggies
- canned fruit
- saltine crackers
- peanut butter
- jelly (plastic jars)
- macaroni and cheese
- chicken helper
- tuna helper
- canned chicken
- canned tuna
- any other non-perishable food items
PARISH PICNIC
SUNDAY, JULY 22ND

Once again, we’re not out at the park or at the beach, this year: the annual parish picnic will be at St John’s after Sunday service on the 22nd of July (which is also the fourth Sunday).

Weather be willing; we’ll use the courtyard and the patio, bring the tables and chairs outside, fire up the grill, eat, fellowship, and maybe have some games. (Croquet on the side lawn, anyone?) Or maybe inside avoiding the heat and the bugs… anyway, wear your picnic clothes!

The Men of the Church will be grilling hot dogs and hamburgers. There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board — so it’s time to volunteer to bring the rest of the picnic goodies.

Questions, ideas, or a volunteer to bring an ice cream churn so we can have home-made ice cream, and volunteers to turn the churn… see Janet Buckley.

GENERAL CONVENTION CONVENES JULY 5

The 77th General Convention of the Episcopal Church will celebrate its opening Eucharist and convene a 10-day gathering of thousands of Episcopalians at 9:30 a.m. on July 5. The Rt. Rev. Philip M. Duncan along with eight deputies will serve as our representatives to this once-every-three-year national gathering. Stay up to date with what is happening at General Convention by following the diocesan blog -- diogcatgc.wordpress.com/ -- which will be updated daily with written and video content. The blog feed will post automatically to The Coastline’s Facebook Page - www.facebook.com/CoastlineEpiscopalNews - so you can LIKE US there to stay up to date as well. Please keep your Deputation in your prayers as they travel, read, discern, and meet for the future of your Church.

ST. JOHN’S HELPS WITH 2012 BIKE & BUILD

In late May, a group of 30 young folks, biking across the United States to build awareness about affordable housing, spent three nights in Mobile working with Habitat for Humanity. They needed help with local transportation for their large group and St. John’s came to the rescue with the loan of the church van for that time. Thanks to St. John’s for your gracious help with this worthwhile project!

Visit the Bike & Build website for more information about the program: bikeandbuild.org/. The group that visited Mobile was doing the Southern U.S. leg—over 1,700 miles on bicycles!
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**Lessons**
- Wisdom 1:13-15
- Psalm 30
- 2 Corinthians 8:7-15
- Mark 5:21-43

**Altar Guild**
- Marie Brown
- Lorraine Murray

**Greeters**
- Paula & Bob Ross
- Irene & Butch Yeager
- Connie & Bob Anderson

**Lectors**
- Cherie Winters-Head
- Denis Dunham

**Eucharistic Ministers**
- Ron Brown
- Geri Moulton
- Butch Yeager

**Eucharistic Visitor**
- Ron Waites
- Ron Brown
- Paula Ross
- Eugene Johnston

**Vestry Teller**
- Cindy Gass
- Pat Fulford

**Nursery**
- James Christiansen
- Ron Brown
- James Christiansen

**Visitor**
- Ron Brown

**Leader**
- Bob McLean

**Color**
- Green

**Day**
- Lectorary
For healing grace and continued strength, we pray for our members:
Cookie Rich, Matt Mattoon, Dot Wohlert, 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 Wohlert

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

For our Friends and Family:
Emily Steiner, Larry Kent, Mary Lamey, Markie Prior, Kim Brown, Warren Bishop, Tom Ford, Jim Cieutat, Robby Shelton, Michael Stewart, John & Pat Cranton, 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

Gordon Moulton 07/03
Billy Owen 07/07
Catherine Warren 07/08
Max Stiber 07/10
Tina Cieutat 07/13
Isabella Dennis 07/16
Regina Harvey-Molyneux 07/20
Cheryl Winters-Heard 07/21
Carolyn Pearce 07/26
Makayla Yeager 07/28
Jennifer Yeager 07/31

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Jack Ruppe
Sexton

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Janet Buckley
James Christiansen
Bootsie Cieutat
Jan Dabney
Chris Gass
Cindy Gass
Nikki Shaw
Butch Yeager
Saint John’s Episcopal Church
1707 Government Street
Mobile, Alabama 36604

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

Thee Store Episcopal Books
Monday
Wednesday
Thursday
9 a.m.-1 p.m.
and by appointment
Telephone: 251-479-5086

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Grounded in shared sacramental life and moving into the world to be the hands of Our Lord.