



JULY 2005

News of the people and ministries of the Saint Michael and All Angels Church, Sanibel Island, Florida

“Seeing is believing?”

For the month of June, we had been reading through the 10th Chapter of Saint Matthew’s Gospel — the Chapter about our call to discipleship. Not about what Jesus was sent by his Father to do, but what we as Christians are called to do — in his name. Discipleship.

I have found myself drawn to these three words — seeing is believing, but with the need to end the sentence with a question mark. This comes out of the basic question – what do we need in our lives to believe in something? Is faith enough, or do we need some sort of “proof?” And then comes Matthew’s Gospel, Chapter 10. Calling the 12 disciples, sending them out town to town to preach in his name with the words: “You received without giving, now give without receiving.” And then the words that can make us tremble — “I have not come to bring Peace but a sword.” And ending with “whoever you welcome in my name, you welcome me.”

This is when the rubber meets the road for us as Christians, when we hear words such as these and look within ourselves at our faith and how we express that faith, through discipleship. And it comes down to what we truly believe. As Christians we believe in Christ and our “proof” is seeing Christ and being Christ in the world. But, how do we do this? How do we do the hard things that we are asked to do by Christ as disciples?

There are no easy answers to these questions. I pose them to you because so much of what we are hearing from the Gospel of Matthew is about these tough questions. So I offer an opportunity for all of us this summer to ponder and think on the call to discipleship. To listen to the words from Matthew, perhaps in a way of hearing them for the first time. Listen as one who is searching, looking for opportunities, and then as a disciple sharing the answers that you find, or perhaps coming up with more questions.

You are probably thinking, why in these “lazy, hazy days of summer” is Suzy thrusting us into such deep, difficult questions. I do this so when we return together in the fall, and many of you come back to Saint Michael’s from time away, we can hopefully be in a place where words from the Gospel don’t make us anxious but rather excited about discipleship. So think upon these things, ponder them for a bit this summer and I look forward to the fall and hearing about each of our calls to discipleship. Who knows what God has in store for us as a people and a parish!

Happy summer everyone,
Peace,

Suzy

**Sanibel – July 4th Parade
look for the
Noah’s Ark “float”**

**July Covered
Dish Supper
Wednesday,
July 6th at 6 p.m.**

**Undie Sunday
July 10th**

Summer Film Series

Worship is at the heart of all we do

We invite you to worship with us:

Saturdays 5 p.m. Holy Eucharist
Sundays 8 a.m. Rite I Eucharist with hymns
Sundays 10 a.m.* Holy Eucharist with hymns
(*With Sunday Overseas Shuttle)
Wednesdays 9 a.m. Eucharist with prayers for healing

Announcements

The Shell Point Village Thursday 10 a.m. Eucharist has been suspended through the summer. The next Shell Point Village service will be Thursday, October 6th at 10 a.m.

The Church Office Summer Schedule: Monday through Thursday 9 – 1 p.m., and Friday 9 – noon. Edie works Monday – Wednesday; Mary Jo works Tuesday, Thursday and Fridays.

Volunteer to help in the CCMI Soup Kitchen this summer. St. Michael's date is Wednesday, July 20. Please volunteer to help those who need help. Sign up in the Parish Hall.



CCMI Food In-gathering: Baskets are in the Parish Hall, so you can bring donations of non-perishable food (unopened packaged or canned) anytime in July or August to the Church. The following items are needed to stock the Food Service Pantry. These items will be used to fill food bags for families, and round out menus in The Soup Kitchen. The Soup Kitchen needs most: July - peanut butter and grape jelly, August - boxed macaroni & cheese, September – breakfast cereal and fruit juice, October – boxed stuffing mix, November – canned sweet potatoes, December – pork & beans. Donated food will be delivered to the CCMI Soup Kitchen.



Do you want to contact Liz and George Farrow? Their address is 5 Campsie Road, Strathblane, Glasgow, UK 963 9AB. Telephone (0) 1360 770936. Email addresses: george.farrow@lineone.net (small files) or for files greater than 8 Mb please use george.farrow@gmail.com.

Gifts of securities: When asking your broker to transfer securities to the church's brokerage account, please contact the church. Our broker will not have and cannot trace the name of the donor otherwise. We have recently accepted a gift of Exxon Mobil but are not able to credit the donor until you identify yourself. Please contact Edie in the Parish Office: 239 472-2173 (ext. 7).

Shelter in a storm for our pets and our people!

If you have a pet, here is some information that might be helpful in the event of a hurricane and island evacuation: Lee County will for the first time have a pet shelter that will be open in downtown Ft. Myers. I have done some research and have learned that you must be registered for the shelter, your pet's shots must be up-to-date, and you must have the vaccination certificates with you if you plan to utilize this shelter. For an application please call: 477-3600.

Also, many vet offices offer boarding during an emergency. My vet's office has offered boarding and they will try to supply a staff person to stay with the pets. But space is limited. So it is important to call your vet and check with them if they can help you with a place to board your pet.

I have discovered many hotels that take pets. Motel Six, Red Roof Inn, Country Inn and Suites are three local motels that will take you with your pet. Check the library for the "AAA" book on "places to stay with your pet." It has tons of information about taking your pet with you on the road.

If you decide to fly, remember many airlines limit the number of pets on each flight. So that is not always the most reliable evacuation plan for a pet, especially since the airports tend to close early when a storm is coming.

Finally, if you live off island and are here for the summer (hurricane season) and would be willing to take a pet into your home during a hurricane, please speak to me. I am hoping to have a list of people who are here and would be willing to take in a parishioner's pet during an evacuation. You can specify - small dogs only, only one animal, cats only etc. . . If you're willing to offer any space at all, please let me know.

Now that we have talked about our pets, how about our people! I am compiling a list of off-island, year rounders who might be able to offer a place for parishioners to stay if the island is evacuated. You would only be called upon in the event of an emergency and we had some parishioners who did not have a place to stay. Think about it and let me know if you have a guest room or any extra room for one or two people.

Let's not wait until we are leaving the island to confirm this information. Call now. If we plan ahead, we'll all have safe places to retreat to during a storm.

Suzy Post

Pastoral Care Updates

Robert C. Howard, II

It is with deep regret we report the passing of Bob Howard's son, Robert C. Howard, II.

Rob passed away suddenly after a motor vehicle accident in Ft. Myers, Wednesday, June 8.

He was born in Wayne, New Jersey on August 3, 1969 to Elsie and Robert Howard.

A graduate of Cypress Lake High School, Rob was a Captain in the Junior ROTC. He won a scholarship to Platt College in Tampa, Fl.

Later he attended Pilot Training School in Ft. Myers and became an airplane pilot. He was owner and manager of Advanced Computer Engineering in Cape Coral, Fl. He is survived by his loving and devoted wife Connie, his father Robert C. Howard Senior, two sisters Candus Bouden and Tamson Howard of Virginia.

A memorial service was held at Saint Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church on Sanibel Island. A reception at the Sanibel Harbour Resort and Spa followed the service.

Robert will be greatly missed by his family and friends. He volunteered many times at Noah's Ark working side by side with his dad, Bob, in the "electronics department" fixing computers and getting them ready for sale. The Noah's Ark crew and the parish of Saint Michael's continues to hold the Howard family in prayer during this tragic loss.

Robert and his wife, Connie, were expecting their first child at the time of his death. Jacob Robert Howard was born on June 18, at Cape Coral Hospital, just one day after Robert's memorial service. Many people have been searching for a way to help Connie and the baby during this difficult time. After much thought and discussion it has been decided we would ask anyone who would like to be a part of a gift to Connie and the new baby to contribute monetary gifts during the summer and then we will present Connie with one check at the beginning of September. If you would like to contribute to the gift, please send a check to the Church made payable to Saint Michael's and marked "Jacob Howard." Please note that this is a gift to Robert's widow, Connie and not a contribution to Saint Michael's and therefore will not be noted on your contribution statement. We will accept donations up until August 31. For more information, please speak to Rev. Suzy Post.

A note from the Pastoral Care Commission Chair

The dedication of our new church bus is behind us, and the PCC is moving forward with the necessary plans for the operation and maintenance of this wonderful gift. Volunteer drivers are being trained and educated.

Barbara Maruchi is the person in charge of the volunteer driver's scheduling and log book while the McCulloughs are away. Janet Bendall will ably assist in her absence.

The purpose of our June meeting was to make plans for an island evacuation in the case of a hurricane and to evaluate the bus operation with changes made as needed. We plan no formal July, August, or September meetings.

Anyone able to assist with flower delivery on Sundays during the summer will be very much appreciated. Please speak with Suzy Post.

Betsy McCullough, PCC Chair

A Pastoral Care note from Suzy: I have been asked many questions about our new Church bus, so I thought I would try to address some of the concerns: Last month we were given a wonderful bequest and after much prayer and discussion and research we purchased a Church Bus! It was blessed at the end of May and was put to immediate use by the Pastoral Care Commission (PCC) as our "overseas shuttle" to transport parishioners from off Island to the 10:00 a.m. Sunday service.

We continue to thank Betsy and Jerry McCullough who oversee the operation of the bus with the Junior Warden, Lee Almas. With the help of many volunteers we have drivers scheduled throughout the summer for Sunday mornings.

It is a tremendous blessing to receive such a gift. But it is important to remember what a big gift this is to the Church. It is a reasonable reaction to want to jump in and use this Bus for many, many different events, not just Church services. But, I have discovered along with our volunteer drivers and the PCC that we need this summer to work out the kinks of the overseas shuttle program. We need some time to learn about this bus and how it operates, to work out safety and insurance issues, to train drivers, and to discuss maintenance, procedures, and protocols, before finalizing a "manual for use of the bus."

So I ask for the congregation's patience and continued enthusiasm about the Bus. It makes absolutely perfect sense to be able to use the bus for other events, not just the 10:00 a.m. service on Sunday mornings. And it is the hope of the PCC and Vestry to see the bus used as often as possible - but not yet. We need time. So while it may seem frustrating, please understand that a "no" from the Vestry or PCC for certain events is not a no, but rather a "not yet."

Also, it is important to remind the parish that the Bus is only to be used for Parish functions. We are not able to loan or rent out the bus. And that the priority for the bus is transportation to and from worship services for parishioners

Continued...

off island who need assistance getting to Church. We are working hard to get a group of trained volunteer drivers who feel comfortable with the operation of the bus. When that is done and the other issues have been addressed, then absolutely we hope to see the bus used for events such as covered dish, movies, etc.....

No is not a “no”, it is a “not yet” for now. It is a blessing to have such a gift and to be able to spend the time to develop a safe transportation program that will be beneficial to the entire parish. Thank you all for your patience and thank you to all who are helping with the program. The PCC is working hard under Betsy and Jerry's leadership. If during the summer you have any questions about the bus, please speak to me, or any member of the PCC. Thank you.

Peace, Rev. Suzy Post

Undie Sunday at St. Michael's

St. Michael's wants to help Lee County children start the new school year with a sense of pride and self-esteem. Help us by donating new, in the package, undies and socks anytime until July 10th. A box is in the Parish Hall to collect the donations.



The donations will be blessed at the 10 o'clock service on Sunday, July 10th and distributed at the Seventh Annual Back to School Festival and School Supply Drive at the Harbourside Convention Center on Sunday, July 24th from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Speak to The Rev. Suzy Post for more information.

Children's Ministries News:

Plans are in the works for a children's education program to begin in the late Fall and run through season.

The Rev. Suzy Post is working on a possible mid-week education program, an alternative to Sunday mornings, and help is needed!! NO EXPERIENCE IS NECESSARY. All you need is a willing heart to teach our children about their Lord!

If you have any interest in working with children or helping to develop a mid-week education program please speak to Suzy. Supplies and lessons are provided and people teach in teams. There will be a brainstorming/planning session in the Fall. Please speak to Suzy for more information or if you are interested in being a part of this very important ministry.

More News on Graduates!

Congratulations are in order for Tim Vollmer who recently graduated from Ithaca College in New York. We're certain that Tim's parents, Mary and Bill Vollmer, are pleased and proud too. Congrats to all!

Summer Film Series: "Seeing is believing?"



The Rev. Suzy Post is leading a four-week summer film series. Two films, *Hotel Rwanda* and *Ordinary People*, were featured in June. The Summer Film Series continues in July on Wednesdays, July 13 and July 20 at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Each film is followed by a discussion. Everyone is welcome to any and all of the sessions. The films will include:

July 13 - "Bonhoeffer"

Dramatic documentary about the young German pacifist and theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer who resisted the Nazi regime and was hanged two weeks before World War II was over. A chronicle which charts the dramatic life story of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a young German theologian who offered one of the first clear voices of resistance to Adolf Hitler. Bonhoeffer openly challenged his Church to stand with the Jews in their time of need, and eventually joined his family in the plots to kill Hitler. His three books, *Cost of Discipleship*, *Letters and Papers from Prison*, and *Ethics*, were all written during the struggle, and are considered classics in the world of religion and ethics. The film, shot on location in Germany and the United States, features interviews with family members, friends, students and associates who knew Bonhoeffer personally—including, the last interview given by Bonhoeffer's closest friend and biographer, Eberhard Bethge. As well, there is an interview with Ruth Alice von Bismarck, the sister of Bonhoeffer's fiancée, Maria von Wedemeyer.

July 20 - *Finding Neverland*

The story of [J.M. Barrie](#)'s friendship with a family who inspired him to create Peter Pan. In this drama, we are told the story of how [J.M. Barrie](#) (Depp) came up with the play Peter Pan. After some failed attempts at creating a well written play, Barrie finds himself in a park playing with his dog. Several moments later he will come to meet the inspiration for his next play, four small boys and a widowed mother, who seems to be growing weaker by the day. Soon, the whole town is talking about Barrie and the Davies family, which causes some rough waters in his marriage. But what comes from his experiences is the play that comes to be known as Peter Pan.

St. Michael's Music Update:

We are preparing to welcome our new Director of Music in September. Thanks to John Bendall and Mary Griffin Seal for being our Sunday organists over the summer.

More about our Director of Music in future issues of the *Red Door*. In the meantime, he asks your help in leasing a home for his first year here:

WANTED for our new Director of Music, his shore-loving wife and their elderly cat, "Spirit:"

- * 3 or 2 BR furnished house or condo
- * one-year lease beginning September 1st
- * gulf-front with screened porch and view of shore
- * West Gulf Drive, if possible
- * luxury not a requirement; good condition is
- * elevator necessary if two-level or higher

The Episcopal Church in the headlines – again

NOTTINGHAM, ENGLAND – You may have read or may soon read articles using words like “crisis” or “catastrophe” in the Anglican Communion of which the Episcopal Church U.S.A. is a part.

The latest occasion for such is the meeting of the worldwide Anglican Consultative Council in late June. The name aptly describes the regular work of the Consultative Council: representative lay and clergy leaders from the main Anglican and Episcopal churches in the Anglican Communion come together every three years to consult. This year’s ACC (not to be confused with other ACCs nor with the AAC, etc.) convened in Nottingham, England, while I was in the neighborhood. Much smoke from the outset, and even some fire. I did not enter the fray (nor was I invited to do so.)

At issue, I believe: how do very different Anglicans in very different churches in very different parts of the world read Scripture and live out faithful, sacramental lives – and remain in communion – that is, in close and meaningful Christian relationship – with each other?

The presenting issue these days is said to be human sexuality, and talks get heated quickly. The real issue is: can faithful Anglican Christians in the Global South get along with faithful Anglican Christians in the U.K., Canada and the U.S., or will the now majority Global South seize the power that has heretofore been held by “The West.” An interesting cast of Episcopalians (in the voting minority in this country) seem determined to set up a new, “orthodox” Episcopal/Anglican church in this country, or (less likely) a church within a church with their own Presiding Bishop and other structures. Some Americans and some Africans plainly want The Episcopal Church in the United States and the Anglican Church of Canada – and perhaps even the mother church of the Anglican Communion, the Church of England itself – thrown out of the Anglican Communion. How this could be done and still claim to have the Anglican Communion is a real question. And of course there are permutations of all this within the Episcopal Church in this country and elsewhere. Efforts in Nottingham to have the American Church (in the U.S. and Canada) expelled from the Communion failed, but we were asked to voluntarily withdraw from the Anglican Consultative Council for three years. (The vote on that was a squeaker: 30-28-4, with at least 6 additional American voting representatives “present but not voting”, meaning that

a minority of members asked the American Churches to continue to voluntarily limit participation.

Lots more smoke, fire, and real pain for the next year as we in this country prepare for our General Convention of the Episcopal Church, held every three years. And in three years the bishops of the Episcopal and Anglican Churches worldwide meet again in England, as they do every 10 years. What used to be an occasion for unity and ministry may further degrade into fighting.

I’ve said before: I am an Episcopalian and in the Episcopal Church I belong and am staying. As for me and my house, as they say, I’ll ride out the summer storms, ignore much of what I read in the secular press (of which I was once a part) and a good deal of what I read in the loosely-described religious press, and filter things through what I hear in conversation and by email with those who are in the know. I invite you to take or leave the perspective I offer. In the meantime, we have more important things to do. Our Lord cannot be pleased that we squabble before the world when there is much imperative mission and ministry at hand. Let’s get on with it.

Blessings, *Donald*

17th Century Nun’s Prayer

LORD thou knowest better than I know myself that I am growing older and will some day be old. Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking I must say something on every subject and on every occasion. Release me from craving to straighten out everybody’s affairs. Make me thoughtful but not moody; helpful but not bossy. With my vast store of wisdom it seems a pity not to use it all, but thou knowest Lord that I want a few friends at the end.

Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details; give me wings to get to the point. Seal my lips on my aches and pains. They are increasing and love of rehearsing them is becoming sweeter as the years go by. I dare not ask for grace enough to enjoy the tales of others’ pains, but help me, Lord, to endure them with patience.

I dare not ask for improved memory, but for a growing humility and a lessing cocksureness when my memory seems to clash with the memories of others. Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be mistaken.

Keep me reasonably sweet; I do not want to be a Saint – some of them are so hard to live with – but a sour old person is one of the crowning works of the devil. Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places, and talents in unexpected people. And, give me, O Lord, the grace to tell them so. Amen.



**Join us for a
Show Stopper of a
Covered Dish Supper**

**Wednesday, July 6th at 6:00 p.m.
in the Parish Hall.**

- 16 Everett Ballard, Kathryn Brent
- 17 Don Adams
- 18 Bill Currise, Betsy McCullough
- 19 Walter Schuman
- 20 Peggy Hupfeldt, Carole Opel
- 22 Jim Sprankle
- 24 Barb Ellenberg, Nancy Shemansky
- 26 Angel Jordan
- 28 Pat Myers, Bill Proctor
- 29 Lillian White
- 31 Kara Cuscaden

July Anniversaries

- July 5 The Stringers
- 9 The Bendalls
- 21 The Baths

July Birthdays

- July 1 Robert Rohde
- 2 Barbara Brady, Jeanne Fuchs
- 3 Anne Cameron, Barbara Fitch
- 7 Gretchen Spruance
- 8 Wayne Ponader
- 9 Jetta Anne Currise, Jane Wagner
- 10 Mary Lou Norris, Mayan Wilcox
- 11 Jill Dillon
- 13 Alexandra Edgar, Lee Ferguson
- 15 Jenny Rando

Noah's Ark is Open!
Summer Schedule
Tuesdays and Fridays
9:30 – 12:30 p.m.
Volunteers always welcome!

SAINT MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS CHURCH
2304 Periwinkle Way, Sanibel, FL 33957

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**JULY 2005
PENTECOST SEASON**