

THE LION

Volume 5

August/September 2010

Issue 1

Message from the Rector

“...cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also.”

St. Matthew 23:26

“Why is it just so hard to live the Christian life?” For thoughtful Christians, that seems to be the million dollar question.

And it isn't new. St Paul, evidently, pondered that very same question. To the Christians who were living in Rome, he says, “...I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate” (Rm 7:15, *ESV*). It would seem that even St Paul experienced what most of us experience in our everyday lives too: all too we just don't live up to our profession. It is as if the shadows of our fallen nature, a nature that was washed away in baptism, still linger. And because of that they still cause us problems.

How, then, are we to overcome these things? How is it that we can sweep those shadows away and, instead, allow the light of Christ to not only take root in our hearts, but also shine through us so that others may see Christ in us?

Once again, we can look to St Paul for the answer: we must be “transformed by the renewing of our minds” (cf. Rm 12:2). But this renewing is a long, slow process. It doesn't happen in an instant, just like our being formed into the type of people we are right now did not happen in an instant. It has taken a lifetime for us to be formed into the type of people we are right now, so if we are now going to be formed into something else (into the image of Christ, in particular) we must begin the long, slow process of spiritual transformation.

But where do we begin, and how is it that our minds are renewed? In his letter to the Philippians, St Paul gives us a key to where spiritual transformation begins: “...whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ...*practice* these things, and the God of peace will be with you” (Php 4:8-9). In other words, we are to “put on the mind of Christ” by meditating on the things of God and doing the things he tells us to do, and then we will *naturally* begin to live a faithful and honorable Christian life, one that is marked less by the struggles of naturally doing the things we *don't* want to do and more by the things that mark us as disciples of Jesus Christ. As we “put on the mind of Christ,” his nature begins to spring naturally from us.

This is what Jesus meant when he told the scribes and the Pharisees to “clean the inside of the cup and plate, that the outside also may be clean.” Have you ever washed a cup or a plate? As we wipe the cloth around the inside of a cup or drag it across the top of a plate, the cloth will drape over the side and naturally wipe the

outside clean too.

In the same way, Jesus says, this happens to us. As we begin to wipe away the shadows of our old fallen nature *from the inside*, our outside (meaning our words and our actions) begins to change too, and we begin to become more and more like him. There is no great mystery to being transformed by the renewing of our minds.

But it does take effort. We must study our Bibles and meditate on the things we find there, we must come together as a community of faith to worship our Lord, and we must take an active role in making him present in the world around us. We must live the life of Christ by being transformed by the renewing of our minds.

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Women's Bible Study

Linda Philpott

The women of the church will resume their Wednesday morning Bible study on November 10 at 10:00 a.m. in the parish hall. The study will be a six week study on Abraham. Workbooks are currently available if you wish to participate and would like to get a head-start on reading and studying the material. The study will focus on chapters 12-25 of the book of Genesis. For further information, please contact Linda Philpott at 772-794-3750. All ladies of the parish are welcome.

Music Notes

Kathleen Knott, Music Director

Weekly choir practice will resume on Wednesday, September 8 at 7:00 p.m. Thank you to the choir members who have faithfully led the singing of the service music and hymns during the summer months.

St. Mark's Choir is a fellowship of believers who are dedicated to ministry through music. Please see me if you are interested in joining our choir.

We are in the midst of the longest season of the liturgical year. The Trinity season from Trinity Sunday until the First Sunday in Advent. You will notice that many of the hymns we sing during this season celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit, and the life and ministry of our Lord. There is also an emphasis on mission, mercy, and charity. The liturgical color for Trinity season is green, which is the color of life and growth. During this season may we continue to entreat the Holy Spirit to transform our lives so we can carry out the mission of our church.

Potluck and Karaoke – August 29

Summer will soon be winding down and fall will be upon us. It's time to celebrate the change of seasons. Please join us for a parish pot-luck supper and karaoke night on Sunday, August 29, at 6:00 p.m. Bring a dish, your favorite beverage (tea and soft drinks will be available) and tune up your pipes to belt out your favorite song.

Discipleship Class

Did you ever wonder about your spiritual gifts, what they may or may not be? Or do you wonder if you really have any spiritual gifts in the first place? How about sainthood? Is it something that any of us can aspire to, or is it only for the "spiritual elite"? On Wednesday, September 8, Fr. Mike's discipleship class will resume

after having taken a summer break. Initially, Linda Philpott will lead us through a six week Bible study on the spiritual gifts. Fr. Mike will then lead us through Jack Bernard's small, but challenging book, *How to Become a Saint: A Beginner's Guide*. As always, Evening Prayer will be held at 5:00 p.m. and the discipleship class will immediately follow. If you are interested in joining us, please let Linda Philpott know as we must order study-guides for class on the spiritual gifts. Jack Bernard's book is currently out of print, however new copies may still be ordered through Amazon.com. This is a wonderful and instructive book on practical spiritual transformation. Please join us for both of these very important courses.

ACW News

Bobbie Winger, President

On July 6, members from the ACW enjoyed a day of fellowship, laughter, treasures, and a wonderful lunch on our first "Thrift Crawl" visiting a number of thrift and consignment stores in the area. Since the ladies had such a successful day, another outing will be planned in the fall.

The summer meetings of the ACW have been for crafts and fellowship. Some lovely Christmas crafts will be for sale during the holidays. We will have a craft meeting on August 19, 2010 at 10:30 a.m. followed by a brown bag lunch. The ACW will resume its regular meetings on Thursday, September 16 at 10:30 a.m. Our speakers for this meeting will be Debbie Aldrich and Sheila Ward who will share about their hobbies. We will also have Holly from *Kaleidoscope Consignments* to discuss "Hidden Treasures". A potluck lunch will follow. All are welcome to attend.

The ACW would love to hear from anyone who would like share about a hobby or an interest. Also, if you know of someone in the community who might make a good speaker, please contact Linda Philpott at 772-794-3750. We have a great year planned with fun, activities, and speakers, and we encourage everyone to join us.

The ACW is planning to once again coordinate a gift basket auction at the Thanksgiving potluck supper. Please start thinking about your gift basket ideas now. There will also be a luncheon and auction of special gifts on January 27. If you have some nice, new, or gently used items you would like to pass along for the auction, please contact Bobbie Winger at 772-231-0580.

St. Mark's Men

John Burton

We have just completed a major survey of the majority of St Mark's men concerning the parish activities they would like to see in support of fellowship, the church, and our community. A wonderful and diverse number of activities were suggested. They Vestry will address these suggestions at its next workshop, and set priorities on when and how we can pursue and accomplish these suggestions. I would like to thank everyone who gave me these great ideas. More information will be forthcoming. If you have further comments or suggestions, please contact me at 321-327-3485 or jaquith33@cfl.rr.com.

Upcoming Holy Days

August/September/October Holy Days

August 6 (12:00 p.m.) – Feast of the Transfiguration

August 24 (12:00 p.m.) – Feast of St Bartholomew the Apostle
September 21 (12:00 p.m.) – Feast of St Matthew the Apostle
September 29 (12:00 p.m.) – Feast of St Michael and All Angels
October 18 (12:00 p.m.) – Feast of St Luke the Evangelist
October 28 (12:00 p.m.) – Feast of St Simon and St Jude, Apostles

Please join us for a brown-bag lunch after noon Mass

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On a Personal Note

Fr. Mike

As most of you know by now, on January 1, 2011, just five short months from now, I will be “full-time” at the church. After twenty-six years of practice, I am leaving public accounting to dedicate all my time to being your parish priest. I would like to thank everyone who has helped to make this happen through your gifts, encouragement, and prayers. I pray our Lord will continue bless us as he leads us forward in our ministry together.

St. Mark’s Anglican Church

Rev. Michael L. Ward, SSA

Rector

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Schedule of Services

Sunday

8:00 a.m. – Holy Communion (said)
9:00 a.m. – Sunday School (all ages)
10:00 a.m. – Holy Communion (sung)

Wednesday
5:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer and Discipleship Forum

Holy Days
as announced

Important Phone Numbers:

Fr. Ward	(o) 772-234-8400	(h) 772-569-6506	(c) 772-538-1319
Calvin Brown (Sr. W.)	(o) 772-231-4343	(h) 772-794-7719	(c) 772-532-0475
Melvin Knott		(h) 772-340-3241	(c) 410-456-2574