

THE LION

Volume 8

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Issue 4

Message from the Rector

“...for the Lord sees not as man sees; man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.”

I Samuel 16:7

Friday is generally my day off. It is the one day that, outside of emergencies, I try to make myself physically unavailable in order to be more physically and spiritually available during the rest of the week. In other words, it is the day that I try to recharge my batteries. Some of you also know that sometimes, especially during the fall and winter months, I spend Friday afternoon and Friday night at the hunting camp where we hold our annual men's outing. It is a great place to unwind and release the stresses and tensions of the week for, as one of my pastoral care professors likes to say, “If you aren't taking care of yourself physically, emotionally, and spiritually, then you will be of little use to anyone else.”

Often on the way to the camp I will stop by Publix in order to pick up ice, drinks, and whatever else I might need for the day. And the reactions I generally receive are a study in contrasts. When I visit the store during the week, wearing my clerical garb, people smile, speak, and are generally very friendly. This is not simply because I am a priest; folks often smile, speak and are generally friendly when I walk in wearing dress pants and an oxford shirt.

But the situation is different when I am on the way to the camp. I am almost always wearing a pair of L.L. Bean Maine hunting shoes, an old pair of jeans, an old t-shirt, and a camouflage Ducks Unlimited cap that I have owned for at least 30 years. None of these things are dirty, mind you; however, I must admit that I probably look more like the gardener than the local parish priest.

And, as I said, the reactions are a study in contrasts. As a matter of fact, I have often thought that one could write a dissertation on how classism is alive and well based on the reactions I often receive. For instance, when I walk through the door, if people make eye contact at all, their eyes quickly shift away when I smile and say “hello.” Rarely do I receive an acknowledgment to my “Good morning,” and even though my twenty-dollar bill is as readily acceptable by the cashier as is the one offered by the well-dressed person in front of me in the checkout line, there generally isn't the friendly banter that often goes on between the cashier and that person. It is, as I said, a study in contrasts.

And what is the fundamental difference between me and the person in front of me? Or the people who look away from me as I pass them in the aisles? Or those who ignore my greeting “hello” as I pass through the doors? The answer to that is simple: the way I am dressed. On some level I am being judged by what I have on.

And that makes me acutely aware of how those who are homeless feel. Or those who aren't welcomed and/or accepted simply because they don't live in the “right” section of town. Or those whose age or health prevent them from being of any “use” to anyone anymore. It makes me acutely aware of how far short we fall from treating *all* people *equally* with the acceptance and dignity they deserve by virtue of simply being created in the image of God. Jesus Christ died for them too, not just for those of us who are respectable in our own eyes.

I trust that we are all equally sensitive to that. May we always be sensitive to never judging the worth of a person simply by what he wears, or where she lives, or what he or she can or can no longer do. Let us all be mindful that while “Man looks on the outward appearance, the LORD looks on the heart.” May we too always recognize and respect the God-given dignity of others.

Music Notes

Kathleen Knott, Music Director

Lenten Hymns

The various hymns we sing during the liturgical season of Lent help prepare us as believers through the story of Lent and through prayers of confession, cries of lament, and through expressions of trust and praise for God's grace. Hymns # 142 "Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days" and # 150 "Forty Days and Forty Nights" summarize the full scope of the story of Lent. Hymn # 143 "The Glory of These Forty Days" reminds us that we celebrate the sacrifices of Christ. We sing in verse 1 "for us he fasted and has prayed."

152 "Kind Maker of the World" is one of the oldest texts that we sing during Lent. The words are attributed to St. Gregory the Great (540-604) and verse 1 implores God to hear the fervent prayers poured forth by the penitent. # 141 "Wilt Thou Forgive" has a text by John Donne and is a song of lament that requests the Son shine and remove fear at the time of death. # 151 "From Deepest Woe I Cry To Thee" is a lament for forgiveness and reminds us that "thy grace alone availeth." # 149 "Eternal Lord of Love" is a stately hymn which summarizes our walk with Christ during Lent.

149 verse 2

So daily dying to the way of self,
So daily living to your way of love,
We walk the road, Lord Jesus, that you trod,
Knowing ourselves baptized into your death.

As you will notice, many of the Lenten hymns provide appropriate text for thought and devotion during this time of reflection. When these texts are married with music, they become even more powerful.

Church Men in Ministry

Richard Winger, Rector's Warden

A serious concern we have for our ministry is a shortage of men to serve in all functions, from ushers to readers to acolytes. We urgently need men to step forward and share our ministry.

As an example of how serious the situation is, on Christmas day I served as an emergency stand-in reader and acolyte. Without the assistance, Father Mike would have had to serve both the bread and the wine. The situation will get even more critical when we move out of season and our congregation and pool of men serving is further reduced. Ushering, serving, reading, and serving as an acolyte are not difficult and Father Mike is always there to coach and train us.

Will you please consider stepping forward? Please contact me (dickwinger@bellsouth.net), any member of the vestry, or Father Mike and thank you in advance

Calling Card Program

Joyce Smith

TAKING AN ACTIVE ROLE IN CARING FOR MEMBERS OF OUR CONGREGATION

St. Mark's Calling Card project was created to let parishioners know they have a church family that cares about them. As part of the Calling Card ministry, members of our congregation reach out to other church members with acts of kindness, such as a phone call just to chat or by sending a card to someone who is ill. Sometimes after a relationship has been established, a short visit may take place. St. Mark's Calling Card program does not interfere with anyone's way of living, but is intended to be an easy and effective way to provide a valuable service to the growing number of seniors who live alone. We need volunteers. If you have an interest in this type of ministry please call Lisa Brenneman at 772-559-5641 or Joyce Smith at 772-231-5425.

Lay Pastoral Care

Lay Pastoral Team

As Father Mike has mentioned in his most recent articles in this publication, there is a growing need for a lay pastoral ministry at St. Mark's. As a result, St. Mark's chapter of the Daughters of the Holy Cross and several other people have indicated an initial interest in this ministry and the group has met twice. The group started reading the book, *Can the Pastor do it Alone?* by Melvin Steinbron. This book, as well as the related video, will be used to guide their discussion, education, and discovery.

There will be timely and on-going updates from this group. We ask that you join us in praying for God's blessing, wisdom, and clear direction. Please contact Father Mike for additional information.

Men's Outing

It's that time of year again! Men, mark your calendars. Our annual men's outing is scheduled for Saturday, March 1, from 10:00 a.m. till 2:00 p.m. As usual there will be trap shooting, fishing, shooting on the rifle range (small bore and handguns only), cards, food, and drinks. The menu will be as varied as usual. You can drive to the camp entrance and park your car at the gate (about ½ mile west of the SR-512 exit off I-95 on the south side across from the state park) or meet at the church at 9:15 a.m. We hope you will join us...and bring a friend! For more information, please contact John Burton at 321-327-3485 or jaquith33@cfl.rr.com.

Vestry Update/Annual Meeting

In January at the annual meeting, two new vestry members were selected by the congregation - Robert Grice and Calvin Brown. In addition, Dan Brenneman was selected to serve out the term of a departing vestry member. At the next vestry meeting, the Rector's Warden (Senior Warden), the People's Warden (Junior Warden), the Treasurer, and the Secretary will be selected.

At the annual meeting, two amendments to the by-laws of the Church were approved and Janice Johnston and Calvin Brown were selected to attend the Diocesan Synod in Orlando July 14-18 2014. Meeting minutes are available.

People's Warden Update

Melvin Knott

(The following is an excerpt from the Annual Meeting Minutes)

The vestry has selected an architect to design and a contractor to replace the existing covered walkway structure connecting the Church and Parish Hall. Construction is scheduled to begin just after Easter and is expected to be completed by fall.

Daughters of the Holy Cross

Carol Strong, President

Sheryl Vittitoe, Secretary

We installed a chapter of the Daughters of the Holy Cross in July of last year. The purpose of the Daughters is to serve in ministry as needed and when called upon by the priest.

We are interested in expanding this chapter. If you would like more information about us or would like to join, please contact Carol Strong (cstrongmom@aol.com) or Sheryl Vittitoe (ssvittitoe@yahoo.com). We would like to invite you for coffee and refreshments following the 10:00 a.m. service on February 9th and March 9th.

Anglican Church Women

Donna Burton, President

The lasagna dinner held in November to raise monies for Stations of the Cross was a success. We were blessed with time given by many women from St. Mark's and by the attendance of many parishioners. The ACW wishes to thank all who were on board for the event. Special thanks go to Maggie Barnes who donated her time in making the wonderful lasagna. The total raised to-date is close to \$1200 which includes \$500 the ACW donated to seed the account.

Also, the ACW was able to purchase new gloves for the hand bell choir (Editor's note: Thank you!)

As a reminder, all women of St. Mark's church are members of the ACW. We continue to encourage you to attend our meetings for a great time of fellowship.

Upcoming events from ACW:

February -Mary Jane Mitchell Steward, Vero Beach an Indian River County history

March – Father Bob Stull and Judy Stull, Quiet Day

Women's Bible Study

Linda Philpott

The Wednesday Women's Bible Study began a study of the book of 1 Samuel on January 15. The class has been thrilled to dig into the life of the prophet Samuel and later the life of David. Many enlightening principles have come into focus in the first two lessons. This class will continue until March 5 and then we will go right into an 8 week study of 2 Samuel. This class will cost \$20 and will last until April 30. The class meets on Wednesday mornings beginning at 10 am until 12 pm. Please join us, if you wish to participate in the 2 Samuel study, please contact, Linda Philpott, 794-3750 or thepotts04@yahoo.com

Upcoming Holy Days

February/March/April

February 24 (noon) – St Matthias the Apostle

March 5 (noon and 7:00 p.m.) – Ash Wednesday

March 25 (noon) – The Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

April 14, 15, 16 (noon) – Holy Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday

April 17 (7:00 p.m.) – Maundy Thursday

April 18 (noon) – Good Friday

April 19 (4:00) – Confessions

April 21, 22 (noon) – Easter Monday, Tuesday

April 25 (noon) – St Mark the Evangelist

Blessing of Dogs and Cats is scheduled for March 16, 2014 at 1:30p

St. Mark's Anglican Church

Rev. Canon Michael L. Ward, SSA

Rector

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