

THE LION

Volume 5

October/November 2010

Issue 2

Message from the Rector

“...ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.”

St. Jude 1:3

I recently received a telephone call from a fellow who was wondering about how I have been able to reconcile my evangelical seminary education with the predominately catholic ethos of our particular branch of the Anglican tradition. “How is it that you are able to reconcile those two things?” he asked. “Or have you abandoned one for the other?” It was a good question, but it also shows that among the many identity crises the Anglican tradition is suffering right now, the old question about whether or not “true Anglicanism” is evangelical or catholic still lingers on.

And, of course, the answer to that question is “both.” Historically speaking, Anglicanism is both evangelical and catholic, two sides of the same coin, not mutually exclusive theological systems. So how did I answer the caller’s question? “Synthesis,” I said. I reconcile them by rooting my own thinking in what might be termed “classical” Anglican thinking: thinking that embraces both an evangelical *and* catholic ethos.

For instance, in classical Anglican thinking there has always been a very “high” view of Holy Scripture, a very strong missionary impulse, and an emphasis on our on-going personal conversion, a process that began with our spiritual rebirth in baptism and that continues throughout the rest of our life through our good works and our participation in the Sacraments of the Church. These are what we might call some of the classical evangelical tenets of our Christian faith.

Likewise — not “on the other hand,” but “likewise” — classical Anglicanism has always held to a “high” view of the Church, the Sacraments, Holy Orders, Tradition, and so forth: the classical catholic tenets of our Christian faith. When these catholic tenets of our faith are brought together (synthesized) with the evangelical tenets of our faith, the result is a true “*via media*”: the true “middle way” of the classical Anglicanism as historically taught by our greatest theologians and churchmen, and most clearly expressed in the Book of Common Prayer.

Where we tend to go off track, however, is when we emphasize one of these tenets over the other. The result, especially if we are moving towards the extremes, is the tendency of these tenets to become mutually exclusive of one another. When this happens we wind up with either an Anglicanism that is virtually indistinguishable from any other form of evangelical Protestantism, or an Anglicanism that is so “catholic” that it is “everything except the Pope.” Neither of these extremes does justice to what it means to be classically Anglican; and while it may be possible for us to find ourselves at or near these extremes and still be within what has historically been accepted as a legitimate expression of the Anglican tradition, it is certainly not the ideal of

the true “via media”.

True Anglicanism, historical Anglicanism, classical Anglicanism — call it what you will — has always held to a middle way between these two extremes. Few parishes or churchmen will ever find themselves dead-center of them (that is why, within the limits of Holy Scripture, Anglican tradition, and the teachings of the Book of Common Prayer there has always been *some* latitude in what may or may not be considered an “Anglican” expression of the faith), but a true “via media” should be our goal as we celebrate our Christian heritage in the Anglican tradition.

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Women’s Bible Study

Linda Philpott

The women’s Bible study will resume 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

St. Mark’s Choir has resumed rehearsals on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. We are in need of more singers! If any members of our parish are interested in music ministry, please contact Kathleen.

We will be ushering in the next liturgical year with an ecumenical service on the First Sunday in Advent. Christ Church Choir, under the direction of Brady Johnson, will be joining our choir for a traditional service of *Advent Lessons and Carols* on Sunday, November 28th at 5 p.m. We hope everyone can join us for this meaningful and enjoyable worship service.

Advent season consists of the four weeks before Christmas and has been observed by the Church since the sixth century. The word “Advent” is derived from the Latin word *Adventus*, which means “coming” or “arrival”. This is a penitential season in the Church, and has a dual focus in worship. As we hear the readings of John the Baptist and the Annunciation, we prepare our hearts and minds for the Nativity of Jesus (our Lord’s “first coming”). We are also reminded in those readings and hymns to prepare for his Second Coming as King and Judge.

Discipleship Class

Our Wednesday evening discipleship class has resumed with a study of our spiritual gifts. Upon completion of this study, Fr. Mike will begin a study of Jack Bernard’s small but challenging book, *How to Become a Saint: A Beginner’s Guide*. The topic of this study will be practical spiritual transformation. As always, Evening Prayer is held at 5:00 p.m. and the discipleship class immediately follows in the parish hall. Please join us.

Outreach Report

The hot months of summer have been particularly difficult for those in our community who have been

struggling with the effects of our economy. All of us have seen an increase in our August and September utility bills. This has led to many people in our community facing the prospects of having their electrical utilities disconnected for lack of payment. From January 1 through the end of September, we have disbursed an average of \$2,273.10 per month in much needed aid out of the Rector's Discretionary Fund, the vast majority of which was for utilities. Total disbursements in August alone totaled \$5,091.21, solely for utilities. None of these are repeat recipients of our outreach ministry, and all have either children or elderly in the household. Most are single mothers. As was predicted a year ago, the need has only increased as our economy remains sluggish. Thank you for your continued support of our outreach efforts to the homeless and near-homeless of our community. Our Lord will bless us in our efforts as we are a blessing to others.

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ACW News

Bobbie Winger, President

The ACW began its 2010-2011 year with a meeting on September 16, 2010. A brand new ACW cookbook was presented to Father Ward and Sheila. Congratulations to Michalee Crocker and her cookbook committee for working so hard to put this publication together, and a special thanks to Sheila Lowenstein for tremendous editorial support. Sheila Ward and Debbie Aldrich were the guest speakers. Sheila shared her wonderful collection of Fenton Art Glass and Debbie talked about her hobby of making doll clothing. The meeting, as always, was followed by a lovely potluck lunch.

Looking ahead to October the ACW has lots of plans. The first will be a tour of Gifford Youth Activity Center on Thursday, October 7 at 10:30 a.m. The center is located at 4875 43rd Avenue, and lunch will follow (place to be determined).

The regular monthly meeting will be held on Thursday, October 21 at 10:30 a.m. in the parish hall. The guest speaker will be Mary Silva, executive director of the Indian River County Literacy Services. Lunch will follow. All are welcome.

On Thursday, October 14, members have been invited to visit a local rose garden at the home of Roy and Mary Schick. We will meet at the Schick house (2826 Coronado Way) at 10:30 a.m. Lunch will follow at a place to be determined. For this outing there is a rain date of Friday, October 15 at 10:30 a.m.

Looking ahead, the second annual Thanksgiving Potluck Supper will be held Sunday, November 14 at 6:00 p.m. in the parish hall. There will be a sign-up sheet in both the parish hall and on the table in the narthex. We will have gift baskets for auction again this year. Please have your basket in the parish hall, if possible, by Sunday, October 31. If you wish to donate a basket please contact Bobbie Winger (772-231-0580) or Linda Philpott (772-794-3750). ***Please attach a card to your basket with the following information: name of donor(s), items in the basket, and value of the basket.***

St. Mark's Men

John Burton

Eleven men answered the three week, highly advertised call to meet September 25th and determine the future, if any, for a functioning men's group. The attendees believed that an energetic, functioning men's group is vital for the health and growth of the church. At this meeting it was suggested that a good beginning would be a program devoted to 1) social activities for the men and church, 2) support for the elderly in and outside the church, and 3) youth support activities within the Indian River community. Our next meeting, to be held in mid-October, will build upon these suggestions, and an action plan will be formulated to support them, one activity at a time. This was a very successful meeting and bodes well for a united, active men's group. If you would like to be part of this planning phase, please contact John Burton at 321-327-3485 or jaquith33@cfl.rr.com.

Upcoming Holy Days

October/November/December Holy Days

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
November 1 (12:00 p.m.) – Feast of All Saints
November 25 (10:00 a.m.) – Thanksgiving Day
November 30 (12:00 p.m.) – Feast of St Andrew, Apostle
December 21 (12:00 p.m.) – Feast of St Thomas, Apostle

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Upcoming Holy Days - Continued

December 24 (11:30 p.m.) – Carol Sing and Midnight Mass (incense)
December 25 (10:00 a.m.) – Christmas Day
December 27 (12:00 p.m.) – Feast of St John, Apostle and Evangelist
December 28 (12:00 p.m.) – Feast of the Holy Innocents

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

Transitions

Fr. Mike

After December 31 of this year, I will no longer have access to my office email address (mward@ecwcpa.com). Please use my alternate address (mlward_ssa@yahoo.com) as it will become my “official” email address. Also after the end of the year I will be maintaining a fixed schedule of office hours and daily services. I will also offer a mid-week Rector’s Bible study if there is any interest. Just let me know.

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) 772-563-0450	(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