

THE LION

Volume 4

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Issue 5

Message from the Rector

“And they continued steadfastly in...fellowship, and in breaking of bread....”
Acts 2:42

I just finished reading two very interesting books. One is entitled, *Change the World*, by Rev. Mike Slaughter, pastor of Ginghamburg United Methodist Church in Tipp City, Ohio. The other, *Christianity for the Rest of Us*, was written by Diana Butler Bass, an author who has explored Christian life in mainline Protestant congregations. Both of these books deal primarily with congregational renewal, and while they are written from two very different theological perspectives, they nevertheless have two things in common and these two things are keys to the renewal they describe.

When Rev. Slaughter arrived at Ginghamburg UMC in 1979, the congregation totaled about 90 people, had an operating budget of \$27,000, and was made up primarily of “blue-collar” people who lived and worked in and around Dayton, Ohio. Today, the make-up of the congregation is substantially the same, but the economy in and around Dayton has been in a long-lasting downward spiral, with over 33,000 jobs lost between the years 2000 and 2008. Yet, in spite of this, Ginghamburg UMC is a vibrant, evangelical congregation with over 5,000 members and a multi-million dollar budget doing the work of Jesus Christ in both their community and in the world.

The congregations that Ms. Bass writes about in her book, on the other hand, are anything but evangelical congregations. They are, instead, what some people might call very theologically liberal congregations in what are traditionally very theologically liberal Protestant denominations. And while none of them boast the membership figures of Ginghamburg – most number between 200 and 400 members – they are, nevertheless, very vibrant congregations in what are generally regarded as dying denominations.

As theologically divergent as the congregations are in these two books, two things seemed to be key to the renewal they describe: they all have a deep sense of purpose (mission) and how that purpose is to be actively lived out in parish life (an *apostolate* as it is often called), and they have a deep sense of community where parishioners develop a sense of connectedness with one another beyond simply recognizing a nameless face for an hour or so on Sunday morning. Both of these things – living out the mission of the Church and living in new relationships with one another in Christ – are the primary things that have kept these congregations alive and healthy in denominations that otherwise seem to be dying.

As I read these two books, they affirmed to me the challenge our own parish church faces. We, like the congregations described, are made up of people with different theological views, different political views, come from different socio-economic backgrounds, belong to different age groups, etc., but in spite of these differences – or better, being enriched by them – we must not only embrace the vision of our church (to be a

place where we live for the Father, as the Son, by the Holy Spirit) and actively live it in our community, but we must especially make an ongoing effort to develop a deep sense of community (“family”) amongst us and amongst the many people who visit us. God called us to be brothers and sisters in Christ, his *new* family; and while we live in an era with a fractured sense of community, people still have a yearning to belong. Let’s all be diligent to make St Mark’s a place that everyone can call “home” in the deepest sense of the word.

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Women’s Bible Study

Linda Philpott

The Wednesday evening Bible study on Judges is well underway and will continue until Wednesday, June 30. The next study will be on the topic of Covenant. The women’s Bible study on Wednesday mornings will resume on Wednesday, November 10 at 10:00 a.m. in the parish hall. The study will be on Abraham and will be a six week study. Workbooks are currently available if you wish to participate in the class 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

1. Have you ever wondered how the hymns are chosen for Sunday’s 10:00 a.m. Mass? Sherry Garrett, our faithful choir member, and I, your organist and choir director make the selections. The readings for a particular Sunday and time of the liturgical year are the foundations upon which we make the hymn selections. The process is often challenging, frustrating, and time consuming. After we have made the selections, we send them on to Father Ward for final approval. We are trying to select more familiar hymns; however, many of us come from different church backgrounds and what is familiar to one may not be familiar to all.

The Preface to the *1940 Hymnal* speaks to the significance of hymns in worship:

Both the choice and the presentation of the music of hymns have been planned to bring a greater sense of reality into our praise. We must make the words the utterance of our own souls; the music the expression of our own personal worship, our own joy or sorrow or brave determination. Only so can we rightly use this richly varied treasure bequeathed us from ever age of the Church. *Preface (vi)*

2.

3. In closing, I would like to thank the choir for working tirelessly throughout the seasons of Lent and Easter. We are also pleased that Paul Dodson has been singing with us since before Easter. The choir will continue to lead the hymns and responses as the summer and the Trinity season progresses.

Diocesan Synod – June 9-11

Our annual diocesan synod will be held this year, June 9-11, in Orlando. St Alban’s Anglican Cathedral will be the host church, and all meetings will take place at the Holiday Inn Select on University Drive. The delegates from St Mark’s this year are Cal Brown and David Deverell. Joyce Smith and Jan Johnston are the alternates. In

addition to tending to the business of the diocese, our clergy and lay delegates will be electing a Suffragan Bishop to replace the Rt. Rev. Peter Brewer, who has reached the canonical age of mandatory retirement. We wish Bishop Brewer well in his much-deserved retirement. Please pray for your delegates, as well as those from the other parishes, who will be electing Bishop Brewer's replacement. It is very important that we discern the will of the Holy Spirit in this election. Father Mike will be in Orlando from the afternoon of June 6 through the afternoon of June 11. If you need anything, please contact any member of the Vestry.

ACW News

Bobbie Winger, President

The ACW finished its year with the meeting on May 20, with Father Mike as guest. He was very complimentary of all the efforts and programs the ACW did this year and encouraged the groups to continue the fellowship and community as well as serve St Mark's with parish activities. The ACW will meet on June 17, July 15, and August 19 at the regular time (10:30 a.m.) for crafts and brown bag lunch.

On Tuesday, July 6, the ladies will get together to have a Treasure Hunt and visit some of the local thrift stores, then have lunch. If you would like to join us, please let Linda Philpott know (772-794-3750). We will make final plans at our June meeting for our Treasure Hunt day.

The ACW voted to have the gift basket auction once again this year at our annual parish Thanksgiving potluck supper. The date will be either Sunday, November 7 or Sunday, November 14. The time of the supper will be 6:00 p.m. Fr Mike will announce the date in the near future. Please start thinking now about a basket idea.

Plans are underway for guest speakers and other programs for the 2010-2011 year. If you have an interest or hobby, or know of someone or an organization that might be a good speaker, please contact either Bobbie Winger (772-231-0580) or Linda Philpott.

St. Mark's Men

One of the most difficult things we have faced in our parish is trying to figure out a way to get the men of our parish involved with one another. Aside from the winter get-together at Cal Brown's hunting camp, there doesn't seem to be much interest. It is important to the life of our parish, however, to have a vibrant and active men's ministry. If you have any ideas as to what we, the men of St Mark's, could do to promote a sense of camaraderie amongst us, please see Fr Mike or contact John Burton at 321-327-3485.

Upcoming Holy Days

June/July/August Holy Days

- June 24 (12:00 p.m.) – Nativity of St John the Baptist
- June 29 (12:00 p.m.) – Feast of St Peter the Apostle
- August 6 (12:00 p.m.) – Feast of the Transfiguration
- August 24 (12:00 p.m.) – Feast of St Bartholomew the Apostle

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

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St. Mark's Anglican Church
Rev. Michael L. Ward, SSA
Rector

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772-563-0450

www.stmarksvero.org

Mailing Address
P.O. Box 6994
Vero Beach, FL 32961-6994

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

Calvin Brown (Sr. W.)

Melvin Knott

(o) 772-234-8400 (h) 772-569-6506

(o) 772-231-4343 (h) 772-794-7719

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