

The Voice of St. Luke's

St. Luke's Episcopal Church



2010

The Pastor's Pulpit

May will be my 36th month here at St. Luke's and as I approach this anniversary I am looking back at what we have accomplished in that time and how that compares to what I had expected. I am examining my ministry and my faith to see where I am and if that is where I should be. As Paul says in **2 Corinthians 13:5** Examine yourselves to see whether you are living in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not realize that Jesus Christ is in you? -- unless, indeed, you fail to meet the test!" Socrates said "The unexamined life is not worth living" but Paul says that extends to our faith as well. Many business' use annual evaluations to determine who qualifies for raises or advancement and who needs to work on new skills or polish old skills. And although you can argue that many of those evaluations are not effective I think that you can argue that some sort of review is necessary to enable us to improve ourselves, whether we are talking about job skills or our faith.

Figuratively speaking, I like to take my faith out and hold it up to the light, check and see if my theology has any leaks or if I am holding two contradictory positions at the same time. This is not an exercise that we can do on our own, we need help. We need to pray, before, during, and after we do this exercise. We need to have help from people whom we trust to be honest with us, people that we trust to ask us the hard questions, the kind that we will avoid if left to our own devices. It is best to do this in a group of people that we trust and it is not difficult to find such a group. We have a group that meets for Bible Study every week and another group that takes on various kinds of studies. We can put together a group that fits your needs, whatever they are but I have to hear from you. You need to tell me what would be most useful for you

so that we can develop it together and so that it will do what you would like it to do.

It is Spring! The sap has risen in the trees, we feel like running and jumping, even if our running and jumping days are behind us. Let's take advantage of the energy of the season and do some work on ourselves. We might discover something wonderful in there!

Your Servant,
Fr. Norman

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

We have been getting things completed around the church that we have been working towards in improving our church buildings and grounds. Please pardon our work site during our remodeling. Sorry for any inconvenience it has caused you during this time. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone that has got involved in some part of these church improvements. Please talk to any of your 9 vestry members or priest for more information on the changes that are being made or any other suggestions.

The MOC had a great dinner that was put together by Ben Saunders and Ken Lanier cooking team on Saturday April 24. Thanks to all who helped us cook, move tables from storage and move furniture in the education building prior to eating a mighty fine dinner together.

Hope we will have a good turn out for the annual picnic. The vestry agreed to move it out to Blue Springs park this year. The park will not be open to the general public on the Sunday of our picnic. Please mark your calendar for Sunday May 23 to attend the 10:30 service and picnic to follow, can't wait to get into the cold cold cold water.

Mark Clikas
Senior Warden

Let there be light:

I would like to thank everyone for their patience and cooperation in the renovation of the education rooms and the Parish Hall. Please go by one of the rooms and turn the lights on. They are great and bright! Doug has done a great job in getting these lights installed. Thanks Doug.

The fixtures for the Parish Hall are in and will be installed soon. I am sure you will be proud of them and we can SEE again.

The grounds are looking pretty good. We have a great crop of Dandelions. I have tried Roundup and it will kill them but it also kills the grass. Might try a torch on the center of the weed and see if that works. If you have any ideas on how to get rid of the dandelions let us know.

If you see any paper, or trash on the grounds please pick it up. We need to keep our grounds looking nice.

We have been doing some preliminary thinking about changing the looks at the front of the church. The holly needs to go. We need a more attractive hedge. Maybe Loropetalum or an ornamental that will look nice all year. And one that needs minimal care.

Again thanks for your cooperation as we try to make our facilities and grounds as nice as possible.

God Bless.

Brit Dennis
Jr. Warden

Mark your Calendar!

Wednesday Eucharist at 6:00 p.m. in the church

Bible Study on Wednesdays at 11:00am

Vestry will meet May 24th at 6:00 p.m.

ELON will meet May 20th at 6:30 p.m.

Memorial Lists

The Altar Flower, Candle and Music Memorial Lists for 2010 are posted at the back of the church

Available dates for May are:

Flowers: 16th, 30th

Music: 2nd, 16th, 23rd

Candle: 16th, 23rd, 30th

Choir Scholarship News

We are currently about \$250.00 short of our goal for the choir scholarship for this year so I am making this special appeal to fund this important ministry. This program has allowed us to add voices to our choir and to encounter talented people that we would never have met in any other way. The students come from Chipola and are referred to us by Dr. Martin, the Chair of the Music Department. James Matthews is the current recipient of this scholarship and James has enriched our worship and our appreciation of music in general but he would not be here if not for this scholarship program. Please make a donation today.

Fr. Norman

Parish Picnic

Do you ever get tired of the same old thing? Do you ever have the urge to try something different or something that you have not done in a long time? Well this is your chance! Our Parish Picnic this year will be on Sunday, May 23, the Feast of Pentecost, at Blue Springs. What? Did he say Blue Springs? Yes, he did!!! Something different for sure! The Men of the Church will provide the entrée and we all bring side dishes and deserts. Bring enough for your family and some to share. We will provide lifeguards so that we can swim and we will have the entire park to ourselves! Bring your kayaks and canoes, bring your water toys, bring all of the kids and come out to Blue Springs for worship, fellowship, and foolishness on May 23rd.

Fr. Norman



*The President, Board of Trustees,
Faculty and Staff
of
Florida A & M University
announce that
Anna Marie Lockey
is a candidate for the degree of
Doctor of Pharmacy
Magna Cum Laude
on
Saturday morning, May first
Two thousand and ten
at nine o'clock
Alfred Lawson Teaching Gymnasium*

Treasurer's news

March

Income \$13,860.94
Expenses \$18,092.35

Year-to-date

Total Income \$44,249.46
Total expense \$49,077.18

Food Pantry

Income \$1,432.21 Expense \$760.26

Flower Arranging Guild

The Flower Arranging Guild will be arranging the Altar flowers on the open Sundays that have no memorials. Please choose your date if you haven't already. The list is located on the table in the back of the church. The Sundays that are open are:

May 16, 30	July 4, 11	September 5, 19, 26
June 13, 20, 27	August 22	October 3, 10, 17, 24
		December 5



in May:

5/1 Laura & Lloyd Schell	5/15 Ed & Claudia Smith
5/6 Ainsley & Amanda Davis	5/23 Kay & Britt Dennis
5/15 Trevor & Betsy Wilk	5/27 George & Patti Hutton



Happy Birthday from your Church Family!!

Those celebrating Birthdays in May are:

5/2 Doug Robbins	5/21 Jack deBrauwere
5/5 Stephanie Gibson	5/21 Josh Dean
5/7 Chuck Smith	5/23 Charlie Lockey
5/8 Stan Haines	5/23 Amy Gerding
5/9 Claudia Smith	5/26 Glenn Padgett
5/13 Russell Robbins	5/26 Demetri Klikas
5/17 Grace Williams	5/27 Charles Brunson
5/18 Doug Melvin	5/27 Ainsley Davis
5/18 Gail Snelgrove	5/28 Pete Smith
5/21 Anna Lockey	5/28 Elly White
	5/30 Katherine Pforte

Worship Schedule for May

May 1 – St. Philip and St. James. There are at least eight persons named James in the New Testament and so there is occasionally confusion over which James this is. This day is in honor of two apostles, James the Less and Phillip, not Phillip the deacon but Phillip the apostle. If you would like more information about these two, try this link:

<http://satucket.com/lectionary/Philip&James.htm>

May 19- Dunstan, Archbishop of Canterbury. Dunstan was a monk and Archbishop who died in 988. He is credited with re-establishing monastic life in England at Glastonbury after that form of life had been wiped out in England. Glastonbury is one of the oldest Christian sites in England and is associated with King Arthur and the Holy Grail and Joseph of Arimathea, among others. Dunstan established monasteries at many sites around England and in his later years ran the Canterbury School for Boys. He also started the tradition that the Archbishop of Canterbury should be a monk, a tradition that lasted for several centuries.

May 26- Augustine, First Bishop of Canterbury, 605

Christianity came to Britain in the 300's but was constantly threatened by invaders. In 597 Leo the Great, Bishop of Rome sent Augustine and a group of monks to bring Christianity to the Britons. Augustine had great success in conversions and preaching but was not successful in reconciling with the Celtic Christians, trying to force them to conform to Roman style worship (against Leo's orders). He established his headquarters at Canterbury and since that day there have been an unbroken succession of Archbishops.

May 31- The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. After the angel Gabriel had announced to Mary that she would bear a child, she went to visit her kinswoman Elizabeth who was pregnant with John the Baptist. This meeting is recorded in Luke 1:39-56.

One Step at a Time

by Timothy C. Geoffrion

Spiritually, many of us want to know and experience God more powerfully. We may hear a lot about "personal transformation"—buzz words in many circles today—but sometimes when we look at our own feeble attempts to improve ourselves or our circumstances, we wonder who truly changes and how transformation happens. We may also feel frustrated and disappointed that God doesn't seem to be doing more to help, and, even more, we want to know if there is any hope for us.

Many of us want a better relationship with God and a more fulfilling life, but are we also willing to admit our limitations, struggles, disappointments, and longing? Spiritual growth is truly possible; God is already at work drawing you closer to him and transforming you, whether or not you can see or feel it. The love, joy, and peace you are longing for is not reserved for a few special people but is available to you as well, as you learn to better recognize God's activity in your life and how to flow better with the Spirit's leading day by day.

What expectation can we have for Spirit-led living and personal transformation? Thinking of the Spirit as the wind of God may help us here. As a cool breeze may bring relief in the summer, or as a strong air current may fill a sail, the Holy Spirit can suddenly change our perspective, our feeling, or our capacity to respond to any given situation. Through the Holy Spirit, our experience with the grace of God becomes dynamic, and we are able to sense what was not accessible to us otherwise, and to respond in often surprising and life-giving ways to others.

The Holy Wind breathes new life into us, transforming our thinking, feeling, and behavior even while our basic nature remains flawed and limited. Spirit-led living means just what it implies: *we live out our God-given purpose in life by virtue of the Spirit's ongoing work within us. This happens moment by moment, as we follow the Spirit's leading, and not by becoming permanently and irrevocably transformed.* Our basic human nature is not changed as much as we are enabled to grow in our ability to let the Spirit have its way in us and to keep in step with the Spirit's prompting. We do in fact mature, but we never stop being flawed, limited human beings.

Over time, our Spirit-renewed minds will more quickly recognize the influence of sin in our lives. On one hand, we will develop a more critical reaction to life-destroying forces and greater distress over their presence in our life and society. On the other hand, we may also become more gracious toward ourselves and others, accepting our human

limitations and failures better. We will learn how to become more attentive and responsive to the Spirit's prompting and leading, more helpful to others, and, as a result, more fruitful in our ministries. Spirit-led living provides us with a way to move *from* sin and unhealthiness *to* the life God intends for us—again, not as a permanent, complete transformation, but as a tool for living out of our best self in the moment.

In 2006, I took a 500-mile pilgrimage across northern Spain on the Camino de Santiago. Practically speaking, I realize now that on that trip, God was bringing me to numerous little "bridges" to help me move from one way of being to another. Yet God was also helping me see how often I fail to cross the bridges I encounter—not to discourage me or make me feel bad about myself, but to awaken me to the plethora of opportunities before me every day. I slowly began to realize that no matter how much I prayed to be transformed, nothing was really going to change until I crossed the bridges in my life. God was helping me right and left by giving me opportunities, but unless I took them, my life was going to be same-old, same-old.

We can dream all we want to about what might be, but we have to be willing to do the necessary work to realize our dreams. We have to face reality as well as our fears. We have to set our intention and make choices. We have to line up our values, our visions, and how we actually spend our time and resources. Most of all, we need to learn how to better live in sync with the Holy Spirit. We have to value spiritual vitality and growth enough to learn how to live Spirit-led lives, we have to be willing to invest sufficient time and energy into seeking and finding the spiritual treasures available to us, and we have to seek to better root our lives in God and orient ourselves around spiritual truths.

Whether or not we ever travel a path like El Camino, each of us can learn to better recognize God's activity in our lives, to live more fully in God's love, and to fruitfully follow Jesus Christ according to our unique calling and purpose. I'm talking about real transformation, here, and it all comes down to embracing our lives as one long spiritual pilgrimage and learning how to be led by the Holy Spirit, one step at a time.

Adapted from [One Step at a Time: A Pilgrim's Guide to Spirit-Led Living](#) by Timothy C. Geoffrion, copyright © 2008 by the Alban Institute. All rights reserved.

From the Church Office...

OFFICE HOURS

Monday –Thursday 8:00 – 5:00; closed for lunch

Friday 8:00-3:00; closed for lunch

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday

Rite I at 7:30 a.m.

Breakfast at 8:15 a.m.,

Sunday school at 9:00 a.m.

Rite II with music at 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday Eucharist at 6:00 p.m.

Please join us in worship!



On-going prayer list: Rosina, Carmen Clikas, David McCormick, William Brunner, Nell Robb, James Poston, Toi Morse, Rosetta Holden, Lana Brock, Clifton, Richard, Casey, Linda & Adrian Graham, Lona Nichols, David Hester, Elena Parsekian, David Campbell, Dave Knowlton, Delores Hattaway, Russell, K.K.C., Jett, Ginny, Margaret Nixon, Dorothy Boyle, John McQuaig, Joan

Hays, David Slay, Hayley Harris, McKenzie Gay, Andrew Potter, Evelyn Herrin, Daniel Biferie, S.E., Jorene Dunaway, Michael Harris, Mason Timmons, Linda & Jolly Toole, Adam, Shanley, Kelly, Cathy, Al Barrios, Donna Smith, Julia Collins, Michael Tillman, Emily Howell, Alyse Maddox, C.M., Tommie Guy, Brandon Hughes, Louise Herring, the Pelc family, Shirley, Eric Watson, J.D., Robert Phillips, Janice Maddox, Lillian Hatcher, Sheila Hayes, K.L.M., Walter Pelc, Jimmie Sue Sims, Stan Saunders, Dicky Sangaree, Billie Forester,

Immediate prayer list: Paula, Jamie, Stephanie Arflin, Bruner Family, Jimmy Everett, Julia, Phil, Julia O'Brian, Megan Werts, R.C. & Frances Poole, Katie Kaye, Jeanette, Abrey Hill, Annie Traynham Barwick, Jennifer Henson, Heather, Henry, Linda, The Powell family, Margie Lou Logan, Larry King, Cindy, Dorothy Clark, Maggie, Ryann Cantrall, Alva Rhodes, Melba Hudson, The Bright Family, The Collins Family

HOMEBOUND/NURSING HOMES: Mavis Gibson, Ag Holley, Eliza Robinson, Betty Breland, Dorothy Appel, Grace Williams, Sue Hester

Please call or write our Shut-ins and let them know that we care about them and are thinking of them.

FRIENDS AND FAMILY SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES: Orville Oaks, Geoffrey McKenzie, Tim Wycoff, Trevor & Danielle Brewster, Elliott Stanton, Trevor Wilk, Tyler Lipford, Brian G. Sparks, Stacy Thomas, Patrick Roy, Lt. Col. Scott Thatcher, Cody Collins, Travis Williams, Stephen Oatman, Scott Oatman, Sam Killebrew, Neil Hudspeth, Ed Sumner, Capt. Anthony Falcon, Tom Bauer, Shay Smith, Travis Granberry, Adam Franz, SPC Joe Costa, Lee Igo, Richard MacKinnon,

**Flower Memorials
for the month of May**

May 2 in memory of Eloise C. Smith given by Al & John Van Voris

May 9 in thanksgiving for Stan Haines on his birthday given by Helen Haines

May 16

May 23 in thanksgiving for Charlie & Anna Lockey given by Susan & Chuck Lockey

May 30

**Music memorials
for the month of May**

May 2

May 9 in thanksgiving for Claudia's birthday given by Ed & Pete Smith

May 16

May 23

May 30 in thanksgiving for Pete's 18th birthday and High School Graduation given by Ed & Claudia Smith

**Candle Memorials
for the month of May**

May 2 in memory of Eloise C. Smith given by Ed & Claudia Smith

May 9 in memory of Laura Watts given by Lynn & Theresa McKeithan

May 16

May 23

May 30

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

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Website: www.stlukemarianna.org

The Rev. Norman Bray, Pastor

Diane Shiver, Parish Secretary

Claudia Smith & Beth Stewart, Treasurers

David Goldberger, Payroll clerk