

St. John's Episcopal Church

The Eagle

November 2008



Have a Happy Thanksgiving!

**Thursday
November 27th**

**The church office
will be closed**

**Thursday,
November 27th**

&

**Friday,
November 28th**



Rector's Thoughts

Rev. Mike Besson

I've never really liked the story. The disciples were in a small boat out over the open waters when a sudden gust began to blow which was immediately followed by higher seas. Then the rain and the wind began to pound the boat (and everyone in it) so panic started to overcome them...if you've ever been on the water in those kinds of conditions then you know exactly what I'm talking about. This wasn't the Carnival Conquest or the Galveston Ferry...this was a small boat that probably felt like it would split right in two. The disciples, in their panic, remembered that Jesus was actually in the boat with them so when they turned to him for help...what was that he was doing again? SLEEPING (?) (!) The "captain of the ship", the "shepherd who keeps watch over the sheep"; well he was *sound asleep*. "Excuse me Jesus but WE HAVE A LITTLE PROBLEM HERE...COULD YOU SAVE THE NAP FOR LATER AND SAVE US"? Not exactly the way it's quoted in the Bible but it's probably what I would have said. Remember what Jesus said to them when he woke up? "Oh ye of little faith"! Not the response they were looking for I can assure you. When they turned to Jesus for deliverance (which is what he told them they should do) then he turned right around and questioned their faith. I just don't get it. They probably didn't either.

Here's the lesson to be learned. When life rocks our "boats" and the storm gets worse and worse we would do well to just get in the back of the boat with Jesus...fall into his arms...and then rest assured that we will be ok. That's where we should be...that much I *do get*. However, that's not where many of you are right now. I suppose that from time to time since Ike

made landfall you've been wondering *if Jesus is even in the boat*. After suffering significant losses a whole new set of problems have decided to rear their heads. I have to raise my property by how many feet? Who's paying for that? Wasn't the adjuster supposed to come by today? What do you mean that's not covered? HAVEN'T I ALREADY BEEN THROUGH ENOUGH? Is Jesus in the boat? If so is he sleeping? Am I being ignored? Is this all a question of my faith?

The truth is that Jesus is indeed in the boat...we know this. We also know that our faith in God enables us to endure whatever we'll have to endure. We also know that there are people in our church, and in our community, who are thinking at times that Jesus just isn't there...or that he's in somebody else's boat. Here's what I'm going to ask you to do. Pay particular attention to the people around you on Sunday mornings. If you see someone who just can't stop crying, or who looks deeply saddened when they are normally all smiles...if you see someone sitting alone in the parish hall and you think "now that's unusual to see them all alone" then take it upon yourself to give them a touch on the shoulder or a big ol' hug. Ask them how they're doing (they will probably tell you). If they shed tears that's ok...they probably needed it. You won't have to have all the answers...you may not have to say anything at all. But know this. Your presence...your touch...your shoulder to cry on and your ear to listen will show them this one thing...Jesus is still in the boat...and he's not going anywhere. God bless you...

Father Mike+

Attention all Lay Worship Ministers, Lectors and anyone who may be considering this ministry

It is that time again, when the Diocese of Texas requires us to license all those who currently participate or would like to become servers in our worship services. Lector licenses are issued for a period of one year and Worship Leader, Chalice Bearer and Lay Visitor licenses for a three year period.

These are such important, rewarding ministries and it is a true blessing to serve Our Lord and church family. Lay worship service is not an “exclusive club” but is open to all confirmed Episcopalians. I would like to invite anyone who has considered becoming a Lay Reader, Worship Leader, Chalice Bearer or Lay Eucharistic Visitor to please contact me at 281-326-5231.

At this time we would like to know if your schedule

preferences have changed or if you are available to serve at any times other than those which you are currently serving. We also understand that sometimes circumstances change and it is necessary to give up certain “duties” or just move on to other areas. If you do not want your license renewed or just want to take a temporary leave please let me know.

We will have a brief meeting after church, on a date yet to be determined, to discuss these ministries and answer your questions.

Father Mike and your St. John’s family deeply appreciate the blessing of your service.

Your Brother in Christ

Bob Blakeway

A Note from the Treasurer

“It was the best of times, it was the worse of times.”

This line certainly summarizes my feelings regarding our “Post-Ike” community. The loss and destruction I’ve seen is almost more than I can bear, even though my family was certainly spared. But I’ve also seen the Promised Land. The love, care and concern shown by my friends, my church family, and most everyone in La Porte and Shoreacres has certainly been humbling. I think something much like this is what we will see when the lion lies down with the lamb. I believe, at least for a little while, we really lived up to our call to be the body of Christ. I told Jess one night, “Isn’t it a shame it took something like this for me to fall in love with my hometown again”. And fall in love I have, I’ve fallen hard.

And, if you’d you stopped by the office after the 10:30 service, you’d have seen something a little different – your treasurer in tears opening envelopes. We have received wonderful offerings, and the kindest letters from churches and their congregants from as far way as Virginia and Oregon, and from many areas of Texas. We are loved and blessed and

God is moving hearts to ensure our provision.

And my own church family..... I told Mike at our first meeting after Ike not to worry about the finances...to keep on doing what he was doing in the Jeep...that this church would step up. We’d been through hard times before and we would rise to this occasion. My words were not wrong. Your faithfulness has been astounding and your love for one another...well there are not words. But St. John’s, remain steadfast...The financial strain on much of our church family will, I’m afraid, be terrible. And we may have a long road ahead of us. We must hold fast to one another, so that none will stumble. Those that can, and I know you will, must help shoulder the yoke – so it will stay light.

I’ve been listening to a contemporary song a lot lately, using it almost as a prayer and would like to quote some it.

Give me your eyes for just one second, give me your eyes so I can see, everything that I keep missing, give me your love for humanity.....

This is my hope for us. Thank you for your faithfulness.

Interfaith Ministries Remembering the Dark

In just four months lots of folks will lose access to their TVs. A major part of our work is with homebound seniors. We know how lonely life can be when you are home all day. That's why IM and a number of our partners decided a few months ago that we would help homebound seniors get their converter box so they would be able to stay connected to the outside world.

We enlisted 30 or so congregations to help us with a DTV converter coupon campaign thinking that many of us who are on cable or satellite TV would not need the free coupons offered by the US government. **H-E-B** stood up and agreed to accept up to 3,000 of the coupons with no charge (the converter boxes typically cost about \$20 more than the coupon value). This is what one would call a "win-win." Coupons people weren't going to use, no cost for the converter boxes and **Volunteer Houston** as our partner to help get the boxes out to all those seniors.

We all know how desperate we were when the cable went down during IKE. Just think how seniors will feel when they lose their lifeline.

So if you are part of one of those great congregations ([click here for the list](#)), or not, all you need to do is to go online TODAY and register (www.dtv2009.gov).

In about 4 - 6 weeks two coupons will be in your mailbox and all you need to do is to bring them to one of the participating congregations, to IM's offices or you can just mail them to us at 3217 Montrose Blvd, Houston, TX 77006.

AMAZING FAITHS DINNER DIALOGUES November 13, 2008

We are now only about 5 weeks out to the next Dinner Dialogues. IKE slowed us down a bit, but just remember how good it felt to meet your neighbors. Here's another chance for people to share a meal, get to know someone you'd likely never get to meet, and share some life experiences. I know that this is a bit scary for some of you, but I promise that if you take this step and be a host or participant you will not be sorry. We hope to have about 5,000 people here and in nine other cities across the USA talking with one another. It's very simple - just go to www.amazingfaithsproject.org and register. Tell your friends. Open your house; open your heart - be transformed. And help us transform Houston and the world.

Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston brings people of diverse faith traditions together for dialogue, collaboration, and service

Daughters of the King

Alice Sparks

The next meeting of the Daughters will be Nov. 8th in Faith Hall 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM with Fellowship at 1:30. Please bring your booklet received last meeting and your Daughters handbook, if you have one.

We celebrated the life of Joyce Massey, our beloved member and prayer warrior, Thursday, Oct. 30th. St. John's was filled, including the majority of our DOK membership. We will miss her greatly.

We are not pushing the Seamen's boxes this year due to many other great needs of our St. John's family but if any one has their shoe box filled by now, please bring it to me this month and I will wrap it and take it to the Seamen's Center.

The Cathedral Daughters are hosting the All Saints Corporate Worship service Saturday Nov. 1st at 12:00 p.m. with a reception in the Great Hall following the service. There will be free parking

available in the church garage (entry on San Jacinto).

The election of Canon Andy Doyle as a Bishop will be Saturday, Nov. 22nd at 10:30 AM at St. Martin's Episcopal Church on 717 Sage @ Woodway. If you wish to attend just go to <https://www.epicenter.org> and sign up.

The Fund Raiser for Hurricane Victims is at St. Martin's on Friday evening with a suggested donation of at least \$25.00. You may sign up for both or just the ceremonies on Saturday morning which is free.

Congratulations to October's six birthday ladies: Barbara Cloud (21st), Ruth Trout (22nd), Frances Robb (25th), Tanise Campbell (28th), Helen Crowder (29th), and Ray Clarke (31st).

For His Sake - Alice Sparks



Attention All You Early Risers

Men's Prayer Group



Come join us at Men's Bible Study on Wednesday mornings at 6:30 am in the office building's conference room. Currently we are discussing the Gospel of Mark and how it speaks to us in our daily lives. We have coffee, some really good fellowship, and great discussions during this weekly one hour meeting.

Confirmation Luncheon

Come join with your church family and Bishop Harrison to celebrate Confirmation at 10:30!



Sunday

November 16th



Lunch will be provided after the service

Bring a dessert to share

Food Pantry Program



Don Hill has reported that the food pantry is running very low.

They would appreciate donations and are particularly in need of **canned vegetables**. Rice and beans are always needed as well.

Thank you

Thanksgiving Feast

Sunday

November 23rd

After the 10:30 service

10 Turkeys will be provided

Bring your favorite Thanksgiving side or dessert to share

contact Ellen if you can cook a turkey



Music Notes

Come join us for Confirmation

Sunday

November 16th

10:30 service



The Brass Ensemble

&

The Key

will play





News from the Pews



Thank you

One day last month 3 young people showed up in my neighborhood with sack lunches. How wonderful! It was just what we needed when we needed it. Thank you. It was truly “a cup of water in Jesus’ name”.

Roy & Lou Large

Bayside Terrace, La Porte



Dear St. John’s family,

Are there enough “Thank you’s”? Never! From all the love and support, the visits and lunches, the care and concern you all extended to us, **THANK YOU!** It made the damage bearable. A special Thank you to all the St. John’s fellowship teams and Carroll Blakeway for organizing the reception after mother’s service. We have so many good friends at St. John’s and for that we are truly blessed. Thank you Fr. Mike, Brenda McNenny, Sherry and Sandi for all your work behind the scenes.

Sincerely,

Sharon & Jorge Mazariegos



To our St. John’s family:

You all don’t know how much we appreciate the lovely and comforting memorial service for our beloved Sally. The music, reception, and the service itself were beautiful. Father Mike’s homily including the anecdote about Sally’s welcome to him were especially touching. It reinforced what we already knew—that Sally was a most loving wife, mother, and grandmother. My family and I thank all of you. We are fortunate to be part of such a caring and loving family.

Paul and family



Fundraiser for the Ralph Hampton Scholarship

Rachael Hampton will be making her famous cakes & pies to raise money for scholarships to send children to Camp Allen

(these desserts will be made to order for your occasions)



Cream Pies \$10.00

Cakes \$25.00



Please place Thanksgiving orders before November 15th. Any family favorites can be made as long as I have the recipe. Most all cakes and pies (except for cream) will freeze very well. This fundraiser is going well and will send lots of kids to camp! Thank you for your support.

Please contact Rachel at 218-471-4640 for more information

Remember in Prayer

Almighty God, we entrust all who are dear to us to Thy never failing care and love, for this life and the life to come, knowing that Thou art doing for them better things than we can desire or pray for, through Jesus Christ our Lord Amen.

Those in need, sorrow or illness— Paul, Ed, Rodney, Jennifer, David, Marion, Bill, Maura, DJ, Jody, Ross, Heather, Bonnie, Laura, Mike, George, Dorothy, Steven, Mosby family

For the faithfully departed— Marjorie Vasku, Joyce Massey, Fran Sidoran

Members of our military—

Alex Segura, Alex Burdick, Alexandria Horton, Bobby Lay, Celeste Alverado, Christopher Compton, Dennis Cox, Donnie McCoy, Evan Knight, Garry Tossing, George, Jason Parramore, Jeff Latham, Jorge Mazariegos II, Josh Hardy, Josh Theroux, Josh Yeomans, Karen Bryant, Matthew Hemmingway, Patrick Hall, Scott Dorand, Austin Hall, Justin Craggs, & Chris Cooke Mahre

Celebrations!

O God, our times are in Thy hand. Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in Thy goodness all the days of their life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Nov 1 Adelin Hammack

Nov 1 Charles Ashford

Nov 1 John Cardenas

Nov 3 Barbara Peters

Nov 4 Norma Barron

Nov 6 Stephanie Lang

Nov 7 Frank Permenter

Nov 10 Nicholas Borkowski

Nov 11 Jennifer Hawes

Nov 13 deSha Norwood

Nov 15 Lisa Lester

Nov 16 Dottie Blankenship

Nov 16 Mike Emhuff

Nov 16 Audra Mazariegos

Nov 17 Alex Pierson-Turner

Nov 19 Pam Gilman

Nov 19 William Lester

Nov 21 Gretchen Grimaud

Nov 23 David Chilton

Nov 26 John Gallaher

Nov 26 John Hall

Nov 26 Cindy Stamps

Nov 27 John Bell

Nov 27 David Witt

Nov 27 Lazaro Bell

Nov 30 Alvin Massey



Nov 21 Barbara & Jack Peters

Nov 22 Sharon & Don Hill

Nov 24 Desmond & Allison Lang



Nancy Graham

Kay Witt

Kristen Salmon

Nicole Shealey

Joe Solis III

Darlene T. Shannon

Israel & Andrea Garza

Rector

The Rev. Michael Besson

Senior Warden

Robin Vest

Junior Warden

Wes Sallee

After School Director

Kathy Buskirk

Teen Parent Director

Litha Murray

Music Director

Brenda McNenny

Office Administrator

Sherry Burns

Lay Assistant to Rector & Ministry Coordinator

Sandi Harris

Youth Pastors

Lindsay Gallaher

Ed Buskirk III

Christian Education

Sharon Hill

Vestry Members

Charles Ashford

Ed Buskirk

Teen Parent

John Cardenas

Barbara Cloud

Maura Free

Terri Hemingway

After School Program

Sharon Hill

Pastoral Care

Melody Kilpatrick

Desmond Lang

Sharon Mazariegos

Myra Wilson

Tricia Wilson

Finance Committee

Virginia Pierson-Turner

Paul Berner

Robin Vest

John Cardenas

Youth Council

Charlie Barrett

Ellen Besson

Fr. Mike Besson

Ed Buskirk

Austin Hall

Sharon Hill

Brenda McNenny

JoLynn Sallee

Cindy Stamps

Catherine Whitehead

Editor's Note: If your birthday or anniversary is not listed or is listed incorrectly, please notify the Church Office.

THE EAGLE

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

If you have an article or notice you would like published in the next issue, please submit it via e-mail by the 10th of the month to:

elpwhitehead@yahoo.com

If you cannot email your document, call Elizabeth Whitehead at home 281-839-1321 or the church office at 281-471-0383.

Coming Soon

St. John's annual Christmas Party & community outreach



The Joy of Christmas

December 14, 2008

***The planning meeting will be held**

Tuesday, November, 18th

7 pm



***Everyone is welcome to come help make preparations for this rewarding experience. All help is greatly appreciated.**