

The Eagle

July 2010



The church office will be closed on Fridays during the summer

If you have a pastoral emergency on Friday please contact

**Father Mike via cell phone
281-787-6311**

Rector's Thoughts

Rev. Mike Besson

Last night was just incredible. I know that sometimes it may seem like was here to attend the “welcome back dinner” that takes place whenever we have a parishioner returning from Cursillo. Ok...part of it was the food... I mean...whenever Jackie and Joyce bring their famous pork chops cooked in salsa and cheese it’s gonna be a good night for this priest! During the evening we always spend some time talking about our own Cursillo experience and we share stories about how it’s changed our lives; the 4 day weekend most definitely leaves a mark. But this night was special for another reason. See...our “attende” was Sandra Vargo. You may have met Sandra; she attends the 8:00 service most every week and has been with us for a couple of months...a newcomer! While I was finishing up the last few bites of pork chops Sandra stood up to share the highlights of her weekend. She said two things that I won’t forget. First, she tearfully shared that she had “never felt closer to God” than she did at Cursillo. Second, she said that when she walked through the doors of our church she “knew that she belonged”. And as she spoke I looked over at my dear friends Carl and Pam Gilman who invited Sandra to church. The night was just incredible.

my desire to “grow” the church comes from a dream of having a BIG church or to raise the attendance numbers...I know. So I want to say again that this is simply not the case. St. John’s, I love you all deeply. I love this church. I love the Lord. I love the new people that come. I love the people who’ve been here for so long and who’ve helped raise this place up. But what I love most of all is...well...knowing that someone has encountered Jesus Christ in that “Sandra Vargo” kind of way through the ministry and people of this church. Whether they be old, young, newcomers or “lifers”...this is what I love...this is what I believe church is all about and why it exists on this earth. To give people an opportunity to come into a place like ours and have this encounter, to have a personal encounter with Jesus Christ and to have that encounter change their lives. And to know that it’s happening through you... the people of St. John’s Church...the beloved by the bay. That is my wish for you...that is my prayer for all of you... those who are here and those who are yet to come. Invitation is a powerful thing...

So here I go again. My dear church family, this is what can happen when we extend a simple invitation. I Love ya’ll...
Father Mike+

Members of St. Johns

The Vision Committee needs your help. Below are the core values that were developed with the help of Linda Parmer. Those of you who attended the event will recognize them, hopefully and will be able to help us. As we begin to develop a plan of action to realize our vision statement, we need to make sure that we understand what is meant by each of the values below. Those that are in *italics* we are having a problem with. We are not sure what the group meant when they listed that value. If you were one of the group members responsible for developing that core value, would you please contact Terry Clawson or Fred Cloud and explain what you had in mind with that value.

Your help with this would be greatly appreciated. We do not want to assume that the value means one thing and those who developed it meant something else.

Thank you for your help.

Fred

Core Value: Love (17)

“We love one another in action within our community and beyond following the example of Jesus Christ”.

More people

Newcomer ministry with follow-up

6 month newcomer shepherding

Congregation should reflect community

Core Value: Youth (17)

“We are a family committed to the raising of youth and nurturing their relationship with Christ”.

Move towards professionally trained, full time youth pastor

Evening events for youth in summer months (water slides, etc.)

Big brother/sisters

Graduate outreach

Youth reading materials, participation in outreach

Developing their daily walk with Christ

Core Value: Outreach (33)

“We are here to carry out God's work in mission, outreach, and service to our community”.

Mothers Day Out

Classes, social events

****Community garden**, Resale shop, **beading**,**

GED and ESL, interview help, nursery expansion

****Expand social services: *ASP, port, community****

****Public service offerings****

Pet Therapy

Shut in visitation

****Once a month dinner for community****

More active in our community
 Define community in regards to outreach
 Mother's helper (cleaning for them, meals, etc.)

****Soup kitchen******Core Value: Worship (3)**

“We value meaningful worship through all aspects of the Episcopal liturgy”.

Contemporary service: night time, geared towards youth but all are welcome
 Interpretive dance, choral readings, drama

Core Value: Study (12)

“We provide opportunity to grow in the knowledge and love of Jesus Christ”.

****Redefine and expand formation****

Specific bible study classes

Core Value: Servant leadership (12)

“We develop and practice strong and shared servant leadership”.

Develop and encourage people for leadership
 Expanded and gifted leadership
 Community of Hope, Stephen's ministry, Order of St Luke
 Formal leadership training
 Improved communication amongst members

Other ideas: (Buildings and grounds received 30 votes)

Buildings and grounds, finish faith hall
 Update playground, pavilion for basketball, clean grounds and keep clean
 Youth help with upkeep of grounds
 More parking
 Church pews, update signage, grounds appearance
 Expand church building
 More meeting space
 School (4)
 Expand library (0)

Membership building/connections: (30)****Ministry to widowers, single adults****

Adopt a member
 More family activities
 Listening and love support ministries
 Marriage encounter

****empty nesters, married with children/grandchildren****

Activities for all ages: Sports teams, book studies, small groups
 Angels on assignment

Summer Fun Camp



**August 9-13
6pm-8:30pm**



Help wanted!

Do you have a skill that you'd like to teach children or adults?

Volunteer to teach a workshop.

Do you know someone who can do something that you'd like to learn?

Ask them to teach a workshop.

Last year we offered classes in knitting, prayer bead making, gardening, sports, balloon animal crafts, cooking, story telling, meditation, and more! The door is open; if you have a class that you'd like to present then please let me know as soon as possible. It can be one night or every night or anything in between.

If you'd like to help but need a craft idea, I have plenty to share!!

Refreshment team, needed for Summer Fun Camp.

Our goal for Summer Fun Camp is to have healthy snacks and to be earth friendly this year so we'll do away with plastic drink bottles and cartons; but we'll talk more about that when we have the committee in place.

I need someone to head the refreshment team and then we'll need team members. Please call me at 713-724-6383 or email me at sharonhill@earthlink.net to volunteer.

I look forward to hearing from you!!!



Sharon Hill



Daughters of the King

Alice Sparks

St. John's Chapter, met June 12th in Faith Hall, with seventeen ladies present. The following suggestion has been drafted by Carol Ford for us to present in this newsletter for consideration. One of our main functions as Daughters is to pray daily using our monthly prayer list, which gets very unwieldy. Carol has suggested some guidelines for us.

Dear fellow parishioners: The Daughters of the King at St. John's consider it a privilege to pray for the concerns of our members. When a request comes in to us it goes out via email to our local chapter, and we pray for your request immediately. If you want a person to be on the daily prayer list, please enter that into your request. Our prayer list will be revised each month, and if you want a person to continue to be on the daily list, you must renew the request each month. Otherwise they will go off the list for daily prayers. If a person is terminal, please let us know if they die, because the prayers change at that time. We pray for all of St. John's family our vestry and our leaders every day. If you have someone on our list for a serious illness and you do not attend our regular meeting (2nd Saturday of month unless changed), please call and let us know the situation before the meeting, as to whether there is improvement and their name can be taken off the list or must be kept on for another month of daily prayer.

The next meeting of DOK will be July 17th (3rd Saturday) due to my vacation. The Fall Assembly will be Sept 17th and 18th at Camp Allen. Make plans to attend, if possible. The annual dues are being accepted (for past members only) \$35.00 at this time, by Joyce Bell Treasurer. Please make checks payable to St. John's with memo as DOK Dues). St. John's writes one check payable to National DOK which is to be received by September 1st.

Our class of new Daughters was installed Sunday, June 13th. Included were Precious (PT) Bacheller, Becky Cherry, Laverne Covington, Maura Free, Pam Gilman, Sharon Hill, Claudette (Squeaky) Miklis, Mac Pinkham, Dianne Rader, Linda Robertson and Lynn Wilbarger. Debra Morris was installed June 23rd. These ladies have been in preparation for membership since last fall. Normally, three months probation is planned but since this class did not all request membership last fall and began to increase slowly, it was January before we cut it off at twelve--a very Biblical number! We are so pleased to welcome twelve new ladies to our membership. God bless us everyone!

Blessings,

Alice Sparks



A note from the Treasurer

Virginia Pierson-Turner

Ever wonder where you'd go if you were on the edge and had no one to turn to? No way to keep a roof over your kid's heads or food in their tummies, no gas for the car to get to work, no shoes or uniforms for school..... Well for many in La Porte, the answer is St. John's. Our Rector's Discretionary Account funds a significant portion of our outreach to our community. This assistance has totaled \$11,700 in the past 12 months.

To ensure good stewardship, the vast majority of those helped are screened through the La Porte Neighborhood Centers to determine the legitimacy of the need. But sometimes those in need are our own friends and family. One of the real benefits of the structure of Discretionary account is the complete anonymity of the recipient. The requests come through our front office (Sherry also is a great help with this) and the account is audited during our regular audit process – not to track who gets the money, but to satisfy IRS that this is true giving.

The economy is tight, the needs are many (the fields are riper for harvest perhaps), and as a result the

balance in this account is very low. Whereas the average balance has been about \$ 5,000 we are now at \$2,400 and this is after Vestry approved a \$1500 transfer from operations.

So how do we normally fund this account – YOU! Every Sunday the “loose plate” – the cash in the plate that is not specifically someone's pledge, or earmarked for some other ministry, is deposited in the Discretionary account. Some Churches only transfer the loose plate from one Sunday per month, some have special offerings, but for several years, your vestry has chosen to this avenue in an attempt to ensure consistent funding. So, if you find yourself in the pews after writing your pledge check, perhaps you've made an offering to Kids Count, but you feel God calling you to do more, there may be a mother in desperate need that will be at our door on Monday!

Again, thank you for your faithfulness.

Schools out for the summer!

Kathy Buskirk

The end of the school year brought many blessings! The first would be the Music Recital. Thirty two children exhibited their talent on the keyboard. They were so excited to see you there. Thanks to all who attended! The second blessing was the Sign Language Recital. These students always touch my heart. And especially the song performed by Ms. Delisha and the children. The song was "I Need Your Love". God is so good to us to give us so many talented children and staff. They bless my heart. The third would be Pentecost Sunday! The children were so excited to be here. And, of course, the water slide helped a lot! The girl scouts sold over \$140 in girl scout cookies! And the "Brenda McNenny Art Collection" and Robin Vest office chair brought in another \$800! Everyone loved the paintings! Thank you Ms. Brenda in Tennessee!!! Deb grabbed the chair for her new business! The Girl Scouts had a tea party in which they mailed invitations to their parent/guardian. Laverne Covington, Alice Sparks, and Frances Robb

donated place settings from their REAL china sets! They were BEAUTIFUL! Maura Free and her beautiful daughter Naurene headed up the party and the parents, children, and staff had a wonderful time! This week Cody Burns and I delivered 9 children to Camp Allen for the week! When we departed I had very excited children and a few crying parents. I haven't heard anything yet, so I'm sure they are enjoying the beauty and love you find in that place. The Russell and Ralph Hampton Memorial Fund was started for the purpose of giving children the chance to experience a different way to live at Camp Allen. Thank you Rachel Hampton and family for providing the funds for this GIFT to our children. Pray for the funding of the program. We are searching for grants and donations and will continue to do so. Thanks so much for your continued support of the program. May God bless you and your family for the treasure and time you give to our children. I love you ALL! Have a great summer.



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— John, Rodney, David, Marion, DJ, Cindy, Bob, Savannah, Gene, Derrick, Dorothy, Carol Ann, Jacob, Bob, Mary, Tom

For the faithfully departed—

Members of our military—

Corey Ball, Adam Berry, Evan Bissett, Karen Bryant, Christopher Compton, Cary Coughlin, Scott Dorand, Austin Hall, Patrick Hall, Marcus Hamilton, Josh Hardy, Rufus Harris, Matthew Hemingway, Alexandria Horton, Tim Kimball, Michael Lange, Jeff Latham, Bobby Lay, Senator LeMay, Simon LeMay, Nicholas Mallory, Jorge Mazariegos II, Donnie McCaughey, Jason Parramore, Brent Roberts, Alex Segura, Garry Tossing, Jacob Troutman, Michael Windham, and Josh Yoemans,

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.



July 1 Tracie Furin
 July 3 Michael Burgett
 July 6 Jack Peters
 July 6 Maggie Stout
 July 6 Al Ward
 July 7 Danny Covington
 July 9 Ed Buskirk Jr.
 July 9 Cyndi Thornton
 July 10 Lois Martin
 July 11 Tracie Sawyer



July 14 Adam Barrett
 July 17 Andrea Hemingway
 July 21 Audora Mazariegos
 July 22 Emma Hemingway
 July 24 Richard Miner
 July 25 Maureen Gallington
 July 26 Jillian Plant
 July 28 Charlie Barrett
 July 29 Joy Constanzo
 July 29 Nicholas Harris



July 4 Mike & Tracie Furin
 July 16 Doug & Robi Lasiter
 July 18 Steve & Deb Gallington
 July 30 Gene & Tanis Gribbin
 July 31 Nick & Lori Borkowski
 July 31 Rick & Cyndi Thornton



Welcome to all our newcomers!!!

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

Rector

The Rev. Michael Besson

Senior Warden

Terri Clawson

Junior Warden

Jorge Mazariegos

After School Director

Kathy Buskirk

Music Director

Clint Brown

Keyboardist

Michelle Shannahan

Office Administrator

Sherry Burns

Lay Assistant to Rector & Ministry Coordinator

Sandi Harris

Youth Pastors

Dave & Melissa Witt

Christian Education

Deb Gallington

Vestry Members

Charles Ashford
 Bob Blakeway
 Dan Blanchard
 Fred Cloud
 Dale Collins
 Steve Gallington
 Carl Gilman
 Debra Morris
 John Morris
 Wes Sallee
 Virginia Pierson-Turner

Finance Committee

Virginia Pierson-Turner
 Paul Berner
 Sherry Burns
 Jackie Norton
 Tricia Wilson
 Terri Clawson
 Charles Ashford
 Jorge Mazariegos
 Debra Morris

Corey
 Chris
 Austin
 Hard
 exan
 Jeff
 LeMa
 Donn
 Robe
 Trou

