

The Voice

Volume 2015, Issue 5

July 2015

Inside this issue:

Pool News	2
July Birthdays	2
Summer Book Club	2
Youth Homily by Lindsay Bullock	3
School Supply Drive	4
Cards and Letters for Wounded Warrior Retreat	5
July Calendar	5
Food Truck Coming to Good Shepherd	6
A First-Time Deputy Reflection	6
Thoughts on Stewardship	7

Rector's Reflections

Dear Parish Family,

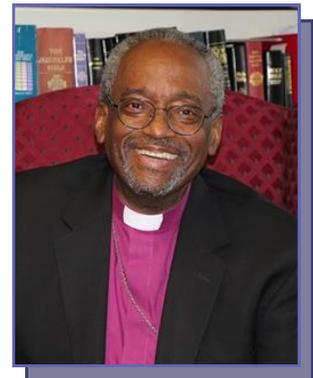
As many of you know, the governing body of the Episcopal Church known as General Convention has been meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah. General Convention is held every three years in different cities around our country. The function of General Convention is to set policy and programs for the church. General Convention is made up of two chambers: the House of Bishops, comprised of all bishops, both active and retired, and the House of Deputies, made up of clergy and lay representatives from all the Episcopal dioceses. When important issues come before the Episcopal Church, these two chambers, through legislative processes, make the decisions that will govern and direct the church.

One of the principle responsibilities of General Convention is to select a Presiding Bishop, who is the Chief Pastor and Primate of the Episcopal Church. "As 'Chief Pastor,' the Presiding Bishop is charged with initiating and developing church policy and strategy, speaking God's Word to the church and the world and visiting every diocese of the church." (Copyright 2008 the Episcopal Church) In essence, this important position is just as it suggests- the spiritual leader, pastor of all Episcopalians and administrative bishop, presiding over the Episcopal Church. A

Presiding Bishop is elected for a term of nine years. The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, former bishop of Nevada, has been the Presiding Bishop for the past nine years.

On Saturday, June 27th, General Convention elected The Rt. Rev. Michael Curry to be the next Presiding Bishop. Bishop Curry has been the bishop of the Diocese of North Carolina since 2000 and is the first African American to be elected Presiding Bishop. In reflecting on the church, Bishop Curry writes that he prays for a church that is committed to making disciples to follow Jesus. A church needs to be a house of prayer for all people and the face of the church will reflect the faces of all peoples from all lands. He writes of the role of the Presiding Bishop: "obviously the Presiding Bishop has CEO (Chief Executive Officer) responsibilities that must be exercised clearly, collaboratively and effectively. But in the mission moment of the church's life, the primary role of the Presiding Bishop must be CEO in another sense: Chief Evangelism Officer, to encourage, inspire and support us all to claim the calling of the Jesus movement." (GeneralConvention.org)

We will all be learning more about our new Presiding Bishop in the months to come and upon his installation on All



The Rt. Rev. Michael Curry

Saint's Day, November 1st. Let us join in prayer in giving thanks for Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori for her service and leadership over the past nine years. Let us also give thanks and pray in support of Bishop Curry as he leads our church to serve God in the years to come.

Sincerely and faithfully,

Fr. Jeff

Pool News



Our first module of adult learn-to-swim lessons finishes up on June 27th. Some folks got a good start on basic skills, and we had an opportunity to evaluate how to move forward with this service in the future. We expect it to resume in some format in the fall.

AND! Our first session of learn-to-swim for Special Needs folks will begin on Saturday, July 11th with Annie McLeod, one of our senior lifeguards who's taken special training for this recently. Annie also has a

special needs family member who she's worked with in our pool over the last year – with wonderful results and which provided a lot of valuable lessons. As with our introductory adult lessons, we schedule these lessons after normal pool closing hours at 2 p.m. on Saturdays. This allows the teacher to use the entire width of the shallow end of the pool for beginners.

If you're interested in more information on the Special Needs classes, you can provide

your contact information to Dave or Robert at the Pool office (904-387-4892), or you can call Annie directly at 904-703-3507 or annie.seahorse@yahoo.com.

Dave Callen, Pool Director

July Birthdays

Davis Ely (1)

Julius Lacema (4)

Ruth Pridgen (6)

Mike Schurer (7)

Allan Wulbern (8)

Oliver Medill (8)

Alina Martinez (10)

Rupert Bliss (11)

Dennis Lewis (11)

Stan Bullock (13)

Jack Wulbern (15)

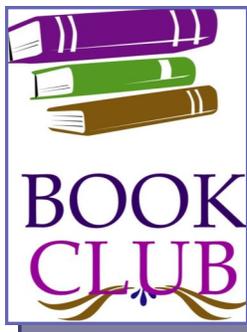
Mark Crawford (23)

Suzanne Theriault (24)

Frances Ellis (25)

David Lasch (26)

Christopher Lasch (29)



Summer Book Club

SUMMER BOOK CLUB is back and will be continuing with the popular subject of Jacksonville history. This year we will be enjoying Jacksonville Greets The 20th Century: The Pictorial Legacy of Leah Mary Cox, a lovely book with commentary by Ann Hyman, formerly a journalist with the *Florida Times-Union* and an award-winning essayist. Our format will remain as it has been for the last several years: sharing the appointed book

plus perusing a few others we may have on hand and doing lots of commentary ourselves, all the while enjoying some mid-morning snacks. Mmmmm – What a cool way to while away a sultry, summer, Southern morn.

Here are the relevant facts: Thursdays in July 10:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. Craig Lounge (As in the past, NO homework, NO preparation, NO book-purchasing required.)

Anyone desiring transportation, please call Ann Pridgen, 384-7859, or Sheryl at the church office, 387-5691; we can happily make those arrangements.

Good Shepherd Youth Homily—June 7, 2015

Hi! For those of you who don't know me, my name is Lindsay Bullock and I have been a member here for 14 years and 363 days, since I am turning 15 on Tuesday. My grandfather, Arthur Stanley Bullock, Jr. preached here and my family has been going for a long time. As for me, this church has helped me build a strong base for my faith and half of the supportive structure. The rest came from school, my family, and other religious experiences, like Happening.

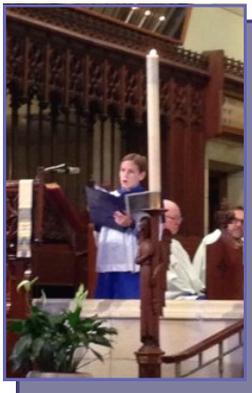
Happening is a retreat for teenagers at Camp Weed, or as I call it at school, Camp Jesus. At the end of our reading of 2 Corinthians it says "For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens". At Happening, we made a church using people. I want to tell you everything that happened at Happening, but I can't. What happens at Happening is a surprise; however, I am going to tell you what happened before and after happening, so as to convey what it did for me.

As some background information, I am really close with my cousins. They are my best friends. One of them, Sally Bardin, has been mentioning Happening all year. When it came to late March and she finally asked me "are you going to Happening" I said no. I do not like sleeping away from home. At all. About a week later, I was talking to Father Wiley about it because now he was trying to get me to go. On a whim, I went on the website and quickly registered. The next morning I woke up and my first thought was WHAT DID I DO? NONONONONONONO. I was freaking out. Over the next couple of weeks I relaxed about it, until the day of.

On the car ride down there, I was so nervous. You can't have a watch or a phone at Happening and that really bothered me because I live on a schedule. Literally. I make a schedule for myself every day. Ok this is where it gets intense. So now we are at Camp Weed and I pull up to my cabin. Seconds after I get out of the car, another car drives up and out jumps 3 girls. I knew all of them and one of them I did not like. A little background on this girl, her name is Maggie; she is now my really good friend. She and I also went to preschool together. However, the last time I saw her we were at dinner at Lillian's; she sat next to me and says "So you know Lily? (Lily is my best friend by the way), and I said yea. Maggie says about Lily "ugh I hate her, she comes to me with her problems and I'm like did I ask you?" I said "yea she has a lot of problems, but that's why I love her". Then she kind of walked away. So Maggie and her sister Katie are in my cabin, what else could go wrong? At this point, I say bye to my mom and walk to Yerkes Hall. I was so nervous until a girl named Katherine came up to me and just talked to me. From that point on was probably the best weekend of my life.

continued on page 4

Youth Sunday



Youth Homily continued

The love felt throughout the weekend was so overwhelming. I learned how to love unconditionally. I felt so safe and loved, and I made some awesome friends in the process. Now after Happening ended, I got in the car and the “Happening High” hit me. I was so excited to have a stronger faith that I was literally bouncing off the walls. Now imagine if everyone were to truly believe in God and act upon their belief. For one thing, there would be more good news on the news. Also, it would allow talking more freely about our faith in public places.

I am lucky. At Paxon, many of my friends are Christians, most of them Episcopalian. This is especially seen right before big tests. We form huge prayer circles. Some of my friends are kind of into it, but then there are people like Nancy. Nancy steps into the prayer circle and says “I want to pray for us”, and she prays and you can tell she means every word of it. Nancy has not even been to Happening yet. Still some people will mock us and make the sign of the cross and laugh about it, and that actually disappoints me. The faith I have built for myself in the last 14 years 363 days has influenced me every single second of my life, and I hope you are encouraged to continue building on your faith every day. And for my fellow youth, I expect you all to go to Happening. Seriously. Thank you.



Lindsay Bullock giving her homily

Newcomer's Picnic



School Supply Drive

As hard as it is to believe, it will soon be time to begin our BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE! Wish lists of needed school supplies will be available mid- July. You can drop off your supplies in the narthex or the church office. By mid-August we will be ready to deliver the bags to our neighborhood schools for the beginning of another year. If you would like to help sort and bag supplies, just let me know. All help is welcome! The pencils, paper, and crayons you provide make a huge difference to these children! Thank you!

Blessings and Peace, Susannah

Cards and Letters Needed for Wounded Warrior Retreat

The Diocese of Florida hosts two Wounded Warrior Retreats each year at The Episcopal Center – Camp Weed and the Cerveny Conference Center. The next retreat will take place August 14th – 16th. The diocese is once again, collecting cards and letters at the Diocesan office written to these heroes expressing gratitude for their service. All correspondence must be received no later than August 2nd. The list of attendees is listed below. We thank you in advance for your support.

Wounded Warrior Retreat
Attendees:

Michael Agosto
Timothy Bosch
Sandra Boyd
Louis Chapman, III
Kyle Cole
Matthew Cole
Joseph Callazo
Kenneth Dominguez
Carlos Hernandez Garcia
Paul McCrimmon
Amie McMillan
Richard Simmons
Baldemar Sosa
Lewis Taylor

Enrique Torres
Michael Trimble
Timothy Wall
Johnny Woodruff

You may bring your cards and letters to church and place them in the box located in the narthex marked "Wounded Warrior Retreat".



June Wind Down



Annual Parish Retreat—September 11-13

Plans are coming together for our annual parish retreat, which will be held once again at Camp Weed beginning Friday, September 11th. Some will immediately wonder why this is earlier in the month and why it is planned for a weekend when we normally have our monthly potluck lunch. The answer is really simple. Last October when we looked to reserve our usual time, we learned that the camp was already booked for another function. (You may recall space was really tight last year as well!) Our September monthly potluck lunch and

"Rally Sunday" will be held on Sunday, September 20, 2015.

The format for the retreat will be as it has been in years past. Those wanting to attend beginning Friday evening may do so, or if you would like to arrive on Saturday morning, that is another option. Some may plan being at camp for an evening or day or some combination of either straight through Sunday service in Mandie's Chapel followed by lunch. Rooms have been reserved in the Bishop Cerveny Center, or if you would like to

join others and share a camper's cabin, that is also available. For planning purposes, please sign the reservation list in the narthex of the church or contact the parish office either by email (secretary@gsjax.church) or by phone, 387-5691.

Earlier in September means swimming, kayaking and other outdoor activities will be better than ever. This is always a wonderful experience, so plan now on attending.



Food Truck Coming to Good Shepherd

On Tuesday, July 7 the Bacon and Butts food truck will come to Good Shepherd, parking in front of the courtyard on Stockton Street. Bacon and Butts is not your ordinary food BBQ truck! Back in 2014, they were voted the favorite food truck in Jacksonville and the champion of Food Truck Madness.

Bacon and Butts offers house cured bacon and low and slow smoked pork butts in a variety of delicious meals. They have

everything from pulled pork sliders to pork and cabbage lumpia. They also offer freshly made sides such as hand cut fries, coleslaw, creamy potato salad, and much more. A kids menu is also available. Visit their Facebook page for a detailed menu.

The truck will be parked at Good Shepherd from 11-2 pm. So if you work or live in the neighborhood, why not come and enjoy a BBQ lunch in the beautiful courtyard.

A First-Time Deputy Reflection



I begin by confessing that I know where CSPAN is on the television dial. I have watched transfixed as senators and congresspersons debated, derided, and decided. A dear friend said via text message yesterday when I encouraged her to tune in to the live video feed from the House of Deputies, as we debated a resolution on digital evangelism, "Its CSPAN for the church!" As an outside observer until this week, I might have agreed with her. But a week in the House of Deputies has taught me an appreciation for the orchestration and dance of the business on the floor.

The dance sometimes seems an agonizingly slow, yet necessary way to facilitate an 800-person conversation. Just as in any sort of dancing, not knowing the steps may get your toes stepped on. Well-practiced dancers, pirouetting on a point of personal privilege can move the entire house. Our own cathedral dean, The Rev. Kate Moorehead did this very thing, asking the house

to pause to remember all of the Christians giving their lives for their faith in the Middle East as we debated this or that resolution. I was stunned as the response of the house was an immediate rise and moment of silence. Sometimes even dancers need to be still.

As the council of the church, we are considering new ways to grow the church in the form of: a \$1.5 million dollar digital evangelism effort, new translations of our Book of Common Prayer in Spanish, French, German, and Haitian Creole, multi-million dollar allocations for planting new churches, and a \$750,000 allocation for revitalizing struggling churches. Watching all of this happen makes it clear that we are not of one mind on all of these efforts, but through the process of General Convention Resolutions we are of one voice, the voice that sings a new church into being.

The difference in our dance is

that we pray that the Holy Spirit is the leader of the band. From the drums of our chaplain (a South African deputy from Los Angeles) to the syn-copated gavel-fall of finality, the church is making her will known and praying that her will is God's will. May it be so.

Fr. Wiley, 1st Clergy Alternate,
Diocese of Florida

Thoughts on Stewardship

"All things come from thee O Lord, and of thine own have we given thee." This is the offertory phrase often used in our service of Holy Eucharist when we lift up the gifts of bread, wine and the plate offering. It is a clear and succinct statement recognizing that all that we have comes from God, and as believers and faithful servants of God we recognize how blessed we are by God and therefore reciprocate by giving back to God some of what we receive.

This is at the heart of stewardship, a recognition of how we use our time, talents and treasure or financial resources. Related to stewardship is the message of the season of Pentecost, which we entered at the end of May and will continue until the end of November or the first Sunday of Advent. Pentecost is the season of the recognition of the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives. When you combine God's presence in our lives by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit along with how stewardship is witnessed or realized, we get a vivid picture of our parish known as Good Shepherd Church.

"It is with grateful hearts that we offer our lives and labors to the Lord." Another offertory sentence periodically recited at church. I share it with you now as I reflect on the many blessings we continue to receive from our parishioners. Earlier in June we had a Youth Sunday and newcomers picnic, when volunteers rallied to create a joyful worship service and reception that was reminiscent of years gone by. (For this picnic everyone was considered a newcomer at some point, even if it was 40 years ago. Also, read in this newsletter the sermon as given by one of our teenagers, Lindsay Bullock.) Reflecting back on June and the last twelve months, I am reminded of just how vibrant our congregation is and how vivid God's presence is made known by our members. Individually and collectively we make up the body of Christ in today's world, and our congregation on the corner of Stockton and Park Streets is making God's presence known.

Like individuals, families and other churches, we have our challenges. But, as we move into summer and enjoy a vaca-

tion, or even just the change of pace that summer brings, I am reminded and thankful for the wonderful people who make up our church and for their commitment to our Lord. That commitment brings ministry to life serving children, individuals and families both within and outside our parish. Their recognition of stewardship is not limited, but broad and even expanding. Good Shepherd Church matters and makes a difference because our people care about God and all of God's creation. Let me leave you with one last quote: "Praise God from whom all blessings flow..." Those blessings given by God then passed on by our members give life to our church and to God's presence in today's world. We are blessed by God's Holy Spirit, and we are further blessed by the inspiration and initiative of our parishioners. Let us join in thanks for God's continued blessings and to all those who make up our church and who bring those blessing to light!

Sincerely and faithfully,

Jeff



Cherub Choir processing with their instruments

Youth Sunday



courtyard games



Baby James Plaughter was baptized

**THE EPISCOPAL
CHURCH OF THE
GOOD SHEPHERD**

1100 Stockton Street
Jacksonville, FL 32204

Phone: 904-387-5691
Fax: 904-387-9575
E-mail: thevoice@GSJax.church

**Find us on the web
www.GSJax.church**

July Calendar

Every Sunday

8:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite I
10:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite II

Every Thursday

10:00 am Summer Book Club –
Craig

.....

Wednesday, July 1, 7:00 pm—
Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Friday, July 3, Parish office
CLOSED

Wednesday, July 8, 4:00 pm
Craig— Prayer Shawl Ministry

Thursday, July 9, 6:00 pm
Worsham—Men's Grill and
Chill

Sunday, July 12, 11:30 am
Worsham Hall—monthly
Potluck lunch

Tuesday, July 14, 11:30 am
Whiteway's— EWES lunch

Sunday, July 26, 11:30 am,
Craig Lounge/courtyard—
Sundaes on Sunday

Monday, July 27, 5:30 pm,
Library/archives room—
Vestry Meeting

Wednesday, July 29, 7:00
pm—Chancel Choir Re-
hearsal