

The Grapevine

The Newsletter of
St. John's Episcopal Church
705 Rayburn Avenue
Ocean Springs, MS 39564

Address Service Requested

August 18, 2010

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
PERMIT NUMBER 20

Ocean Springs, MS 39564



Sunday School For All Ages Beginning Sunday

The Episcopal Church has a large number of members who have transferred to us from other Christian denominations. You can learn a lot about our denomination by attending church, reading the Prayer Book, listening to sermons, and studying your Bible, but the truth is that many of us are in need of some good Episcopal "basics." Our Adult Education programs for this year will provide opportunities for all members, of all ages to become better informed about who we are, what we believe, and why we do what we do. Our first Adult Education program will be for **all adult members**. We will meet in the parish hall, get our coffee and cake and settle in for "Episcopal Paraphernalia from A to Z. The program will feature a show-and-tell and a fashion show!

Future Sundays for Adult Education—Beginning August 29 we will offer two programs for adults. Our first Adult will be led by Fr. Wayne as he shares with us about his trip to Israel. Our first alternative Adult Sunday School Class (held in the Choir Room) will be a chance for you to gather with Rev. Anne and discuss possible programs for the future. Come and have your say. **We are serious about providing education opportunities for everyone.**

Sunday School and Children's Chapel—We have a wonderful Sunday School program that begins with Godly Play for the little ones. This is a nationally recognized program that nurtures and respects the innate spirituality of our children and develops a language for them to speak about their religious experiences. Our Sunday School teachers and Children's Chapel leaders are compassionate and experienced at working with children.

Congratulations to Confirmands

Congratulations to St. John's members who were confirmed and received into the Episcopal Church, as well as those who reaffirmed their faith at St. Pierre's Episcopal Church this past Sunday evening by the Right Reverend Duncan M. Gray, III, Bishop of Mississippi. Those confirmed included: Nathalie Gault, Nicholas Gault, Joshua McFarland, Frances Stratkos. Received into the church were Roger Newby, Roger Boutin and George Thompson. Those who reaffirmed their faith included: Jill Roth and Theron Furr. There will be a reception in their honor in the Great Room of the Parish Hall following the 9 AM service this Sunday, August 22.

For those who were unable to attend our summer session of the Confirmation/Inquirers' classes, there will be another class in late fall for confirmation after the New Year at an area Episcopal church. For details, contact the clergy.

5th Katrina Anniversary and Camp Victor Closure

As we approach the fifth anniversary after Hurricane Katrina there has been much that has changed on the Gulf Coast of Mississippi. Many homes and lives have been rebuilt and despite the scars in the landscape and hearts, the Coast is moving on. St. John's new parish hall was built to be ready to house and feed and care for volunteers in the event of such a tragedy in the future. The parish hall is equipped with showers, laundry facilities, and adequate space to support relief efforts. St. John's members will remember that after Katrina we hired parishioner Pete Jones to be the coordinator of the thousands of volunteers who came to help us. Again, St. John's was a servant community reaching out not just for our own parishioners' needs, but also to our larger Ocean Springs community. About three years ago we concentrated our recovery work at Camp Victor on Government Street and St. John's joined other area churches and the Diocese of Mississippi and the Lutheran Church to continue the work. Our Rector has served on the Camp Victor Board in this work the past three years and St. John's has supported this work financially. This week St. John's contributed another \$1,000 for the rebuilding of homes.

On Thursday, August 25, Camp Victor will close its doors to new works as the construction crews complete only opened cases until the year's end. Bishop Julian Gordy (formerly the Pastor of Christus Victor Lutheran Church before his election as Bishop of the Lutheran Church in the Southeast) will preside at the ceremony. This marks the next stage in our movement past August 29, 2005. It is a time to give thanks to all those from all over the country who sent their prayers, money, and volunteers to help us who were wounded by nature's wrath. It is a time to give thanks for blessings. An ecumenical service to mark the Katrina anniversary will be held at Fort Maurepas Park on Front Beach on Sunday morning, August 29, at 7 AM. Everyone is invited to attend.

St. John's Photo Directory



Sign-up and scheduling for portraits for the St. John's Photo Directory will begin this Sunday. Portraits will be made in Ruddiman Hall directly across the street from the front doors of the church. The portraits will require all family members in the photo to arrive at the scheduled time (15 minutes is allotted for each family group) and have completed a photo information form (which includes current address, phone and email addresses). The photos may be accessed online at a web site and members may print their own copies of the photos. A copy of the family group will be included in the photo directory...some copies will be available for sale (for those unable to print pictures off the internet). Please stop and sign-up for a portrait time during the next few weeks.

Email Addresses and the "Paperless" Grapevine

As you probably know, beginning around the first of October, the Grapevine, our St. John's newsletter, will go "paperless." If you have not already provided an email address to the church office, the church invites you to call the office with a current email address. In the next few weeks you may receive a call from a church volunteer as we try to make our list complete.

Ministry Sundays - August 22 and August 29

Ministry Sundays highlight the many groups, organizations, and activities at St. John's. Please take a few moments during the next couple of Sundays to peruse the offerings and sign-up as you enter or leave church. If you are looking for a little spiritual "SALT and PEPPER," this is it!

Musical Offerings

Adult Choir will begin Fall Practice on Wednesday, August 25 at 7:00 PM. We welcome any who like to sing - either at the 9 AM or 11:15 AM service. Reading music is not a prerequisite.

St. Cecilia's Ensemble's first practice of the fall season is Wednesday, August 25, 4:30-5:30 PM in the choir room. The Ensemble originally for Middle School girls - grades 6-8 will include high school girls this year. For details contact Cynthia Ramseur at 282-5000.



What's Happening in EYC? We have a new leader! Nick Gault is our new EYC leader. Nick was born and raised in Columbus, MS and was a member of St. Paul's where he led the EYC for over 10 years, served on the Vestry, Diocesan Youth Commission, Division of Youth Board, Happening Board and was Happening Coordinator for three years. Nick and his children, Nathalie and Nicholas, look forward to being an active part of St. John's EYC.

OPENING DAY FOR EYC SUNDAY CLASSES is August 22 - 10:15 - 11:00 AM. This is a NEW part of our program of education for all the family. **EYC Evening Meeting - 5:00 - 7:00 PM** - Come find out who will be this year's Paper Bag Yoga Champion. Bring a flexible friend!

EYC Graduate Group - We would like to start a separate fellowship group for our high school graduates who are still in the area. If you are interested in being part of this group, please contact Rev. Anne or the church office.

St. John's Preschool is hosting a Family Live Music Night in the church parish hall on Saturday, September 11, from 7:00 PM until 9:00 PM. It's free to all who want to attend with live music for both young and old. Special guest performer is Ken Gaines, 2005 Texas Music Awards Singer and Songwriter of the Year. Donations will be accepted for the preschool bell choir.



Parish Notes: The First Anne Thompson Dean Nursing Scholarship recipient is Alice Wise who will be continuing her nursing education at the University of South Alabama...Thomas Butera, son of Tom & Peggy Butera, recently left to serve with the Peace Corps in the Philippines...**Wonderful Wednesday Dinners** resume on August 25..**AC filters** available in sizes 16x20 (3), 14x20 (4) and 16x30 (2) - see Hervey Purcell...**Congratulations** to new Daughters of the King: The Reverend Anne Harris, Beth LeBlanc and Martha Thompson. **Congratulations** to Jean Hanlin on the birth of her great-grandson, Gabriel and to Judy Ashby on the birth of her great-granddaughter, Catalina Zoe Liles. **The Sympathy of the Parish** is extended Anne & Bill Stietenroth and family on the death of her mother, Loys Berger; to Terry & Lee Armstrong and family on the death of his mother, Joan Armstrong and to the family of Margaret Parks.

WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday - 7:30 AM, Holy Eucharist Rite One; 9 AM and 11:15 AM, Holy Eucharist Rite Two

Child care available at 9 AM and 11:15 AM services

Wednesday - 5:30 PM Holy Eucharist with Healing

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Website: www.stjohnsoceansprings.org

Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM; Wednesday 8:30 AM - 1:00 PM