

October Agenda

Blessing of Animals	Saturday, 4 October, 9am
Feast of S. Luke, Evangelist	Saturday, 18 October 10am Mass
Feast of Christ the King	Sunday, October 26
Feast of Ss Simon & Jude	Tuesday, October 28 7pm Mass

New Brochure

A newly revised colored brochure is available in the back of the church, by the west doors, for use in advertising the parish. Please take one (or two) to pass on to a friend (or two).

Standing Notices

The occasional Sacraments of Baptism, Matrimony, Confession, Communion and Unction of the Sick, and the Office of the Dead are always available by appointment, at announced times, or as necessary.

Please notify the Church Office or the Rectory to inform the clergy if you or a loved one is in hospital.

PLEASE REMEMBER THE PARISH IN YOUR WILL

The Anglican Church of
S. John the Baptist
PO Box 550
Marshall, VA 20116



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If you would like to contribute to this newsletter, please email:

Ecce@st-johnthebaptist.org

The Anglican Church of S. John the Baptist

4107 Winchester Road
P.O. Box 550
Marshall, VA
20116-0550

Office: 540.364.2554
Rectory: 540.253.5113

www.st-johnthebaptist.org

ECCE

The Newsletter of S. John the Baptist Anglican Church,
Marshall, Virginia
Issue 12 October 2008

Dear Family and Friends of S. John's,

Occasionally in the life of a parish, a rector will, like a fool, rush in where angels fear to tread. And with a national election upon us, I can think of no better reason to play the fool. I am sure we are all aware that within the microcosm of our parish, we share a variety of political views. From one end of the political spectrum to the other, each of us has his own position and most likely holds to that position passionately. Sometimes, however, our passions spill over into our conversations making us appear highly critical of those who do not support our perspective. May I suggest several points to help us navigate these somewhat treacherous waters?

First, while we may hold firmly to our distinctive political positions, hopefully we recognize that there is much more that binds us together as a parish family than what might separate us politically. As we are each individually baptized into Christ, we become unified as members of His Body. Under Christ, our Head, we see ourselves as essentially knit together in Him. This means that our aspirations are the same. Our desire is to work together to advance the Kingdom Our Lord inaugurated, recognizing that we are citizens of that Kingdom. This concept will be reinforced the last Sunday of October when we celebrate the Feast of Christ the King. Its timing a week before the General Election could not be more providential. I do pray, however we vote, we will do so recognizing our true citizenship and the absolute demands that citizenship places upon us.

Second, while there is much in Scripture that addresses the Christian's responsibility to those in civil authority, there is not a great deal that addresses our responsibility in a modern democratic society. However, we can extrapolate these duties from the tradition of the Church, such as those articulated in the Catechism of the Catholic Church. These include, but are not limited to the following: a) "to contribute along with civil authorities to the good of society in a spirit of truth, justice, solidarity and freedom;" b) "to pay taxes, to exercise the right to vote, and to defend one's country;" c) to uphold the law and those in authority when consistent with the precepts of natural law and "in conscience not to follow the directives of civil authorities when they are contrary to the demands of the moral order, to the fundamental rights of persons or the teachings of the Gospel." We should make every effort to explore the views of those running for public office and test those views against the Church's teaching, particularly concerning the defense of those most vulnerable in our society: the unborn, the poor, and other obviously disadvantaged persons.

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From the Deacon's Dais

What would you say if I asked you where you thought S. John's, as a parish, stood in its history? Would you be surprised if I would answer that question: "We are at a new 'high-mark'"? Well, this is my conviction and I would like to share it with you.

Last autumn, Fr. Jonathan rallied us together as a parish to clean up the church property. What started with a few tree limbs ended with countless trailer loads to the county dump. I still wonder what the dump operators must have thought when they saw Richard's horse trailer rolling up in tow for 'general disposal'. Soon after, in the days following, the inside of the church was transformed from "things borrowed" to "things owned." In short, a question was being answered: When I visit S. John's, am I visiting a living, growing parish or an entrenched, dying parish?

A priest very dear to me once said, "If we are here to attend to the faithful and there is no change (in the worldwide church) during our or their lifetime; that is still no small grace of God." These words, said to me years ago, give me comfort as well as strength. Comfort, in that when I see how much we need, I know how much we have together. Strength, in that as we work to preserve the faith once delivered, we are free to truly reach for the fullness of that faith. We are free to turn all of our

Kudos

To Susan Knutsen, the ACW and all parishioners who contributed their cast-offs, their time, and their energy to make the Annual Summer Yard Sale a success!

To everyone who hosts the Coffee Hours on Sunday. This ministry of hospitality is a wonderful gift to parishioners and visitors alike.

efforts to that one seminal moment in which the creation meets the Creator.

We are free to sit with those in need. We are free to sit with a co-worker or friend with problems in their lives. We are free to sit with a stranger in need of the Grace of God and say, come. Come to S. John's and find an open door when you need Him now and not just on Sundays. Come to S. John's and find a parish that will embrace you and a priest ready to lead you to the One that has died for you.

I've been at S. John's with all but one of its rectors, Bishop Paul. Yet, his story of S. John's is the one that I relay the most. He came into Stonewall Jackson's backyard from the parish in Georgetown. After getting a PO Box number, he had business cards printed. With cards in hand he started knocking on doors until he had someone with whom to celebrate the Mass. This is how S. John's was born and because of God's grace, this is where we are now; calling for all to join us in the celebration of the Mass.

We are no longer fighting for financial life or religious identity and we must not let the struggles of our past entrench us in that mind set. We have borne so many lashes that it would be a natural sin to come into the church in order to hold the line for one more Sunday. But, sin it would be nonetheless. For we are no less than the army of God on this earth and as such we do not entrench, but march forward with the Gospel of our Lord.

The Rev'd Deacon John Needham

Transitus

On Sunday, 21 September, the ministration of Holy Baptism was administered to **David Alexander Glascock**, son of Casey and Rachel (Needham) Glascock.

A Look at the Liturgy

As alluded to elsewhere in this newsletter, the last Sunday in October is designated as the Feast of Christ the King. This Feast was instituted in 1925 by Pope Pius XI to combat the increasing secularization of Western civilization after the Great War. The "war to end all wars" had a devastating effect on Western culture. On one level, there was a profound sense of futility after the loss of over 40 million lives. On another level, when the war-time economy shifted to a peace-time economy, a remarkable economic recovery took place. Together, these two factors gave rise to the belief that humanity could itself solve any challenge that came its way. This combination of factors launched several decades of pervasive hedonism, beginning with the "Roaring Twenties." The dramatic increase in technological innovation led to an overall feeling of being disconnected from the past.

The Church suffered tremendously during this time. Seen by many as largely irrelevant, the mainstream churches responded by imitating the popular culture. For example, at the Lambeth Conference of 1930, the Anglican bishops assembled voted to allow artificial contraception, a position *never* before held by *any* Christian body.

In contrast, Pius XI intended the Church to be on the offensive, rather than acting defensively, by reclaiming for Christ that which is His by right. As S. Paul makes clear in his epistle to the Colossians, all of creation was created by Him *and* for Him, "that he might have the pre-eminence." Pius placed this feast on the Sunday before All Saints, signifying Our Lord's kingship over things "visible and invisible." His kingship embraces the whole of mankind, both quick and dead, as well as the spiritual dimension. At a time when God was actively dismissed from the public arena, this feast called man back to the reality of the created order. Christ is to be King over individuals, families, society, governments, and nations. For only under the kingship of Christ can true unity and peace be found. What was true in 1925 is still true today; may we continue to pray that all things come under His dominion.

Almighty and everlasting God, who hast exalted thy beloved Son to be King over all worlds, and hast willed in him to make all things new: mercifully grant that the kindreds of the earth which are wounded and dispersed by sin: may speedily be knit together under his gracious sovereignty, Who liveth and reigneth with thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. Amen.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Blessing of the Animals: Oct. 4, 9am

For an always-enjoyable event in honor of the feast day of S. Francis of Assisi, please bring your herds, flocks, and household pets for a blessing before Morning Prayer.

Christian Formation: Sundays, 9:30am

Beginning Sunday, 7 September, we began an examination of the ancient Creeds of the Church, particularly the Apostles' Creed. This class is strongly recommended for all who are new to the parish or who would not be prepared to "give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you." *I Peter 3:15*

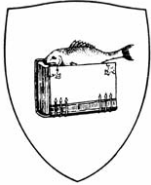
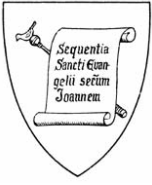










Weekly Bible Study: Wed, 10:30am

Beginning on Wednesday, 15 October, we will hold a Bible Study at 10:30am in the Annex of the church. Preceding the study will be Morning Prayer at 9:30am and Mass at 10am. This study is open to any parishioners and their friends; our first study will be S. John's Gospel. Please join us.

BCP Feast Days in October:

The Feast of S. Luke the Evangelist falls on Saturday, 18 October and will be celebrated with Mass at 10am, following Mattins at 9:30am. The Feast of Ss Simon and Jude falls on Tuesday, 28 October and will be celebrated with Mass at 7pm. Please make an effort to be with us as we give thanks to Almighty God for their witness and ministry to the Church.

October 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 S. SIMON	 S. EDWARD CONFESSOR	 S. LUKE	1 S. Regimus, BC MORN. PRAYER 9.30AM EVE. PRAYER 5.30PM	2 Holy Guardian Angels MORN. PRAYER 9.30AM EVE. PRAYER 5.30PM	3  S. Teresa of the Infant Jesus, V MORN. PRAYER 9.30AM EVE. PRAYER 5.30PM	4 S. Francis of Assisi Blessing of the Animals, 9am MORN. PRAYER 9.30AM EVE. PRAYER 5.30PM
5  TRINITY XX MORN. PRAYER 9AM SCF 9.30 MASS 10:30 AM	6 S Bruno, C MORN. PRAYER 9.30AM EVE. PRAYER 5.30PM	7 Most Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary MORN. PRAYER 9.30AM EVE. PRAYER 5.30PM	8 S. Bridget, W MORN. PRAYER 9.30AM EVE. PRAYER 5.30PM	9 S Denys, B and Companions, MM MORN. PRAYER 9.30AM EVE. PRAYER 5.30PM	10  S. Francis Borgia, C MORN. PRAYER 9.30AM EVE. PRAYER 5.30PM	11 Maternity of the Blessed Virgin Mary MORN. PRAYER 9.30AM EVE. PRAYER 5.30PM
12  TRINITY XXI MORN. PRAYER 9AM SCF 9.30 MASS 10:30 AM	13 Translation of S. Edward, KC MORN. PRAYER 9.30AM EVE. PRAYER 5.30PM	14 S. Callistus I, PM MORN. PRAYER 9.30AM EVE. PRAYER 5.30PM	15 S. Teresa, V Bible Study 10.30am MORN. PRAYER 9.30AM MASS 10.00 AM EVE. PRAYER 5.30PM	16 S. Hedwig, W MORN. PRAYER 9.30AM EVE. PRAYER 5.30PM	17  S. Etheldreda, V MORN. PRAYER 9.30AM EVE. PRAYER 5.30PM	18 S. Luke, EvM Low Mass 10am MORN. PRAYER 9.30AM EVE. PRAYER 5.30PM
19  TRINITY XXII MORN. PRAYER 9AM SCF 9.30 MASS 10:30 AM	20 Feria MORN. PRAYER 9.30AM EVE. PRAYER 5.30PM	21 S. Hilarion, Ab MORN. PRAYER 9.30AM EVE. PRAYER 5.30PM	22 S. Thomas of Hereford, BC Bible Study 10.30am MORN. PRAYER 9.30AM MASS 10.00 AM EVE. PRAYER 5.30PM	23 Feria MORN. PRAYER 9.30AM EVE. PRAYER 5.30PM	24  S. Raphael the Archangel MORN. PRAYER 9.30AM EVE. PRAYER 5.30PM	25 Ss Crispin and Crispinian, MM MORN. PRAYER 9.30AM EVE. PRAYER 5.30PM
26  CHRIST THE KING MORN. PRAYER 9AM SCF 9.30 MASS 10:30 AM	27 Vigil of Ss. Simon and Jude, App. MORN. PRAYER 9.30AM EVE. PRAYER 5.30PM	28 Ss. Simon and Jude, App. Low Mass 7pm MORN. PRAYER 9.30AM EVE. PRAYER 5.30PM	29 Feria Bible Study 10.30am MORN. PRAYER 9.30AM MASS 10.00 AM EVE. PRAYER 5.30PM	30 Feria MORN. PRAYER 9.30AM EVE. PRAYER 5.30PM	31 Vigil of All Saints MORN. PRAYER 9.30AM EVE. PRAYER 5.30PM	 S. JUDE

Ab=Abbot; Abs= Abbess; Ap=Apostle; B=Bishop; C=Confessor; Dn=Deacon; D=Doctor; Ev=Evangelist; K=King; M=Martyr; P=Pope; Pr=Priest; Q=Queen; V=Virgin; W=Widow; SCF = School of Christian Formation

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Having now climbed onto a limb I might as well continue by sawing it off. Over the year or so that I have been at S. John's I have been increasingly concerned that our parish identity consists in having *survived* the past several years rather than seeing ourselves as a constituent part of the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church Our Lord established. I do think the effort of all who contributed to your survival during very trying circumstances, to have been both noble and sacrificial. However, it is time to move beyond what defined us in the past into the present challenge of becoming what *God* intends for us as a parish. I have mentioned previously how our present structure actually hampers growth, and of the need to move into a more family-friendly facility. Recently, I have shared with several of you my vision to move back to Marshall Manor, not only because its chapel is more suited to our worship, but also to turn that derelict campus into a first-class retirement facility for traditional Anglicans. This may be a rather far-fetched pipe dream at the moment, but it is borne out of the conviction that we are a part of something much larger than our parish of S. John the Baptist in Marshall, Virginia. But before we can even begin to think about such a move, we have some serious work to accomplish closer to home.

Let me be more specific. Shortly after my arrival a year ago, I instituted Morning and Evening Prayer on a daily basis, without regard to a personal "day off." I can count on one hand the number of people in the parish family who have come to pray the Daily Office with me over this past year. I had hoped by this time to have instituted, if not a daily Mass, at least one several times a week. As it currently stands, when Mass is offered *in accordance* with each of the **1928 Book of Common Prayer** feast days, very seldom does anyone attend. *Even* on Holy Days of Obligation, the *minimal* standard of anyone professing the Catholic faith, very few of you attend. To worship at Mass is a tremendous privilege, and an expression of our love for the One who so freely and fully loves us. Perhaps I should reiterate that we are not attempting to "ape" any particular denomination at S. John's; we are simply trying to "be the Church" in accordance with Our Lord's stated will, by worshipping with the whole Church. This is what it means to profess belief in the Catholic Church.

Many of you are also aware that I spend a great deal of time being visibly present in the parish office. I do this, in part, to accomplish the necessary reading and studying so that I might give the very best of myself to you. But I also do it so that you are able to easily reach out to me, whether by phone or by dropping in. I enjoy so much the times that parishioners have dropped in unexpectedly! There's always a cup of tea and even occasionally a biscuit or two to share. But mostly, it's the one-on-one time that means so much to me.

God has given us a great gift, both in this parish and in the treasure, that "pearl of great price" that been passed down to us. I pray we all will see it for what it truly is and not simply pass it by. Who can say if God may one day take it from us and give it to others more appreciative.

Your friend and Pastor,



ACW NEWS

The generous support of parishioners, both in contributions and in time and energy spent, generated another terrific outcome from our annual Summer Yard Sale, which netted over \$1600. All proceeds will be used for outreach. We will be meeting soon to discuss where the proceeds should be directed among other matters.

Susan Knutsen