



The Saint

All Saints Episcopal Church
Jackson, MS

August, 2010

WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

What is it? Is it an organization? A movement? Or an Institution? The word "Church" in Greek "ekleza" means "a convened assembly." It also has a Hebrew root, meaning, "to summon." This in a sense means those people who are summoned together by God. In other descriptions the Church is "the communion of saints", "a city set on a hill" (Matt. 5:14), "a royal priesthood", "a dwelling place for God" (Eph. 2:22); "a pilgrim people", "strangers and sojourners" (Heb. 11:13); the community where "the Word is purely preached and the sacraments rightly administered," (John Calvin) and, my all-time favorite, we are "a peculiar people" (1 Peter 2:9). Jesus said of us that we are the "light of the world", we are the "Salt of the world." (Matt. 5:13-14). He described us as branches to his vine (John 15:5). St. Paul described the Church as the "body of Christ" (Rom. 12:5), "God's field, God's building" (1 Cor. 3. 9), and the book of Revelation calls the Church the "bride of Christ" (Rev. 21:2).

I have a question for us: How can we, in our modern days, exemplify the church mentioned above? How did the early church succeed? Bonhoeffer, in his book, *The Cost of Discipleship*, reveals that the early Christian community, although had no freedom of worship, they had a profound effect on the surrounding culture. Within a hostile and violent world, they witnessed to God's love and grace as they had experienced it in Jesus. Both as individuals and as communities of Christians, they sought to live lives informed by the power and values of Jesus. Bon-

hoeffer indicates that due to their witness, "the ancient Roman practice of infanticide was abandoned and the gladiatorial contest (*killing for sport*) was forbidden" (Dietrich Bonhoeffer, 1976). The power and values learned were transmitted and reinforced as they gathered regularly to share the bread and wine, to tell and retell the stories of Jesus. They understood themselves as a "peculiar people," as "strangers and sojourners" as "citizens of heaven" (Heb. 12:12-14) and Paul adds that "they were in the world but not for the world."

How can we, in our faith and tradition, be the light and the salt to our communities? Is there anything we can learn from the early church? Of course, every generation has faced the same question and they have answered it. Jesus had very little to say about the church. He spent a great deal of time talking about the kingdom of heaven. In this regard, that should be our central theme. We must consider the church as the medium through which kingdom potentialities are brought to reality. Leo Tolstoy aptly suggests, "Before you can hope to make the world better you must make yourself better." What this means to us is that before we build altars and sanctuaries we must build up faith and purity and the spirit of prayer. Before we preach the truth to others we must preach it to our own heart first. Someone said that "the character of any organization is determined by the character of its members." Note that the thing that spoils the average church is not that it does not have the glorious

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All Saints Episcopal Church
147 Daniel Lake Boulevard
Jackson, MS 39212
601-372-5185

The Rev. William Ndishabandi
Rector

The Rev. Bill Hanna
Deacon

The Rev. Cathy Halford
Deacon

THE VESTRY

Greta Lovell Senior Warden
Tim Ryan Junior Warden
Jolinda Charbonnet Treasurer
Therese Hanna Clerk

Kenny Hall Vanessa Kelly
Tori Meyers Shungu Nhema
Lissa Nelson Christine Nelson
Danielle Gallagher Jason Kelly
Alec Valentine

**The Vestry meets after the
10:30 service on the
3rd Sunday of each month.**

Our Mission

**"We strive through prayer,
worship, study, and fellowship to
be a people, individually and
corporately, in whom and
through whom Christ lives and
changes the world with his
Love."**

Sunday Services

8:00 A.M. - Holy Eucharist
9:30 A.M. - Sunday School
10:30 A.M. - Holy Eucharist

**Healing is offered on the 2nd
Sunday of each month.**

www.allsaintsjacksonms.com

Newsletter submissions:

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WHAT IS THE CHURCH? (Continued from page 1)

Jesus as its head and the Holy Bible as its guide and room for life and faith. But those of us who claim to be Christians should not only be "doers of the word not hearers only" (*James 2:22*). Our less involvement with testifying Christ hurts the cause and spoils the church.

I know of some churches that spend a great deal of money in advertisement on television, radio, and bill board trying to allure people to join them. Some have seen positive results and others have not. But is this ideally the best way to do ministry? Think about one Sunday morning, on your way to church, you see one of the bill boards on I-55 or I-20, saying, "Hey! There's free food "Dish and Dollar" at All Saints; come one, come all!" Don't be surprised some people may show up for food not for prayers. The numbers of worshipers on Sunday morning are dwindling everywhere, churches are struggling to maintain their facilities, and hence the attendance for the entertainment industry is escalating. Why is it so? Has the church lost its flavor? Is it no longer a light to our feet, a lantern to our hearts? Think of the visitors that visited our congregations in recent days and left unnoticed. Do you think these folks will consider visiting our church again?

The reason secular business is flourishing is because people trust in the business, like what they do, believe in their products, and are committed to do almost anything to sell it. They stay on top of it. Whereas in the church, though we claim to be the same body, we have different opinions on almost everything. They are those who like high church liturgies. They are those who love contemporary music, quick fix sermons, low and casual atmosphere. They are those who are naive about what is going on in the church. Mead suggests that "The church that ought to be, in the spirit of Jesus, must open its doors wide to meet the deep needs of people, no matter who or where those people may be. The church is not a museum for the display of saints, nor is it a hospital for the cure of sinners, but the church is here as the lengthened shadow of Jesus, to do His work, to seek and to save that which is lost" (*Loren Mead, 1991*). Thus, advertising with our half-hearted, apologetic attitude toward the church is not the way to win people to Christ through the church. Bartow says, "The church that ought to be will need in all her members the spirit of *individual* responsibility which is but another *expression for the spirit of sacrifice*, and if the church is to endure, two elements must never be overlooked: evangelism and stewardship. Evangelism is the answer to the question of what Christ has done for you? Stewardship is the answer to the question, what have you done for Christ? To answer the one honestly, the other must be considered"(*Henry Bartow, p.210*).

In conclusion our church needs to regain the radiance of a lost religious enthusiasm and to scale the summits of a high adventure with God. Our church needs some provocative prophets of God like John the Baptist in the wilderness and George Wheatfield the author of the great awakening. We all need a church we can call home, where the sorrowed are comforted, the wounded are healed, and the needy are helped. We need a church that is able to encourage the pilgrims on the journey and helps them to stay on the course, fight the good fight and aim to win the prize (Phil. 3:12-20). A church with a simple mission statement, "And other sheep I have which are not of this fold: them also I must bring and there shall be one fold and one shepherd" (written on the tomb of one of the greatest missionaries to the African continent, David Livingstone). A church with the heart of Jesus where everybody is somebody. Can you identify the above mentioned qualities in the church you attend? That church in YOU!

William+

Prayers of the People

Please remember to pray for Edward, Scott, Lissa, Marion, Vicki, Jennifer, Adelaide, Betty, Mary Jane, Janis, Mary Lane, Stephen, Lela, Lori, Anna, Collin, Angel, Dean, Bob, Jolinda and Sandra;

For Daniela Hines during her pregnancy;

For Adam Pastor and Marc Hines, serving in the active military;

For students and teachers, and parents as they begin a new school year.





Junior Warden Report

Not long ago I replaced the thermostat for the A/C unit in the Sanctuary. This was done on the advice of the HVAC technicians who installed the furnace earlier this year. I am still not certain as to whether or not the thermostat was the cause of the occasional problems we were having. Since then it was reported that the A/C would not come on at all. I called the technician out again to look at the unit. The good news is that the repair was relatively minor and thus the repair bill was just over \$200. I am always concerned when I have to call for HVAC work due to the age of most of our units. There are a total of 6 compressor/furnace units on our property. To my knowledge all but 1 A/C unit and 1 furnace unit are original to the property. There will come a time when many of these have to be replaced.

At William's request, I am actively clearing brush and shrubbery from the area on the south end of the property, along the fence line. This should be complete in another weekend or two. Our fence along this property line has done its job for the past 4 years in greatly reducing the number of trespassers, however in the past few months there have been some problems. I also plan to improve the lighting in that same area. Hopefully the increased visibility and better lighting will help to alleviate trespassing and other problems.

Removal of tree debris along the west side of our property is ongoing, albeit slowly. If anyone can assist in this effort it would be appreciated.

Tim Ryan

August Birthdays

Kay Valentine - August 6
Vanessa Kelly - August 10
Stan Saucier - August 10
Vicki Stuart - August 15
Noel Didla - August 17
Mary Lane Wheatley - August 20
Orin Gallagher - August 22

August Anniversaries

Stephen & Vicki Stuart - August 8
Tim & Lynda Ryan - August 15

Ultreya

Ultreya will meet at 12:30 on Sunday Aug. 22 in the large Christian Education room in the Parish Hall.

We want to send 2010 Ultreya dues to Cursillo in Mississippi by the end of August. You may give your check for \$22 to Lana Taylor or Pam Turner. Thank you for helping support Cursillo weekends in our diocese.

Let's Eat Shrimp, Mississippi

The Lutheran-Episcopal Services in Mississippi will hold their annual fundraiser
Sunday, August 29 from 4 to 8 p.m.

(This is the weekend BEFORE Labor Day weekend and our parish weekend).
This year's menu will be **shrimp creole** (shrimp not from the Gulf, unfortunately).

Tickets are \$20.00 each.

Raphael Semmes has put together a great musical lineup for the afternoon.
This year the money will go to four programs of LESM which support and strengthen the lives of young persons whose parents are incarcerated.

Get tickets or more info from Alec Valentine (601-750-5592).



New Adult Sunday School Classes

Begin 9/12 at 9:15
(the Sunday after Bratton Green)
in the parish hall.
The response has been very good,
we should have 3 or 4 small classes
to chose from.
For more information,
Contact Lissa Nelson.

Billy Brumfield Meal

All Saints will be providing and
serving the evening meal at
Billy Brumfield Shelter on
Sunday, Aug. 22.

If you would be willing to help serve
please be at the church at 5 p.m. to
travel to the shelter.

Confirmation, reaffirmation and baptism
registration opens in August. Please see
Father William for more information.

Bishop Gray's annual visit will be on
Sunday November 7, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.

Thank you for your prayers for Ian during his trip to Israel. -Greta

All Saints weekend at Camp Bratton Green is Labor Day weekend, September 3-6, 2010. We will have church at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 4 in the Chapel at Camp Bratton Green, followed by a pot luck supper at 6:30 p.m. Scott Essex has agreed to cook the meat for Saturday's dinner, so please brings side dishes and desserts to accompany the meal. Big House and cabin rates for the weekend have not been determined. We will post these in the bulletin as soon as they are available.

Retreats at Spirituality Center in Grand Coteau, LA

3 day Silent Retreats availabe during Aug. 2 to Aug. 11, Aug. 23 to Sept. 1, Sept. 13 to Sept. 22 , and Sept. 27 to Oct. 6 .

"A Day of Renewal for Women " presented by Andrea Vidrine
Evening Aug. 20 to Evening Aug. 21

"Workshop for Life Transitions" presented by the Rev. Hernando Ramiriz
Friday Sept. 10 to Sunday Sept. 12

"Waking up to This Day" presented by Paula D'Arcy
Thursday Sept. 23 to Sunday Sept. 26

"Waking up to This Day" presented by Paula D'Arcy
Thursday Oct. 7 to Sun. Oct. 10

"AA Weekend: Staying Sober with the 12-Steps" presented by The Rev. Tom Weston
Wednesday, Dec. 1 to Sunday, Dec. 5

If you are interested in any of these retreats, more information ia available on printed sheets on the ta-



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Expect a Miracle!



August 2010

Altar Guild for August: Pam Turner & Ross Turner

	August 1 10th Sunday After Pentecost	August 8 11th Sunday After Pentecost	August 15 12th Sunday After Pentecost	August 22 13th Sunday After Pentecost	August 29 14th Sunday After Pentecost	Sept 5 15th Sunday After Pentecost
Crucifer	Pam Turner	Christine Nelson	Emily Saucier	Christine Nelson	Kinsey Narmour	Gray Center
Server	Ross Turner	Tori Meyers	Vicki Stuart	Tori Meyers	Greta Lovell	Gray Center
Layreader: 8:00 10:30	Jolinda C. Cindy G.	Emma M. Jolinda C.	Jolinda C. Cindy G.	Emma M. Jolinda C.	Jolinda C. Cindy G.	Gray Center
Chalice Bearer	Jolinda C.	Ross Turner	Hank Holmes	Melissa Stuart	Greta Lovell	Gray Center
Lectors	Joy Patterson Connie Taylor	Lauran Hall Lissa Nelson	Lisa Saucier Stephen Stuart	Kenny Hall Vicki Miles	Jolinda C. Greta Lovell	Gray Center
Host Family	Therese Hanna	Lissa Nelson	Lisa Saucier	Connie Taylor	Polly Blakeney	Gray Center
Coffee Host	Dish & Dollar	Naomi N.	Scott Essex	Gallagher Family	Greta Lovell	Gray Center
Nursery Worker	Alex L.	Alex L. Cindy G.	Alex L.	Dorothy N. Alex L.	Dorothy N. Alex L.	Gray Center

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