



The Evangelist

September 2011

The Newsletter of St. John's Episcopal Church, Clearwater, Florida

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Renovation, The 3 R's</i>	3
<i>Adult Formation</i>	4
<i>Youth, Wed. Worship</i>	5
<i>FAST</i>	6
<i>ER&D</i>	7
<i>Stewardship</i>	8
<i>ECW, Retirees</i>	8
<i>Fellowship</i>	9
<i>Change happens</i>	10

The Mission of St. John's Episcopal Church

- To LOVE,
- To SERVE,
- To GROW in CHRIST.

GLAD TIDINGS

"One of the difficulties in bringing our churches into the 21st century is defining what a successful church is. Is it based on the number of members? Or perhaps more accurate would be a measure of the number of people 'touched' during the course of a year. Maybe we should abandon numbers all together and consider the strength and quality of worship, or whether folks are growing spiritually, or if work and mission are done in small group settings," observed Jim Thomas, a member of the United Church of Christ stewardship team in Vermont. There are no cookie cutter models of healthy congregations. The following is a brief list of indicators that characterize a vibrant congregation:

- The concept of church vitality is difficult to define and probably more difficult to capture in quantitative measures. Like fine art, we may not be able to define it, but we "know it when we see it." Usually within 15 minutes of a visit, a guest in a congregation can sense vitality or not.
- Vitality is more than numbers. A vital congregation is one that makes a real difference in the lives of its members and the

wider community.

- Willingness to change their ways of "doing ministry" when a change affords greater opportunity to make a difference in the lives of people and the larger community is a mark of vitality.

- Congregations which report themselves as vital are more likely to be in good financial health.

- Meaningful worship that engages the people is a mark of vitality.

Working for social justice and being a moral beacon in the community are marks of congregations that describe them selves as vital. (adapted from <http://myemail.constantcontact.com/VT-Conference-Faithful-Stewards-Newsletter.html?soid=1101916062635&aid=Y7XNKcOelZY>)

The Episcopal Church published a Congregational Life Cycle graph, illustrating the various stages of a congregation's life (and can apply to any group/community). Typically, when a congregation experiences sufficient growth, it will begin to stabilize. However, once it hits that plateau, if it doesn't take intentional steps to

redefine its mission, it will begin to decline.(See Life Cycle graph that follows this article.) Almost 30,000 people live in St. John's zip code and approximately 40% are part of a worshipping congregation. Continuing to "do ministry as usual" is not an option if we want to share God's love among our neighbors, particularly those who have no church home. Vitality is about constant renewal and change—as new opportunities to reach out and serve present themselves. The people of St. John's are wonderfully faithful. God calls each person here to consider ways of making Christ's love known at work, in the family and neighborhood—whether by being more aware of the needs of people around us or inviting others to participate in St. John's activities and ministries. Facebook provides a means of telling others about God's love experienced through St. John's. Increasing revenue leads to expanded ministry and service.

A cross section of our congregation comprises a work team to explore ways of broadening our visibility

Cont'd on page 2

GLAD TIDINGS (CONT'D FROM PAGE 1)

Happy Birthday wishes in September to:

- 1 Hank Burgos, Mary Every, Patricia Rath
- 3 Ann Scally, Kris Kondilis
- 5 Bob Zimmerman
- 6 Clara Hague, Gene Ginn III
- 7 Gregory Lomas
- 8 Diane Maltby, Gertrude Membrino
- 9 Julie Parente, Alyssa Rill
- 12 Debra Smith
- 13 Barbara DiCairano
- 14 Dan Martinez
- 17 Bonnie Lovell, John Krest
- 19 Velia Evans
- 20 Marlene Eichelberger
- 23 Emily Griffin
- 25 Lori Musket
- 26 Ken Burtner
- 30 Kenzie Jones

Happy Wedding Anniversary wishes in September to:

- 6 Gene and Martha Ginn
- 7 Jim and Glad McCurtain
- 11 John and Bernice Thorne, John and Gail McCoy
- 12 Joe Barkley and Mary Lou Ambrose, Drew and Janice Liscinski
- 24 Jason and Nikki Riggs
- 26 Harry and Ann Scally

If your birthday or anniversary occurs this month and your name does not appear here, please call the Church Office to let us know.

and the accompanying revenue streams to support expanded presence in the larger community. They are: Dr. Charlie McAllister, Sr. Warden Jan Davis, Jr. Warden Dr. Glenn Smith, marketing specialist Audra Aja, accountants Dave and

Beth Burton, Civil Rights investigator Kris Kondilis and Bonnie Rosendale as technical support.

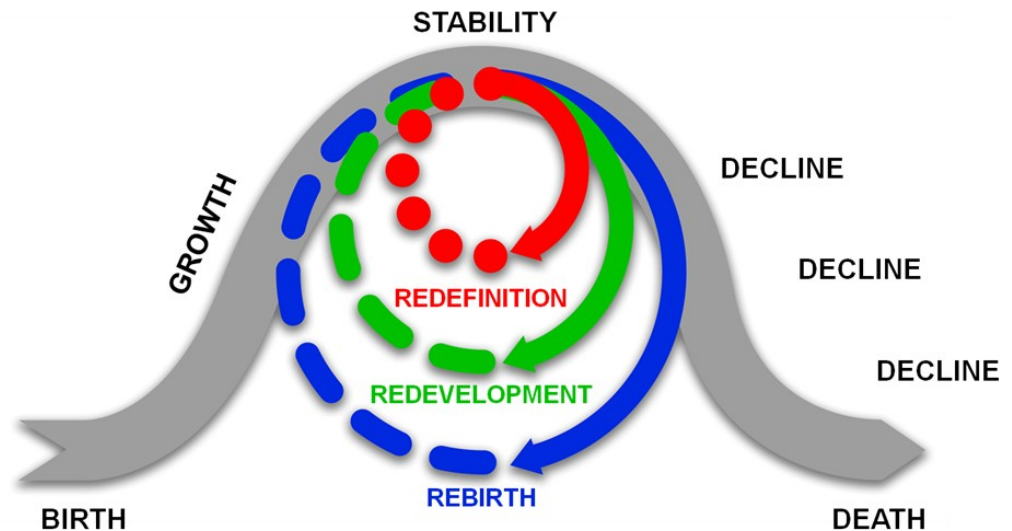
Together let us pray and then be ready to put our lives in God's hands—who

will is already preparing the way and will lead us.

Love! Peace! Joy!

Glad

Life Cycle of a Congregation



Source: Episcopal Church Foundation

ST. JOHN'S FACEBOOK PAGE

Have you visited St. John's Facebook page? If not, please check us out and like us. You could even go one step further and suggest the page to your family and friends. The more "fans" we have the better we are at communicating information and spreading the word of St. John's Mission- To Love, To Serve, To Grow in Christ.

To get started log into Facebook and type "St. John's Clearwater" into the search field. New to Facebook? Don't be afraid! Facebook is a lot of fun.

The website www.ehow.com is a valuable tool when looking for information/videos on how to learn new informa-

tion. Just type "How to Use Facebook" and a series of videos will appear. Do you prefer to have someone walk you through? Call Fellow parishioner Audra Aja at 727-488-9481 and she can help get you started.

RENOVATION NEEDED

The Vestry here at St. John's has recently taken up the issue of the church bathrooms. As many of you are probably aware, the bathrooms have become rather run down over their many years of service and are in need of renovation. We think that these bathrooms are an important part of our desire to have a bright, clean and welcoming environment for parishioners and especially guests. In their current condition, they create a negative impact. The plan is to renovate them completely with new stalls, cabinetry, fixtures, and a new floor, ceiling and freshly textured and painted walls. After getting bids from contractors, we have decided to use the same contractor who did such great work on the parish hall wall and the thrift shop. The total for both bathrooms is \$17,500.

FIRST FUNDING OPTION

Since we do not have the funding in our normal operating budget, the congregation will need to decide how to fund this project. The first option would be to tap into our endowment fund. This fund is an interest bearing account with a total value of approximately \$228,000 (depending on current market conditions) for the purpose of capital improvements on the church campus as needed. At the end of each year, the accrued interest is withdrawn and used to make repairs and improvements such as air conditioner replacement, roof repairs, etc. The total interest is typically about \$8,000. That amount is obviously not enough to pay for this project. In order for us to withdraw funds from the principal in the account, there needs to be a 2/3 vote by the congregation approving it.

SECOND FUNDING OPTION

The second option is to have members of the congregation make investments in the renovations. If 35 families invested \$500 each, then we would reach our goal. Or, if 70 families invested \$250, 100 families \$175, and so on.

A NEED FOR PRAYER

St. John's is a wonderfully warm and friendly church. Our people are so welcoming, and the campus and church building provide a beautiful place to be filled with God's Spirit. The Vestry doesn't want run-down bathrooms to detract from anyone's otherwise positive experience. We all know how important first impressions are. For many guests, the bathrooms may be one of the first things they see. So, please pray about this great need and let the Vestry know your thoughts.

Retirees sponsoring a presentation on the history of Pinellas County, Monday, September 12, 9:45 a.m.

THE THREE R'S

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle – God calls all of us to practice the three R's, as recycling reduces garbage and pollution as well as conserves energy and natural resources. Better yet - recycling turns into dollars and cents for St. John's. Examples: Newspapers and all mixed papers in the container in back of parking lot results in a small quarterly check to St. John's; Recycling of aluminum cans allows the Eager Beavers to purchase tools,

fertilizer and other items needed on the property; Empty printer ink cartridges are turned in to Office Depot and so increases our quarterly Worklife Rewards. Recently we've used them to acquire a new FAX machine, an external hard drive for the office, a back-up power supply and many office supplies. Thank you for recycling – for bringing items that would otherwise end up in a landfill.

Did you know that the average household has 2-3 old cell phones? We have found a company that will purchase old cell phones from churches and other non-profits – just another way we can turn trash into cash. Bring us your old phones. Collect them from friends and neighbors who don't know what to do with them. You can bring them to Church or to the Church Office. Remember. and practice the three R's.

ADULT CHRISTIAN FORMATION

SEPTEMBER 2011

Sunday Morning

'Breakfast with Jesus' looks at the Gospel of the day and asks questions such as, "What does the Gospel mean for each of us? What am I going to do this week in light of the readings? Do others share my thoughts?" This group is a great 'drop in group' as each week is a different discussion. Have breakfast or just coffee as we share our thoughts we each other. All are welcome.

Facilitator, Doris Martinez.

Tuesday Evenings

We will be viewing and discussing the last six episodes of Diarmid MacCulloch's DVD series, *A History of Christianity* this fall. If you missed the first presentation there are summaries available if you want to join us for the next presentation. The group will meet Tuesday September 27 through November 2.

Diarmid MacCulloch is an Oxford History Professor whose books about Thomas Cramner (who wrote and compiled the first two editions of *The Book of Common Prayer*) and the Reformation have been proclaimed as Masterpieces. *A History of Christianity* will reveal the true origins of Christianity and delve into what it means to be a Christian. All are welcome. Please consider joining us on Tuesday evenings.

Facilitator, Ann Scally

Wednesday morning Bible Study

Bible study began on August 24 after a short break this summer. We are viewing a DVD and discussing the Book of Acts. Discussions are lively as they always are during Wednesday Morning Bible Study. We meet at 9.45 am, have coffee and cookies, catch up on our week with each other and begin the DVD viewing at 10.00 a.m. Come join us on Wednesdays at 9.45 a.m. for fellowship with lots of learning about the Bible and what it means for us today. All are welcome.

Facilitator, Ann Scally.

EfM

Education for Ministry (EfM) will begin Tuesday evenings from 6:30 – 9:30 on September 6. As of today's date, we are not sure if we have enough people to have a class yet, but we are working on it. The first half of the year (before the Christmas break) will be held at Good Shepherd, Dunedin, and the second half will be held here at St. John's. We would be most grateful for any donations to the EfM scholarship fund to assist students who wish to participate, but just can't afford the \$350 per year cost all at once. Many are able to pay in part, and just need assistance to get enrolled as Sewanee requires the whole amount up front. They are then willing to pay the fund back on a regular basis.

Bonnie Rosendale, Mentor.

Dave Ramsey Financial Peace University

Contact facilitators, Jim McCurtain or Cliff Armbruster, for information. The present course has already begun and cannot be joined mid-stream. However, it will be offered again this winter if there is interest.

Please join one of the classes offered here at St Johns. We have something for everyone. In each group there is a sharing of fellowship and great learning for us all. As always all are welcome.

For more information on any or all of our adult formation offerings, please contact Ann Scally.

*Intergenerational
Beach Party Kick-off
Sunday, Sept. 11,
3-5 p.m. at
Clearwater Beach*

YOUTH BACK IN ACTION

Youth In Action is back in Action this month! The lazy, crazy days of summer are gone. We are back in school and looking forward to seeing all of you around the campus again this fall!

We will kick off our year with a Beach Bash September 11, 3-5:00pm. Everyone is invited. We look forward to an intergenerational fun time.

Location: Clearwater Beach at the north end of Mandalay Ave near Fren-

chy's. Look for the tables and canopy. Bring a dish to share.

On September 18, parents and youth will gather for lunch, fellowship and planning upstairs in youth rooms after the 10 a.m. service.

The first month of YIA will be preparing for Confirmation on October 16 by Bishop Dabney Smith. Youth who have already been confirmed will be

presented for Reaffirmation. If you have any questions regarding the classes or Confirmation, please see Rev Glad, Danene or Margaret.

Great starts to a great year! Keeps us in your prayers for the new year!

Blessings and Peace
Danene & Margaret

WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

Lord's Prayer Discussion at September Wednesday Eucharist

During September the homily discussion time at the noon Eucharist and Healing service will be an exploration of the Lord's Prayer. This is the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples when they asked him to teach them to pray. Today the Lord's Prayer is the best known prayer. When our Eucharistic Visitors take Communion to our homebound brothers and sister, this is the one prayer that everyone, re-

gardless of health, knows and often recites during the brief worship service.

Want to know about the noon service?

Some people aren't aware of the weekly service; others think they have to be sick or have some special gifts or calling to participate. This is a mid week Eucharist at which we pray for the world, the church, and one another. We use oil blessed by our Bishop, and those who would like, come forward to be anointed and have prayers

for themselves or others for whom they would like prayers. Some people choose to gather around and lay hands on a shoulder of the person for whom prayers are being offered. Others remain in their seats in prayerful reflection/meditation. The service includes communion.

Brown Bag Lunch following Wed. Noon Service

At 1 p.m. on Wednesdays people are encouraged to enjoy lunch together in the parish hall.

*Confirmation, Oct. 16.
Diocesan Bishop
Dabney Smith will
administer the Rite of
Confirmation at the 10
a.m. service.*

2ND ANNUAL DANCE FOR HOPE

The Barbados Association of Tampa Bay invites you to the 2nd Annual Dance for Hope, Friday, Oct. 21, 7 p.m. - 1 a.m. at the Egypt Shriner's Activity Center in

Tampa. A Caribbean Dinner will be served. Music by DJ Charlie Brown. Admission is \$35 in advance; \$40 at the door. All proceeds aid in the fight against cancer.

For more information, contact Hedy Griffith at 510-3999 or hgriffit@live.com

FAST—RETHINKING JUSTICE

What does the Lord require?

That we do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with our God. (Micah 6:8)

How do we “do justice?” Well, at our Baptism and every Baptism we recommit to “strive for justice.” (BCP 305).

Sometimes we become consumed in our own lives that we are blind to injustice. Sometimes as individuals or as a congregation, we might observe a group of people being denied access to goods and services for a life of dignity. However, we might feel helpless to take action. For example, for various reasons many of our youth are not graduating from high school and, therefore, not acquiring tools that prepare them for adulthood. As an individual or even as a congregation, St. John's will have little impact on changing some underlying problems in Pinellas children's education.

Therefore, St. John's joined FAST (Faith and Action for Strength Together), a county-wide interfaith justice network. FAST is a vehicle whereby faith communities work together for justice. Ordinary people, working through their faith community, become involved in public action to make changes on issues that the network has identified as important.

Rethinking Justice Workshop

On Saturday, October 1, FAST will host a justice workshop at Rock of Jesus Baptist Church, 3940 18 Ave S. St. Petersburg, from 9am-noon. The Rethinking Justice Workshop will examine God's call to do justice. Join us as we read scripture, discuss the problems in our community that need addressing, and make a commitment to do justice as God calls us to do. People from St. John's will have an opportunity to discuss our concerns about issues in a small group as well as with the larger group. People are encouraged to participate so that we can become more effective advocates. People acquire tools



to listen, learn and act. Participants become more aware of the way our religious, political and economic processes work to the benefit or the detriment of justice and dignity of life for everyone. Organized money and organized people are two primary ways that change on a large scale (systemic change) occurs. Unlike the civil rights movement led by Martin Luther King, Jr, forty faith communities have chosen to be join with other congregations in a grass roots way, to address together such issues as education, jobs, crimes and drugs, and affordable housing. These are problems that require organized people of faith to bring change. We will carpool from St. John's parking lot at 8:20. Our rector, Rev. Glad McCurtain, will be a presenter. All are encouraged to attend whether new to FAST's ministry, have never heard of it, or have been involved since the beginning. For more information please contact our FAST team leaders: Mary Greenough, Mary Ellen Britts, or Barbara DiCairano.

Issues Updates

Education: After much research on ways to reverse the terrible high school graduation rate among males, especially black males in Pinellas County, FAST discerned that increasing reading skills in young elementary children as the key. FAST has recommended Direct Instruction as the core curriculum for 20 of our elementary schools that are struggling academically, FAST hosted a presentation on DI for the School Board members and district staff. As of the writing of this article, the outcome or response has been inconclusive.

Cont'd on page 7

*Sunday breakfasts
resume Sept. 11,
8:30 a.m.*

ER&D—DISASTER RELIEF

At the present time Somalia is experiencing its worst sustained drought in 60 years. Over 12 million people across the region are in need of food, water and other basic supplies. The United Nations is warning that famine conditions are likely to spread from two southern regions of Somalia to the entire country, as well as to parts of Kenya, Uganda and Ethiopia over the coming weeks. People are walking and walking looking for relief. Over 800,000 people have fled Somalia and are seeking refuge in neighboring Kenya and Ethiopia. The presence of these refugees is over-burdening the resources of the host nations. These statistics are overwhelming. The people are so far away. What can I do that will make any difference in their lives?

Thank God for Episcopal Relief and Development (ER&D). They are our eyes, our ears, our hands and our feet! They have a network of Anglican and Episcopalian partners on the ground in northern Kenya who are able to provide support for the refugees crossing the borders. Working with these partnerships, the ERD is able to provide safe drinking water, food, medical supplies, food for livestock.

This is our opportunity to give to the work of disaster relief. God has blessed this nation with so much abundance that it is hard to comprehend what other parts of the world are suffering. Our dollars go far and through the ER&D, and they go far efficiently. Please consider making a designated gift through the

church or go online to er-d.org to donate. Please pray for those affected by the drought and famine and for those who are supporting them. Pray for the return of rain and healthy harvests. (adapted from ER&D website article)

ER&D helps wherever disaster occurs, including in our own country. They will also accept contributions earmarked for Hurricane Irene relief or the tornadoes in the Midwest. Just designate to which area you would like your donation to go.

To give to ER&D, mail donations to: P.O. Box 7058, Merrifield, VA 22116-7058, or go to www.er-d.org

Congratulations to Adrin Puente Bryant who was named Tampa Bay costume designer of the year. Adrin is the costume designer for American Stage Company. Many of you know Adrin as the clown on Palm Sunday.

FAST (CONT'D FROM PAGE 6)

Affordable Housing: County Commission voted to not include any funds for the affordable housing trust fund—funds that were designated for that purpose from Pennies for Pinellas.

Jobs: FAST continues to work with the City of St. Petersburg on a hiring ordinance whereby companies to whom they award contracts will hire a certain percentage of qualified local residents.

Reinstatement of Addiction Rehab programs in jail: Sheriff Coates, who instituted Smart Choices and then pulled the program for budgetary reasons, is retiring. FAST has spoken with candidates for Sheriff.

Fall Annual Assembly, October 17

The Annual Assembly will be at Blessed Trinity on 54th Ave S. on October 17 at 7 p.m. At that meeting the congregations in FAST will decide on the issues to

research and address with public decision makers. Often FAST works on an issue for multiple years because the extent of the problem takes time to address and begin to resolve.

FELLOWSHIP CALENDER OF EVENTS

Weekly Breakfasts resume, Sunday, Sept. 11, 8:30 a.m. Scrambled eggs, sausage, French toast, coffee, juice – all for \$2.50.

Coffee Cake Club: Coffee Hour is starting a coffee cake club. They would like 2 people to sign up, each to provide a coffee cake for a week. It could also be a sweet bread such as banana, etc. It can be homemade or store bought. (No cookies, please.) For more information, contact Kathy Cates or sign up at church this weekend.

Other fellowship events

Oct. 16	Reception for Bishop and Confirmands
Oct. 30	Potluck luncheon after church
Nov. 24	Thanksgiving Dinner
Dec. 3	Death By Chocolate
Dec. 11	Greening of the Church
Dec. 18	Caroling
Jan. 28	Low Country Shrimp Boil
Mar. 24	Puerto Rican Dinner
Apr. 22	Mass on the Grass

COLLECTIONS FOR TROOPS

On September 11 we will be collecting items for troops serving in Afghanistan and Iraq. Needed are packaged snacks, women's hygiene products, baby wipes, lip balm, sunscreen, bandannas, socks,

Ziploc bags, cotton swabs, shaving cream, razors, soap, hand sanitizer, and other toiletry items. Items will be given to the Seminole VFW Post who will send items overseas.

For more information, contact Irmgard Hembree. The next collection day will be in November for Veterans Day.

WALKING THE MOURNER'S PATH

Beginning Sept. 21, Church of the Ascension in Clearwater will offer the program "Walking the Mourner's Path," an eight-week program designed for those who have lost a loved one at least six months previously. These small-group sessions guide

participants as they work to transform their grief into joyful living and to honor their loved ones as they experience the healing power of Christ. The classes are approximately an hour and a half and are led by two trained facilitators with guidance from

the clergy. For additional information or to register to attend, please contact the church office, (727) 447-3469 or facilitators Arlene Lathrop at (727) 531-9234, Ginger Phillips at (727) 447-1616 or Judy Sauers at (727) 798-3889.

The Thrift Shop will hold an open house on Sunday, Sept. 18 following the 8 and 10 a.m. services.

CHANGE HAPPENS, WHETHER WE LIKE IT OR NOT...

I recently witnessed a public conversation about change. The two people engaged in this interchange, did not think it was about that and if you ask them today, neither of them would likely even remember this conversation. However, it worried and concerned me to the point of needing to withdraw to pray for guidance - and I was only a witness to the exchange of words, not a contributor.

The Episcopal Church is changing. St. John's is changing. We must change or we will simply cease to exist. But why do we insist on making change so painful? Why do we work so hard to fight against change? Why do those who desire change sometimes choose to do so in such a disrespectful way? Why do we insist that "our way" is the "right way"? Where is Jesus in this?

The whole question becomes: How do we manage change without engaging in verbal violence, and hurting each other? Here is what I mean by "change" in the church and in St. John's...

I am a "cradle" Episcopalian. Many of us are. This means that we were born to families who were members of the Episcopal Church and were usually baptized as a babe and usually confirmed somewhere around eight, ten, twelve years old. Back then, confirmation was often a nine-month process.

Growing up in the church from the mid-1950s to the present day, I've observed some interesting evolutions in our church. Some have been welcomed. Some have not. Some have been welcomed by some people, and not by others. It's been a hard evolutionary path for us over the last few decades. For the most part, we have managed our changes fairly well. There have been some stumbling blocks, some things done not so compassionately, and some things done via revolution like the ordination of 11 women in Philadelphia on July 29, 1974, done without the blessing of the General Convention. Isn't it interesting that there is still tension over the theologi-

cal value of this position all these years later? With a female Presiding Bishop, none the less! However, this ability to keep working at "common ground" just like "common prayer" is one of the things that keeps me steadfastly a part of our beloved denomination.

Those who remember the days of the change to the 1979 BCP might also remember some of the biggest controversy ever! I remember sitting in the pew on the first Sunday with all new BCPs and, even though the congregation had full warning, when it came time to begin the service several people simply got up and walked out! I already had a copy of the "new" book and could not understand then what all the fuss was about. Now, after years of studying human nature, I know it was simply about change and how hard that is for some people.

And here's the really rough part: Those of us who don't know any history of an issue and who embrace a change can be really hard on those who are confused and unsettled, sometimes even frightened by change. The conversation I witnessed was hurtful on both parties' part and there was no reason for it to be so.

I realize that conversation (compassionate dialogue, not debate) is something that most of us are not very good at. It is an art in which one learns the basic skills and then must practice them rigorously in order to become even somewhat proficient in this art of compassionate dialogue. What is even more important is that words are as mighty as the finest swords. They hurt and tear people apart and too often those issuing the words are so intent on "winning" their position, that they fail to realize the hurt they inflict on others.

There was a time in our church, in the Episcopal Church and also in St. John's, when things were done in a certain way. Why? In reality, because that is the way we learned it was to be done, from those

Cont'd on page 11

*Seen in a Maxine
cartoon:*

*Change is good—
as long as I don't have
to do anything different.*

CHANGE HAPPENS (CONT'D FROM PAGE 10)

who came before us. A few things are governed by our Church Canons, but even those are “changeable” through a process. Many of the ways we do things are simply tradition, both national and local. Loving each other and loving our Lord is the only “right” thing that really matters.

One of our most precious resources is the venerated “elders” of our St. John’s family. They bring a wealth of years of wisdom and they often don’t change so easily. When we come at them with fire in our hearts for change, we frighten them and hurt them. We also disrespect them.

On the flip-side, other precious resources are our

“new” Episcopalians— young families, and our children. Many of these people see visions of possibilities and have energy that bring new life into our church mission. When our elders chastise them for not doing things the way they’ve always been done or scold them because of rigid, past traditions, they hurt and drive these life-giving people away. Again, we disrespect the other.

I invite you to think about the ways in which we talk with each other about change at St. John’s - not about the changes themselves, but in the compassionate dialogue that must take place around change.

I invite you to put away the

hurts of past experiences and lean forward into our Lord’s arms and ask HIM what to do. And then I invite you to listen - not talk over each other, not try to “win,” just listen - to Jesus and to each other. Change at St. John’s must happen or we will continue to decline and cease to exist. Change is about letting go of old ideas of “that’s the way we’ve always done it.” Change is also about letting go of hurtful revolutions and being listeners and organizers of integrating change with Scripture, tradition, reason, AND compassion. We will all be better for it.

Peace!
Bonnie Rosendale

FOR YOUR OCTOBER CALENDAR

Oct. 2	Blessing of the Animals; Bring your pets to church for a blessing
Oct. 16	Visit of Bishop Dabney Smith; Confirmation and Reception at 10 a.m. service; reception to follow
Oct. 21-22	Diocesan Convention
Oct. 30	All Saints’ celebrated (a week early due to choir presentation of <i>Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat</i> on Nov. 4-5)

DIAL A HUMAN

You know how frustrating it is to call a company and not be able to get through the phone messages and talk to a real person. Well, there are two websites that can help navigate so that you can speak to a human

being. One is www.dialahuman.com and the other is www.gethuman.com. The first lists companies alphabetically; the second allows you to put the name of the company in a search

box. Both give great tips on getting through to a person.

The Staff of St. John’s Episcopal Church

The Rev Glad R. McCurtain,
Rector
The Rev. Hugh Bell,
Retired Priest
John Wirth, Music Director
Marlene Eichelberger,
Parish Administrator
Thelma Lipp, Sexton
Danene Rice, Youth Leader
Margaret Richcreek,
Youth Leader
Mary Anders, Children’s Ministry

The Vestry

Jan Davis, Senior Warden
Glenn Smith, Junior Warden
Mary Anders, Finance
Cliff Armbruster, Pastoral Care
Mary Ellen Britts,
Christian Formation
Sallie Devine, Membership
Charles Gaudreau, Worship
Mary Greenough, Reach Out
Amanda Smith, Treasurer

Summer Service Schedule Sunday

8 and 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist
9 a.m. Adult Christian Formation

Wednesday

12 p.m. Holy Eucharist and
Healing

Saturday

5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist

Church Office Hours

Mon.-Thurs. 8:30 a.m.—5 p.m.
Friday 8:30 a.m.—1 p.m.

The Evangelist of

St. John’s Episcopal Church
is published ten times yearly.

Issue Deadline: The tenth day or
the second Monday of each
month—whichever comes .

**We reserve the right to edit
articles submitted for content
and length.**

Marlene Eichelberger, Editor



St. John's Episcopal Church

1676 South Belcher Road
Clearwater, Florida 33764-6517
Phone: 727-531-6020
Fax: 727-535-6020

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
St. Petersburg, Florida
PERMIT No. 4001



We're on the Web!
www.stjohnsclearwater.org



E-mail us:

churchoffice@
stjohnsclearwater.org

The Rev. Glad McCurtain
gmccurtain@
stjohnsclearwater.org

Marlene Eichelberger
meichelberger@
stjohnsclearwater.org

John Wirth
ddredar@aol.com

Thelma Lipp
lipp.t29@gmail.com

October 2, Blessing of the Animals Feast of St. Francis of Assisi

Bring your pets to church to be blessed on St. Francis Day, October 2. Our animals come into the church with us and sit (?) though the service. It is a fun (and loud!) service. All pets are to be leashed, caged or in some way restrained. Children who do not have pets may bring a stuffed animal.

*All the darkness in the world cannot
extinguish the light of a single candle.*

- St. Francis of Assisi

