



The Tentmaker

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Daphne, Alabama

September 27, 2017

A Message from Thack

The following passage from Scripture is our Gospel reading for next Sunday:

Matthew 21:23-32

“When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, ‘By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?’ Jesus said to them, ‘I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?’ And they argued with one another, ‘If we say, “From heaven,” he will say to us, “Why then did you not believe him?” But if we say, “Of human origin,” we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.’ So, they answered Jesus, ‘We do not know.’ And he said to them, ‘Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.’”

‘What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, “Son, go and work in the vineyard today.” He answered, “I will not”; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, “I go, sir”; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?’ They said, ‘The first.’ Jesus said to them, ‘Truly I tell you, the tax-collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax-collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.’”

I presented this passage because this is another example where the Bible speaks to us so clearly today. In this instance, it speaks to the political climate in our country. As I write this, the Senate is debating the merits of the proposed “Graham-Cassidy Bill” to repeal and replace Obamacare. I won’t get into the merits of either plan. Both are flawed and it will be hard to devise a health plan everyone can embrace. I just hope that whatever version of Trump care that’s passed provides more people affordable health coverage.

That said, I’ve been intrigued by the comments and actions of Senator John McCain in recent weeks. Though he’s always been regarded as a Senate “maverick,” he’s generally towed the Party line much of his career. However, on health care, he’s done the unimaginable—counter cultural even—he’s voted his conscience. Whether you agree with his politics or not, he’s not felt compelled by Party loyalty or threats from the President to campaign against anyone in the House or Senate who votes against his platform. In other words, he’s legislating.

Many, though not all politicians tend to walk political high wires. They have to be careful not to anger a particular constituency so they have to be circumspect about what they do or don’t say. Many have mastered the art of “pivoting”—of not answering direct questions but instead, rambling on about their own agendas. They’ve also learned how to pander to their constituencies one day, and then be intentionally vague the next day about anything controversial.

But this isn't new. The chief priests and elders in Jesus' day were expert politicians. They were skilled at obfuscation and could pivot with the best of them. However, they met their match in Jesus. In the above reading, Jesus asked them a question (in response to a question from them), that boxes them in and prevents them from pivoting.

As Matthew tells the story we don't even get a sense of what the chief priests and elders actually thought the answer was. Did they think John's baptism was from heaven? Or, did they think it was of human origin? There's not enough evidence in the text to suggest they had an answer in mind—because they are consumed with the consequences of their answer. Frankly, they didn't care what the answer was as long as the answer was well received. So, they fell back to the safety of their default position and said, "Uh, we do not know."

Jesus challenges their hypocrisy and insincere spirituality by telling them that the tax collectors and prostitutes are entering God's Kingdom before them. I like to think that if they had given an honest answer, right or wrong, Jesus would have been more forgiving of them. He might even have used this as a constructive teaching moment about the importance of integrity, conviction and the other virtues that seem to have gone out of fashion lately. However, by attempting to dodge the bullet and respond with a safe answer—is a clear demonstration of their willingness to put their own personal interests ahead of their pursuit of God..

Please know I'm all for searching for a consensus. Not every answer to thorny questions has to be black and white. I'm an Anglican after all and the via media is often a good place to be. As a recovering lawyer, I know there is still a lot of gray in the world. But people who pursue the Kingdom of God and the way of Jesus aren't called to offer safe answers, ignore injustice or only say what's popular just to pander to their base. No, to faithfully follow Jesus and be living witnesses of the Gospel will almost always put you at odds with certain principalities and powers. It takes tremendous faith and courage to hold fast to your convictions under these circumstances.

This brings me back to John McCain. Senator McCain has had many challenges in his life. He was severely wounded when he was shot down over North Viet Nam in 1967. He was further brutalized by his captors during his six years of imprisonment and almost died. He now suffers from a brain cancer that will most likely kill him. If that's not enough, some members of his own political party who have scarcely sacrificed anything for this country are calling for his impeachment because he won't tow the Party line. In the face of all this opposition and adversity McCain just smiles and keeps doing it his way—standing firm to his convictions. At least we know he's at peace with himself.

Peace, Thack

Bible on Tap

Bible on Tap has been rescheduled
for Friday, October 13th at 6:00 p.m.

We will meet at Daruma.

Childcare will be provided in McCann Hall for a small donation.

Pizza will be provided for the children.

Please RSVP as soon as possible to

Elizabeth Faust, 251-404-0537

or email ea.fst@hotmail.com



Come have fun on the green while helping the Exceptional Foundation Gulf Coast raise some 'green'!

It's our annual **Golf Tournament** held at Lakewood Country Club on Friday, October 27. The shotgun start at 12 noon begins a day of golf, food and **fundraising**! Lunch is provided as you wait to tee off and new this year is the EFGC **BALL DROP** ... have you ever wanted money to just fall out of the sky ... well this is as close as it gets because anyone can buy a ball and have it dropped from on high ... closest to the pin you might win!

Please see Jim Gordon, Linda McNamara or visit our website www.exceptionalfoundationgc.org for info ... or stop by the Foundation any day Monday – Thursday to sign up your team!

Thanks to everyone for consistently supporting the mission of Exceptional Foundation ... did you know that in October we celebrate **EFGC's 6th BIRTHDAY!!!** What a wonderful program powered by dedicated staff, fantastic volunteers, generous sponsors and of course our *exceptionally* awesome participants ... all 74 of them!!! Over these past SIX years EFGC has truly become "*a special place for those with special needs*" ... thanks everyone, have fun on the golf course and **HAPPY BIRTHDAY EFGC!**

HOLIDAY SHOPPE 2017:

Tickets to this year's Holiday Shoppe Gala will go on sale after the 8:00 service, Sunday, October 1 and can be purchased following each Sunday service and at the Shop until gone (We have sold out a week or two before the event for the last few years!). Tickets this year are \$30 per person. Tickets for those who sign up and work the Gala will be \$20...You MUST be on a sign up sheet to get the reduced price and you MUST work the Gala - No special prices for those who just want to buy a cheap ticket to get in to visit and drink! Sign up sheets will be in the Narthex or with the ticket seller each Sunday until the event. If you miss signing the sheet, but are still able and willing to work, please contact Jane Shoultz at jtshoultz@gmail.com or call her at 251-689-0301. There are lots of opportunities to help. Here is a list: 1) Friday, November 10, time to be determined - Set up tables and place table cloths; 2) Saturday, Nov. 11, 8:30 am - Move items from the Annex to the Life Center; 3) Saturday, Nov. 11, 8:30 am - Unpack for Decorators to display; 4) Saturday, Nov. 11, 9 am - Decorators may begin to work their magic; 5) Thursday - Friday, Nov. 16 & 17 - Cooking with Judi Gullede for the Gala - (Judi will set those times); 6) Bake/Prepare Treats for Airrior's Sweet Shop - to be sold all weekend; 7) Gala, Nov. 17 - Runners; Ticket Line; Hold Area; Sold Area; Cashier or Bagger; Bartender (Borden will select from applicants!); Department Floor Workers; 8) Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 18 & 19 - Cashiers, Baggers, Department workers; Sunday, Nov. 19 - Repack and Carry Unsold Items back to Annex and/or to the Shop.

As you can see, there are lots of things that need doing to make this event a success. Child care will be provided for the children of workers. Training classes will be required for all Gala workers. Sessions will be held a couple of different times the week before the Gala to accommodate different schedules. PLEASE come help us this year! We are counting on you! We really have a wonderful, fun time doing this!

Save the Date:

Trunk or Treat is Sunday, October 22 from 2-4. Invite your friends, and if you want to decorate a trunk let Mary Alice know, maryalice.mathison@gmail.com



Trunk
or Treat

SAVE THE DATE

Trunk or Treat

Sunday, October 22

2:00-4:00pm

This great outreach to the community served over 100 people last year. If you want to participate or decorate your car trunk and pass out candy please let us know! maryalice.mathison@gmail.com

It's October again and that means THINK PINK! Pink is the international breast cancer awareness color and I'm sure everyone takes note of it...you can't miss the pink cleats, towels and socks on the NFL players or the many Going Pink or Race for a Cure walks, runs, and tournaments that are held this time of year. Going Pink is a great way for all of us to get involved in spreading awareness about early detection and to show support for those who have previously, or are currently, facing breast cancer and treatment. So in the spirit of the month, let's talk about breast cancer and what you can do.

Breast cancer is the second most common cause of cancer in women with the first being skin cancers. About 1 in 8 women will face breast cancer at some point. And breast cancer isn't limited to women – men can get breast cancer as well although much less commonly. Each year, about 220,000 cases of breast cancer are diagnosed in women and about 2,000 in men. About 40,000 women and 400 men will die each year from breast cancer. The risk of getting breast cancer goes up with age – the average age when women are diagnosed is 61. Women who have a strong family history of breast cancer are more likely to be diagnosed with breast cancer themselves.

The good news is that women can survive breast cancer if it's found and treated early. At this time, there are more than 3.1 million survivors of breast cancer in the US alone. Deaths from breast cancer have been at a steady decline since 1990. While we talk about "breast cancer" as a whole, there are actually several different types of breast cancer and they don't always behave the same way – it's a very complex disease. But early detection does allow healthcare providers to begin treatment strategies sooner. Most women should begin getting routine mammograms between the ages of 40 and 49 to establish a baseline. After age 50, mammograms should be at least every two years or annually for women with stronger risk factors.

Self-breast exams and clinical breast exams coupled with routine mammograms are the best way to detect breast cancer in the early stages. Most insurances cover the cost of a mammogram with no copay. For the low-income, uninsured, and underinsured women across the United States, the CDC's National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection program offers screenings and diagnostic services at no cost for both types of cancers. Your healthcare provider can schedule you for a mammogram and help you find no cost screenings if needed.

In recent years, genetic testing has allowed healthcare providers to determine women who have a greater risk for developing breast cancer by looking for a mutation in the BRCA1 and BRCA2 genes. Consider talking with your healthcare provider to determine if genetic testing is right for you if you have two or more close family members (parent, sibling, or child) who have had breast or ovarian cancer, a close family member who had breast cancer in both breasts or before age 50, a family member who has had both breast and ovarian cancer, or if you are Eastern European Jewish heritage.

The latest trend in breast cancer specific care is Radiology centers designed to specifically meet the needs of women related to diseases of the breast. These centers are becoming increasingly seen in hospitals – including in our own community. These centers partner with surgeons to achieve quicker diagnosis and treatment options for women. If needed, more definitive testing such as a biopsy can often be done in these centers on the same day as the mammogram.

We've come a long way since 460 BCE when Hippocrates attributed the cause of breast cancer to "an excess of black bile" and treated it with opium and castor oil. But even with our great strides in awareness, breast cancer is still considered a taboo subject in many cultures represented in the United States. With a continued focus on awareness and early screening, there is a high likelihood that we will continue to see a decline in deaths from breast cancer and a continued increase in early detection and treatment.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact your healthcare provider and schedule an appointment for a clinical breast exam. And as always, please feel free to contact any of the parish nurses or email at parishnursestpaulsdaphne@gmail.com

Peace and health to you all.



Flu Vaccine Clinic

Sunday, Oct. 15, 9am – 12pm

Life Center

- Zero Copay for all Medicare Part D and most private insurances
- \$25.99 for cash or private pay (some vouchers will be available)
- Must bring insurance or Medicare card for billing
- Ages 7 and over

For more information contact Donna Nolte – 251.680.7367 or email parishnursestpaulsdaphne@gmail.com

+
KEEP
CALM
AND
GET YOUR
FLU SHOT

ST. PAUL'S SERVICES:

Sunday Worship

Holy Eucharist, Rite I
8:00 am

Christian Education
(Life Center and Malone Hall)
For Children and Adults
9:15 am

Holy Eucharist, Rite II
10:30 am

Wednesday Worship

Holy Eucharist, Rite I
7:00 am

Holy Eucharist, Rite II
with Healing Service
Wednesday
12:00 pm (Noon)

3rd Thursday of each month

Taize Prayer
(Narthex)
7:00 pm

BIBLE STUDIES

Sunday

Christian Education
(Life Center and
Malone Hall)
For Children and Adults
9:15 am

Tuesday

Men's Bible Study
(Malone Hall)
7:00 am

Wednesday

Morning Bible Study
(Library)
10:30 am

Great Wednesday

(Malone Hall)
6:00 pm
Potluck Supper and Study

VESTRY AND OFFICERS

Term Ending

December 31, 2017

Donna Brown
Nancy Dziubakowski
Tim Michael,
Sr. Warden
Howard Wilson,
Jr. Warden

December 31, 2018

Roxanna Carpenter
Davis Daniel
Jim Jackson
Janet Norman

December 31, 2019

Sue Cody
Alice Frederick
Michael Koepp
Tom Walker
~
Walker Jackson,
Youth Representative

Martha Lathan,
Clerk of the Vestry

Airrior Norwood,
Treasurer

Church Website

www.stpaulseasternshore.com

Email Address

officestpaulsdaphne@gmail.com

Phone

251-626-2421

Fax

251-626-2456

A Note from the Finance Committee

At the Vestry meeting on Monday, August 21, we had the opportunity to meet with Rick Thome of Merrill Lynch. Rick is our financial advisor for three accounts that are invested on behalf of St. Paul's. Rick and his family previously lived in Fairhope and relocated to Atlanta a few years ago. He comes back to the area a couple of times a year and visits us. The accounts are invested following "moderate risk" and "moderate conservative risk" guidelines as defined by Merrill Lynch. He explained that the accounts are invested in mutual funds, and those mutual funds are monitored by over 300 Merrill Lynch advisors worldwide. They work to make sure the percentage of funds invested in stocks or bonds stays consistent with the goals of the funds, and of course make changes to keep the funds balanced and to help grow the funds. Over the last year, our accounts have grown between 6 and 10 percent. Our fees are an annual flat fee of 1.25 percent, assessed against the total account value. Tim Michael's asked Rick some very good questions about the market and expectations. Rick said that although the Dow Jones is high right now, it might be due for a market correction. The market corrections happen periodically and we appear to be due for a correction. He said there have been small corrections but the market has recovered quickly. You may have noticed that interest rates are rising slightly. This usually has a negative impact on long-term bond yields. As a result, most of our portfolio bonds are now short-term. Rick explained that corporation earnings have been very steady this year and this has helped our investments grow.

Rick is available to assist St. Paul's members with any financial questions you may have. He can be reached at (404) 231-2469 or rick.thome@ml.com. Rick also reminded us that he can facilitate any donations of stock that you might consider making to St. Paul's as part of your estate or financial planning. For example, stocks where you might be exposed to high capital gains are good candidates to donate to St. Paul's. You get the benefit of the higher tax deduction for the stock's appreciated value.

After Rick's presentation, Airrior reviewed the building and operating fund balances for St. Paul's and Janet reviewed the actual financial results compared to budget. We are on target for what we budgeted, but as expected, our cash flow is weak as we continue through the summer months. The Vestry voted to accept and approve the financial reports presented. If you have any questions about our financial statements, please contact me at (251) 644-5026 or jmn9210@yahoo.com.

Janet Norman, Finance Committee Chair

Prayer Requests

Immediate Prayer Requests:

Tim Battles, Kim and Richard Blackwell, Grayson Blackwell, Lauren Gallagher, Odell James, Rhonda Jones, John McKeown, Drew McPherson, Paul Reese, Jennifer Stephens, The Rev. Samford Turner

Ongoing Prayer Requests:

Glenn Addison, Paul and Ellie Anderson, Marie Baggett, Christopher Blackwell, Jean Bolton, Lil Brown, Clare Castleman, Dawn Cort, Jim Council, Margaret Cummins, Jerry DeLoney, Trevor Hawkes, Susan Hill, Theresa Johnson, Carol Keeney, Olen Lambert, Hunter Lee, Andy Lipps, Jim Lonnergan, Dick McBride, Allen McKnight, Bob McKnight, Clare Moran, Donna Och, Sam Pace, Joey Pecarrere, Kaygan Pologruto, Al Rawls, Eleanor Reeves, Grantham Lawrence Poole Reneau, Loren Rudolf, Ruth Skaggs, Cathy Slagle, Phyllis Springen, Steven Stack, Gene Stealey, Jed Steber, Ted Stickney, Albert Thompson, Sallie Thornton, Bill Waid, Jane Watkins, Gaye Wilson, Caroline Yearty

For the Departed:

For Those Serving in the Military:

Matthew Cheatham, Jackson Deaton, Michael Duchesne, Christopher Dukarm, Chris Evans, Diana Evans, Landis Fouts, Deron Frailie, George Garner, Steven Grey, Matthew Harris, Rusty Henry, Karen Hubley, Daniel James, Matt Jones, Daniel Lambert, Chris Lessard, David McMillan, Patrick Mong, Bryan Quinn, Neil Quinn, Justin Ramsey, Taylor Santa Cruz, Neill Sevelius, Derek Siegel, Andy Tuttle, James Wallin

For those with Birthdays:

October 1-31

(01) George Schroeter, Haley Meshejian, (02) Daniel Wolfrom, Julia Ahrendt, (04) Susan Currie, Carter Simpson, (05) Linda Koenig, Shawn Alves, Sterling McFarland, (06) Wayne Gatlin, Ron Reece, Sharon Mitchell, (07) Joan McKnight, Michael Taylor, (08) Ellie Anderson, (09) Ernie Berger, Bob Wolfrom, Gil Walton, Michael Robert Quinn, (11) Nancy Beck, Alyssa Mullins, Jackson Mullins, Seth Mullins, (12) Emily McGirl, (13) Tina Lemon, James Thomason, (14) David Green, Susan Powell, Kelly Meshejian, (15) Debbie Quinn, Patrick Davenport, (16) Madeline Ellison, (17) David Binder, Rachel Ingraham, (18) Arthur Oken, Cooper Dalto, (19) Elaine Glover, Cathy Slagle, Madeleine Haulard, (20) Sylvia Forbes, (21) Court Hurst, Robin Dilsaver, Julie Taylor, (22) Joan Wilhelm (24) Tim Michael, Mary Balhatchet, (26) Arvis Leininger, Caron Richards, Jeffrey Chamberlain, Donna Nolte, Michael Reeves, (27) Jo Moran, John Marron, Andrew Erdman, (28) Ann Davis, Townsend Vance, (29) Becky Costlow, Charlotte Patterson, Jennifer Erdman, (31) Jim Walker

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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St. Paul's Episcopal Church

28788 North Main Street

Daphne, Alabama 36526

The Rev. Thack H. Dyson, *Rector*

The Rev. Mary Alice Mathison, *Curate*

Paul Anderson, *Church Musician*

Elizabeth Faust, *Christian Education*

Terri McMillan, *Administrative Assistant*

Joan McKnight, *Staff Assistant*

Mark Costlow, *Life Center Sexton*

Mary Haulard, *Preschool* —251-626-2774

Office Hours 8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m. (Monday-Thursday)

8:00 a.m. — Noon (Friday)

Church Telephone: 251-626-2421 Fax: 251-626-2456

E-mail: officestpaulsdaphne@gmail.com

Thrift Shop Telephone: 251-626-6102

***We worship together as we seek God, serve God,
and share God with love and acceptance for all.***