

The

Envoy



March 2025

Words from the Senior Warden



Isn't life interesting! We don't know what is over the next hill or around the next curve on our journey. And we all have obstacles and challenges to add to the interest, individually and collectively. The thought of being the Senior Warden of a parish without a rector never crossed my mind when Pamela and I joined St. Vincent's. Pamela is fond of saying "Man plans and God laughs". As some folk may have missed my most sage comments at the Sunday service where I used the time for announcements to up-date the parish on certain significant matters, I will briefly repeat these points as follows:

1. Much like the federal government we spend more money than we collect. Unlike the Feds we unfortunately can't print more money to cover the shortfall. The reality is we can't significantly increase income or reduce expenses. We are funding the monthly shortfall through savings. We anticipate having adequate funds to meet expenses through the calendar year 2026.
2. We do not have adequate income to seek a rector or priest in charge. We will have to rely on supply priest. The Good News is that the Bishop recognizes our problem and we are not alone. Currently there are four parishes without a rector and one parish with a rector but not a useable church building due to the hurricanes-St Vincent's, St. Giles, St Anne of Grace and St. Matthews are without rectors and St. Alban's has structural damage to the buildings. The Bishop has called a meeting of clergy in the St. Petersburg Deanery to develop a plan to serve these parishes. Subsequently a meeting will be called to include lay leaders of these parishes. I don't think we can do anything with the rectory until we see how this settles out unless Cannon Norman directs us to rent the rectory.
3. As you are aware the Thrift Shop (the "Shop") management, Ruth Ann and Alice, are retiring May 31st. The monthly rent is \$2,400 per month. The fixed overhead expenses to include rent is \$3,645 per month. Obviously unforeseen expenses are incurred from time to time. The Shop has approximately \$22,000 in savings. If we are to retain the Thrift Shop, we need three to five volunteers to form a board or committee to manage and operate the Thrift Shop. We, the Vestry, are not seeking volunteers to work a few hours a month at the Shop. **We need leadership and management to operate the Shop in an organized manner.** We are currently, and have been for a number of years, on a month-to-month oral lease. Either party can terminate the lease with one month notice. In order to terminate the lease and

not incur additional rental expenses we have to give written notice of termination by April 30th. It is my intent for the vestry to determine at the April Vestry meeting whether we give notice of termination of the lease to our landlord. If we don't have an appropriate number of capable people to run the Shop, the Vestry will have to decide whether to terminate the lease and dispose of the Shop items, or to risk going further in the hole and depleting the savings and if so for what period of time. Thus far one person has expressed an interest in serving if she can get others committed and organized to share the burden. **If you have an interest in so serving, contact me.**

4. I am in the process of scheduling supply priest for Sunday service, and Lenten services, and organizing the Lenten Wednesday night series.

Yours in Christ,

Mike McManus, Sr. Warden

Hospitality

The year is flying by and the Easter season is upon us. Please check your calendar and hearts to sign up to assist with Wednesday's Lenten Soup Suppers and service. We need volunteers to set up and clean up as well as providing or making Soups.

Thank you to all for your donations and support to our hospitality ministry.

May God bless us all and draw us closer this Easter Season.

-Sandra Stancil, Hospitality



Lenten Soup Suppers

Soup Suppers:

Wednesdays at 5:30pm, Parish Hall:

March 12th

March 19th

March 26th

April 2nd

April 9th

Agape Meal:

Maundy Thursday, 5:30pm, Parish Hall:

April 17th

*Sign up in
the Narthex
today!*



SHROVE TUESDAY

Pancake Supper
Tuesday, March 4



5:30pm, Parish Hall



Ash Wednesday

March 5th ~ Service at 10am
Church Sanctuary

No Bible Study on Ash Wednesday



Come visit our

Thrift

Wed. - Fri. 10a - 2p
Sat. 10a - 1p

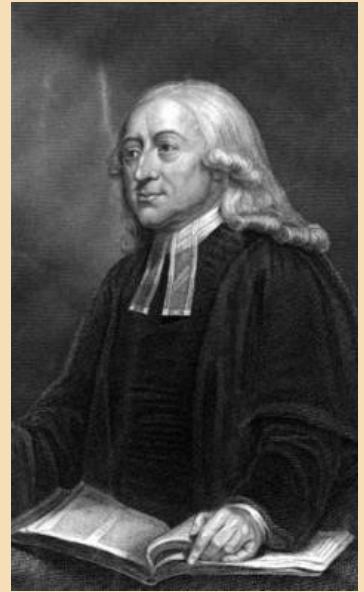
5124 22nd Ave. S., Gulfport, FL
#727-321-7215

- Clothing
- Books
- Small Electronics
- Magazines
- Underclothes
- DVD'S, CD'S
- Small Appliances
- Knick Knacks
- Shoes
- Kitchen Items
- Household goods
- Lamps & Artwork
- Puzzles
- Jewelry
- Crafts
- Linens

Saint of the Month

The **Wesley brothers** were leaders of the evangelical revival in the Church of England in the eighteenth century. They both attended Oxford University, and there they gathered a few friends with whom they undertook a strict adherence to the worship and discipline of the Book of Common Prayer, from which strict observance they received the nickname, "Methodists." Having been ordained, they went to the American colony of Georgia in 1735, John as a missionary and Charles as secretary to Governor Oglethorpe. They found the experience disheartening, and returned home in a few years.

There, three days apart, they underwent a conversion experience. John, present with a group of Moravians who were reading Martin Luther's Preface to the Epistle to the Romans, received a strong emotional awareness of the love of Christ displayed in freely forgiving his sins and granting him eternal life.



John Wesley
(1703 - 1791)



Charles Wesley
(1707 - 1788)

Following this experience, John and Charles, with others, set about to stir up in others a like awareness of and response to the saving love of God. Of the two, John was the more powerful preacher, and averaged 8000 miles of travel a year, mostly on horseback. At the time of his death he was probably the best known and best loved man in England.

Wesley's biblical world was, however, no enclave. *Sola Scriptura* (or Christian theological doctrine) was never a displacement of, or substitute for, classical learning: and this was natural enough in view of the fact that he had mastered the baseline curriculum of his Oxford education and had come to cherish the classical tradition as the font of Western civilization. But, although Wesley found it natural to approach the Gospel with habits of thought formed by a classical education, he was quick to recognize the value of other approaches. The early Methodist meetings were often led by lay preachers with very limited education. On one occasion, such a preacher

took as his text Luke 19:21, "Lord, I feared thee, because thou art an austere man." Not knowing the word "austere," he thought that the text spoke of "an oyster man." He spoke about the work

of those who retrieve oysters from the sea-bed. The diver plunges down from the surface, cut off from his natural environment, into bone-chilling water. He gropes in the dark, cutting his hands on the sharp edges of the shells. Now he has the oyster, and kicks back up to the surface, up to the warmth and light and air, clutching in his torn and bleeding hands the object of his search. So Christ descended from the glory of heaven into the squalor of earth, into sinful human society, in order to retrieve humans and bring them back up with Him to the glory of heaven, His torn and bleeding hands a sign of the value He has placed on the object of His quest. Twelve men were converted that evening. Afterwards, someone complained to Wesley about the inappropriateness of allowing preachers who were too ignorant to know the meaning of the texts they were preaching on. Wesley, simply said, "Never mind, the Lord got a dozen oysters tonight."

Charles was the better hymn-writer of the two. He wrote over 6000 hymns, including about 600 for the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Some of the better known are "Christ the Lord is risen today", "Come, thou long expected Jesus", and "Hark, the herald angels sing".

It was the intention of the Wesleys and their colleagues that their "Methodist Societies" should be a group within the existing structure of the Anglican Church, but after their deaths the Societies in America, and to a lesser extent in England, developed a separate status.

Collect for March 3rd:

"Lord God, who didst inspire thy servants John and Charles Wesley with burning zeal for the sanctification of souls and didst endow them with eloquence in speech and song: Kindle such fervor in thy church, we beseech thee, that those whose faith has cooled may be warmed, and those who have not known thy Christ may turn to him and be saved; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen. "

Taken and edited from: satucket.com / by James Kiefer



Men's Group Breakfast

**Saturday, April 6th,
8am-9:30am ~ Parish Hall**

**All Men of the Parish are invited
to attend as well as cook.
Sign-up in the Narthex.**

Prayers for Healing

Shut-ins:

Dante & Rosanna Balzano, Sybil Mulhauser,
Shirley Johnson

Members in Need of Healing:

The Matta Family, Shirley Bonney, Lisa Youla,
Ken Von der Heiden, Emily Matthews, Eileen Prins,
Edith Racine, Jim Frishe, Susan Burnett, Susan Austin,
Dante Balzano, Pat Goodin, Deb Carlisle

Healing for Friends & Family:

Sharon, Johnny B., Cliff, Bill & Dottie, Jimmy, Laura,
Kit W., Randy W., Melissa D., Darrell Blackston, Bill Falin,
Janet Depanoli, Diana, Sandra Schlage, Judy Prins
Franke, Sharon Stoll, Stephen Prins, Meg Nolin,
Mary Ellen Racine, Jim McKiernan, Michael Perry,
Leo Perry, Scott, Kelly, Michael Norris, Melissa Cercone,
Ellie White, Debbie Reeves, Sean Shannon, Mary Ebert,
Martha Salas, Lisa Goodin, Gerry, Carol Murphy,
Brian Hickcox, Katie Grayson, Heidi Myers, Nancy Fick,
Eric Ramsey, John, Dawn Cantrill, Donald Higgens, Pat,
Jack Tyler, Cory Maddox, Connie Rutter, Evelyn Hill,
Bill S., Beth Russ, Kellianne Meinhart, Jan Meinhart,
Chris M., Linda G., Doris Bishop, Janet D., Mike B.,
Robert Shaw, Michelle Johnson, Frederick Kirwin,
Susan Elias, Steve Norris, Debra Phillips, Kenneth Norris,
Dede Hacking, Carol Notarianni, Les Shull, Billy Reeves,
Curtis, Linda, David, Bennett, Pierce,
Rosemary McLean, Bella, Maria Paysan, Holly P.,
Tiffany Leigh, Erica Byrne, Josie Rose, Brenda Grismer,
Kylie Cunningham, Elena Gibson, Evelyn Pinckney, Mike,
Dave S., Vicky Bueller, Tyler, Jay Weisburg,
Gayle Coleman, Scott Walters, Louis Phillips, Janet Evans,
Lesley Tapley, Gracie Kranz, John Gugielmi

If you would like someone added to the prayer list, please call or
email the office: 727-321-5086 / officestvin@gmail.com

O God, the strength of the weak and the comfort of sufferers: Mercifully accept our prayers, and grant to
your servants the help of your power, that their sickness may be turned into health, and our sorrow into joy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Happy Birthday

2 Irmgard Colter
4 Sabrina Burkes
5 Don Mullikin
9 William Christian
10 Karen Christian
18 Fr. Richard Earle
18 Berry Ludwig
22 Connie Sartor
27 Jesus Molina Nieto
28 Patti Ventra



Happy Anniversary

7 Robin & Lou Ann Watson

Join us for
COFFEE and
Fellowship

~ Following the 10am Service ~



**~ March 9th ~
Time to move
those clocks
ahead by 1hr.**



St. Vincent's Episcopal Church

Loving God, Loving our Neighbor, Following Jesus Christ.

5441 9th Ave N., St. Petersburg, FL 33710

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Sexton

David Moore

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Deanna Wittstruck, Director
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Vestry 2025

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Hours 10am to 2pm; Wed. through Fri.

10am to 1pm on Sat.

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