



## Becoming Brackish: The Ebb and Flow of the Spiritual Life

A few summers ago our family vacationed on the Isle of Palms, a barrier island within sight of the new 575 foot tall Cooper River Bridge in Charleston. Between the Isle of Palms and the mainland is a vast estuary. East to west the estuary is two miles wide. North to south it extends beyond the horizon. We went on a dolphin tour through the estuary and weren't disappointed! As we sailed through the estuary and out to sea, the dolphins were everywhere! As the tide ebbs and flows, it brings the saltwater in and the freshwater out – the perfect environment for shrimp to thrive in. Just like me, dolphins love a feast of shrimp! So the dolphins leave the deep blue sea and venture into the brackish waters of the estuary, the perfect place to be. Normally I would think that either the freshwater or the salt water would be preferable to the murky brackish water of the estuary. Both are clear and clean, yet abundant life is in the ebb and flow of the murky brackish waters of the estuary. The same is true in your spiritual life. We desperately need to retreat from the adventurous high seas of life to the fresh waters of the Holy Spirit. It is in this ebb and flow, back and forth through the brackish waters of our lives that we find the abundant life God desires for us.



Recently I read *The Lover and the Beloved* by musician and monk John Michael Talbot. This wonderful little book compares your spiritual life to that of a lover and his beloved. Jesus is the groom and his people are the bride of Christ (Ephesians 5, John 3, & Revelation 19). For a marriage to thrive husbands and wives must be intentional about setting aside time for speaking, listening, and intimacy. Just as important, time must also be set aside for cleaning, chores, child-

care, and breadwinning. One without the other will doom a marriage. The same is true in your spiritual life. God has designed you to work hard, to care for your family members, and to earn a living. God has also designed you to live in an intimate relationship with Jesus, spending intentional time in his precious presence. One without the other will doom your relationship with Jesus. Holding both in tension brings you to the brackish waters of both, the place of abundant life. Talbot calls this the "mixed life." Instead of only withdrawing from the world to the "monastery" (to times of extended prayer and biblical meditation) or instead of only laboring in the tasks of this world, God would have us to live a "mixed life." He would have us cruise the brackish waters, to be in the world, but not of it, to fully engage our worldly duties, while fully embracing our precious Jesus, our "bridegroom" (John 3:29).

Jesus illustrated the "mixed life" in his dialogue with Martha and Mary (Luke 10). Martha labored in the kitchen. Mary sat in the presence of Jesus. Both are necessary if we are to feed our souls and our bodies. I believe the reason Jesus told Martha, "Mary has chosen what is better" is because our tendency is to spend time in the necessary tasks of this world, to the exclusion of quality time with our Lord. Come! Come in from the high seas through the brackish waters into the fresh water of God's Spirit. Be intentional about setting aside intentional time for worship, prayer, and biblical meditation. Be intentional about drinking deep of the "river of the water of life" (Revelation 22).

### Faith E-News

Are you receiving our email newsletter, Faith E-News? Faith E-News comes out a couple times a month with timely information and reminders. If you are not receiving Faith E-News please go to our website ([www.faithanglicanchurch.org](http://www.faithanglicanchurch.org)) today to sign up, or call the church office (755-4848).

### HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY



### OUR VISION:

A Christ Centered Community Growing in Faith.

### OUR PURPOSE:

The purpose of Faith Anglican Church is to proclaim the Good News, make disciples, and serve our neighbors.

### OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

- We equip lay people for ministry
- We provide biblically centered instruction
- We minister to people where they are
- We welcome all God's children
- We are theologically traditional
- We provide meaningful worship services
- We lead others to Christ.

# Youth Crew News

## Youth Sunday - Feb. 19<sup>th</sup>

Come be a leader. All of you are important to the community at Faith. God gifts his people in different ways and this includes you. On Youth Sunday, there are opportunities to participate in drama, reading, prayer, singing, and sharing. Come be a part and bless us through your service, gifts, and leadership. Breakfast will be provided for the youth in between services. Don't forget to bring snacks for fellowship time after the service and plan on staying a little later to help clean up.

## 30 Hour Famine

Come observe the season of Lent in a unique way. On March 16-17 we will be having a time of fasting, prayer, teaching, and community service. All Saints Anglican Church from Jackson, TN will be joining us as we build and sleep in a city of cardboard. Your time of fasting will begin after lunch on Friday March 16<sup>th</sup>. We will then meet up at Faith at 5pm. We will end our time together with a meal and be finished around 6:30 pm on Saturday March 17<sup>th</sup>.

## Ash Wednesday Services – February 22<sup>nd</sup> (Noon and 7 PM)

As our Ash Wednesday liturgy says, "I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word..." Please make plans to attend either our Noon or 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday service with the Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion. Childcare is available at the evening service. The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> and concludes on Good Friday, April 6<sup>th</sup>. Lent begins and ends with our only two official fast days of the year. Please plan beginning and ending this Lent with fasting and prayer. If you have questions or concerns about fasting, please contact Fr. Herb.

## Valentine's Dinner

The Valentine's Dinner will be on February 11, 2012 at 6:00.

Be watching for details in the Bulletin. Come and enjoy. This is our only all adult evening at Faith. Come alone or with someone. All are invited.

Jim Naufel



## BEE AT THE STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

Several months ago a task force began meeting to plan a signature event for Faith Anglican Church. By signature, we mean an event that will draw people to the church for a day of family fun where (hopefully) a large number of folks can get to know us in an informal setting. Several ideas were proposed, but as we began focusing on the time of year, April 21<sup>st</sup>, we decided on the theme of:

## ROCKY POINT STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL/Come Jam With Us!

The festival will be from 11 am to 3 pm on Saturday, April 21. We will have strawberry sundaes, peanut butter and strawberry sandwiches for the kids, strawberry cake, etc. There will be bouncing games for the children, crafts, cooking demonstrations, music, and lots more. This is a great opportunity for everyone in the church to pitch in and have fun at the same time. When we selected the property for the church, we said that it was a great location because there are thousands of cars that drive by every day. This event will give the drivers of those cars a reason to stop in and find out more about us. Some of these people already attend a church, but many more are unchurched. What a great opportunity to reach out and talk with people!

Look for the information available in the narthex and listen for announcements at church. But also expect someone to invite you to be a part of this exciting event.

Nancy Addcox

## THE BACK PEW - JEFF LARSON



A way to a woman's heart.. FLOWERS!  
.. psst.. real ones

<http://thebackpew.com>

## GETTING INVOLVED

At the end of Fr. Herb's recent sermon, he spoke about stepping up and getting involved. Our community of *Faith* has many ways to do just that. The Good News Proclamation team has a need for some help in two specific areas: banners & signs and social media.

Chris Shields and Elkins Crawford have been doing a marvelous job with our marquis and Fr. Herb and others have got our banner "ministry" off the ground. It is the banner effort that needs a few more people to lend their creativity and time to the design, maintenance, and display of our banners.

Our social media presence has been expanding throughout 2011 with a new website design and a vibrant Facebook page. However, we are still not leveraging these tools to their potential and we should be looking at other mediums as well. With a few "fresh" sets of eyes, we could really move our social media ministry forward this year.

Prior experience in either area is not necessary, just a willingness to get involved and share ideas. We all know what media we use most and what appeals to us and is that input that will be so vital to these efforts.

Contact Fred Ellrich for more information at

[fdellrich@yahoo.com](mailto:fdellrich@yahoo.com) or 901-218-8767.

Fred Ellrich

### The Truth Project – Coming to a Church near you!

Take a New Year challenge to deepen your knowledge of Scripture and the ministry of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The acclaimed video series, The Truth Project ([www.thetruthproject.org](http://www.thetruthproject.org)) will be presented at *Faith* on Sunday evenings from 5-7 PM, beginning February 12<sup>th</sup> and running throughout Lent.

This great spiritual learning journey is open to all, so "invite everyone". For more information, contact Fred ([fdellrich@yahoo.com](mailto:fdellrich@yahoo.com) 901-218-8767) or Tanya Ellrich ([ellricht@yahoo.com](mailto:ellricht@yahoo.com) 901-292-6049).

Fred Ellrich

## LENTEN FASTING

Don't you love the church calendar?! It was made to help keep us on track and to follow the life of Jesus. If you missed time with Jesus during Advent, and did not have a chance to take that retreat with Him in January, hallelujah, here comes Lent! February 22<sup>nd</sup> is Ash Wednesday. The church is calling us once again for a time of interior reflection in preparation for the

celebration of the Risen Christ. He has risen and we want Him to rise even more prominently in each of our lives day by day. The church calls for a fast on Ash Wednesday in preparation to the 40 days of fasting before Resurrection Morning. These 40 days of fasting do not include Sundays, but you can keep your fast on that day if you desire.

At the beginning of Lent, or preferably before Ash Wednesday, is a good time to schedule that retreat with the Lord. During that time, He can lead you into what fast He wants for you and what discipline/s He wants you to practice during Lent. There are some excellent books on fasting; *Shaping History through Prayer and Fasting* by Derek Prince; *The Coming Revival-America's Call to Fast, Pray, and "Seek God's Face"* by Bill Bright; and my favorite, *The Hidden Power of Prayer and Fasting* by Mahesh Chavda. Of course the internet has a wealth of information on Christian fasting. Remember that during the fast the emphasis is to focus on drawing closer to Jesus, to know Him better, and follow Him more perfectly. So as you give up certain foods, meals, TV viewing, computer time, etc., replace that time with a discipline that focuses on Jesus. Giving up something, as well as "taking on" something during Lent is helpful. Taking on extra Bible study or a prayer time, perhaps think of a way to serve in your church as "taking on" something for the Lord during Lent.

The early church fasted; Acts 13:2;-3, "*As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. (3) And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.*" Fasting brings you clear direction from the Lord. Personally, I can say fasting has brought great breakthroughs in my life. As you read about fasting, you will be encouraged and excited about what God will do as you follow His command to fast. Matthew 6:17-18, Jesus says, "*But you, when you fast, anoint your head, and wash your face; (18) That you appear not unto men to fast, but unto your Father which is in secret: and your Father, which sees in secret, shall reward you openly.*"

If you're ready for more of His life working through your life, then you're ready for fasting. Do some research, read some books about fasting, go on that retreat, and get excited about what He has for you during this Lent 2012 in preparation for the Risen and soon coming-again Christ!

Deborah Glover

## MISSION & OUTREACH

Thanks to all who signed up for the blood drive and brought food for the pantry! If anyone is interested in supplementing the canned goods with meat, cheese, and fresh produce call Laqueta. I will call you with details.

**Shrove Tuesday** is February 21. That evening we will enjoy a pancake supper and silent auction to benefit the mission work of Bro. Kirt Gerber. Once again there will be a "Secret Auction Item"....more about that later. It would be great if each celebration team, both councils, Men of Faith, Ladies' Bible Study, the ministry staff, and the choir would make a donation. Talk it over with your favorite group. Individual offerings are also encouraged. Consumable items such as food or services did well last year. Jill made a Texas chocolate cake to be baked for a special occasion. Becky Connor has agreed to auction an hour of individual or small group Tai Chi lessons. A jewelry-making class will also be auctioned. Wine or gourmet treats suitable for hostess gifts would be good. Be creative!

Of course, we need more than our own congregation to enjoy the fun. Tickets for the auction and dinner will be for sale in February. This is a great time to invite someone who might be reluctant to come on a Sunday.

Help is needed to shop for food items, cook, decorate, set up, clean up, count money, etc. A sign-up sheet will soon appear on the bulletin board. Those who sign up to help will receive free tickets!

Annette Kersting

## Mark Your Calendar!

### Prayer Corner

Please keep the following persons in your daily prayers, asking God to heal, comfort, and protect them.



Mansell Lancaster	George Narsico	John Cowan
Kathleen Hurdle	Dot Little	Justin
Austin Westbury	Kathy Cane	
Joanne Norman	Donna Hosey	
Mary Lee Boggs	Brooke Henderson	
Inez Waterman	Helen Taylor's Family	

## March 3-4



This year's guest teacher will be the Rev. Dr. Tim Smith. Fr. Tim (*not of Mitford*) will lead us in a time of teaching and practice in the vital spiritual discipline of prayer.

Fr. Herb

### -GOD'S-KIDS-SAY-THE-FUNNIEST-THINGS

"Dear God. Thank you for the baby brother but what I prayed for was a puppy."

— Sue 6

The children were lined up in the cafeteria of a church elementary school for lunch. At the head of the table was a large pile of apples. A teacher had written a note, posted on the apple tray:

*"Take only ONE. God is watching."*

At the other end of the table was a large pile of chocolate chip cookies.

A child had written a note:

*"Take all you want. God is watching the apples"*

— via Bart VanGiesen

Texas Township, MI

### HUMOR FOR THE HARD TIMES

"A physician gave a man eight months to live. The man couldn't pay his bill, so the doctor gave him another eight months."

— Author Unknown

## Birthdays

Susan Fones	02	Annette Kersting	02
Hannah Jordan	04	Maureen Howard	07
Noah Estes	08	Jerry Guess	10
Deb Jacobs	13	Robert Bostick	19
Mary Pipes	21	Margie Crocker	27

## Anniversaries

Karl & Janice Badgett	02
Chris & Alexa Tutor	14
Kevin & Margie Crocker	25





NONPROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
CORDOVA, TN  
PERMIT NO. 308

9555 Walnut Grove Road  
Cordova, TN 38018  
**901-755-4848**  
**www.faithanglicanchurch.org**

Service Times:  
**Sunday:**  
Holy Eucharist ..... 8:10/10:30am  
Sunday School ..... 9:30am

**Wednesday:**  
Summer Supper ..... 6:30pm  
Summer Programs ..... 7:15pm

All articles for The Vine are due in the office the **second Monday** of the month, send to:  
**newsletter@faithanglicanchurch.org**

Address service requested.

**Feeding the Flock: Wednesday Nights at Faith – 6:30 to 8:00 PM**

Come enjoy a relaxing evening of food, fellowship, and spiritual nurture.  
Suppers are provided (suggested donation \$5). Our February schedule includes:

<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	<i>Biblical Church Growth Through Extensive Prayer</i> (Teaching)	It may seem counter intuitive, but the church grows rapidly when God’s people draw close to Him in times of extensive prayer. We will review several examples of extensive prayer from the New Testament, and then give practical suggestions on how to develop times of extensive prayer in your life and the life of our church.
<b>8<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>Fireproof</i> Movie starts promptly at 6:45 PM will last ‘till 8:45.	As we approach Valentine’s Day we can’t help thinking about marital love. <i>Fireproof</i> is about a fireman who learns to fireproof his marriage. Come enjoy this powerful movie and fireproof your own marriage!
<b>15<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>Overcoming by the Word of Our Testimony</i> (Music Night)	Please join us on February 15 as we testify to God's amazing love and praise Him for His grace. Come sing songs of worship and hear stories of God's mercy and sustaining grace. You will not want to miss this intimate encounter with the Living God.
<b>22<sup>nd</sup></b>	Ash Wednesday	Ash Wednesday worship. <b>No Supper (fast day)</b>
<b>29<sup>th</sup></b>	Bible Games Night	We will enjoy an engaging evening of interesting Bible Trivia and explore some of your serious questions about God and Holy Scripture. Anticipate expanding your biblical horizons!