



# The Vision

## The Episcopal Church of Our Saviour

### “How can we know the way?”

By: Fr. Birch Rambo

As most of you know, the Bishop’s Committee has recently formed several committees to help our work of ministry progress more smoothly. The question many have asked me, however, is “Progress toward what?”

This past Sunday, we heard the apostle Thomas ask Jesus, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, how can we know the way?” This Wednesday evening as we celebrate the Feast of the Ascension, we will hear one of my favorite lines from scripture as the angel asks Jesus dumbfounded disciples, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven?”

These are two questions we need to examine as a parish. Why are we just standing around? Where are we going and how do we get there? **Who is the Episcopal Church of Our Saviour?** When I introduce myself to a Madison County neighbor as an Episcopal priest, I most often hear, “Episco what?” Sometimes I hear, “I thought that church closed.” Almost nobody in the area even knows Our Saviour exists, let alone anything about us. We have been doing too much ‘looking up toward heaven’ and not enough sharing heaven with others.

The Church of Our Saviour needs a vision or goal, something to reach toward, a place to go. If we do not know

where we are going, all we can do is gather once a week to look up toward heaven, when we should also ‘be [Jesus’] witnesses . . .to the ends of the earth.”

Our vision can be something simple. I saw a t-shirt on my recent trip that read, “The Episcopal Church, challenging fundamentalism since 1789.” If that is who we are, then we need to get the message out. Our vision can be seemingly unreachable – 100% literacy in Madison County. If that’s our vision, then let’s start teaching. In the end, it doesn’t matter what vision we follow. It only matters that it leads us in the way of Christ and that it is embraced by the whole parish. It matters only that we stop naval gazing, and carry out the work Jesus has given us to do.

Over the days and months ahead, you Bishop’s committee will be wrestling with these questions. Please call any member (Don Weisman, Danny Justice, Doug Chaney, Sally Evans, Leslie Farris, Anna Haug, Charlie Hoffman, Roger Hurt, and Louise Locke) with your ideas, suggestions, and dreams. My dream is that someday, instead of “Episco-what?” the response will be another quote from the readings for the Ascension, “I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints.”

Happy Mother’s Day!

May, 2008

#### Famous last words

**Mother’s day is an annual event in the U.S. and 43 other countries because Ann Jarvis spent her life and fortune to establish a sincere tribute to mothers. Shortly before her death, she complained that the day had been commercialized and said, “I’m sorry I ever started the thing!”**

**-Barnaby Conrad in ‘Famous last words’**

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## Bits 'N Pieces

The **Daughters of the King** will hold their regular meeting on Thursday, May 8, at 7pm. Anna Haug will share some of her experiences and photos from the recent mission trip she and Phillip took to Haiti. The meeting is open to anyone in the church who is interested--men are welcome! (From Grace Sears)

The **Outreach Committee** would like to extend hearty thanks to all who faithfully donate food items to support the food banks at St. Thomas and the Salvation Army. Please pass the word and keep the donations coming! Our latest project involves collecting clothing (new or gently used) for a family in Waco. Please contact Clarence Miller with questions or concerns involving the Outreach Committee. Suggestions from the congregation for ideas on helping out in our community are welcomed and encouraged. Let's all get involved and lend a hand... and our hearts! (From Louise Locke)

Did you know that we have a **Healing Service** at Our Saviour the first Wednesday evening of every month? Services begin each week at 6:30PM. Fr. Birch uses different

formats on the other weeks, but the Healing Service is always on the first Wednesday.

**Women's retreat** is May 16-18th. It's not too late to sign up to attend! See Becky A or Sally for more info.

The church **office will be closed** on Monday, May 26th, in honor of Memorial Day.

Do you need to **'Rent-A-Kid'**? The combined youth of Our Saviour and St. Thomas who will be going to Chicago this summer on their annual mission trip will be available on May 3, 10 and 17th to do jobs around your home as a fundraiser for this trip. Need windows washed? Weeds pulled? General clean-up? Call the church office right away to reserve your spot or email your request and info to: [ranaystthomas@chpl.net](mailto:ranaystthomas@chpl.net)

**Vacation Bible School** is July 6-10th, during the evening hours. Teachers and helpers needed! Don't wait to be asked! Call the church office if you are available to assist.

## We love our church! By: Danny Justice

I can honestly say since becoming Junior Warden I now understand the old saying, "A woman's work is never done", there is always another project, something needing attention and someone with an idea which I really appreciate. I actually had an idea of my own. I think it would be great to have a special day for the congregation that is part picnic, thanksgiving and sharing of talents and time. We'll call it.....

### "LOVE YOUR CHURCH DAY"

Everyone including children will be welcome. It will start early in the morning on Saturday **May 31<sup>st</sup>**, with breakfast, projects at the church, parish hall and grounds (inside outside and all around), noon worship from the BCP, lunch, projects, activities and maybe a hot dog roast followed by evening prayer from the BCP. No need to be there all day, come as you are, stay as long as you like and leave when you are ready. Enjoy fun, food, fellowship and the opportunity to serve God and your church family in a special way. Oh! the Bishop's committee and Birch aren't aware of this date yet. Scheduling is never easy. If you can't be

there or aren't able to participate there are always supplies needed like trash bags, work gloves, cokes, potato chips, light bulbs, batteries and most of all just being there talking if that is all you are able to do.

Mark your calendars.....more information to come.

Your Junior Warden, with a new appreciation for those who keep the home fires burning.

Danny

## Companion Diocese of Haiti Pilgrimage: June 2-8, 2008

*A special opportunity to share in our Companion Diocese Ministries.*

Arrangements and plans for the upcoming Companion Diocese and Food for the Poor Pilgrimage to Haiti are underway. The Rev. Jay Pierce mailed a letter and pilgrimage facts to the congregations of the Diocese dated April 8, 2008 outlining the details of the trip. This note is to remind clergy and congregations that those interested in traveling to Haiti in June must submit their names and deposits (\$250 to Food for the Poor) for the pilgrimage as soon as possible. Please submit names to The Rev. Jay Pierce at [frpierce@earthlink.net](mailto:frpierce@earthlink.net)

We hope that each congregation will send at least one person on this pilgrimage. The timing of this trip works especially well for students and faculty. Be sure to invite those folks.

**Details include:** Pilgrimage dates: **June 2-6, 2008**  
**Cost:** \$1200.00 plus the cost of airfare from Lexington to Fort Lauderdale. All other expenses: flight to

and from Haiti, meals, lodging and group travel around Haiti are included in the fee. (Food for the Poor will make all travel arrangements.)

On Monday, June 2, we will tour the new Food for the Poor facilities in Fort Lauderdale and depart for Port au Prince on Tuesday. While in Haiti, we will visit and do some work at numerous Food for the Poor ministry sites, including Bishop Sauls Village site where our diocese has provided funds for building homes and a water well. The pilgrimage will provide people from our diocese with opportunities to meet people from the Diocese of Haiti and to experience Christ's ministry in a very powerful way.

If there are questions about the pilgrimage, please contact The Rev. Jay Pierce at [frpierce@earthlink.net](mailto:frpierce@earthlink.net) or 859-617-6745 or The Rev. Jan Dunnivant at [jmdunnivant@insightbb.com](mailto:jmdunnivant@insightbb.com)

## This is My Church

It is composed of people just like me.

It will be friendly if I am.

It will do a great work if I work.

It will make generous gifts to many causes if I am generous.

It will bring others into fellowship if I bring them.

Its seats will be filled if I fill them.

It will be a church of loyalty and love, of faith and service, if I, who make it what it is, am filled with these.

Therefore, with God's help, I dedicate myself to the task of being.

All these things I want my church to be. —*Old Union Reminder*

## 5 Steps to Forgiving

1. Accept the accountability principle that every person is accountable to God.
2. Own your own sin in the relationship.
3. Try to understand the other person's perspective and look for good in the person.
4. Choose to accept what you cannot change.
5. Choose to relate to the person as if the sin had never occurred.—*Dorothy Sample*

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Fellowship lunch—May 11th

## Anniversaries in May ~

Charlie & Megan Hoffman—1st  
James & Emily Anderson—12th  
Tom Parker & Lynette Noblitt—17th  
Mike & Kelly McClellan—20th  
Stephan & Louise Locke—21st  
Don & Melissa Wiesmann—26th  
Dan & Sally Evans—28th

## Birthdays in May ~

Jim Farris—5th  
Beckett Parker-Noblitt—5th  
Marilyn McMillan—7th  
Betsy MacSwords—8th  
Eric Ruppel—8th  
Birch Rambo—10th  
Lynette Noblitt—15th  
Rhonda Uber—15th  
Paul Melius—16th  
Muriel Stockburger—19th  
Angie Rice—29th  
Maddie Hoffman—30th  
Sandra Plant—31st

## Financial Report ~ By: Laura Melius

3/31/2008	Checking Account Balance	\$ 1,991.34
3/31/2008	Reserves - Hilliard Lyons Investment Account*	\$ 10,982.97
	Sub-total	\$ 12,974.31
3/31/2008	<b>Accounts Payable &amp; Designated Payables 2008</b>	
	Designated - Youth Mission Trip	\$ 1,320.96
	Designated - Building Fund	\$ 5,835.00
	Designated - Youth	\$ 386.89
	Designated - Music	\$ 149.00
	Designated - Hispanic Ministry	\$ (249.13)
	Designated - Altar/Flowers	\$ 135.65
	Episcopal Relief & Development Fund	\$ 175.75
	ECW	\$ 1,120.60
	Men's Group	\$ 1,150.54
	MacSwords Memorial Fund	\$ 139.31
	UTO	\$ 18.50
	Sub-total	\$ 10,183.07
3/31/2008	<b>Net Operating Fund Balance</b>	\$ 2,791.24
	<b>BUILDING FUND</b>	
3/31/2008	Hilliard Lyons Building Fund Account	\$ 17,568.46
12/31/2007	Endowment Fund at Diocese	\$ 19,017.50
	Building Fund Balance	\$ 36,585.96
	Loan From Diocese	(\$180,000.00)
	Interest Accrual Year 1 (10/1/2006)	(\$11,700.00)
	Interest Accrual Year 2 (10/1/2007)	(\$12,460.50)
3/31/2008	<b>Building Fund</b>	\$ (167,574.54)