



St. Augustine's Torch

ISSUE 341 · FEB 2012

SERVICE TIMES

Sunday

8:00AM

Holy Eucharist Rite 1

9:15AM

Christian Education
for All Ages

10:30AM

Holy Eucharist Rite 2

2nd Sunday

5:00PM

Come-As-You-Are Eucharist

Weekdays

8:00AM

Morning Prayer

Wednesday

6:00PM

Holy Eucharist Rite 2

CLERGY

The Rev. A.J. Heine
RECTOR

The Rev. Michael G. Hackett
DEACON

CHURCH VESTRY

2011–2012

Raul Esquivel
SENIOR WARDEN

Bill Gibson
JUNIOR WARDEN

Marina Gregorio
TREASURER

Mary Thacker
SECRETARY

Jeanne Blanchard
Amy Goodman
Susie Hammer
Sophie Hudson
Kathleen Johnson
Kay Poole
Randy Reeves
Jonathan Sontag

Words of Inspiration From A.J. Heine



All Aboard!

If you've ever looked up and noticed that the ceiling of our church (and many churches) looks like the inside hull of a ship, you're neither alone nor mistaken. In fact, the very name for the part of the church where the congregation sits is called the "nave" from the Latin word *navis* which means ship.


Just as the ark transported Noah and his family and animals to new life after the flood, so does the Church hold and transport our community to the promised kingdom of God. But our cruise ship has a greater purpose than merely riding out the storms of life. We are called to use and share this ship that we have been given. The church is less like a luxury liner, and more like a working crew boat... or fishing boat.

Jesus calls Peter and Andrew away from their lives as fishermen. He instead tells them that in following Him, they will be fishers of people. Is this how we understand the work of the Church? We are all in the same boat, but do we understand it to be a vessel that constantly has its nets in the water fishing for people.

My friend and colleague, The Rev. Jay Angerer, shared the top five reasons Episcopalians avoid inviting people to church. The first, he said, was that people say, "I don't want to look like a whacko." The second reason: "I'm not sure what to say." The third reason was the most telling: "No, **seriously**. I *really* don't want to look like a whacko!" Fr. Jay has a great sense of humor, and a keen bit of insight. We like our "life boat" a lot, but for many of us, it feels very risky to tell other people about the difference that following Jesus is making in our lives.

Here's an alternative. The next time you are talking with someone (who you already are in relationship with), especially if they are having a tough time with some aspect of their life, just say, "You know...going to church and receiving Communion is really making a difference in my life." That's not being "preachy" or judgmental. It is being truthful and factual. It's not being whacky; it's being faithful. Jesus calls us to follow him and be fishers of people.

See you in the boat,

Peace, 

Quote of the Month

"And Jesus said to [Simon and his brother Andrew], 'Follow me and I will make you fish for people.'"

- Mark 1:17

ECW Bake Sale

THE ECW IS HAVING A VALENTINE BAKE SALE FEBRUARY 12 AFTER
THE 8:00 AND 10:30 EUCHARISTS.
(NOW IS THE TIME TO GET SOME SWEETS FOR YOUR HONEY)

Fasting During Lent

During the penitential season of Lent, many take on the discipline of fasting - often fasting from some sort of food or drink. I ran across the following anonymous meditation that suggests a different sort of fasting that may better point us in the direction of the spiritual purpose of fasting:

Fast from judging others; feast on Christ dwelling in them.

Fast from fear of illness; feast on the healing power of God.

Fast from words that pollute; feast on speech that purifies.

Fast from discontent; feast on gratitude.

Fast from anger; feast on patience.

Fast from pessimism; feast on optimism.

Fast from negatives; feast on alternatives.

Fast from bitterness; feast on forgiveness.

Fast from self-concern; feast on compassion.

Fast from suspicion; feast on truth.

Fast from gossip; feast on purposeful silence.

Fast from problems that overwhelm; feast on prayer that sustains.

Fast from worry; feast on faith.

Lent Schedule

Ash Wednesday February 22nd:

7:30am Imposition of Ashes

12:00pm Holy Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes

6:00pm Holy Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes

Wednesdays in Lent:

6:00 pm Holy Eucharist II and Service of Healing

6:30 pm Soup and Salad

7:15 pm Book Study



On Friday, February 3rd, **THE AMAZING MAGIC SHOW**, featuring St. Augustine's parishioners, Irwin and Stephanie Royes, will entertain the children. This is always a fun show for the children and the teachers, as they are truly "amazed."

REGISTRATION for the 2012-13 School year will begin on Monday, February 13th, at 9:00 am, for present students, their siblings and church parishioners. If you or someone you know were not able to attend the Open House, and still have any questions about next year, please feel free to speak with me before I open registration to the general public (March 5th). I am receiving calls about our school each day. Some classes fill up very quickly.

Plans are under way for the **KREWE OF ST. AUGUSTINE'S PARADE** on February 16th & 17th. Don't miss it! The children love this opportunity to be in the parade, rather than just being able to view it. School will be closed for Mardi Gras Holidays, Monday through Friday, February 20th-24th.

The semi-annual **COOKIE DOUGH SALE** will start this month. The dates are February 27th – March 9th. Brochures will be available in the Bookstore, if you are interested. These are wonderful treats that you should consider purchasing.

I'd like to take time to thank the St. Augustine's Parishioners for all they do to support the school. I am pleased to say how proud I am to be a part of St. Augustine's. I see a bright future for the school and it's mostly because of parents that care about their children and their education and the

Flower Offering

We all have special events or dates in our lives, some joyous and some sad. Donating Altar Flowers is one way to mark these special times and contribute to the church at the same time. Be it a birthday, anniversary, graduation or the honoring of a departed loved one, altar flowers are a beautiful way to remember them. Every week St.

Augustine's spends approximately \$50 for the flowers on the altar (Easter and Christmas are special days with special collections.) The average donation for flowers is between \$20 and \$35. The Flower Offering Book is located in the narthex. You can select your date and fill it in as you wish it to appear in the Sunday bulletin. You can also contact the church office by phone or mail with your request. Your donation can be paid by dropping a check in the collection plate with a memo "flowers" or mailed to the church office. What a lovely way to remember those special days and people.

Men's Club News

The Men's Club will not meet Tuesday, February 14th. We will host a parish wide fundraiser on Sunday, February 26th. Spaghetti and meatball dinners with breadsticks and salad will be for sale to take home following both services. The next scheduled meeting is Tuesday, March 13th with guest speaker Dr. Rex Mooney, retired American History teacher, at St. Martin's Episcopal High School.

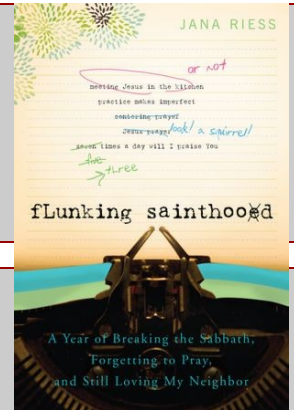
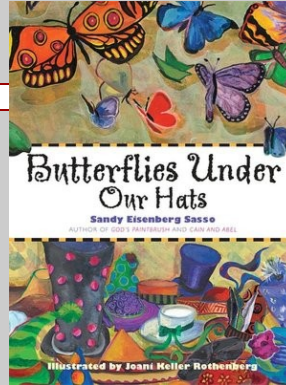
Our Annual Crawfish boil is scheduled for Saturday, May 12th.

New in the Bookstore

St. Augustine's Book Club

The Book Club meets the 1st Monday of every month. All are welcome!

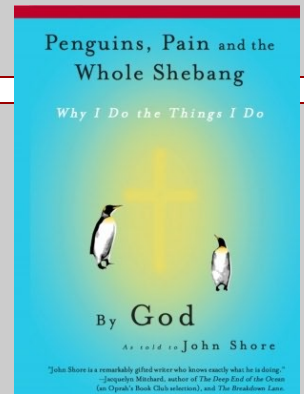
February's Selection: **Flunking Sainthood**
by Jana Riess



CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Butterflies Under Our Hats
by Sandra Eisenberg Sasso

A classic for reading and discussing with our children

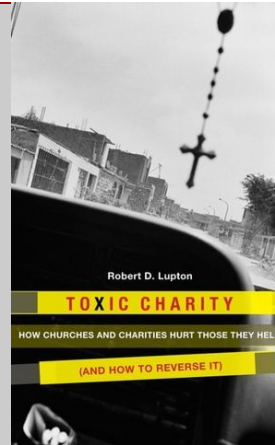


Suggested Reading

40 Days
The Daily Office for Lent

Penguins, Pain and the Whole Shebang
by God as told to John Shore
A delightful humorous book

Toxic Charity by Robert D. Lupton
A Christian Education topic



Visit the Bookstore and view other new items and books.

Break Bread Together

If you have signed up for the Break Bread Together group, the next gathering will be on Friday, February 17th at the home of Fred and Pat Smith. Please contact Pat @ 504-888-8047 about the menu.

Sunday Attendance Figures for January	Date	8:00 a.m.	10:30 a.m.	5:00 p.m.
	1-1-2012	30	62	
	1-8-2012	62	90	14
	1-15-2012	66	95	
	1-22-12	67	115	

Average Sunday Attendance as of 1/22/12: 150 (153 as of 1/30/11)

Youth Group News

Thank you to all the Youth and Parents that were able to make it out to my first meeting that took place Sunday, January 22nd! I am absolutely thrilled to be working with such a great group!

We will be meeting Sunday, **February 5th**, tentatively between 12:00 and 2:00 to accommodate everyone's Super Bowl plans. More details to follow.

Our next meeting will be **February 12th** for the "Second Sunday" service starting at 5:00pm, with dinner and fellowship to follow.

Diocesan Events: Happening: **Feb 3rd-5th** at the Solomon Center in Robert, La. Open to 9th-12th graders. Junior High Rally: **March 16th-18th** at the Solomon Center. Visit www.solomoncenter.org/events for more information or contact Rachel Whitley at rfwhitley@gmail.com or [225-571-3272](tel:225-571-3272).

English as a Second Language Ends Four Year Run *by Susie Hammer*

After prayerful consideration and discussion with instructors Jane Ard and Liz Thompson, we have decided that it is time to disband the ESL program.

I would like to take this time to thank Jane and Liz, for their undying devotion and willingness to give of their time to teach these wonderful students. Thanks are also due to Kay Poole, Kay Briscoe, Tammy Verrette, and Jessica Kotzbeck, as well as our retired assistants, Jerry Womack, Susan Scotton, Sharon Flemming, Jan and Michael Hackett, Pat Roy, and Thomas Hofer for their dedication to the program as well. (And a special shout out to Anderson Heston for his contribution as well. I will forever remember, his guitar strumming, "Sunday Monday, Tuesday Wednesday, Thursday Friday, Saturday" days of the week sing alongs.)

Thanks once again everyone. St. Augustine's is so blessed to have so many dedicated parishioners. I have been blessed to be a part of this journey with you all. Please keep in mind that at some point in the future, should the need arise; I'm sure this group of devoted missionaries would welcome the opportunity to be of further service to the Hispanic community.

Story Ideas or Suggestions? e-mail: staugmet@bellsouth.net • phone: 504.887.4801 • fax: 504.887.4814



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