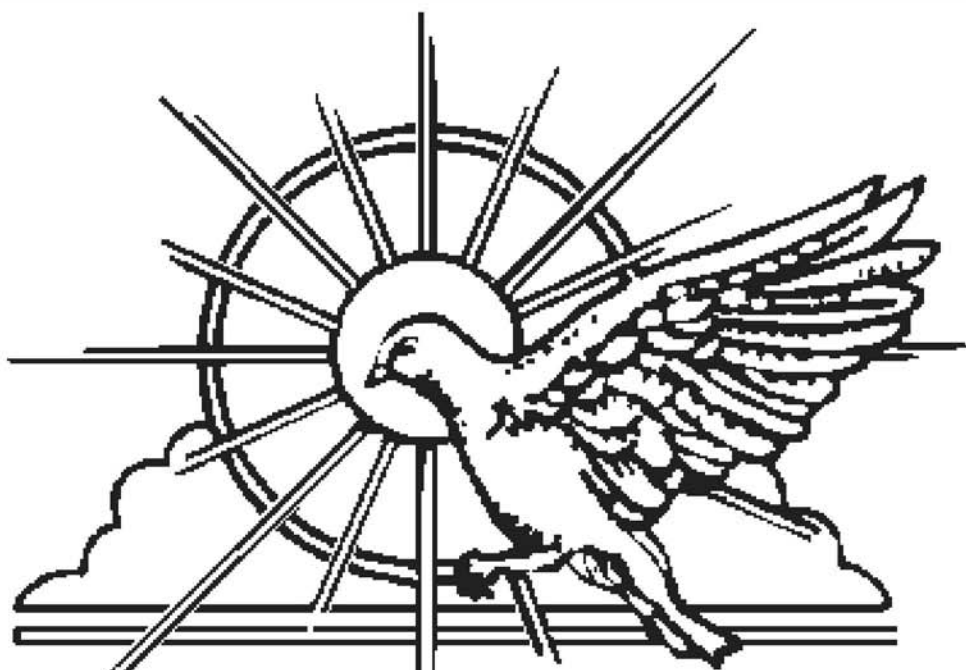


PARISHLIFE

The Newsletter of St. John's Episcopal Church, Naples, Florida



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“My soul magnifies
the **LORD**,
& my spirit rejoices
in **GOD** my savior.”
Luke 1:46-47



SEEK GOD'S GUIDANCE

Bob Mumford, in "Take Another Look at Guidance," compares discovering God's will with a sea captain's docking procedure:

A certain harbor in Italy can be reached only by sailing up a narrow channel between dangerous rocks and shoals. Over the years, many ships have been wrecked, and navigation is hazardous.

To guide the ships safely into port, three lights have been mounted on three huge poles in the harbor. When the three lights are perfectly lined up and seen as one, the ship can safely proceed up the narrow channel. If the pilot sees two or three lights, he knows he's off course and in danger.

God has also provided three beacons to guide us. The same rules of navigation apply and the three lights must be lined up before it is safe for us to proceed. The three harbor lights of guidance are:

- ***The Word of God** (objective standard)
- ***The Holy Spirit** (subjective witness)
- ***Circumstances** (divine providence)

As you consider the ship of your life and the how the harbor lights are lining up, what is God guiding you to do? What has our Lord been clearly speaking to you from His Word, Spirit and circumstances about the direction your life should take right now? God desires to bring us into the safe harbor of His love, but we need to carefully follow His guidance to arrive there.

Based on the three harbor lights, I believe God has been guiding the St. John's family to:

***Rebuild** (To the Glory of God!): Over the past year and after 15-20 years of service, the sound system, some air conditioning units and other items needed to be replaced. The buildings are painted and the Columbarium is like new. An updated patio and playground are in the planning stages.

As is natural, God has been rebuilding St. John's spiritual life. We've had some wonderful times of worship with a renewed sense of the Holy Spirit moving among us, new and old friends joining us, renewed leadership in current and new ministries, many excited about Bible study and fellowship events. God is building up St. John's!

***Heal** (Be open to God's healing grace): Whether you're broken from past or present experiences, I believe our Lord desires to usher in a deeper healing for all of us. God brings healing in so many ways and I encourage us to be open to His healing presence through studies, prayer, services and the unexpected. There is no wound too deep or scar too old that our Lord's love can't heal!!

As we seek the safe harbor of our Lord, let us be open to His guidance through Word, Spirit and circumstances, that we might receive the blessings God desires to give us!! †



Healing Services begin this month

Healing Services will be reinstated for the season, beginning October 14. There will be three healing services a month and all will meet in the Prayer Room. Morning services will be held at 9 a.m. on the second and third Wednesday mornings and an evening service will be held at 7 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday. □

Centering Prayer meeting evenings



Centering Prayer now meets on Thursday evenings at 7 p.m. in Sugden Hall so those with daytime commitments can attend. Centering Prayer is a way of putting into practice the formula Jesus outlined in Matthew 6:6 and is led by Sacha and Sara El-Mokadem. Everyone is welcome. □

