



The Tentmaker

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Daphne, Alabama

April 14, 2021

Message from Thack

In 2006, The Rev. Dr. Michael Battle, then a professor at Virginia Theological Seminary and now a member of the faculty of General Theological Seminary, was the guest speaker at our clergy conference. His subject was the African concept of “Ubuntu.” Ubuntu means “community,” but not just a group of people taking up the same space, living on the same block, enjoying the same activities or similar political or social proclivities. No, the idea of Ubuntu goes well beyond that. Ubuntu is a word in the “Xhosa” language of southern Africa that means “I am because we are.” It’s the understanding that we need other people in order for us to be. That it’s only in community that we come to exist. The Rt. Rev. Desmond Tutu developed what he calls “Ubuntu theology”, which asserts that persons are ends in themselves only through the discovery of who they are in others.¹

According to Michael Onyebuchi Eze, the core of Ubuntu can best be summarized this way: “A person is only a person through other people’s affirmations of their humanity ... through a recognition of the ‘other’ in their uniqueness and in their difference. This suggests that my humanity is not embedded solely in my person as an individual, but rather that my humanity is only bestowed upon me as I relate to other human beings.”² He goes on to assert that humanity then is a quality that we owe to each other. So there is a responsibility there – one where I am responsible to you and you are responsible to me. Jesus spoke of the same ethic in the Gospel of Matthew when he said, “In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets.” (Matthew 7:12, NRSV).

Prof. Battle offered a practical illustration of Ubuntu involving an experiment by an anthropologist. The anthropologist proposed a game to some children in an African tribe. He put a basket full of fruit near a tree and told the children that whoever got there first wins the whole basket of sweet fruits. When he told them to run, they all took each other’s hands and ran together. They crossed the finish line together and then sat together enjoying their treats. When he asked them why they had run that way, when one of them could have had all the fruits for himself, they said, “Ubuntu, how can one of us be happy if all the others are sad?”

¹ Michael Battle, *Reconciliation: The Ubuntu Theology of Desmond Tutu* (Cleveland: Pilgrim Press, 1997), p. 43.

² Stephanie Dietrich, ed. *Diakonia as Christian Social Practice: An Introduction* (Eugene, OR, Wipf and Stock Publishers, 2015) pp. 17-18

In that context, I think that's what we mean when we say we are all God's children and are all members of the Body of Christ. That our Triune God, our Creator, Redeemer, Sanctifier, has provided us with the model of Ubuntu that we were created to be. God is a God in community, in the three persons of the Trinity. And we, created in God's own image, are created to be in the same kind of radical community, sealed with radical love and caring for one another. In that context, when we are working, worshipping, and living together for the common good, we exhibit a unique harmony of spirit that sets us apart. When that happens, we are fully living into our identities as children of God. That is how the Kingdom of God looks in the here and now.

An excellent example of this oneness can be seen in the real-life story of some young men who were a part of a rowing team. It was captured in a book called *The Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown. Frieda Ward gave me a copy of the book for Christmas some years ago and it instantly became one of my most favorite books. *The Boys in the Boat* is the story of the University of Washington's eight-oar crew team that won the gold medal at the 1936 Berlin Olympics. There was no reason that this team should have won. They weren't particularly stronger than the other teams on the water that day. In fact, Don Hume, their stroke oar, the person who sets the rhythm of the boat, had been sick in bed for days leading up to the race, and they had to literally get him out of bed, put him in the boat and ask him to row.

They should not have won. However, that day they exhibited their special connection as a team. They displayed their absolute harmony, their absolute giving of themselves over to the collective good, their belief in the power of the unity of their efforts, and created an unbeatable phenomenon. In their common effort, they found their "swing," that moment when their rowing together achieved an almost mystical quality about it. Totally in rhythm with each other, these common men accomplished an uncommon feat.

I could not help but think of Ubuntu as I read their story. None of these young men could have accomplished alone what they all did together. They were responsible for and to one another and they needed to have absolute faith in what their working in absolute harmony could accomplish.

Boat builder, George Yeoman Pocock, the man who built the team's gold medal winning racing shell said, "Where is the spiritual value of rowing? In the losing of self entirely to the cooperative effort of the crew as a whole."³ Pocock's observation reminded me of a passage from John's Gospel where Jesus said, "I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing." (John 15:5, NRSV).

Ubuntu should be the ethos of every Christian community, including St. Paul's. We should live our lives always in mind of each other. In such community, any distinctions the world uses to define, exclude, or marginalize others fall away in favor of seeing everyone else as necessary for our own identity and existence. May that always be the spirit of our wonderful parish.

Peace, Thack

³ Daniel James Brown, *The Boys in the Boat* (New York, Penguin Books, 2013), 415 (iBooks version), epigraph for chapter 19.

What's Happening in Chris Ed?

First Communion Class

Congratulations to our communion class who made their first communions on Easter and this past Sunday! WE had a wonderful time learning about the meaning of communion together and making bread for our first communion.



Wednesday Night Live

WNL has been postponed to Wednesday April 28th, and will meet bi-weekly through the end of the school year as we wrap up our study on Priscilla Shirer's "Unseen". All 3rd-5th graders are welcome to attend and we will review from the weeks before each time we meet. There are a lot of fun activities planned so dress to get messy! Please text Elizabeth at 251-404-0537 to get on the reminder text thread about upcoming meetings!

Vacation Bible School is coming soon!

Save the Date! June 21-24 is VBS and we would love for YOU to join us in making that week unforgettable! Registration forms are available now for Volunteers, MAD Camp, and VBS camper registration! They are also included in the back of this Tentmaker.



St. Paul's Youth

Greetings from St. Paul's Youth! We have so enjoyed celebrating Lent season. The youth created a virtual lesson for the Children's Easter Chapel on the empty tomb. We have been blessed by both, John and Thack, joining us for some of our Sunday evening meetings. On Palm Sunday, John led us in a lesson on Holy Week and in worship by the fire while we roasted Easter peeps.



Upcoming reminders:

Our annual car wash fundraiser will be Sunday, April 25, during both, 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM services.

Sunday, May 16, is Graduate Sunday at St. Paul's and we will honor all students who are graduating. If you or your family member is graduating, please text me 205-616-5194, a photo with their full name, the school they are graduating from, and their future plans.

Much love!

Bonnie



Sunday, April 25

YOUTH CARWASH

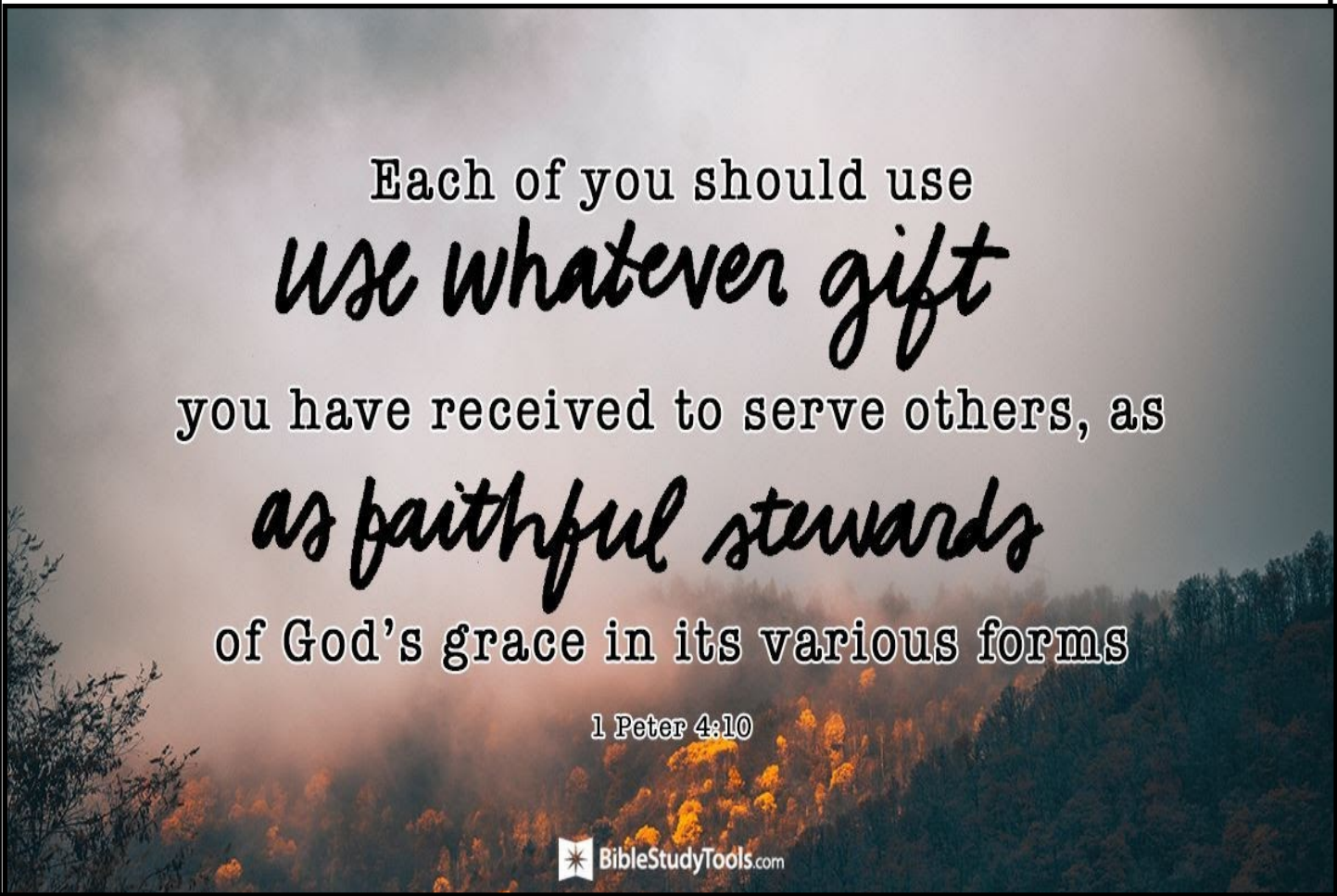
DONATE ON SITE AND GET YOUR
VEHICLE HAND-WASHED AND RINSED
DURING EITHER SERVICE, 8 A.M. AND
10:30

This fundraiser helps provide funds for the
youth program throughout the year.

Your Thrift Shop NEEDS YOU!

I know you have heard this a million times before, but YOUR Thrift Shop really needs more volunteers. We just handed out over \$120,000 to our Church and to 23 different agencies in our Community! Please consider volunteering to help continue this mission! Even during COVID, the Thrift Shop has been bustling. Many of our volunteers were not able to come in, some have left this earth permanently. Some are coming back after receiving their vaccines. If you have one morning or afternoon a week that you could give, that would be greatly appreciated. We close at 3 pm each day, so you can still pick up the kiddos! Megrez Rudolf and Jim Blackwell or Jane Shoultz can tell you how much fun it is to hang out in our beautiful furniture area greeting folks and being on hand to answer their questions or help them with a purchase. Arvis Leininger or Tim Op't Holt can tell you about the interesting electronics they check out. We are losing Pam and Dick Schmidt who have been a blessing pricing housewares to be put out. Their shoes will be tough to fill! Then there are the clothes that need sorting and hanging. There are so many things that need doing to make the Shop work efficiently. Call the Shop at 251-626-6102 and talk to Kathy Mallory, our Manager, or just stop in for a personal tour!

P.S. After writing this post, I opened my "Daily Verse" and this is what I read: (Funny how God speaks to us!)



Each of you should use
use whatever gift
you have received to serve others, as
as faithful stewards
of God's grace in its various forms

1 Peter 4:10

Prayer Requests

Please let us know if someone needs to be added or removed from the prayer requests.

Immediate Prayer Requests:

Ray Bing, Jim Blackwell, Sally Boom, Donna Brown, Hardison Brown, Sally Clark, Rochelle Coburn, Larry Copenhaver, Becky Costlow, Jodi Cummings, Margaret Cummins, Elizabeth Faust, Vonnie Foreman, Shelley Haga, Walt Howard and Family, Linn Hyde, Dave Johnson, Theresa Johnson, Brenda Kirby, Tracie Knight, Beverly Koepp, Eric Lonnergan, Donelle McBride, John McClendon, Lance Monley, Ursel Norman, Derek Norman, Bonta Peña, Judy Reeves, Bennie Savage, Sheila and Alan Schreiner, Leon Snipes, Frieda Ward, George Warren, Sally Wilson, Brian Zorman, Rick Zwickey

Ongoing Prayer Requests:

Marty Adams, Dave Baldock, Christopher Blackwell, Pat Brislin, Marsha Butler, Pat Cannon, Jim Council, Margie Cowart, Suzanne Damour, Puddy Dyson, Dee Grantham, David Grey, Carol Hafner, Susan Hill, Jossie Hurst, Geoff Jones, Alexander Kielek, David Lee, Patrick Lynch, Doug Montgomery, Ross Moore, Lou Morgan, Buddy Morrow, Elsie Mosher, Sara Patton, Rochelle Robinson, Mary Rudolf, Zera Roussel, Stephanie Sanchez, Pat Schlimmer, Nick Shoultz, Cathy Slagle, D'ana Snow, Albert Thompson, Julia Warren

For the Departed: Angela Howard Haddock

For Those Serving in the Military:

Ryan Bowman, Matthew Cheatham, Chase Clark, Jackson Deaton, Michael Duchesne, Christopher Dukarm, Chris Evans, Diana Evans, Landis Fouts, Deron Frailie, Steven Grey, Matthew Harris, Rusty Henry, Karen Hubley, Walker Jackson, Daniel James, Matt Jones, Shane Kennedy, Daniel Lambert, Chris Lessard, David McMillan, Patrick Mong, Bryan Quinn, Justin Ramsey, Neil Sevelius, Derek Siegel, Andy Tuttle, Brad Yonkers

For those with birthdays:

April 1 – 30

(01) Barbara James, (02) Nancy Ursprung, (04) Kit Caffey, Rosemary Bing, (05) Elizabeth Kaye, Neil Quinn, Caroline Jernigan, (06) Liam Brown, (07) Pascal Brousseau, David Baldock, Emma Grace McTaggart, (08) Elizabeth Denham, Alexandra Brousseau, Thomas Quinn, (09) Merrilee Nestande, (10) Peggy Connell, Jonathan Wolfrom, (11) Will Alves, (12) Tim Turpen, (13) Emory Erdman, (14) Marie Baggett, Clayton McGirl, James Pittman, III, (15) Margie Kelley, Jessica Walker, (16) Jo Peterson, James Pittman, Jr., Steven Green, (17) Sophie Walker, Olivia Jernigan, (19) Leslie Johnson, Jim Smith, (20) Richard Foster, (21) Donald Denham, (22) Aleta Dasinger, Ward Faust, Felicity Briones, (23) Rochelle Robinson, Ken McNamara, Judith Comer, Alastair Henry, Edith Henry, Lance Monley, Kent Hendricks, (24) Kay Taylor, Ian Anderson, (25) Clara-Catherine McDonald, (26) Jamie Jernigan, (27) Tom Walker, Patricia Carter, (28) Ann Stone, Necie Borroni, Noah Dasinger, (29) Lloyd Gardner, Brad Hare, (30) Katherine Mehaffey



Thank you to everyone who decorated the church for Easter. The flowers were so beautiful!

Thank you Bill Cody for taking these beautiful pictures to share with us!

*The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come,
and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land.*

Song of Solomon 2:12 ESV



Those Who Serve May 2021

Those Who Serve	May 2, 2021	May 9, 2021	May 16, 2021	May 23, 2021	May 30, 2021
Altar Guild	Avos Stickney, Connie Gonser, Debi McClary, Robin Dilsaver, Joanne Gibson				
TIME	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM
Lector-Scripture	Martha Lathan	Sarah Beth Walker	John Strange	Bill Carr	Megrez Rudolf
Lector-Prayers	Vivian Silliman	Court Hurst	Casey Williams	John Strange	Elizabeth Thomason
Server/Crucifer	William Erickson	Brett Nestande	Aiden Walker	Adams Jackson	Haley Hare
Ushers	Gary Lathan	Jim Jackson	Tim Michael	Tina Erickson	David Kielek
	Matt Thomason	Brad Hare	Gaye Wilson	William Erickson	Davis Daniel
Vestry	Vivian Silliman	Necie Boronni	Tim Michael	Joe Cook	Kathy Mallory
Verger	Tina Erickson	Susan Hurst	Tina Erickson	Susan Hurst	Tina Erickson
TIME	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM
Verger	Janet Norman	Barry Taylor	Donna Nolte	Avos Stickney	Janet Norman
Lector-Scripture	Alice Gordon	Maria Conger	Boyd Miller	Ross Moore	Dean Mosher
Lector- Prayers	Jim Gordon	Shelley Haga	Crista Spencer	Dean Mosher	Vonnie Foreman
Ushers	Dean Mosher	Donna Brown	Coleman Wood	Mike Koepp	Henry Esham
	Roxanna Carpenter	Doug Stevens	Donna Brown	Tom Walker	Wendell Erdman
Server/Crucifer	Andrew Erdman	Jack Taylor	Susannah Jackson	Ford Turnipseed	Harper Beckham
Vestry	Alyson Jackson	Michael Koepp	Henry Esham	Donna Brown	Mike Quinn
Flowers	Strange/Gonser	Gaye Wilson	Strange/Gonser	Available- Call Office	Available- Call Office

2021 Vacation Bible School

Children's Registration Form

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

June 21st-24th, 9am – 12 noon

Ages 4 – 3rd grade

Name _____ Birthdate _____

School Grade just Completed _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____

Cell Phone _____

Email _____

Parent(s) Name(s) _____

Parent(s) work phone _____

In case of emergency, contact _____

Phone _____

Relationship to Child _____

Known Allergies or other medical conditions _____

In the event that group preferences can be accommodated, name of friend you would like in your VBS small group _____

Church family attends _____

VBS Volunteer Registration Form

9am-12 noon

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

June 21-24, 2021 (Set Up Days, June 16 & 18)

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2021!

I would like to help in one or more of the following areas (please circle):

Prayer Support

Assembly Leader

Decorating

Snack Center

Craft Preparation

Nursery

Craft Center

Registration

Group Guide

Set Up

Game Center

Clean Up

Age Level Preference:

Nursery

1st-2nd Grade

Prekindergarten -4

3rd Grade

Kindergarten

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

****Please Contact Elizabeth Faust if you have any questions!**

(251)626-2421, (251)404-0537, ea.fst@hotmail.com

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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Daphne, Alabama 36526

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The Rev. Thack H. Dyson, *Rector*

John K. Talbert, *Curate*

Bonnie Hindman, *Youth Leader*

Elizabeth Faust, *Christian Education & Preschool Administrator*

David Kielek, *Life Center Sexton*

John Matson, *Choirmaster*

Joan McKnight, *Staff Assistant*

Terri McMillan, *Administrative Assistant*

Office Hours 8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m. (Monday-Thursday)

8:00 a.m. — 11:30a.m. (Friday)

Church Telephone: 251-626-2421 Fax: 251-626-2456

E-mail: officestpaulsdaphne@gmail.com

Facebook Page: St. Paul's Eastern Shore

Preschool Phone: 251-626-2774

Thrift Shop Telephone: 251-626-6102

***We worship together as we seek God, serve God,
and share God with love and acceptance for all.***