

**Church of the Mediator
P.O. Box 3400
Meridian, MS 39303**



The light that
shines in
darkness!

The Mediorite

Deacon's Musings By Steve Owen

On New Year's Day, Helen announced we have many inreach and outreach goals for the coming year. With the Mediator's mission statement in mind—"To share God's unconditional love with each other and the larger society"—our rector assured us that we are capable of fulfilling multiple goals. She summed us up with a great compliment that reveals not only are we the size church to take on several major projects, but implied we are spiritually healthy and fully capable of stepping out on faith to do great things. She reminded us that we are not an "either-or" but a "both-and" congregation that can reach out to help our fellow parishioners as well as our community.

When I heard these words, a passage from Philippians came to mind. Paul says of his Christian journey, "forgetting what lies behind and straining forward, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" (3:13). Wisely our rector knows in asking us to "strain forward" beyond our comfort zones, we will discover the servant side of Christ. In doing his work, we will flex and strain our spiritual muscles to grow stronger in meeting the needs of a broken world.

Here at the Mediator our Capital Campaign asks that we strain our vision forward to look into the future and make a long-range plan for badly needed facilities for our growing congregation. Out in our larger society, our draw down asks us to strain forward more than we have in the past. The higher ticket price will raise funds to build a badly needed school in earthquake-ravaged Haiti. The Habitat house we plan to build with other area churches asks us to strain forward as we do the work of a carpenter's son for the less fortunate in our community.

We hear much about the negative carbon imprint we make on our environment. How wonderful to know by straining forward on faith with hard work we can make a positive "spiritual imprint" on both our church and the world.