

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



The light that
shines in
darkness!

The Mediorite

Rector's Ramblings...

The leaves outside my office windows are a brilliant red and gold. They are also falling at a rapid rate. Squirrels are working the ground for nuts and chasing each other up and down the trunks of pines and oaks. Fall is coming to an end and with it, a time to release a deep 'whew!' and reflect on the last few months.



A **Rummage Sale** was held in early September with the proceeds going to the budget for Children and Youth. We are blessed to have a combined EYC with St. Paul's, thus, a 'lock in' at the Mediator assured many hands to help with the sale the next day... "**Rally Day**" was a joyous occasion and Mediorites reflected on the ministries of which they are a part. **Sally Miles** stepped forward and volunteered to be the Chairwoman of the Mediator BBQ. **Nancy Boswell** was right there to offer co-chair support. Needless to say, there were cheers all around at this news!

Later in September, the whole congregation was invited to participate in **groups to discuss the future of the Mediator**. Folks enjoyed getting to know new-comers or deepening already established relationships. Data from these meetings indicate that parishioners are deeply committed to their church and to providing for the Mediator's future. We are deeply grateful to **Dr. Bill Scaggs and Diane Panek** for organizing these meetings and all those who hosted and facilitated our time together.

What joy as we celebrated God's creation during the **Feast of St. Francis of Assisi** in early October! Our procession in the Memorial Garden was filled with a variety of pets...most sporting a new and colorful bandanna...The rest of the month was devoted to planning for our '**Celebration Sunday**' worship and feast. The food was fabulous and we are still receiving our 'estimate of giving cards' indicating tithes for the coming year. Even in this discouraging economy, Mediorites continue to be generous in their commitment to God and God's church.

This is best reflected in the success of our **Mediator BBQ**. We started the month of November by firing up the 'pits' to smoke some 300 Boston Butts and serve around 1350 plates of BBQ. Add to that...a freezer bake sale, (including chocolate éclairs & sausage biscuits), bookstore profits, vendors, T-shirts, and a quilt raffle...and we netted **\$14,379.00 for Outreach in Meridian and Lauderdale County. Great organization, hard work and the grace of God made this one of the most successful BBQ's in our 42 yr. history!**

In the midst of all the business, **Inquirer's classes** are being held and around twenty people are preparing for **Confirmation by our Bishop in December**. It is our faith and worship that has been our true sustenance during these busy months.

I confess to being a bit weary as I write this. Thus, the season of Advent in the life of our church reminds me to make time for rest, prayer and reflection. It is a time of quiet joy and anticipation. Soon, the trees out my window will be bare and the ground fallow until spring. The days are shorter now and my soul is in need of the same 'fallow time' the earth enjoys. My wish for my church family is a slower rhythm this Advent. May we all find nourishment for those weary places in our souls.

Deacon's Musings

By Steve Owen

Networking in our neighborhood goes something like this: After the youth's rummage sale, Katy and Joey Carpenter (our sexton), needed to find a place to take leftover items that didn't sell. After calling several charity resale shops, we quickly found out most didn't want to bother inventorying the stuff we wanted to give away.

To the rescue came Joey. He mentioned the Burtons, our church neighbors who live directly across the street. Right under our noses sat the solution to how to put our donated items to good use. For me it was one more "duh moment" that told me the more we get to know our neighbors, the more we discover people we can work with to do effective outreach in our community.

The Burtons run what most of us know as the former Victory Outreach Resale Store on 8th Street. Its new name is the Mustard Tree Bargain Center. A trip across the street and a knock on the Burton's door quickly got the response we needed. Rick and Lowkey Burton told us the Mustard Seed would be more than happy to take our items. They resell good-condition clothing and even bundle raggedy clothes for recycling. In addition, they are wonderful stewards of our earth. They recycle cardboard and sell it to Atlas Roofing Company. Although our Mediator youth recycles aluminum cans for camp scholarships, Rick says they collect tin cans (the type used to store vegetables and pet food).

After interviewing Rick Burton, I discovered Mustard Tree Missions runs an active food pantry. Each month they obtain food from the Mississippi Food Network and add it to donated food from people in our community.

I recently asked Rick how we can help his cause. Besides our recyclables, he says he is in bad need of volunteers for sorting and distributing food. Sorting and boxing starts on Thursday and Friday before distribution on the third Saturday of each month. Mustard Tree is located at 3918-8th Street. If you are interested in volunteering at the Mustard Tree, call [601-934-2575](tel:601-934-2575). After all, it's the neighborly thing to do.

Care Lodge Toy Tree

We will once again collect Christmas toys for the children at Care Lodge Domestic Violence Shelter. For two Sundays in December (December 4 and December 11) there will be a tree in the narthex with gift tags with information about the toy to be purchased. Please take one or more gift tags, buy the toy indicated and place it wrapped under the tree with the gift tag displayed on the outside of the package. All gifts should be returned to the tree by December 13 so they can be delivered to Care Lodge on that date. If you have any questions, please call Katy at the church office. This is in addition to the Pajama Tree.



Toys for Care Lodge



Thanksgiving
Potluck

Mediator will be hosting a Thanksgiving Potluck on Thanksgiving Day at 12:00 noon. Please call the church office if you will be attending.