

the Key

News & Notes

from St. Peter's-by-the-Sea Episcopal Church • Gulfport, MS

St. Peter's by-the-Sea
Episcopal Church
Gulfport, Mississippi

www.stpetersbythesea.net

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Why participate in Christian Formation?

My husband likes to say that Christian formation is like investment banking: the more you put into it, the more you get out. Also, like investment banking, there are many self-proclaimed get rich easy in three simple steps type programs to make you a better Christian, but in reality, Christian formation is the process of being formed in the image and likeness of Jesus Christ that takes place over our entire lives, from the cradle to the grave.

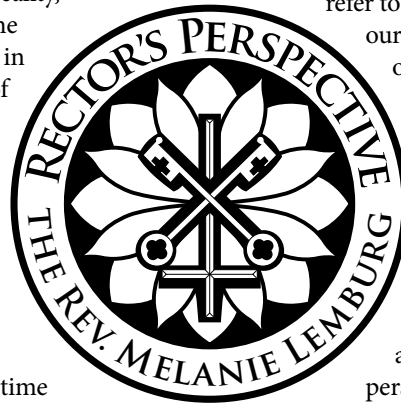
Most of us, in our secret hearts, know that our relationship with God is not all it could be. Like spending time with family, friends, spouse, or significant other, relationship with God is built through a process of time and attention, listening and learning. One of our calls as Christians that is made to us in and through our baptism is that we give ourselves over to being transformed in and through the "One hope [that is found] in God's call to us". There are multiple sources of transformation; at the heart of transformation is prayer and worship, but that feeds into and is fed by several other components: study and learning, life in

community, and action. All of these different pieces in our common life as people of faith serve together as conduits for the transforming power of God's hope in our lives.

Through study and learning (or what we refer to as Christian formation) our minds are enlightened, our hearts are engaged, and our bodies are schooled to be Christ with each other and in the world. Study and learning of the mind is learning to reflect theologically, drawing on Scripture, Tradition, and Reason as a way to inform our perspectives and how we approach issues related to living as

a Christian in today's world. Study and learning of the heart is learning through values, emotions, and the wisdom of the body—learning that speaks from and to our experience, learning that takes seriously and makes an effort to connect to who we are as embodied, emotive beings. Study and learning of practice is learning to practice the faith. This includes learning in worship and prayer, learning to listen and to have a voice in the life of the faith community, learning to discern the future

Formation continues on page 11.

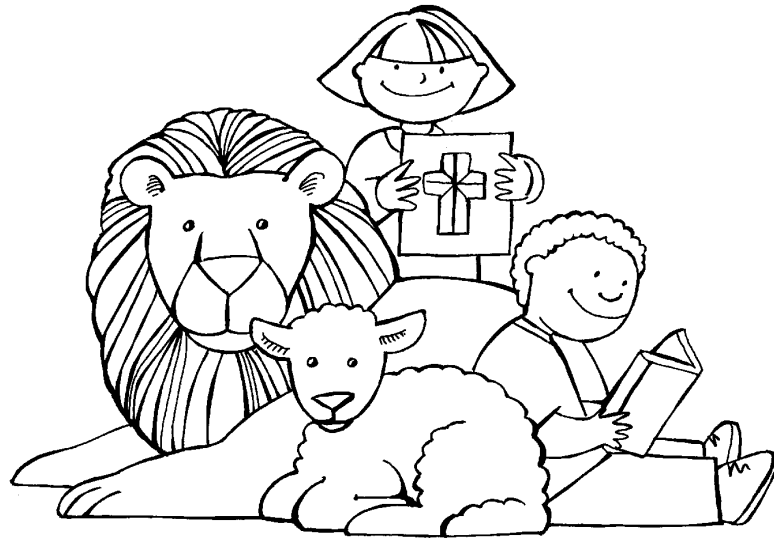


SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

It is hard to tell by the recent temperatures but fall is upon us and soon we will be kicking off all the programs that tend to make up the identity of a parish. Choir, Sunday School, Bible Studies and many forms of training. It is also a good time to take stock in where we are individually in our walk with Christ. With the pending opportunities before us I would ask that we contemplate the possibilities that are presented.

I would like to mention the recent increase of visitors to our services and the new members that are now calling St. Peter's by-the-Sea home. I suspect that Melanie's ministry is taking hold and is paying dividends. I also know that the welcoming spirit of this parish is the perfect complement for her work to flourish. I thank everyone for their continued support of this parish family. 2010 has been a very trying year (so far) with all the economic uncertainty, unnatural disaster of the oil leak and the ever present cycles of life. We have always overcome and should expect nothing less from this amazing group of people. I ask you please pray for your Vestry as we head into the final half of 2010 and prepare for the coming New Year.

With Regards,
Marvin



Sunday School

Sunday School will begin this year on September 12. We will begin this exciting day with a breakfast from 9:00 to 9:30, followed by Sunday School from 9:30 to 10:15. There will be several changes/additions to Sunday School this year. The Sunday School committee has adopted a new curriculum that explores particular bible stories while using a lot of hands-on activities. We have added a preschool program for children ages 2 to preK 4. Our elementary class includes grades K-5th. We also have a middle school class. All classes will be held before church from 9:15 to 10:15. During this time there will be a young adults offering. The nursery will also be available. There's something for everyone! So please join us starting September 12.

Other exciting upcoming events include Children's Choir starting September 15. EYC will have the Blessing of the Pets on October 3 at 5:30.



Choir Notes

Save the date for the kick-off of the Aiden Sullivan Community Children's Choir beginning on Wednesday, September 15 at 5:45 pm. This is open to children ages 1st through 5th grade.

Our fall Christian formation offerings are a wonderful mix of some tried and tested favorites of St. Peter's coupled with some new. Our kick-off date for our new Sunday formational offerings is September 12th, and all Sunday offerings (for both children and adults) will take place in between our two services, from 9:15-10:15. On September 12th, members of the parish activities committee will be serving a light breakfast beginning at 9:00 to celebrate the kick-off of our fall programming.

Our **Lectionary Class** continues to meet in the parlor, and that group spends its time together discussing the readings for that particular Sunday within the context of scripture, tradition, and reason. Because they talk about different readings every Sunday, all you have to do is show up, and you can easily be engaged in that particular week's discussion.

On September 12th, we will be resurrecting the **Adult Forum** at St. Peter's. This offering is still very much in the formation stages, so if you would like to work with the committee in helping to select topics and speakers, please, contact Richard Pagano. Our September topic will be presented by guest presenter, the Reverend David Lemburg, and he will be leading a conversation titled *Learning to tell Sacred Stories*. In this conversation, Father David will lead us through a look at a particular bible story using such diverse lenses as the first hand source, other religious stories of the time, our pop-culture of movies and

Adult Christian Formation Offerings for the Fall Sundays and Wednesdays

beginning September 12th

comedy and even children's music. On Sunday, October 10th, the Reverend Melanie Lemburg will lead a forum titled *Being Dead is No Excuse: Planning your funeral at St. Peter's by-the-Sea*, which will include a step by step guide of how to begin the work of planning a funeral, appropriate and helpful information for adults of all ages. **Note:** all Adult forums will take place on the second Sunday of each month and will meet in the parish hall.

Also beginning on September 12 with the **Adult Forum**, St. Peter's by-the-Sea kicks off its first ever Sunday school offering geared specifically to the needs and concerns of **Young Adults**. This class will join the **Adult Forum** discussion on the Second Sunday

and then will meet on the other Sundays of the month in the conference room (across from the parlor in the parish hall building) to be led by Bill Williams, Sul Ozerden, and Melanie Lemburg, as we have an ongoing discussion over the course of the fall about *Four Spiritual Practices for Young Adults*. Our conversation will be based on the book *Margin: Restoring Emotional, Physical, Financial, and Time Reserves to Overloaded Lives* by Richard A. Swenson, M.D. No reading is required! Just show up when you are able and participate in the conversation. All ages are welcome. And nursery care will be provided.

On Wednesday, September 15, we resume our Wednesdays by-the-Sea programming which begins with supper (provided by Gordon Stanfield and others) from 5:15-5:45. The set cost for supper will be \$7 for an adult plate and \$5 for a child plate, and it will continue for the whole fall. After supper, the adults and children will break into their respective groups. The children will go to the nursery or to Children's choir rehearsal; the adults will be invited to participate in the formational offering based on the book *Seeking God: The Way of St. Benedict* by Esther de Waal. Our time together will include an introduction and exploration of the ancient Rule of St. Benedict and how it applies to the search for God in our modern lives. In the preface for the book, the writer Kathleen Norris writes, "Benedictine spirituality, de Waal reminds us, is

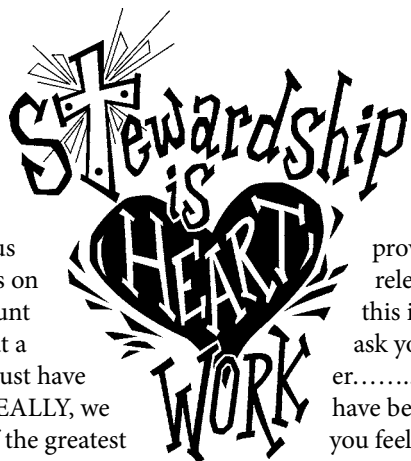


The Angel team for September is Mary Frances Milstead, Norma Bass, Jeanne Daniels, and Dot Parker.

Thank Christie Yoste, Jane Glenn, Barbara Blanchard, and Mary Alice Bailey for providing flowers for the Altar the last two Sundays in July and the first Sunday in August. We had no designated givers for those days, so they graciously filled in.

ECW NEWS

The ECW will only have one meeting before the fall luncheon. So ladies put this date on your calendar right now SEPTEMBER 14TH. As usual this will be a noon, brown bag lunch meeting. This is really the most important meeting of the year so PLEASE make plans now to be there. This your chance to help this group fund some of the projects they sponsor during the year.



The last lesson Jesus taught his disciples on the way to the Mount of Olives was about a grapevine. They must have been thinking...REALLY, we are on the verge of the greatest coming the world has ever seen and He is going on about VINES.

In those last hours the disciples discovered that following Jesus had turned out far differently than they had expected; I think we sometimes tend to forget that reality ourselves. You see the lesson of the vine is hard to accept, in order to bear fruit you must be pruned. Pruning is painful and many see it as unnecessary. The vine is bearing fruit, why mess with it? But bearing fruit is one thing, bearing "more" fruit is another. So, out come the shears, with a snip and a little pain we bear "more" fruit. Now God should be happy, shouldn't he? Well, not exactly. Now that we are bearing "more" fruit, he wants us to bear "much" fruit. You guessed it.... out come the shears and of course with a little more pain, we begin to bear "much" fruit. He does this to us our entire lives, pushing us to live out his will, always

providing but never relenting. In light of this information, I ask you to consider..... Perhaps you have been living what you feel is a correct life, turning from sin, going to church, doing some volunteering, etc. Still you notice that you have a little pain occurring. Somewhere, something is just not right and you can't figure it out. Could you, my friend, find that you are being pruned by God? Has God has been asking you to do something? You know He has been asking, you know what He wants, you just haven't quite gotten around to dealing with it. So ignore it if you must, He will continue to ask until you answer.

This little message is based on lessons taught in a book titled *Secrets of the Vine* by Bruce Wilkinson. It is a VERY short read and I would strongly encourage everyone to check it out. I also will lend mine out if you just give me a call.

God's Peace,
Marvin

A Study Group for the Gospel of Mark Scheduled

Mark will be the primary Gospel for the lectionary readings each Sunday during the new Church Year which begins with Advent in November. The Gospel of Mark was the first one written, and it is very different from the other Gospels.

In preparation for the readings and sermons next year, you are invited to participate in a study of the Gospel of Mark for five Tuesday evenings beginning October 19 and concluding on November 16. The focus will be on the unique characteristics and teachings of The Gospel of Mark. Mark's presentation of Jesus and his summary of the teachings and ministry of Jesus will be compared with the views presented by other Gospel writers.



The group will meet at the home of Helen and Edwin Graham (22 51st Street). Snacks with dessert and beverages will be served beginning at 6:30 each Tuesday evening.

As in previous study groups, 30 minute DVD lectures by prominent biblical scholars will be shown, followed by additional material and group discussion. If you will pre-register by calling Edwin Graham at 863-2343, an outline with suggested readings will be sent to you before the first session. In the meantime, read the Gospel of Mark and any study materials on Mark that you may have available.

A Pilgrimage to Israel and Jordan

Sponsored by the Center for Formation and Mission of the Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi

Hosted by the Rev. Canon David H. Johnson

February 14–24, 2011

\$2998 per person, double occupancy

Plus \$475 Airline Taxes/Fuel Surcharges (subject to change)

\$500 Single Supplement Available

Included:

- Round Trip Airfare from New York to Tel Aviv
- 8 Nights Accommodation
- Deluxe A/C Motor Coach Transportation
- English Speaking Guide Services for 9 days
- All Entrance Fees
- Breakfast and Dinner Daily at Hotels

Contact

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DEACON'S LETTER

Hello St. Peter's:

Well summer is coming to a close and school is back in session, maybe to the regrets of some students, summer wasn't long enough. Over the weekend we had a training session for new acolytes. Last May after graduation of our seniors, we had three acolytes left. The wonderful news is now we are fifteen strong. Everyone did very well in training and is looking forward to serving at St. Peter's. These numbers include four new acolytes that will serve at our 8:00 am service. There will be a service of installation for them at both services on September 12, 2010.

Our service to Feed My Sheep, IHN and the Food Pantry are going well. It's great to see everyone who helps out on the second Sunday to prepare the bag lunches for Feed My Sheep. We still need a couple of volunteers to help on our weekly lunch schedule there, if you can help out please give Mary Alice Bailey a call.

Keep up the good work with the one can or package for each member of your household into the food pantry each week, hundreds are depending on our contribution. *THANKS!*

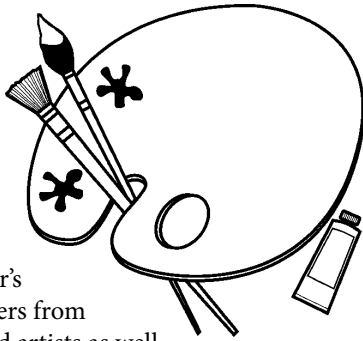
The work that has begun on a special arts after-school program is building and moving forward with great energy and enthusiasm. The target date is after the first of the New Year and this promises to be a wonderful and caring program that will help children from all walks of life in our neighborhood in addition to our own children with creative multimedia art and music study that will enhance their academic efforts at school. Many more details on this to come in the months ahead.

Thanks to everyone who serves in so many ways at St. Peter's and in the wider community.

Blessings,
Deacon Scott

St. Peter's Arts Academy in planning stage

Plans are well underway for our newest project to offer St. Peter's wealth of artistic talent to the children of our community. As most of you know JT Anglin last year established The Aiden Sullivan Community Children's Choir. Due to the success of this endeavor we are pleased to announce the first ever afterschool St. Peter's Arts Academy. With the help of volunteers from within our church community and noted artists as well as students from local colleges and universities, third and fourth grade students will gather in our parish hall two afternoons a week to experience visual arts, music, theater and dance. The outpouring of enthusiasm for this program has been incredible! At this writing we are working on outside funding from a number of art related agencies. If any of you would like to participate in this exciting venture do not hesitate to contact anyone on the steering committee.



St. Peter's Arts Academy Steering Committee
Melanie, Scott, JT, Chuck, Barbara, Candace, Helen, Edwin, and Sue

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yoga
by.the.sea

We have begun our very own Yoga class. The group meets every Monday at 5:30pm in the Parish Hall. Everyone is invited, a donation of \$5 is suggested to help offset the teacher's expenses. Bring your mat and any other yoga supplies if you have them.

CALENDAR

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SERVING SCHEDULE

SERVING SCHEDULE

CALENDAR

Formation continued from page 1.

direction of our lives, learning practices of stewardship and evangelism and service to others.¹

The Christian formation teams for children and adults have put together a rich and diverse fall formational program at St. Peter's. This program addresses needs and concerns in the above areas for all ages of people, and it will seek to engage the whole person in encountering the question of what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ in the world today. Read on in the Key for more information on all the different offerings, and prayerfully consider joining us in one or more as we give attention to our relationship with God and seek to be transformed in the hope that is God's call to us.

Peace, *Melanie*+

¹ As based on material taught by The Rev. Melissa Skelton at the Cooperative College for Congregational Development. Gray Center, June 2010.



Adult Formation continued from page 3.

grounded in the idea that God's presence is everywhere, and that it is our job to seek it out, remembering that the material and the spiritual are not distinct and separate realms, but that even our most ordinary manual work 'is to be a constant reminder of the reality of the Incarnation.' To live in the holistic manner envisioned by St. Benedict, de Waal says, is to live knowing that 'God does not demand the unusual, spectacular, the heroic,' but rather 'that I do the most ordinary, often dreary and humdrum things that face me each day with a loving openness that will allow them to become my own immediate way to God.' This is the monastic way, in the traditions of both Christianity

and Buddhism, yet it is also a way that is open to anyone."¹ Again, you don't need to read anything; just show up!

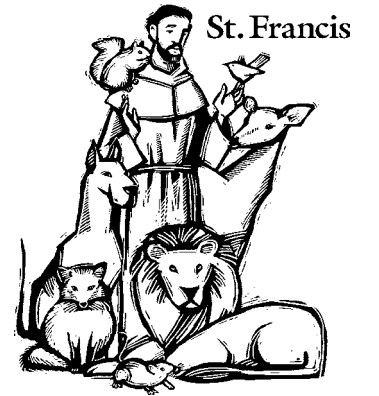
Finally, later in the fall, beginning in October, we will offer a five week Study on the Gospel of Mark, led by Edwin Graham. More information on this future offering can be found later in this edition of The Key.

If you have not participated in Adult Christian formation at St. Peter's by-the-Sea, now is the time to start! Pick one (or a couple) and join us as we seek to be transformed by the hope of God's call to us!

¹ De Wall, Esther. *Seeking God: The Way of St. Benedict*. Liturgical press: Minnesota, 2001. Pp 7-8.

Save the date:

St. Francis of Assisi Day Pet blessing service hosted by Gulf Coast EYC, **Sunday October 3rd at 5:30 pm** at St. Peter's by-the-Sea. Bring your favorite furry, slimy, or slithery friend to celebrate the gift of your pet's presence in your life. We will meet out in the courtyard near the St. Francis statue. In case of rain, gather in the parish hall.



HELP! HELP! HELP!

We now have in our church office prints of St. Peter's by artist Mary Pat Forrest, which were ordered in the spring. Since that time, the two sample framed prints, along with the order book, have been moved from the coffee service bar in the parish hall. We have not been able to locate these items, which include that list of the prints ordered. If you have information on their location, please phone the church office. We cannot fulfill the orders as placed without this record. Thank you so much!

Remember that all money from these sales goes to our church budget!

Barbara Blanchard

Mission & Outreach

OPPORTUNITIES AND REPORTS

Harrison County Children's Emergency Shelter

We had a wonderfully generous response to our back-to-school girl's size 6-6X clothing request for the Harrison County Children's Emergency Shelter. Leslie Stanfield kindly coordinated our effort and she reported the following gifting:

- 5 dresses
- 15 tops
- 2 shorts
- 8 pants
- 2 skirts
- 17 outfits

The staff was thrilled with the clothing and it all helped to put smiles on the young girls' faces. Leslie and I thank our many generous donors who took time to shop and provide these items.

We will be helping the Shelter out again at Christmas time with the girl's size 6-6X tops and bottoms.

Battered Women's Shelter

The Men's Grillin' Group is asking that everyone traveling and staying in a hotel to please collect and save all of the toiletries that you are paying for [DAILY] that you do not use. The items will be distributed to the Battered Women's Shelter. There is a collection box in the narthex.

IHN

Patti Nicholas did a great job coordinating the dinners for our week at the IHN home. Thank you to those who continue to support these families with your home cooked meals.



Food Pantry

As all of us know, these are really tough days financially. Your donations to the food pantry means as much now as ever. More and more people are faced with the need for help in feeding their families. Thank you for being a part of this mission.

Second Sunday Feed My Sheep

Christie and Harry Yoste will be responsible for our September 12

Second Sunday bag lunches for Feed My Sheep. Help in assembling the lunches is always appreciated. Join in the lunch making immediately following the early service.

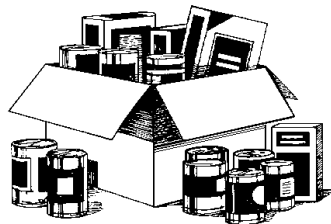
Financially, it costs us right at \$100.00 to purchase the food items to feed 50 lunches to men, women and children each Second Sunday. We provide two sandwiches, a piece of fruit, chips, water and juice and this may be the only food these folks get all day.

In August, Pattie Golden coordinated making the Second Sunday lunches. Phil Parker and Pattie Lukas delivered and distributed the lunches. Thanks to the three of you for making this important mission a success in August.

Other Outreach Needs?

If you become aware of other Outreach needs, please contact Scott or me.

Candace B. Ozerden



From the mailbox:

Dear Susan,

I hope this email finds you well. It's been quite awhile!

I am still very thankful for my time last summer with you, Liz, Diane, and the rest of the St. Peter's parish family, and am very grateful to the vestry of St. Peter's for offering that opportunity to me. My summer with you all was a wonderful part of my spiritual journey, and since so much has happened since I left, I thought I might send an update. I want to include you all on my next steps, and let you know what my summer with you all helped lead me towards.

Since I left Gulfport, I have continued in the discernment process in the Diocese of New Jersey and in late May graduated with my degree in secondary English Education at the University of Delaware, but that's not all. Recently, I answered the call to missionary work and have applied and been accepted into a program called the Young Adult Service Corps (YASC), which is an international mission program coordinated by the Episcopal Church's Mission Personal Office in New York City. By choosing to be a member of the tenth class of YASCers, I am choosing to spend one year serving abroad somewhere in the Anglican Communion as a missionary of the Episcopal Church in United States. On August 25, I will be going to Cape Town, South Africa where I will be working with a relief organization called HOPE Africa (<http://www.hopeafrica.org.za>). My mission will also have me living at the campus ministry house at the University of Cape Town, where I will also probably be working with the Anglican Student Federation of the Province of Southern Africa. Since my graduation in May, I have been training and fundraising for this next part of my journey and even preached at a few local churches. Also, while I am in South Africa, I will be documenting my journey on a mission blog: www.beyondthesunsetandbathsofwesternstars.blogspot.com

Please pass my greetings along to the rest of St. Peter's. Also, I will be in Gulfport soon and look forward to visiting and worshipping at St. Peter's these next two Sundays.

Christ's Peace,
Ann

Ann Kathryn Urinoski
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Somerville, NJ 08876
(908) 578-9098

South Africa Mission Blog:
www.beyondthesunsetandbathsofwesternstars.blogspot.com



Gulf Coast EYC kicks off on September 19th at Christ Church, Bay St. Louis. All students in grades 6th to 12th grade are invited to participate.

Looking ahead:

- 9/10-9/12 Sr. High DOY
- 10/3 Animal Blessing service at St. Peter's by-the-Sea
- 10/29-10/31 Happening #72
- 10/30-10/31 Jr. High Lock-in at St. Patrick's, Long Beach
- 11/12-11/14 Jr. High DOY

Please, make sure that you have completed the **Disaster Preparedness Form** and returned it to the church. Copies are available in the church office or in the back of the church.



Students received cross medallions at the Blessing of the Backpacks on August 15th.

Follow St. Peter's by-the-Sea on Facebook, blogspot

If you use Facebook, look for the St. Peter's by-the-Sea fan page.

The Rev. Melanie Lemburg now has a blog:

There's spiritual insight and the texts of her sermons, in case you didn't hear all of it the first time!

<http://lemburgordinarytime.blogspot.com/>

There's a link to it at the top of the St. Peter's website, too.

At Coast Episcopal School
a life-long love of learning begins at 12 months.



We still have a few openings in our Toddler program
For children 12 months of age and older



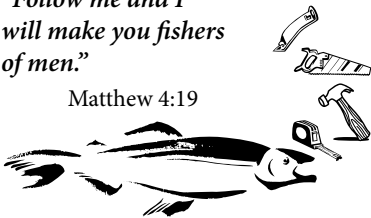
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And he said to them,
"Follow me and I
will make you fishers
of men."

Matthew 4:19



MARK YOUR SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

10th-12th

Sr. High DOY at CBG

12th

Sunday School Kick-off!

Second Sunday Bag
Lunches

14th

ECW meets

15th

Aiden Sullivan Community

Children's Choir Kick-off

19th

Gulf Coast EYC Kick-off

MEMBERSHIP NOTES

Transfers in:

Susan Dawson from
Colorado Springs, Colorado

