

**FROM THE RECTOR...**

## ***OFF TO A GOOD START...***

Dear Friends in Christ,

Did you ever notice how important it is to get off to a good start? This is especially true in sports. It's important for the horse to break out of the gate as soon as the doors open. The swimmer must be in the water as soon as the starter gun goes off. The defensive line must make contact as soon as the ball is hiked. Starting well makes all the difference in the outcome.

Many Episcopal churches schedule "Rally Days" in early September every year so they can get off to a good start. It is the time when everyone returns from their summer breaks and set themselves off on another year of ministry and spiritual growth. Being a church at the shore, summers are not the same for us. Although some of us choose to be more absent during the summer than the rest of the year, our church community keeps very busy doing the work that is unique to a church in a shore community – worship on the beach, pancake breakfasts, seafood festival, sidewalk sale, Thursdays on the Lawn, our outreach work at *The Branches* and *St. Mary's This 'n That Thrift Shop*. So, we just keep on going, doing the work we are entrusted to do. We haven't had a Rally Day in our recent history since we just seem to move from summer into our Fall activities with little or no fanfare, but a lot of planning.

This year, I feel a need to have a "Rally Day" for several reasons. I think we should gather and cheer each other on, offering "hip-hip-hoorays!" for jobs well done, through the summer and throughout the year. I also would like to share some important information with you that has been gathered over the past year and a half by our Long Range Planning Committee that has bearing on our future together. It is information that we all should have and it needs to be shared in a forum where we can have a give-and-take exchange, where you can ask questions and seek clarifications. Finally, I would like to use this day as a kick-off for our Centennial celebration in 2010 – to inform you about the plans our committee has formulated and to make you aware of opportunities through which you can participate in this important year in our church's life.

I have scheduled "Rally Day '09" on Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>. We will have one Service that day at 9AM and a parish meeting in the church hall immediately afterwards. Please mark your calendars NOW! Labor Day will be over, school will have started and Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> should be a day when all of us can gather and get off to a good start! This is a day for everyone, young and old alike, and I would like to have as many of you present as possible. So, PLEASE try to attend.

*Rally Day '09* – don't miss it. Let's celebrate, be informed and get off to a good start. It will make winners of us all as we run the race "looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith" (Hebrews 12:1-2) who gives success to the work of our hands.

Sincerely,

John+  
Your Pastor