



The Rev. Alan Sutherland, Rector

August 12, 2007

Pentecost 11, 2007
St. John's Children's Sermon

Today I want to show you something you have never ever seen before and you will never ever see again.

Can anyone guess what it may be? (Show a roasted peanut in a shell.)

You cannot see the peanut but do you believe it is there?
Let's see.

Take off the shell and the peanut is there. It is the first time you have ever seen it and you have never ever seen it before. You could not see it but you knew it was there.

And now you will never ever see it again because I am going to eat the peanut. (Eat the peanut.)

There, it's gone and you will never ever see it again.

In the letter of Paul he gives us a list of people who have lived by faith.

Faith is something like that peanut in a shell. You can't see it but you know we have it. We have faith in God. We say every week we believe in God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. We cannot see them, we cannot touch them, but we know they are there. That's faith.

But that's only half of it because our faith only becomes visible when WE put it into action. Paul lists all the people who put faith into action:

Abel offered,
Noah built,
Abraham obeyed.
He then goes on to say:
Jacob blessed,
Moses left Egypt,
Rahab received.

All the people did something in faith.

They took off the shell and made faith visible.

Only by how we live do people see our faith.

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Established in 1847

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Now is anybody here allergic to peanuts? When you are allergic to something you cannot have it.

I think that there are some people who seem to be allergic to God.

They say they have faith and they say they believe but it does not really show in how they live there lives.

Some people, well, like the peanut you see it once and then you never see it again.

Faith is something that we have to use all the time. Our belief in God and how we live out what we believe God wants us to do.

We have to put our faith into action because it is only through how we live our life that we show the fruits of our faith.

amen

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