

The Herald

January 23, 2011

Third Sunday after the Epiphany

From the Rector: Of Social Justice

Every now and then I get asked the question about why we talk so much about social justice around All Saints, in preaching, and teaching and conversation....The short answer, of course, is that's pretty much what the whole of scripture both Hebrew and New Testament talks about. Jesus said it best in all three of the synoptic gospels, lest we doubt his teaching emphasis, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.

This is the greatest and first commandment. And the second is *like* (my italics) it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets (the Law and the Prophets meaning the whole of Hebrew scripture)." The Greek word for "like" translated literally means equal to....so Jesus' point is that to love God is to love neighbor; to love neighbor is to love God. Now, how to love neighbor then is the great question, a time worn conundrum: clans, tribes, confederations, empires and nations have wrestled with it over the ages....some better than others.

Jesus' proclamation about loving neighbor being the means of loving God is not original with him, nor with the writers of the synoptics.... Amazingly, or maybe not so much so, in the Far East the same premise surfaces with Confucius and the Buddha several hundred years earlier. In Western thought in the early fourth century B.C.E. Plato spoke of loving neighbor as humankind's God-given vocation, Humankind's highest aspiration... His masterpiece, *The Republic*, is his so-called "how to" treatise on loving one's neighbor. The original title was *Dike* in Greek, which simply means "justice" (and in Plato's case, *distributive justice*). Justice of course not so simple, but Plato uses the example of the democratic polis (the Greek city state) as a possible means to such an end, a vision of the ideal in which justice is distributed equally among the people....a community in which all would have equal say as to decisions that affect the whole....a community in which the greater good trumps self interest. How we grapple with such a high ideal is the rub, but grapple we must.

For Plato, however, this philosophical system applied to the upper classes, and in some cases not to women, and certainly not for manual laborers and slaves (slaves comprising a good two thirds of the population). The gospel communities, on the other hand, used the same rhetorical use of Justice (*dike*) as to how one shall live in community, but the gospels applied the premise to all classes of society...men, women, slaves and freedmen. We see this ideal in the earliest of Christian writings, particularly in the writings of Paul, whose letters preceded the gospels by three to five decades. So the Gospels and New Testament literature follow the time honored tradition in the east and in the west, that we must as our God-given heritage strive to live together justly, inclusive of the entire human community....and ours as people of faith is to try to figure that out in all its nuances and complexities in noble conversation and passionate exchange... "with all our heart, soul and mind"...In short, to reach this ideal of living together amid compassion and justice is our lives' work.

And one more thing....that which empowers us to live such lives with singleness of heart, is the knowledge that God first loves us. The ancient prophets and sages tell us so...throughout the Biblical history of Israel God woos this strange and stubborn people, never ends God's pursuit of them....the relationship is forever tested and rocky...like all relationships of love...but love no less....Jesus tells us so in his teachings and in parable... I think perhaps part of this work we've been given to do is to stop and recognize that God loves us first, in spite of the ups and downs of such a relationship....and therefore, as Lizzie McDonald said well in her piece in this edition of the *Herald*, ours is to "pay it forward." To share the love of God that has been bestowed on us....and the time honored "how to" is to feed and clothe and empower and dignify....and heal...and house and practice kindness and compassion...It's this collective labor of love that holds the world together, and remakes it for the better....and from the great sages come before us from east and west, and from the one we follow called the Christ...the word is justice...simple justice.

On the Calendar:

Thursday, January 20
12N Al-Anon (Smith Rm)
7pm AA (Smith Rm)

Sunday, January 23
8am Holy Eucharist
9am Breakfast
9:25am Christian Education
10:30am Holy Eucharist
Reception following
2-4pm EYC @ Taylor Park

Tuesday, January 25
3:30pm St. Michael and All Angels
choir rehearsal

Wednesday, January 26
12N Holy Eucharist (Chapel)
4pm St. Cecilia choir rehearsal
7:30pm Adult Choir rehearsal

Thursday, January 27
12N Al-Anon (Smith Rm)
6pm Fresh Start Ministry dinner
7pm AA (Smith Rm)

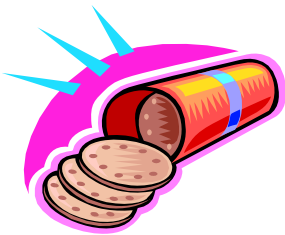
New Adult Christian Education offering

Rector's Forum: Questions, Answers and Speculations
This new class lead by the Rector will begin Tuesday evening, February 1. We will begin at 6:00 p.m. with supper and class will begin at 6:30 and end at 7:30. There was great demand after this year's Inquirer's class that we continue our exploration of the Episcopal Church, its history, its practices (why we do the things we do) and its current polity. We will also discuss the interpretation of scripture, the Book of Common Prayer, among a wide range of topics decided upon by the group as a whole. This is intended to be not a lecture series but a conversation. The class will meet bi-weekly.

Peanut Butter & Crackers

At each Food Share, the Food Bank sends foods that we have not ordered but must take, in addition to the food we do order. In December we received MANY boxes of crackers that we have stored in the Parish Hall to give to people who come during the month asking for food.

It has been suggested that it would be nice to have peanut butter to give along with the crackers. If you would like to donate small jars of peanut butter, bring them to the church office or put them in the basket in the Ann Street narthex. Thanks from the office volunteers who greet our hungry neighbors daily!



The Friday night supper club

will be on Friday, January 21, 7:00 at Margaret and Keith Winkler's, 9601 Three Notch Rd, 666-0984. All are invited and newcomers are welcome.

New Vestry Officers for 2011 are:

Jean Tucker, Senior Warden; Michael Morrison, Junior Warden; Clark Kelly, Treasurer; and Diana Nichols, Clerk. Stayed tuned for a report on the 2011 budget next week!

The Curiosity Shop needs you!

Donations of "gently-used" decorative household items and furniture are needed at The Curiosity Shop Thrift Store. Proceeds from The Curiosity Shop benefit The Service Center of Catholic Social Services which provides direct assistance to the poor. Donations may be dropped off at the shop, located next to Yellow House Antiques on Airport Blvd. at the Loop, Tues.-Fri. 10-4 or Sat. 10-2.

Please: no clothes, books, toys or electronics! For further information about donations or to volunteer at the store, call 471-3030.

The Flag Maker of Market Street is a new play opening at the Alabama Shakespeare Festival in Montgomery on February 4. The playwright is Elyzabeth Gregory Wilder (an All Saints' parishioner) and it tells the story of George Cowles, a respected Montgomery merchant who is asked to make the very first Confederate flag. However, at night Cowles is secretly running Unionist meetings out of his backroom. When a customer becomes suspicious of his activities, Cowles' life and the lives of everyone close to him are placed in jeopardy.

Elyzabeth has agreed to coordinate a trip to see her play on March 19, a Saturday, at the 2pm matinee. If there is a group of 10 or more who want to go, the ticket prices will be \$33 each or \$25 for people under 25. The show will run approximately 2 hours and 15 minutes with one intermission. Afterwards, there will be a discussion with the playwright that will last about 30 minutes for those who are interested.

For more information, email Elyzabeth at elyzabethw@aol.com. Reservations must be made and checks received by March 1.



EYC Mini-Mission Trip to New Orleans

Over the Martin Luther King holiday weekend, 8 youth and 2 chaperones embarked on a mission trip to New Orleans through Trinity Episcopal Church in New Orleans. Although the trip was only 2 nights and 3 days long, our group accomplished a great deal in the short time that we were there. The youth were motivated and energized while working, and we honestly did not stop from 10 until 5.

The house we were working on was in the Gentilly neighborhood, and it had received a significant amount of wind damage during Hurricane Katrina. Kelly and her mother Sandy, the owners of the house, had been through four contractors, and their house was almost completely fixed except for one thing: the paint job. The All Saints youth eagerly scraped, sanded, primed, and painted the house until the very second we had to leave on Sunday afternoon. Kelly and Sandy were truly touched by the work we had done, and they said that they were both now inspired to "pay it forward".

Sometimes in the busyness of the school year, it is easy to forget about our neighbors who are still hurting, but I am so very proud of the All Saints youth group for giving up their holiday weekend to serve the community of New Orleans! Thank you so much to Parker Butler, Laura Hampton Greene, Hannah Williams, Trevor Thiel, Sarah Williams, Kate Kelly, Rebecca Brewster, and Matt and Karen McDonald!

Lizzie McDonald



Scraping and sanding

The finished product



Tri^olo^Cue

MUSLIMS, JEWS, AND CHRISTIANS – TOGETHER

INTERFAITH SYMPOSIUM

Thursday – January 27, 2011

Spring Hill College
Byrne Memorial Hall 7:00-9:00 pm

TOPIC

Peace: What Does It Look Like For People of Faith?

There will be table discussions regarding the evening's topic.

Although the organizing committee has chosen to concentrate on dialogue topics that encourage mutual understanding, we recognize the need to address the "thorny issues" that concern us all. The topic for January 27th is a step in this direction. We hope you will join us for this event.

RSVP (251) 380-4458

Requested—though not required (for the sake of planning only)

Admission is Free

Light refreshments served which meet dietary restrictions of all faiths.

Special Treat for this Evening – Noah's Pudding!

SAVE THE DATE!

Our Next Triologue Event will be April 7, 2011

2011 Men's Conference

March 4 - March 6, 2011

at Beckwith Camp and Conference Center

Offering faith, direction and encouragement to those wishing a closer relationship with our Lord in the company of other men of the Diocese.

Conference Theme: Why We Whisper the E word, Evangelism



The Right Reverend Keith Whitmore
Assistant Bishop of Atlanta

Bishop Keith Whitmore

While serving as the Bishop of Eau Claire, Bishop Keith Whitmore answered a call to be Assistant Bishop of Atlanta because he had an opportunity to pursue his passion for developing congregations. The key to his endeavor, he thinks, is to keep the main thing the main thing, evangelism. The E word doesn't roll off the tongues of most for most Episcopalians, and Bishop Keith admits, is one he struggled to articulate as a young priest. However, he believes that unless we Episcopalians get our mojo back, that is, get the spirit of Jackson Kemper, the church's first great missionary bishop, our future as a denomination is grim.

As a native of Wisconsin Bishop Keith is a devout Badger fan, although he now resides with his wife Suzie in Atlanta where he admits that the winter weather is a bit better than the upper mid west. The Whitmores have two adult children. Although he is often on the road working with congregations throughout the Atlanta Diocese, he hasn't quite developed a taste for grits.

Come to this Men's conference to be with this engaging and interactive speaker and learn to handle the dread E word. By the way, you might just be a better disciple as a result.

**Flyers can be found on the bulletin board
in the Parish Hall**



The Episcopal Church welcomes you

EYC NEWS

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The high school EYC Mission Trip will be to Tulum, Mexico with Hands and Feet Ministries from June 5-12!!!
Email Catherine for more details.

I will be gone from January 2nd- March 3rd. I will have limited access to email, but will be checking periodically. There will be a different person to contact each week for questions regarding EYC.
I will miss you all, but will see you in March!

January 23rd

Taylor Park. We will be teaming with Ashland Place again this spring to play with the neighborhood kids. Meet at the park from 2-4.
Contact for this week: Kate Kelly 251.487.0525

January 30th

Mulherin Home. Coloring, baking cookies and playing with the residents.
3-5pm Contact for this week: Renea Greene 251.533.1536

February 6th

Mission Trip Fundraiser. Bake Sale! There will be a bake sale after both services. Please see Karen McDonald for details: 251.533.0296

February 13th

Taylor Park. Meet at the park from 2-4.
Contact: Kate Kelly 251.487.0525

Contact Info

Catherine Mackey - SCatherineMackey@gmail.com

Sunday Lectionary: 3rd Sunday after Epiphany

[Isaiah 9:1-4](#)

[Psalm 27:1, 5-13](#)

[1 Corinthians 1:10-18](#)

[Matthew 4:12-23](#)

Lay Ministers for Sunday

Altar Guild: Suzanne Drew, Johnna Rogers, Margaret Winkler, LaVada Raouf, Burl Ratcliffe

Flower Guild: Suzanne Drew, Becky Wilson

Breakfast: Charlotte Hall, Karen McDonald, Amy Hamilton, Amy Thompson

Reception: Paula Reeves, Kim Gray

8:00

Lector: Joe Basenberg

Intercessor: Bill Evatt

Chalice bearer: Serena Willcox

Ushers: Bill Evatt, Harold Dodge

Greeter: Renee Dillard

10:30

Lectors: 1) Albert Lilly 2) Melanie Petithory

Intercessor: Hank Caddell

Chalice bearers: Marion Elledge, Jayne Carson

Acolytes: Mark Williams, Grace Williams, Sarah Williams, Meredith Mosley

Ushers: Andy Mitchell, James Hamilton, Chris Conte, Bill hines

Music for Sunday, Jan. 23

Voluntary Alexandre Guilmant *Mélodie en Sol Majeur*

Processional Hymn 381 *Ton-y-Botel*

William Mathias S-278 *Gloria in Excelsis Deo*

James Turlé *Psalm 27:1, 5-13*

Sequence Hymn 126 *Dundee*

Offertory Anthem C. Hubert H. Parry *Dear Lord and Father*

Presentation Hymn 661 *Georgetown*

William Mathias S-128 *Sanctus and Benedictus qui venit*

Mason Martens S-167 *The Disciples Knew the Lord Jesus*

Communion Hymn 321 *Rockingham*

Motet Gerald Near *The Best of Rooms*

Post Communion Hymn 530 *Gott sei Dank*

Processional Sigfrid Karg-Elert *Ich dank dir, lieber Herre Op. 65, No. 37*

Please keep in your prayers:

Pauline Oliver
Cheryl Peach
Pauline Danner
Butch Boyington
Bette Coan
Clayton Ryan
George Weaver
Bill Mayhall
Betty Torbert
Dot Casey
Devanie Ellison
Barbie Driver
Patsy Childress
Marion
Debbie Davis
Chris
the White family
Brenda
Tillye Semple
Laura

Serving in the military:

Spencer Abbot
Matt Abbot
Glenn Foster, Jr.
Soren Rodning
Zack Hadley
T. J. Sherman
Jamie Pontious
Haley Jones
Thedford Daniel Jones, Jr.
Daniel Taylor
Daniel Robert

The policy of this church is to keep people on the prayer list for one month. After a month, they will be removed. If you want someone to be on the list longer, please call the office; the request will be updated and s/he will be kept on for another month.

★ **Refugee Pantry Items** ★
★ We need items such as **toilet paper** (multi-packs), **paper towels**,
★ **dish soap** and **garbage bags**. Please put them in the church office
★ or the Ann St. narthex. Thanks! ★

Our prayers go out to Al Story at the death of his daughter, Becky Allen, last Saturday.
Let light perpetual shine upon her.



All Saints Church

151 SOUTH ANN STREET
MOBILE, AL 36604

www.allsaintsmobile.org

Clergy

The Rt. Rev. Philip M. Duncan II, Bishop
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The Rev. James B. Flowers, Jr., Rector
rector@allsaintsmobile.org
Office: 438-2492 Home: 436-8932
The Rev. Mary C. Robert, Assistant Rector
asstrector@allsaintsmobile.org
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All Saints Church Staff

Jeff Clearman, Principal Parish Musician
jeff@allsaintsmobile.org
Mary Holbrook, Financial Administrator
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Parish Administrator
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Irene Raymond, Parish Sexton
Elizabeth Dunnam and Tracy Barton, Nursery Workers

All Saints 2011 Vestry

Henry Callaway
Valerie Case
Harold Dodge
Marion Elledge
Rob Gray
Renea Greene
Woody Hannum
Amy Hunter
Clark Kelly, Treasurer
Pete Mackey, Senior Warden
Susan Meztista
Michael Morrison, Junior Warden
Diana Nichols, Clerk
Jean Tucker
Darrel Williams

All Saints Committee Chairs

Acolytes: The Rev. Mary Robert
Addiction & Recovery: Becky Wilson
Adult Christian Education: The Rev. Jim Flowers
Altar Guild: Betty Bentley, Melanie Petithory
Choirs: Jeff Clearman
Communications: The Rev. Mary Robert
Community Ministries: Matt McDonald
Constitution & By Laws: Pete Mackey
Episcopal Youth (EYC): Catherine Mackey
Finance Committee: Clark Kelly, treasurer
Flower Guild: Katharine Flowers
Food Share: Susan Meztista, Mark Taylor, Burl Ratcliffe
Golden Circle: Laura Rutherford, Wylly Stirling
Hospitality & Events: Charlotte Hall, Jean Tucker
IHN/Family Promise: Henry Brewster
Lectors & Chalice Ministers: The Rev. Mary C. Robert
Long-Range Planning: Curt Doyle
Nursery: Elizabeth Doyle, Amy Hunter, Jim Ayres
Parish Development: Clark Kelly
Property: Michael Morrison
Refugees: Martha Harris
Ushers: Bill Evatt, Louie Wood
Stewardship: Woody Hannum, All Saints Vestry
Youth Christian Education: Renea Greene

All Saints Episcopal Church

151 South Ann Street, Mobile, AL 36604 www.allsaintsmobile.org

Service Schedule

Sundays 8:00 am Holy Eucharist
9:00 am Breakfast
9:25 am Christian Education Classes (during school year)
10:30 am Holy Eucharist
Wednesdays 12 Noon Holy Eucharist (Chapel)