



The Herald

February 27, 2011

Eighth Sunday after the Epiphany

From the Rector: Of A-Theism

When he was about sixteen, one of my sons told me he was an agnostic, that he doubted the rudiments of the faith that he had learned in Sunday School, that he had heard discussed among his friends. I told him that that's a good thing...I having remembered reading Paul Tillich's *Dynamics of Faith* in Religion III as a freshman in college, in which the great German theologian averred that doubt is a most necessary part of faith...that in fact without doubt there is no faith. I remember being so incredibly relieved that it was not only permissible to have doubts about faith, but even necessary... After two world wars and the exponential violence they wrought, it was no wonder people began doubting the existence of a loving God....that "doubt is a part of faith" at the time of Tillich's writing was possibly the greatest understatement a theologian ever made.... And the way many so-call churched people dealt with their doubts over the past half century was simply to leave.

Years later, just a few years ago one of my son's friends around the age of thirty, who knew I was a priest, ventured to tell me that he was an atheist....Just months ago a woman perhaps around my age after we had been introduced at the Artwalk told me that she had heard so much about All Saints Church and the good that we do...that many of the people she knew who were actively engaged in socio-economic and justice issues around town were members of All Saints...I told her enthusiastically that she should come...but she demurred saying that she was an atheist...that she just couldn't go with the "personal Jesus thing." I told her still that there might just be a place for her here.

There are many in our culture like these two, people who have outgrown the dogmatic super-naturalism that Christianity has foisted upon its faithful over the ages, and particularly during the Enlightenment and the rise of American fundamentalism, when Christianity hid in its ivory towers from the renaissance of science, reason and empirical learning. It never crossed the church's mind that religion and science might be intimately compatible....We are seeing such discourse today....science and religion in intimate conversation.

I told my son's friend and the woman I met downtown that I too was an a-theist....that is, if theism is defined as a male God aloof in the heavens, an eccentric watchmaker, who has set the creation free to its own devices....a capricious deity who answers some peoples' prayers, but not those of others....who punishes the wicked capriciously as well....and sadly, I think that notion of God is preeminent in what passes popularly as Christianity.... I don't want any of that either....I want to be with the doubters....because doubt engenders conversation and imaginative discovery... After all the life of faith is not about dogma, but a life of discovery....discovery and enlightenment amid a life of acting for the good of the whole...what Jesus preached and the prophets before him.

If we are to remain alive as the church, if we are to maintain any relevancy, then we must learn to speak of God with intellectual integrity...no more magic....but humanity living into its God-likeness.... intellectual integrity, and moreover to act as God acts....the people of faith committing themselves to compassion and mercy and justice....to mature into the love for the world we are meant to be....Scripture is our friend in this matter, because scripture compels us to enact the faith first....to en flesh the good, to en flesh the higher love that lives among us...and then belief comes in its own time...our doubts along the way notwithstanding....Come all doubters, and see the good breaking into our world as we speak...you'll see it if you are paying attention....see and join the love borne to the world by people who act as if it is the good that will in the end prevail...people acting as if, acting "as if".... faith at its best....see and join the ones who change the world....Come and act and see.... that you might believe.

On the Calendar:

Tuesday, February 22
3:30pm St. Michael & All Angels
choir

Wednesday, February 23
12N Holy Eucharist (chapel)
4pm St Cecelia choir
7:30pm Adult Choir

Thursday, February 24
12N Al-Anon
5:30pm Food Share Packing
7pm AA

Sunday, February 27
8am Holy Eucharist
9am Breakfast
No Youth Sunday School
9:25am Adult Christian Ed
10:30am Holy Eucharist
Reception following

Tuesday, March 1
3:30pm St. Michael & All Angels
choir
6pm Supper & Rector's Forum

Wednesday, March 2
12N Holy Eucharist (chapel)
4pm St Cecelia choir
7:30pm Adult Choir

Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life

This Sunday, the Christian Living Today adult education class will watch the first half of a recent talk by Karen Armstrong regarding her new book, Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life. Armstrong, one of the most original thinkers on the role of religion in modern life, spoke at the New York Public Library about making the world a more compassionate place. Armstrong believes that while all human beings are intrinsically compassionate, we each need to work to cultivate and expand our capacity for this important instinct. She demonstrates that a compassionate life is not a matter of only heart or mind but a deliberate and often life-altering commingling of the two.



Karen Armstrong is the author of numerous other books on religious affairs, including the bestseller A History of God. In February 2008 she was awarded the TED Prize and began working on The Charter for Compassion, created online by the general public, crafted by leading thinkers in Judaism, Christianity, Islam, as well as in Hinduism, Buddhism, and Confucianism, and launched globally in the fall of 2009. She is a former nun and lives in London.

The class meets at 9:30 a.m. in the Walter K. Smith room, and all members are welcome to attend.

A Lenten Bible Study, led by the Rector, will begin on Wednesday, March 16, in the chapel. The session will start at 9am with an Order of Morning Prayer from the Book of Common Prayer, and continue with Bible study until around 10:30am. Everyone is welcome!

The Flag Maker of Market Street, a new play by Elyzabeth Gregory Wilder, is available to All Saints' parishioners and friends at a discounted price of \$33 each or \$25 for people under 25 for the 2pm matinee on Saturday, March 19. The deadline is March 1 (next Tuesday) for making reservations AND turning in checks to All Saints. Travel to the Alabama Shakespeare Festival in Montgomery is by your own arrangement. 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. Thanks, Elyzabeth, for making this possible!

Thanks to all who helped with the recent Food Share. The next weekend dates are March 18 and 19.



The Episcopal Church welcomes you

A Call to Action: Community Forum on School Funding

HandsOn South Alabama, Mobile United and Leadership Mobile are hosting a forum for community stakeholders to learn more about the March 22 vote to renew existing funding for education. Join them on February 24, 2011 at 8:30 am at the Alabama School of Mathematics and Science located at 1255 Dauphin Street (Please park and enter on Caroline St.) in the Auditorium. Registration starts at 8:00 am. Program begins at 8:30 am.



HandsOn
SOUTH ALABAMA

Thanks to Mark Williams, our parish music mogul, for putting on the recent Acoustic Concert Series evening with Kathryn Scheldt and Tom Morley. Well done, as usual!!



Photos by Valerie Mitchell

Thursday Night Supper Club

meets this week, 2/24 at 6:30pm at Susan Mosley's home, 6 Schwaemmle Drive. Please call Susan at 344.2337 to let her know if you are coming. All are welcome!

Gently Used Furniture Needed

Thanks to all who have donated furniture and household goods to Abraham Kuol for his new apartment. He could also use a small computer table, a clock, and a folding chair for his small patio. If anyone has items to donate, please contact Abraham: 421.3221 or Martha Harris: 342.4458.

In All These You Welcomed Me

Traveler's child laid in a manger,
refugee to Egypt bound,
pilgrim youth, yet not a stranger,
when your Father's house you found:
Christ who set aside your glory
to reclaim our wayward race,
help us read salvation's story
in each passing heart and face.

Guest who vintaged wine from water,
wandering healer brimmed with balm,
foreigner whose hearer brought her
heart-thirst to your well of calm:
Savior, may we see our neighbor
as an emblem of your care;
in our leisure and our labor
give us grace to find you there.

Homeless squatter in a garden,
feaster in a rented room,
scapegoat for another's pardon,
sleeper in a borrowed tomb:
Jesus, outcast and offender
to those certain of God's will,
rend the veils of race and gender,
wealth and health, that shroud us still.

Strange wayfarer to Emmaus,
vague form on the distant shore,
fright to friends ("Does sense betray us?")
when you stood with them once more:
risen Lord, be there to meet us
when life dawns eternally;
may your promised blessing greet us,
"In all these you welcomed me."

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The Rector's Forum will continue next on Tuesday, March 1, with potluck supper at 6pm and class to follow from 6:30-7:30. The current topic is "Episcopalians 101, part deux" which covers a multitude of general questions about the Episcopal Church. Conversation is lively. Everyone is welcome to this bi-weekly event and it's never too late to join in! Please bring a dish to share.

Children's Sunday School Schedule

During the next several weeks, the Sunday School children and youth will meet together for the following activities:

Feb. 27 No Sunday School

Mar. 6 Praise and Worship music in the EYC room, at 9:50am

Mar. 13 Arts and Crafts in Stirling Hall after breakfast

Important Upcoming Dates

- * The church office will be closed at noon on Monday, March 7 and all day on Tuesday, March 8, Mardi Gras Day.
- * Ash Wednesday is March 9. Services of Holy Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes will be held at 12N in the Chapel and at 6pm in the Church. Nursery will be provided.
- * On the Wednesdays of Lent (March 16, 23, 30 and April 6 and 13), a Taizé service in the Chapel will begin at 6pm followed by supper and conversation. (See article below) Nursery will be provided.

Lent 2011: Contemplative Worship

This Lenten season our focus will be on contemplative worship. We will gather at 6:00 p.m. in the chapel each Wednesday evening of Lent beginning March 16 for a Taizé service. There has been a genre of beautiful music written for Taizé services. It is easy to sing, often repetitive, sometimes in canon. It contains beguiling harmony and is meaningful for the singer and non-singer alike. There will be readings, periods of silence, reflections, and of course beautiful music. The service will last about forty minutes, followed by supper and informal conversation. We hope this will be an effective means to "keep a holy Lent."

IHN/Family Promise week will be March 13-20.

Please mark your calendars and plan to help our guests as a meal preparer, an evening host or an overnight host. Henry Brewster coordinates the schedule. If you want to help, contact him at home: 479.9781; at work: 338.0630; or hbrewster@brewsterlaw.net.



If you cannot be present for the date you are scheduled, please try to get a substitute and let the church office know who it is. 438-2492. If you cannot find a sub, let us know as soon as possible.

Lay Ministers for March 2011

Date	Time	Lector	Intercessor	Chalice	Acolytes	Ushers	Altar Guild	Flower Guild	Breakfast	Reception
Mar 6 <i>Last Sunday after the Epiphany</i>	8:00	P Carsten	B Evatt	K Winkler		C Coker M Taylor	B Evatt B Caddell K McKenzie C Blackwell	B Bentley R Bradford	C Hall A Hamilton K McDonald A Thompson	
	10:30	D Moreau B Barrett	V Mitchell	N Lancaster M Elledge	M Williams S Williams G Williams M Mosley	A Mitchell J Hamilton C Conte B Hines	"			C Mackey
Mar 13 <i>1st Sunday in Lent</i>	8:00	K Winkler	T Pressley	M Taylor		B Ratcliffe W English	"	S Hester S Drew	C Kelly C Doyle W Hester	
	10:30	P Butler L Carsten	R Williams	C Ryan F Rouse	D Williams D Reeves D Reeves	L Wood EYC	"			M Hennessy
Mar 20 <i>2nd Sunday in Lent</i>	8:00	S Willcox	J Clearman	B Ratcliffe		B Case J Basenberg	"	K McKenzie E Doyle	J Clearman M Harris S Cleveland	
	10:30	B Hardaway H Tate	H Snow	F Hannum B Harris	L Wood H Williams LH Greene	M Morrison C Blackwell H Callaway H Tate	"			M Morrison
Mar 27 <i>3rd Sunday in Lent</i>	8:00	B Ratcliffe	L Hallett	S Willcox		P Mackey H Dodge	"	B Hardaway B Wilson	J Tucker B Ratcliffe R Rodriguez	
	10:30	C Ryan H Thompson	M Hennessy	B Barrett S Robertson	R Brewster E Doyle SF Greene	R Bradford H Brewster M Elledge T Locke	"			B Hardway

March Birthdays

2 Ruth Jetmundsen, Sherry Allen
3 Mary Louise Ritter, Preston Bolt, Emma Gray, Noah Hamilton
8 Marshall Shields
10 Kay Montgomery, Marion Elledge, Bruce Rockstad
12 Anne Woods
13 Amy Hamilton
14 Allison Alves
16 Lee Wingard

17 Catherine Mackey
18 David Burchell, Abigail Allen
19 Margaret Winkler, Carolyn Taylor
21 Mary Robert
22 Melissa Nissen
24 Clayton Ryan, Ron Feuerlein, Achol Atem
25 Mickey Cleverdon, Lang Hamilton
26 Caroline Coker, Sarah Frances Greene
28 Andy Anderson, Sage Bolt, Jeff Clearman
29 Jim Flowers



March 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 11:30am All Saints serves @ 15 Place 3:30pm St. Michael choir 6pm Supper & Rector's Forum	2	3 12N Al-Anon 7pm AA, Smith Rm	4	5
6 <i>Last Sunday after Epiphany</i> 8am Holy Eucharist 9am Breakfast 9:25 Adult Christian Ed 9:50 Praise music in EYC room 10:30am Holy Eucharist Reception following No EYC	7 12N Office closes	8 <i>Mardi Gras</i> Office Closed	9 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> 12N Holy Eucharist & Imposition of Ashes (chapel) 6pm 15 Place Board 6pm Holy Eucharist & Imposition of Ashes (church)	10 12N Al-Anon 7pm AA, Smith Rm	11	12 10:30am PFLAG
13 <i>1st Sunday in Lent</i> 8am Holy Eucharist 9am Breakfast 9:25 Adult Christian Ed 9:25 Children's arts & crafts (Stirling Hall) 10:30am Holy Eucharist Reception following EYC @ Taylor Park	14	15 3:30pm St Michael choir 6pm Supper & Rector's Forum	16 8am Race Relations Committee 9am Lenten Bible Study (chapel) 12N Holy Eucharist 4pm St. Cecelia choir 6pm Taizé service & supper following 7:30pm Adult Choir	17 12N Al-Anon 7pm AA	18 5:30pm Food Share preparation	19 8:00am Food Share distribution  2pm The Flag Maker of Market Street
IHN / Family Promise @ All Saints 3/13—3/20						
20 <i>2nd Sunday in Lent</i> 8am Holy Eucharist 9am Breakfast 9:25 Christian Ed 10:30am Holy Eucharist Reception following EYC Fundraiser IHN ends	21 6pm Vestry mtg	22 12N Golden Circle 3:30pm St Michael choir	23 9am Lenten Bible Study (chapel) 12N Holy Eucharist 4pm St. Cecelia choir 6pm Taizé service & supper following 7:30pm Adult Choir	24 12N Al-Anon 7pm AA	25	26
27 <i>3rd Sunday in Lent</i> 8am Holy Eucharist 9am Breakfast 9:25 Christian Ed 10:30am Holy Eucharist Reception following EYC @ Mulherin Home	28	29 3:30pm St Michael choir 6pm Supper & Rector's Forum	30 9am Lenten Bible Study (chapel) 12N Holy Eucharist 4pm St. Cecelia choir 6pm Taizé service & supper following 7:30pm Adult Choir	31 12N Al-Anon 7pm AA, Smith Rm		

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!

February 27th

NO EYC!

March 6th

Joe Cain Day- No EYC- Happy Mardi Gras!

March 13th

EYC ushers at 10:30 service. Please be there to help!

Taylor Park

March 20th

Mission Trip Fundraiser

March 27th

Mulherin home

Looking ahead:

May 21

Garage Sale to raise funds for Mission Trip!!!

Contact Info

Catherine Mackey - SCatherineMackey@gmail.com

Sunday Lectionary: 8th Sunday after Epiphany

[Isaiah 49:8-16a](#)

[Psalm 131](#)

[1 Corinthians 4:1-5](#)

[Matthew 6:24-34](#)

Lay Ministers for Sunday

Altar Guild: Jeff Clearman, Martha Harris, Danny Moreau, Julie Praytor, Ellen Wingard

Flower Guild: Jean Tucker, Charlotte Hall

Breakfast: Katharine Flowers, Kim Gray, Renea Greene

Reception: Paula Reeves, Kim Gray

8:00

Lector: Pete Wilson

Intercessor: Warren Butler

Chalice bearer: Ray Hester

Ushers: Bill & Barbara Evatt

Greeter: Renee Dillard

10:30

Lectors: 1) Valerie Mitchell 2) Sarah Williams

Intercessor: Diana Nichols

Chalice bearers: Lister Thomas, Michael Morrison

Acolytes: William Kelly, Sarah Frances Greene, Emily Doyle, Kate Kelly

Ushers: Doug Greene, Curt Doyle, Mark Williams, Ray Pappas

Music for Sunday, Feb. 27

Voluntary David Conte *Soliloquy*

Processional Hymn 390 *Lobet den Herren*

William Mathias S-278 *Gloria in Excelsis Deo*

John Goss *Psalm 131*

Sequence Hymn 635 *Wer nur den lieben Gott*

Offertory Anthem Henry G. Ley *In Thee is Gladness*

Presentation Hymn 667 *Light*

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

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

Communion Hymn 696 *Le Cénacle*

Motet Paul Bouman *I Lift Up My Eyes to the Hills*

Post Communion Hymn 709 *Dundee*

Processional Johann Sebastian Bach *In dir ist Freude, BWV 615*

Refugee Pantry Items

We need items such as laundry soap, toilet paper (multi-packs), paper towels, adult-size toothbrushes, dish soap, bath soap and garbage bags. Please put them in the church office or the Ann St. narthex.

Thanks!



Please keep in your prayers for healing:

George Weaver

Martha Mason

Sylvia Spann

Richard Melton

Connie Robert

Mel Manning

Pete Gaillard

Hank Caddell

Whitney Atkinson

Richard Bridges

Larry Lake

Agnes Lambert

Martha Murdock

LaNiece Bland

Lamar Elledge

Anna Marie Brown

Doris Tant

Wesley Emerson

Sharon Cleverdon

Danny Moreau

Mike Downing

Celeste Taylor

Pauline Oliver

Cheryl Peach

Pauline Danner

Butch Boyington

Betty Torbert

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

Theford Daniel Jones, Jr.

Daniel Taylor

Daniel Robert



All Saints Church

151 SOUTH ANN STREET
MOBILE, AL 36604

www.allsaintsmobile.org

Clergy

The Rt. Rev. Philip M. Duncan II, Bishop
Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast
The Rev. James B. Flowers, Jr., Rector
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Office: 438.2492 Home: 436.8932
The Rev. Mary C. Robert, Assistant Rector
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All Saints Church Staff

Jeff Clearman, Principal Parish Musician
jeff@allsaintsmobile.org
Mary Holbrook, Financial Administrator
mary@allsaintsmobile.org
Parish Administrator
office@allsaintsmobile.org
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
Susan Meztista
Michael Morrison, Junior Warden
Diana Nichols, Clerk
Jean Tucker, Senior Warden
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)