

The Herald

May 22, 2011

Fifth Sunday of Easter

From the Rector: That They All May Be One

I had a long conversation with a friend who was born and raised a Roman Catholic, still is...but a very open minded one (not that there aren't other Roman Catholics who are open minded....just as in the Episcopal Church there are the open minded ones and the ones not so much so). We were bemoaning the fact that the church, and by church we meant the church universal, is so fractured...even within our own denominations we have decided divisions, whether they be matters of ecclesiology, theology, polity, or issues of social and economic justice. We agreed that our divisions have rendered us anemic at best and ineffective at worst in our efforts to fulfill the Gospel imperatives found in the teachings of Jesus. Our divisions have caused us to acquiesce to a self absorbed isolated individualism....which ironically is a reflection of the culture itself.

I remember attending a conference a couple of years ago in Montgomery. It was an intentional ecumenical gathering of Lutherans, Episcopalians and Roman Catholics, rubber chicken and green beans, I remember. The panel assembled were all bishops from these respective denominations, and their task was to make some statements about ecumenism and then the audience could ask questions or make comments. The Episcopalians and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America are now in full communion, but the Roman Catholic Church vis à vis the Lutherans and Episcopalians are not....so what we heard most from the Episcopal and Lutheran Bishops and the Roman Catholic Bishops were the reasons we are not in communion, not how we might be but how we are not....some reasons were theological....but most had simply to do with the way we ordain (matters of Apostolic Succession one example), and probably more importantly who we ordain, women the chief stumbling block. Finally the Catholic bishop sighed and said perhaps in God's good time he will find a way to bring us together some day, but that that day seemed distant. It was an altogether unsatisfactory answer, and the conversation soon deflated.

I wondered at the time....what if the criteria for full communion were not how and who we ordain, as if the church's identity lies solely with its clergy, most especially bishops (there was a gathering between the Episcopal Bishops and the African American A.M.E. bishops at which our bishops, I'm sure ever so politely, told the A.M.E. bishops that they weren't really bishops! seriously)....What if our baptisms and the work called for in our baptisms were the criteria...Habitat for Humanity has a saying: When we gather to build a house for one of our least....when we have a hammer in our hand there are no theological differences, they say....What if we Christian people (including bishops) lived out the Baptismal Covenant....If we continued in the teaching of the faith....continued in breaking bread together... what if we persisted in resisting evil in what ever form evil presents itself...what if we, when we're wrong, admitted so and changed our ways....what if we acted and spoke as if this faith to which we belong were true...what if we loved our neighbor as much as we revere ourselves....and what if we gave our lives for the cause of justice and the dignity of all people.....these are the rudiments of our Baptismal covenant with God....a covenant, a working promise....What if?.... I believe the church would be a power for good beyond all reckoning...and our differences, that we seem to deem so profound, we would see at last as the petty and self serving abdications of the lives we are meant to live....lives at one purpose for the world's sake...what Jesus prayed for as he was about to die....that we might be One....What if?

On the Calendar:

Wednesday, May 18
9:15am L'Arche in Chapel
12N Holy Eucharist (chapel)
7:30pm Adult choir rehearsal

Thursday, May 19
12N Al-Anon
7pm AA

Friday, May 20
5:30pm Food Share preparation

Saturday, May 21
7:30am Food Share distribution

Sunday, May 22
8am Holy Eucharist
9am breakfast
9:25am Adult Christian Ed
10:30am Holy Eucharist
Reception following

Monday, May 23
Clergy Conference @ Beckwith

Wednesday, May 25
9:15am L'Arche in Chapel
12N Holy Eucharist (chapel)
7:30pm Adult choir rehearsal

Thursday, May 26
12N Al-Anon
7pm AA

Monday, May 29
Office closed for Memorial Day

Congratulations to college graduates!

Miller Callaway graduated from Furman University on May 7. Tressa Pressley graduated from University of South Alabama last weekend. William Tucker will graduate from the University of Alabama when commencement is held in August (postponed due to tornados). Congratulations to all of them!

Food Share is this weekend! Come on Friday, May 20 at 5:30pm to help pack the food bags and/or on Saturday morning, May 21 at 7:30am to set up for the distribution of food bags at 8. We meet in Stirling Hall. All are welcome and encouraged to help. See you then!



The Friday Night Supper Club will hold its last gathering until the Fall on May 20 at 7:00pm. The meeting will be at the home of Andi and Bruce Barrett, 708 Brannon Drive. Please phone them to let them know if you are planning to attend: 662-1258. Everyone is welcome!

A Thank-you Note

On Youth Sunday, Atem Kuot, a graduating senior at Murphy High School, gave the homily at the 10:30 service. His mother, Ayen Guet, has asked that this note be 'delivered' to the All Saints congregation through The Herald:

First, I thank God and Jesus. I am thanking God for bringing us out of a bad life, like war and suffering. I thank



God for bringing us to America for my children to get an education and to have a good life and not suffer like I did.

I was sick and now I'm better because God helped me to be around my children. I am happy because of my children, because they are learning and getting help from my church.

I am happy because I have people that help me, like Agum—she graduated—and Atem is graduating.

The other children are doing great, all because of the help from the church. I thank everybody for helping me. And the father is doing a good job, too.

I am very happy for Atem because he is doing good and I wish him luck. Atem is good! Good job, Atem! I am proud of all my children.

Ayen, Thomas, Abraham, Manath, Stephen, Atem, Wieu, Atong, Aguol, Agum, Nyirou, Achol.

Our prayers are offered for Molly Allison and her family at the death of her grandmother, Helen Porter Dyson, last week. Please pray also for the family and friends of Debbie Davis, who died May 16.

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

A request from the archivists:

The archive office at All Saints, staffed by Becky Wilson and Melanie Petithory, has some audio cassette tapes made during the 75th anniversary of the church. Is anyone able and willing to transcribe the tapes for them? Call the church office on Tuesdays to talk to one of them, or leave a message for them. 438-2492.

The Wedding Guild will meet at Betty Bentley's house, 1256 Selma Street, on June 4 at 10:30am. If you would like to join the guild, you are invited to this meeting. You do not need previous experience—we provide on-the-job training! Call Betty if you have questions: 438-1312.

Vacation Bible School at All Saints will be held this summer from Monday, June 20 through Friday, June 24, 9:00am to 12 Noon. The theme this year is *Saints of God*, an exploration of saints from the early Church all the way to the present day — “just folk like me!” Ages 4 through rising 5th graders are invited to come. Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more details to come!!

Special Ministries Camp

For more than 30 years, All Saints Parish has sent children from Leinkauf Elementary to Camp Beckwith for several days, paying for the children's tuition through fundraising and donation. This year's session will be Thursday, June 30 through Sunday, July 3 and we hope to be able to send 30 children again this summer.

The cost to go to camp is \$200 per child. Can you help by sponsoring one of these children? Or could you contribute part of cost? If so, please make your check to All Saints Episcopal Church and mark it for *Special Ministries Camp*. Drop it by the church office, put it in the offering plate, or mail it; your help is appreciated!

As inclement weather continues battering the country, and with the addition of the floods along the Mississippi River, please pray for people at risk, those who have lost loved ones and homes, and responders working to save lives and address needs.

If you want to give to relief efforts for flood or tornado victims in the U.S., earthquake victims in Japan or Haiti, or anywhere else in the world, please send checks to:

* Episcopal Relief & Development –(to donate online) www.er-d.org or P.O. Box 7058, Merrifield, VA 22116-7058 (to mail checks)

* the Diocese of the CGC, designating the funds for Tornado Relief and the Diocese to which you wish your gift forwarded.
P.O. Box 13330
Pensacola, FL 32591
www.diocgc.org

* Diocese of Alabama
521 North 20th Street
Birmingham, AL 35203
(205) 715-2060
www.dioala.org

* Diocese of Atlanta
2744 Peachtree Road, NW
Atlanta, GA 30305
(404) 601-5320
www.episcopalatlanta.org

* Diocese of East Tennessee
814 Episcopal School Way Knoxville,
TN 37932
(865) 966-2110
www.etdiocese.net

* Diocese of Mississippi
P. O. Box 23107
Jackson, MS 39225
www.dioms.org



MUSEUM OF MOBILE TO HOST NATIONAL EXHIBITION ON ABRAHAM LINCOLN



To Open May 16 through June 12, 2011

More books have been written about Lincoln than any other American, yet public knowledge about our most famous president is dominated by a series of iconic images: the son of an illiterate frontier farmer who taught himself to read; the savior of the Union; the Great Emancipator; the martyred leader.

Abraham Lincoln: A Man of His Time, A Man for All Times invites visitors to look beyond the myth. We hope that presenting Lincoln's own words in speeches, letters and proclamations, will encourage a deeper understanding of the nation's 16th president's life, accomplishments and legacy.

This exhibition will encourage viewers to explore fundamental questions raised by Lincoln's life:

- ◆ How did a self-educated, rough-hewn lawyer with virtually no administrative experience succeed in guiding a divided nation through the crises of secession and Civil War?
- ◆ How and why did Lincoln champion emancipation?
- ◆ How did Lincoln's capacity for intellectual and moral growth shape his presidency?
- ◆ How did Lincoln's eloquence change the nation?
- ◆ What did Lincoln's plan lay for the nation's future?

Lincoln believed that America's greatest strength lay in guaranteeing its citizens their natural rights and opportunities to succeed. Like Jefferson, Lincoln believed that "all men are created equal," and he carried these democratic ideals to their logical conclusion further than any president had done before.

Abraham Lincoln: A Man of His Time, A Man for All Times is a national traveling exhibition organized by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History. The traveling exhibition has been made possible in part through a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, dedicated to expanding American understanding of human experience and cultural heritage.

Places in the pew

By Lori Erickson, May 12, 2011 [*Episcopal News Service*]

Sometimes a seemingly minor encounter with another religious tradition can serve as a beam of light illuminating something within one's own faith. I had that experience recently when I visited the Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies in Chicago.

The institute's striking, post-modern building is an architectural wonder, but it was an item in its historical collection that caught my eye. On a shelf stood an ornately carved chest, which I learned was a synagogue place marker for the Vilna Gaon, an 18th-century Talmudic scholar who lived in Vilnius in Lithuania.

"Gaon" means "genius," a reflection of the man's formidable intellect. The Gaon believed that in order to understand Torah, one also needed to understand worldly subjects, and so he became learned in medicine, astronomy, and mathematics. Though he never became a rabbi, never held a public post, and never published any of his writings during his lifetime, he was renowned throughout Europe for his wisdom.

After his death, the people of his synagogue wanted to create a memorial to him, but synagogues are prohibited by religious law from including images of human beings. So they created a chest that hung over his place in the sanctuary to keep anyone from sitting in his seat -- an outward recognition of the fact that no one could take his place in their hearts.

That antique chest made me smile, for I felt a sense of kinship to what it represented. While I don't know anyone as brilliant as the Vilna Gaon (for truly he was a phenomenon rare in any religious tradition), I felt an instant affinity to the idea of an individual's place in a worship space being reserved for them.

If your church is like mine, you probably have many people who always sit in the same place every week. When my kids were small, my husband and I always staked out a pew near the back of the sanctuary, so that their flying Cheerios and loud voices weren't quite so noticeable. Now that I'm ordained I sit in the chancel, but it still amuses me to see how people return to their usual spots, week after week, as if they have assigned seats and will be counted absent if they're not in that exact pew.

It's not such a bad practice, really, for it means that someone's absence tends to get noticed. Because of that regularity of seating, you often realize

when someone's on vacation or when they have stopped coming altogether. And of course that empty seat has its most eloquent and poignant meaning after someone has died. On the first Sunday after the funeral, their customary pew seems forlorn. I can understand why the people of the Gaon's synagogue wanted to make sure that no unthinking stranger would claim a spot that held so many memories for them.

We live in a society that is increasingly transient, a trend felt even in our churches, and many of us worship in buildings too large to claim a pew in the sanctuary as uniquely ours anyway. But perhaps something is missing when we don't have that familiar spot. Like our favorite reading chair at home, it's a place we can return to again and again, and something in that very repetition brings comfort.

The story of the Vilna Gaon raises as well the question of what is the proper way to mark someone's absence. A marble gravestone, a bronze plaque on a columbarium niche, a folded flag displayed in a box? The loss of those we love always takes a part of our hearts, and these outward symbols in a synagogue or church are a reflection of an interior reality. In my own church, I think of the recent losses of Carolyn, she of the wide smiles and warm hugs, and Rusty, lover of English teas and high church. Their places now are empty, even though someone else may sit in them come Sunday morning.

I won't carve an ornate chest for them, as the followers of the Vilna Gaon did for their beloved teacher, but their places in my heart are nonetheless reserved.

-- Lori Erickson writes about inner and outer journeys at www.spiritualtravels.info. She serves as a deacon at Trinity Episcopal Church in Iowa City, Iowa.

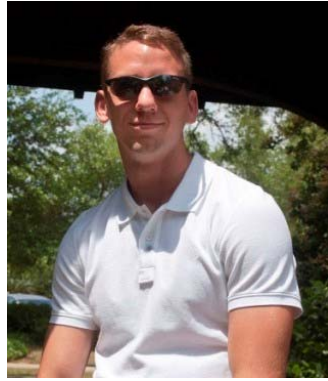


The Episcopal Church welcomes you

Faces of Easter



Alleluia! Christ is risen!



Sunday Lectionary: 5th Sunday of Easter

[Acts 7:55-60](#)
[1 Peter 2:2-10](#)

[Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16](#)
[John 14:1-14](#)

Lay Ministers for Sunday, May 22

Altar Guild: Betty Bentley, Diana Nichols, Paula Reeves, Clayton Ryan
Flower Guild: Elizabeth Doyle, Becky Wilson
Breakfast: Carol Mackey, Valerie Case, Woody Hannum, Betsy Schneider
Reception: Debi Foster

8:00

Lector: Paul Carsten
Intercessor: Larry Hallett
Chalice bearer: Mark Taylor
Ushers: Woody Hannum, Renee Dillard
Greeter: Renee Dillard

10:30

Lectors: 1) Marion Elledge 2) Hendrik Snow
Intercessor: Martha Harris
Chalice bearers: Clayton Ryan, Ben Harris
Acolytes: Boone Reeves, Louie Wood, Hannah Williams, Laura Hampton
Greene
Ushers: Andy Mitchell, James Hamilton, Chris Conte

Music for Sunday, May 22

Voluntary Théodore Dubois *Prelude*
Processional Hymn 241 *Laus Deo*
Craig Phillips *Festival Eucharist, Gloria in Excelsis Deo*
James Turle *Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16*
Sequence Hymn 51 *Decatur Place*
Offertory Anthem Kentucky Harmony *When Stephen, Full of Power and Grace*
Presentation Hymn 518 *Westminster Abbey*
Craig Phillips *Festival Eucharist, Sanctus and Benedictus*
Ambrosian Chant S-148 *The Lord's Prayer*
Craig Phillips *Festival Eucharist, Christ our Passover*
Communion Hymn 464 *New Dance*
Motet Harold Friedell *Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life*
Post Communion Hymn 484 *Wachet auf*
Processional William Boyce *Voluntary in C Major*

★ **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!

Prayer List

Please keep in your prayers for healing:

the people of Japan
tornado and flood victims
Ronnie Benton
the Evans family
Virginia Hallock
Gary Hamilton
Dottie Lundy
Ben Wilson
Rob Johnson
Anna Marie Brown
Iris Prosch
Libby Davidson
Hugh Mauldin
John Stevens
Ken
Sarah
Shannon Reeves
Debbie Phillips
Linda Coarsey
Jerry
Martha Mason
Sylvia Spann
Richard Melton
Martha Murdock
LaNiece Bland
Lamar Elledge
Sharon Cleverdon
Danny Moreau
Mike Downing
Celeste Taylor
Pauline Oliver
Cheryl Peach
Butch Boyington
Devanie Ellison
Barbie Driver
Patsy Childress
Laura

Serving in the military:

Spencer Abbot
Matt Abbot
Glenn Foster, Jr.
T. J. Sherman
Haley Jones
Thedford Daniel Jones, Jr.
Daniel Taylor
Charley Taylor
Daniel Robert
Wes Parks
Jonathan Carter
Scott Tanos



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
rector@allsaintsmobile.org
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
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Parish Administrator
office@allsaintsmobile.org
Irene Raymond, Parish Sexton
Jessica Trent and Gretchen Thiel, 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: Jean Tucker
IHN/Family Promise: Henry Brewster
Lectors & Chalice Ministers: The Rev. Mary 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)