

The Herald

July 22-29, 2012

8th & 9th Sundays after Pentecost

From the Rector: Of Being a Christian

I remember during my school age growing up in the sixties and seventies, which happened to coincide with the so-called renewal movement in the church, being asked by classmates if I were a Christian, and more particularly had I made a “decision for Christ.” The question perplexed me then as it still does now. I didn’t have a ready answer. I of course referred the question to my mother, the household theologian, and she with a wave of the hand said it is much more about Jesus choosing us from the very beginning (I think she meant: of time) than any choice we might make....our baptisms the outward and visible signs thereof... a symbol of who we are already created to be, a celebration of our DNA, a celebration that is of our being created in the image of God... a symbol of our destiny that we are dead to the world of evil and alive to the new creation envisioned by our God. That answer was and has been good enough for me. Would that it were so simple as to make a once upon a time “decision for Christ,” but being a Christian is much, so much more. I had a seminary classmate who said he came to Christ giving an exact date and time.... perplexing. That is not to say that there aren’t moments of conversion, moments of joy and ecstasy... but these are moments along a winding and arduous journey that will require our all.

Being a Christian is not having a “personal” relationship with Jesus (whatever that means... another perplexing use of language for me). Being a Christian is living as community the way Jesus taught us to live.... living in community recognizing that the life of faith is not a solitary enterprise, but participation in a movement, in a community whose collective vocation is to change the world for the better. To be Christians we must be enlightened critics of the injustices of the world; we must work for imaginative and just decisions that affect the common good; we must practice kindness and mercy and forgiveness.... to live this manner of life is to know for real the risen Christ.... Christianity is a public enterprise, not a private piety; a public enterprise that acts selflessly only for the good of the whole.

One of the scribes of the Book of Proverbs, in the words of the figure of Lady Wisdom, describes the life of faith as a life-long process of “maturing.” So in that regard we never arrive as Christians... We are always on the way... always in the process of becoming... Christianity, a lifelong process of maturing into our true humanity.... I expect I will have to labor on day after day, supported by my brother and sister so-jourers, into the vibrant and challenging life of the Christian faith.... a vocation into which we are born to become the true humanity made in God’s image, which is to make manifest God’s kingdom in earth.... God’s kingdom is not a magic castle in the sky, but God’s people living, working, by God’s grace, into who we are created to be....people of the way....world changers, enablers of the good....When did you “come to Christ?” Coming, still coming....

On the Calendar:

Tuesday, July 17
2-week Herald

Wednesday, July 18
9:15am L’Arche (Chapel)
12N Holy Eucharist (Chapel)
12N Debtors Anonymous (DA)

Thursday, July 19
8am Food Share delivery
12N Al-Anon
6:30pm Chat & Chew Supper Club
7pm AA

Friday, July 20
5:15pm Food Share packing
6:30pm Chat & Chew Supper Club

Saturday, July 21
8am Food Share distribution
6:30pm Chat & Chew Supper Club

Sunday, July 22
8am Holy Eucharist
9am Breakfast
9:25am Adult Christian Ed.
10:30am Holy Eucharist
Reception following
4pm Choral Evensong w/ Musica Sacra
6:30pm Chat & Chew Supper Club

Monday, July 23
9a-12n VBS through Friday
6pm Vestry meeting

Wednesday, July 25
9:15am L’Arche (Chapel)
12N Holy Eucharist (Chapel)
12N Debtors Anonymous (DA)

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

Sunday, July 29
8am Holy Eucharist
9am Breakfast
9:25am Adult Christian Ed.
10:30am Holy Eucharist
Reception following

Tuesday, July 31
2-week Herald

This is a 2-week Herald!

The Chat & Chew Supper Club



is scheduled for an encore weekend of performances on the evenings of July 19-22 at 6:30pm in Stirling Hall. Playwright Elyzabeth Wilder returns after a successful run of her one-woman show/dinner at the Alabama Shakespeare Theater to offer a newly revamped script and a new menu, including a scrumptious tomato pie! If you did not just want to come again (the great brownies are still on the menu), give Elyzabeth a call at 917-449-0222 to reserve your spot. Bring a friend, too! You'll be guaranteed a fine evening.

Focus on the Faithful



Vacation Bible School begins July 23! It's not too late to sign up your children or grandchildren for a fun week of exploring the lives of Noah, Sarah (the wife of Abraham), Joseph and his coat of many colors, Moses, and Jonah (and the whale).

Please call Mary Robert at 438-2492 or email her at asstrector@allsaintsmobile.org to sign up.

A New Ministry begins



on Sunday, July 29, following the 10:30 service. The *All Saints Birthday Ministry* will hold its first Parishioner Birthday Celebration for those whose birthdays are in July. They are encouraged to bring family and friends to church, to receive communion first and a special blessing from the

rector, and to join together in providing the reception following the service. On the last Sunday of each succeeding month, those who are celebrating their birthdays then will do the same. If your name is missing from the monthly birthday list, please call the office so we can add it to our database and so you can be contacted. This is a great opportunity to meet and share with one another! Please join us!

The July Food Share weekend

is scheduled for July 19-21. Thursday, July 19, food is delivered from the Food Bank to Stirling Hall. If you can help with setup, please come at 8:30am. Packing the food for the families takes place on Friday, July 20, at 5:15pm. This usually takes less than 30 minutes to complete. On Saturday, July 21, the food will be distributed. Volunteers should come by 7:30am to help bag up any frozen food. Distribution begins by 8am and is finished by 8:30. New volunteers are always welcome! Please mark your calendars and plan to help feed our hungry neighbors.



Want to help with breakfast?

We need a new team member, willing to serve once every five weeks. If anyone is interested in joining the team, please call the office (438-2492) or call Burl Ratcliffe (404-1115).

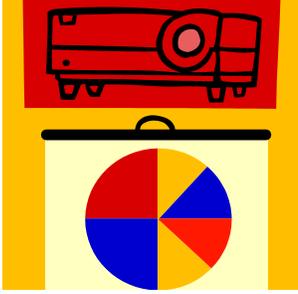
Changing Addresses?

Summer is a particular time when we would like to update the addresses of children who are going to college, or perhaps have already graduated college and moved out on their own. We have several young adults on the church rolls, who are still listed under their parents' addresses. When the office sends birthday greetings, they either are returned to us, or they go to the parents' home to (maybe) be forwarded. If you or your children would like to be on the email list to receive *The Herald*, and/or would like to receive 'snail mail' such as birthday cards sent from the church, please let us know your new addresses. Email office@allsaintsmobile.org or call 251-438-2492.

Please keep in your prayers:

- ✦ For healing for: Alan Grubbs, Greg Miles, Mitch Price, Austin Brown, Abigail, Roland & Will, Celeste Powers, Ruth Merrill, Vic Underwood, Jason Cummins, Jim Wilson, Barbara Deming, the Hale twins, John Stephens, David Barrineau, Ann Wilson Wesley, Johnny Madden, Ann Tiffin Greer-Cowden, Brian Hammond, Heather and family, Martha Collier, JoAnn Pappas, Martha Rose Hester, Dunn Chandler, Geoff Peach, Scott Podstata, Abraham Kuol, Becky Boulter, Roy Muth, Jim Gray, Jane Arnau, Jessica Montalvo-Lopez, Gregg Pounds, Evina Valera, Ed Givhan, Iris Prosch, Martha Murdock, LaNiece Bland, Sharon Cleverdon, Mike Downing, Patsy Childress, Anna Marie Brown, Laura
- ✦ For those who serve in the armed forces, especially: Spencer Abbot, Matt Abbot, Jonathan Carter, DeMario Snead, Randy Johnson, Jordan Caturia, Joseph Willcox
- ✦ For those who have died, especially Sister Judith Smits

Has Anyone Seen Our Overhead Projector?



We've looked everywhere but we can't find it, although most of us in the office remember that someone borrowed it some time ago. If you borrowed it, please return it. No one is in trouble, except us, perhaps, for not writing it down.

If you returned it already, would you please let us know, especially if you know where we might have put it?! If you are reading this and you are 'of a certain age,' you will understand. We appreciate your sympathy. Thank you.

If you are you are reading this and you are younger than we are, do not laugh! Someday this will be you, and you will want some sympathy, too!

Choral Evensong

Musica Sacra will sing Choral Evensong on Sunday, July 22 at 4:00 pm. Music by William Byrd, Charles Villiers Stanford, Arthur Baynon, and William Harris will be sung. Jeff Clearman is the organist for this service. All are welcome to attend.

African Resource Center Opens

The African Resource Center has been created and is offering a variety of programs, including Cultural Studies and Integration, GED, ESL, assisting refugee students with school work, job training and translation services. The Center is also an avenue for people from the various African countries to meet and share their experiences with other residents of Mobile and the United States in general. Abraham Kuol, a member of All Saints, is helping the Center raise funds for its program materials. If you would like to contribute, please call him at 251-421-3221.

In conjunction with the opening of the Center, All Saints' series, **Popcorn Theology**, will offer dinner and a movie on Sunday, August 26. The movie is *God Grew Tired of Us*, a winner of the Grand Jury Prize and the Audience Award at the Sundance Film Festival in 2006. The documentary chronicles the lives of three "Lost Boys" of Sudan who triumph over seemingly insurmountable adversities and a relocation to America due to civil war in their country. Dinner will be provided by volunteers; contributions for dinner will go to the Resource Center. More details will follow. Mark your calendars now!

Vacation Bible School Registration Form

Name(s) _____ Age/Grade _____

_____ Age/Grade _____

Parent's name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone (home) _____ (cell) _____ (work) _____

Do any of your children have any allergies? Please list: _____

A Pastoral Letter to be read in all congregations of the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast
at all Services on the 15th of July 2012,
being the Sunday following the 77th General Convention of the Episcopal Church
having met in Indianapolis, Indiana the 5th - 12th July 2012

The Rt. Rev. Philip M. Duncan, II
Bishop of the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast

The 77th General Convention of the Episcopal Church has approved for provisional use, a rite for the blessing of same-sex unions. Some of us in the Central Gulf Coast will find this action unsettling. Some of us will find it an occasion of great joy and a time for celebration. I write this pastoral letter to the entire Diocese, but especially to those troubled by what the Convention has authorized.

I voted not to approve the blessing of same-sex unions. That is because I voted my conscience and my understanding of blessing; and while many concur with the Convention's action and many deplore the Convention's action, I believe we are in a time in our history that calls us to be gracious and generous in hospitality and welcome for all people. The Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast has always been a traditional Episcopal diocese and I do not see that changing. It has always been a place where all people have been welcomed into our midst and blessed by our community and sacramental life together.

Part of our Episcopal tradition is to affirm the faith as understood by those who have laid a firm foundation in the past, while also affording space to those who take a different view for the future. In the past, we have maintained our communion even when differences ran deep.

And occasionally, when new circumstances required it, we have reinterpreted traditional understandings and adopted new policies. Perhaps the best example was in 1972 when, overturning centuries of tradition, the church began permitting the remarriage of divorced persons. This policy reversal was effected for good pastoral reasons.

We cannot now know how history will judge the actions of the 77th General Convention of the Episcopal Church, but if a need arises in any of our parishes where the Rector, Vicar or Priest-in-charge discerns that the blessing of a same-sex-union would be a good pastoral response, I will consult with that priest and, if I concur, authorize the blessing. The norm in the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast will be that marriage is between one man and one woman. In light of the possibility for blessing covenanted relationships of same-sex couples, I will consider each request for blessing individually, and I shall permit it where it has pastoral warrant.

Episcopalian and former Secretary of State James A. Baker has asked his Episcopal Diocese of Texas to adopt an "all-are-welcome approach that allows our parishes to make important decisions on this issue." This is what I envision for the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast as well. As St. Paul wrote to the church in Corinth, "I give thanks to my God always for you."

As your bishop, I thank God for you, for your faithfulness, your prayers, and your willingness to travel with one another and with me as together we seek the mind of Christ.

Response to the Pastoral Letter from the Bishop GC 77
By The Rev. Jim Flowers, Rector

We received this letter Friday, so I haven't had the time to parse it out. This is the first "Pastoral Letter" written by our bishop since I've been ordained...and the canons of the church require that pastoral letters from bishops be read to each parish in each service. We have been informed by the diocesan office that every member of the diocese will receive a copy of the letter this coming week.

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Again I haven't had a lot of time to reflect on this letter, but I will offer a few observations and try to put what the General Convention of our church has done in some sort of perspective....First of all as to the Bishop's letter: He has obviously attempted to strike some middle ground here....On the one hand he informs us that he voted against the resolution that the church provide rites for same sex blessings...out of "conscience, and because of his understanding of blessing"....I won't presume to know what that means. But as I read the letter, the bottom line is that although opposing the Churches' resolution on providing resources for same sex blessings....he will however as a matter of "pastoral" response allow such blessings to occur in this diocese....he affirms on the one hand that this is a "traditional" diocese....and then acknowledges the diverse and progressive views also present in this diocese....and states that such a diversity is cause for celebration. That's about all I can say for the letter until I've had further conversations with the bishop...I think I must say that it seems a little duplicitous to vote one way and act in another way...but that is just my take....and again I do think the bishop is trying to honor all points of view in our diocese....hence I think the bishop is well meaning, the ambiguity of the letter notwithstanding.

Let me give you just a brief history concerning the church's struggle over the issue of human sexuality.... this has been an ongoing conversation...an ongoing debate in General Convention for well over forty years, catalyzed by the American Psychiatric Association's position taken in 1976 that homosexuality was not a pathology nor a disorder, but a normal aspect of the human population (a case in point that the church must continually wrestle with new knowledge as it relates to scripture, tradition and reason)so this resolution on approving rites of same sex blessing didn't just happen on a whim or in the dark of night...but after years and years of discernment and struggle, just as our culture, our institutions, our families have struggled with this issue more openly for decades....To my mind the issue, at least in the Episcopal Church, was resolved at the election and consecration of Gene Robinson, an openly gay bishop living in a committed relationship... that was nine years ago....This recent action; the providing of liturgical resources to bless such commitments is a mere culmination of a long process...a long process I believe that has made us a much more mature church.

I want to say that this is not so much about sexuality, that wonderful and great mystery that is a gift from God, which will never be fully understood, neither by the church nor the arts nor the sciences.... but this is mostly about dignity.... honoring the dignity of every human being, which means this is a gospel issue... we, brother and sister church-people... we are in the business of blessing... we are not in the business of condemnation nor judgment... but we are in the business of blessing; of dignifying... and it makes good sense to me that it is a high honor that the church is able to offer the church's blessing upon the love and commitment and loyalty people have for each other.... we have been given by the grace of God a privilege, lo after these years of struggle.... The resolution does not compel bishops or priests to perform such blessings. It is a discretionary option, with bishops in their respective dioceses having the final say...The church has simply given us a way to do so if we choose.... I have supported such legislation since I first became a deputy to general convention in 1991; my struggle with this issue is a long story that I won't go into here...thirty years ago the votes on these matters usually were around fifty-fifty... the church was clearly divided and contentious.... Now after years of discernment, very nearly 80% of both houses...t he house of bishops and the house of deputies voted for the capability to use these rites... we have come a long way over a rocky path; we've lost members in the process...and...we have gained members.

I know there are loyal and good Episcopalians who still struggle... still have doubts about the wisdom of the position the church has taken...that is O.K. because we need all voices in a conversation that still continues... In fact this resolution refers to these rites as provisional, still in process.... Let me finally offer this possibility.... Could it be possible that the church is becoming more human... Is it possible that we are maturing towards our true humanity, a humanity within which there are no outcasts.... and if that is so...I f that is what is happening then we are inch by inch engendering God's kingdom in earth.... a kingdom in which all are equal... in which all have dignity... in which all are blessed children of God... If that is what is happening then we have something to celebrate indeed.... I hope that this is so... my gut says that it is.... the church has spoken definitively.... May God bless the struggle... may God bless us with courage and trust for this journey we are on... may God bless the Episcopal Church and its willingness to do the work of faith... may God bless us all who are willing to struggle for the truth.... because when all is said and done, that is why we are here.

This pastoral letter, and the response from the Rector, were read from the pulpit at All Saints on Sunday, July 15, 2012 at both the 8:00am and 10:30am services.

Thanks to all who helped in any way with Special Ministries Camp, which was held at Beckwith from July 5-9. From all those who donated funds to pay for the children to go, to Stella Hester, Penny Coleman and Elizabeth Doyle, who coordinated the logistics of interviewing teachers at Leinkauf Elementary, to those who shopped and those who filled goody bags with flashlights, journals and swim goggles, to those who helped send the children off on the bus and to those who greeted them on their return - it was exciting to see how many people were involved. Thanks for putting smiles on the faces of all those terrific kids! *Stay tuned for more pictures on the Parish Hall bulletin board!*



Sunday, July 22, 2012
8th Sunday after Pentecost, Proper 11

The Lessons

[Jeremiah 23:1-6](#)

[Ephesians 2:11-22](#)

[Psalm 23](#)

[Mark 6:30-34, 53-56](#)

The Collect of the Day

God of the storm's still eye: when we are overwhelmed by pressures and demands which cut us off from life, take us to a place apart where we might find again our true heart's center, our far horizon, the silence that awaits a world where we can breathe; through Jesus Christ, who brings us near to you. Amen.

Those Who Serve

Altar Guild: Melanie Petithory, Kim Gray, Gretchen Thiel, Laura Williams
Bread bakers: Nancy Lancaster, Bruce Rockstad
Flower Guild: Burl Ratcliffe, Becky Wilson
Breakfast: Carol Mackey, Valerie Case, Betsy Schneider, Woody Hannum
Reception: Beth Hardaway, Kim Gray

8:00am

Lector: Serena Willcox
Intercessors: Larry Hallett
Chalice: Mark Taylor
Ushers: Renee Dillard, Woody Hannum
Greeter: Renee Dillard

10:30am

Lectors: Michael Morrison, Tressa McLeod
Intercessor: Rob Gray
Chalices: Jan Irving, Thomas Locke
Acolytes: Darrel Williams, Caroline Mosley, Sarah Greene
Ushers: James Hamilton, Bill Hines, Ricky Bradford

Music for Sunday

Voluntary Robert Powell *Prelude on 'Repton'*
Processional Hymn 616 *Es flog ein kleins Waldvögelein*
David Hurd S-277 *New Plainsong, Gloria in Excelsis Deo*
Robert K Kennedy S-413 *Psalm 23*
Sequence Hymn 529 *McKee*
Offertory Anthem Geonyong Lee *Come Now, O Prince of Peace*
Presentation Hymn 781 (*Wonder, Love and Praise*) Owen
David Hurd S-124 *New Plainsong, Sanctus and Benedictus qui venit*
David Hurd S-161 *New Plainsong, Agnus Dei*
Communion Hymn 645 *St. Columba*
Post Communion Hymn 708 *Sicilian Mariners*
Processional Craig Phillips *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

Sunday, July 29, 2012
9th Sunday after Pentecost, Proper 12

The Lessons

[2 Kings 4:42-44](#)

[Ephesians 3:14-21](#)

[Psalm 145:10-19](#)

[John 6:1-21](#)

The Collect of the Day

God of true abundance, in whom nothing is lost and all are fed: liberate us from meager rations of scarce and grudging love for which we must compete; show us another kingdom which stills our all-consuming fear and fills us with new hope; through Jesus Christ, the peace of creation. Amen.

Those Who Serve

Altar Guild: Melanie Petithory, Kim Gray, Gretchen Thiel, Laura Williams
Bread bakers: Nancy Lancaster, Bruce Rockstad
Flower Guild: Suzanne Drew, Kathrine Butler
Breakfast: Katharine Flowers, Kim Gray, Renea Greene, Clayton Ryan
Reception: The July Birthday group

8:00am

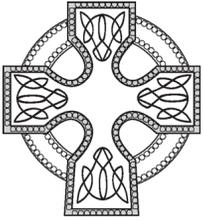
Lector: Lee Van Dyke
Intercessors: Serena Willcox
Chalice: Burl Ratcliffe
Ushers: Fred & Barbara South
Greeter: Renee Dillard

10:30am

Lectors: Melanie Petithory, Claudia Zimmermann
Intercessor: Sarah Williams
Chalices: Lister Thomas, Beth Hardaway
Acolytes: Brewer Ayres, Liam Ayres, Gillian Ayres
Ushers: Don Mosley, Chris Conte, Skeeter Robertson

Music for Sunday

Voluntary Johannes Brahms *Schmüke dich, O Liebe Seele*
Processional Hymn 51 *Decatur Place*
David Hurd S-277 *New Plainsong, Gloria in Excelsis Deo*
Carl Haywood *Psalm 145:10-19*
Sequence Hymn 455 *Dunedin*
Offertory Anthem Shirley McRae *O Wheat Whose Crushing Was For Bread*
Presentation Hymn 761 (*Wonder, Love and Praise*) *Holy Manna*
David Hurd S-124 *New Plainsong, Sanctus and Benedictus qui venit*
David Hurd S-161 *New Plainsong, Agnus Dei*
Communion Hymn 321 *Rockingham*
Post Communion Hymn 304 *Land of Rest*
Processional Franklin Ashdown *Fanfare*



All Saints Church

151 SOUTH ANN STREET
MOBILE, AL 36604

www.allsaintsmobile.org

Clergy

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Irene Raymond, Parish Sexton
Gretchen Thiel and Christa Harkins, Nursery Workers
Liz & Scott Kirby, Directors of Youth Ministries

All Saints 2012 Vestry

Joe Basenberg
Ricky Bradford, Jr Warden
Henry Callaway, Sr Warden
Valerie Case
Harold Dodge
Elizabeth Doyle
Rob Gray
James Hamilton
Woody Hannum
Amy Hunter
Emily Kelley
Don Mosley
Diana Nichols, Clerk
Jean Tucker
Darrel Williams

Curt Doyle, Treasurer

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): Liz & Scott Kirby
Finance Committee: Curt Doyle
Flower Guild: Katharine Flowers
Food Share: Mark Taylor, Burl Ratchliffe
Golden Circle: Laura Rutherford, Wylly Stirling
Hospitality & Events: Jean Tucker
IHN/Family Promise: Henry Brewster
Lay Eucharistic Visitors: Bill Evatt
Lectors, Intercissors & Chalice Ministers: The Rev. Mary Robert
Long-Range Planning: Curt Doyle
Nursery: Elizabeth Doyle, Amy Hunter, Jim Ayres
Parish Development: Clark Kelly
Property: Ricky Bradford
Refugees: Martha Harris
Ushers: Harold Dodge, Louie Wood
Stewardship: Woody Hannum, All Saints Vestry
Wedding Guild: Betty Bentley
Youth Christian Education: The Rev. Mary Robert

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 9:20 am Christian Education Classes (during school year) 10:30 am Holy Eucharist
Wednesdays	12 Noon Holy Eucharist (Chapel)