

The Herald

September 16, 2012

16th Sunday after Pentecost

From the Rector: Of Being Episcopalian

Since this past Sunday after we participated in the “appreciative inquiry” exercise, exploring what All Saints and the Episcopal Church in general means to us, I’ve been thinking a lot about what being an Episcopalian means to me. My family joined the Episcopal Church when I was five years old. My mother was a Presbyterian, my father a Methodist. So for fifty-two years my life has been enriched and formed by this church that I dearly love. So I offer this as a reflection on what this church means to me, perhaps some of it will resonate with you.

We are a church that values beauty in worship: our processions, vestments, our music and singing (praying twice as Augustine puts it), the language of our prayers. We believe that aesthetics inform our spirituality. That in and of itself connects us to the mystic tradition that has always kept its footing in the grand scheme of the evolution of Christianity. At All Saints we take such aesthetics seriously: musicians know this; poets know this, all artists know this, and I believe the artistic sensibility in all of us knows this. We are a church that doesn’t hang its hat on doctrine or dogma. Theology in the Episcopal church is an ever-evolving process of discovery informed by scripture, our tradition, and reason, reason that includes our collective experience of being human in relationship with our God. Our discovery is open to new knowledge, and requires thinking critically. It is a process in which we can believe the tenets of our faith with integrity. By that I mean we don’t have to believe in magic to be Christians, but through study and conversation and discernment, and worship we can discover more profound meaning as to the life, death and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth, which in many Christian circles are explained away as supernatural, apart from human experience, which therefore, I believe enables us as the living breathing body of Christ to abdicate our own agency in the process of restoring our world to the way God envisions it....that to me is what salvation means: the process of restoring the creation to its gracious and just and peaceful order, the ramifications of such a definition of salvation are myriad.

Just today I was talking seriously to a person about the Episcopal Church, and he told me that in his denomination, he had grown tired of leaving his brain at the door, tired of the burden of worn out and tired dogma....In the Episcopal church, our questions, our speculations are much more valuable than answers, because in the life of faith we have to live in the ambiguity of unanswered questions. That frightens many, because many people want the formula, want the answers that shore up the loose ends of a life that is continually becoming amid contingency and uncertainty, even danger. Dogma and formulaic belief are fueled by fear creating a tenuous barrier from it...but we are promised that our faith is not one of fear, but one of freedom and joy.

The Episcopal Church, like the other mainline denominations is much smaller than it was thirty years ago. There are experts galore who have all kinds of explanations for the decline in numbers....demographic studies, decline in birth rates, etc....and of course the ones who say we have moved away from the “true” faith, but true faith is not a stringent belief system, but true faith is trusting the way ahead living as Christ taught us, giving our lives for the good of the whole. Diana Butler Bass, one of my favorite experts, sees great promise and vitality for the Episcopal Church in the twenty-first century. She sees us as a church that has taken on issues of dignity and justice over the last thirty years with great care and integrity. We have not shied away from the issues of our times. She sees us living into the cause of the Gospel. We encourage still questions and thoughtful discourse, recognizing that God continues to reveal Godself, as the created order is still in its becoming. She states that we have found an institutional maturity never seen in Christendom. That is a huge claim, and I believe it might be true.

Finally we are a church of welcome and inclusion, recognizing that God loves everyone without exception, without exception. For me I am so very honored to be a priest of such a church...and it’s a good thing because there is no place else I could go.

On the Calendar:

Tuesday, September 11

IHN week continues

5pm Murray House Bd mtg

Wednesday, September 12

9:15am L'Arche (Chapel)

12N Holy Eucharist (Chapel)

12N Debtors Anonymous (DA)

4pm Youth choir rehearsal

IHN week continues

7pm Adult choir rehearsal

Thursday, September 13

8:30am Food Bank delivery

10am Food Share sign in

12N Al-Anon

IHN week continues

7pm AA

Friday, September 14

IHN week continues

5:15pm Food Share packing

Saturday, September 15

8am Food Share distribution

IHN week continues

Sunday, September 16

IHN week ends

8am Holy Eucharist

9am Breakfast, Appreciative Inquiry

Makeups, Ministry Fair

10:30am Holy Eucharist

Reception & Ministry Fair following

4-5:30pm Junior EYC bowling @

AMF Skyline Lanes

5:30-7pm Senior EYC bowling @

AMF Skyline Lanes

Monday, September 17

6pm Vestry mtg

6pm 15 Place Board mtg

Wednesday, September 19

9:15am L'Arche (Chapel)

12N Holy Eucharist (Chapel)

12N Debtors Anonymous (DA)

4pm Youth choirs rehearsal

7pm Adult choir rehearsal

Thursday, September 20

12N Al-Anon

7pm AA

Thanks to all those who came to participate in the Appreciative Inquiry dialogue between services last Sunday. There was a lot of energy in Stirling Hall and the Vestry is looking forward to finding out results from your conversations. If you were not able to come, there will be a 'makeup' session this Sunday, Sept 16, at 9am in the Chapel. Please make every effort to participate!

It's time for the Ministry Fair! The annual event will be held this Sunday, Sept 16, during the breakfast hour (9-10am) and during reception time after the 10:30 service. The Fair and the 'makeup' dialogue and breakfast all take place in the Parish Hall!

Each group and ministry at All Saints is asked to prepare a display of some sort: posters, interactive materials, DVDs, handouts, etc, for the tables that will be in the Parish Hall. If you are the coordinator of a group, please ask people in your group to help 'man' the booth during breakfast and after 10:30 church.

The Ministry Fair is always a great time to meet new people and to get folks involved. Sign-up sheets will be available; be sure to get enough information that you will be able to follow up afterwards. If you have been thinking of starting a new ministry, this is also a wonderful place to start it. See you on the 16th!

From the Treasurer:

While we got off to pretty good start during the first six months of the year, we have begun to slip a little too far behind on our pledge collections over the summer. As of the end of August, we were \$12,000 behind on our pledge contributions. Now that everyone is returning from summer vacations, it is also time to remember your pledge and get caught up if you are behind. Look for a statement in the mail or contact Mary Holbrook at the church office, mary@allsaintsmobile.org or 438-2492, if you have any questions.

Let's ensure the health of our parish and its mission by fulfilling our pledges!!

Thanks, *Curt Doyle*

The EYC will meet this Sunday, Sept 16, at AMF Skyline Lanes, 4120 Government Blvd. The Junior EYC (6th-8th grades) are scheduled from 4-5:30pm and the Senior EYC (9th-12th) will be from 5:30-7pm. Cost is \$10. Don't forget to bring your socks!



The Sept. Food Share ministry is scheduled for this weekend. Because IHN is set up in Stirling Hall, all the activities will be in or around the Parish Hall. Thursday, Sept 13, food is delivered from the Food Bank. If you can help with setup, please come at 8:30am.



Packing the food for the families takes place on Friday, Sept 14, at 5:15pm. This usually takes less than 30 minutes to complete. On Saturday, Sept 15, the food will be distributed. Volunteers should come by 7:00am to help move tables and bag up the 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.

The Refugee Pantry needs laundry detergent (not the front-loading kind), toilet paper, paper towels, bathroom cleaning supplies and large garbage bags. Personal care items such as toothbrushes and toothpaste, deodorant for men and women, and bars of soap are also needed. This week, please leave them in the basket at the Refugee Committee display at the Ministry Fair or drop them off at the church office during the week.

We would also like to have donations of basic school supplies to use throughout the year: wide-ruled notebook paper, colored pencils, crayons, flashdrives and spiral notebooks would be very helpful. Thanks so much for your help!

Prayers are offered to the glory of God in thanksgiving for the safe return of Joseph Willcox from Afghanistan. Joseph is Serena Willcox' nephew and Ellen Wingard's first cousin.

The Friday Night Supper Club will meet on September 14 at 7pm at the home of Keith and Margaret Winkler, 9601 Three Notch Road. Everyone is welcome; dues for 'old-timers' is \$3.00. Please call Margaret at 666-0984 and let her know what you'll be bringing.

The Thursday Night Supper Club will be on Thursday, Sept 20 at 6:30pm also at the Winklers'. (See above.) RSVP to Margaret.

Thanks to everyone who came to eat at the Atlanta Bread Company on Dauphin Street on Monday night. There was a great turnout and I had the highest tip total of the three clergy who were serving YOU for Family Promise! On Monday, **Sept. 24** (not 9/17, as previously announced), Jim Flowers is doing the same thing for Family Promise at Atlanta Bread Company between 6 and 8pm. I have challenged him to see if he can raise as much or more than I raised on the 10th! (I won't reveal my total until his shift is complete.) No matter who raises the most, all the money will go directly to Family Promise.



So bring your kids—they eat free on Mondays! Tell your friends! Tell your neighbors! This is a great way to help the only organization here that provides shelter for homeless families—adults and children. See you on the 24th.

~Mary Robert

Mobile in Black & White

On Sunday, September 23, All Saints will host a Community Conversation on Race Relations in Mobile at 6pm in the Smith Room. The conversation will be centered around the first segment of the documentary film project, *Mobile in Black & White*, which is being produced by Rob Gray and Joél Lewis in association with Mobile United. The first segment is entitled *Why We Still Need to Talk about Race*. A light dinner will be provided at 6:30 and the conversation process will begin at 7pm. Please RSVP to the church office if you plan to attend (438-2492). Space is limited.

Pleas for Help:

The Service Center of Catholic Social Services in Mobile is in need of a retired Licensed Social Worker to volunteer 1 day a week to do case management work with clients. If interested please call 434-1510 or email Volunteercoord@mobilecss.org.

The Service Center of Catholic Social Services has an urgent need for donations of men and women's used blue jeans, men's socks and shoes, and basic hygiene supplies (toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, soap) for their clients. Donations may be brought to The Service Center M-F, 9-3 or to the marked bins in the vestibule at St. Dominic Church on Burma Rd. in west Mobile. The bins are at the belltower entrance. Call 434-1510 for more information. To learn more about the work of The Service Center, go to www.servicecentercss.org.

The Service Center of Catholic Social Services has an open position for a data entry person 1 day a week. The applicant must have excellent computer skills to enter data into a complex computer program. At least 2 full days of training will be required to assess capability. Hourly pay based on work demand – up to but not exceeding 7 hours each week. Call 434-1510 for more information.

The logo features a stylized blue figure holding a golden chalice with a flame, next to the text "SERVING YOU! FOR FAMILY PROMISE" in blue and orange.

Join the Rev. Jim Flowers
At Atlanta Bread Mobile
Monday, Sept. 24, 2012
between 6-8:00pm

He will be serving YOU!!

Your generous tips will go to support
Family Promise of Coastal Alabama,
a non-profit organization which benefits
local homeless families with children.

Atlanta Bread Mobile
3680 Dauphin St., Mobile, AL 36608
Phone: 251-380-0444

Invite friends, family and colleagues for this great
night of fun. Kids eat free on Monday nights, too!
I look forward to Serving YOU!

www.familypromisemobile.org • www.servingyoumobile.com

Ladies:

Please remember to blot your lipstick before you go to receive communion. It is very difficult to remove. Thanks for your cooperation!



Sunday, September 16, 2012
16th Sunday after Pentecost, Proper 19

The Lessons

[Isaiah 50:4-9a](#)

[Psalm 116:1-8](#)

[James 3:1-12](#)

[Mark 8:27-38](#)

The Collect of the Day

Scandalous God, you suffer our will to power, the narrowness of our faith: lead us on the path of loss where empires tremble and terror yields to wisdom's cry and the open hands of love; through Jesus Christ, the crucified Lord. Amen.

Those Who Serve

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

Bread bakers: Jeff Clearman, Betty Bentley

Flower Guild: Burl Ratcliffe, Carol Mackey

Breakfast: Jean Tucker, Burl Ratcliffe, Kay Montgomery, Margaret Winkler

Reception: Elizabeth Doyle, Michael Morrison

8:00am

Lector: Albert Lilly

Intercessors: Joe Basenberg

Chalice: Lee Van Dyke

Ushers: Bill Evatt, Barbara Evatt

Greeter: Renee Dillard

10:30am

Lectors: Rob Gray, Marlena Kelly

Intercessor: Frances Rouse

Chalices: Ben Harris, Ruth LaMonte

Acolytes: Brewer Ayres, Liam Ayres, Gillian Ayres

Ushers: Louis Wood, Don Mosley, Michael Morrison

Music for Sunday

Voluntary *Prelude on "Moscow"* Gerald Near

Processional Hymn 525 *Aurelia*

William Mathias S-278 *Gloria in Excelsis Deo*

Charles H. Lloyd *Psalm 116:1-8*

Sequence Hymn 675 *Bourbon*

Offertory Anthem *Jesus, So Lowly* Harold Friedell

Presentation Hymn 484 *Wachet Auf*

William Mathias S-128 *Sanctus*

William Mathias S-165 *Agnus Dei*

Communion Hymn 312 *Malabar*

Motet *Lord, For Thy Tender Mercy's Sake* John Hilton

Post Communion Hymn 522 *Austria*

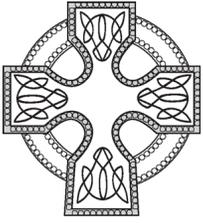
Processional *Fanfare* William Mathias

Please keep in your prayers:

✚ For healing for: Melanie Wright, Jack Ratcliffe, Frances McNorrill, Scott Clark, Mary Stewart Stephens, Steven Bodiford, Donna Baines, Arthur Johnson, Ernestine Rogers, Jim Hamilton, Walter Sims, Patricia Fry, Alan Grubbs, Mitch Price, Austin Brown, Vic Underwood, Jason Cummins, Jim Wilson, Barbara Deming, the Hale twins, John Stephens, David Barrineau, Johnny Madden, Brian Hammond, Heather and family, Martha Collier, JoAnn Pappas, Martha Rose Hester, Dunn Chandler, Geoff Peach, Scott Podstata, Abraham Kuol, Roy Muth, Jim Gray, Jane Arnau, Jessica Montalvo-Lopez, Gregg Pounds, Evina Valera, Ed Givhan, 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

✚ Thanksgiving for the safe return from Afghanistan of Joseph Willcox



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
asstrector@allsaintsmobile.org
Office: 438.2492 Home: 479.7398

All Saints Church Staff

Jeff Clearman, Principal Parish Musician
jeff@allsaintsmobile.org
Mary Holbrook, Financial Administrator
mary@allsaintsmobile.org
Office Volunteer
office@allsaintsmobile.org
Irene Raymond, Parish Sexton
Gretchen Thiel and Aguol Kuot, Nursery Workers
Breck Pappas, Director 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): Breck Pappas
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)