

The Herald

September 23, 2012

17th Sunday after Pentecost

From the Rector: [Of the Church's Blessing](#)

Last night the vestry of All Saints concurred unanimously with my decision to offer the rite of blessing the commitments of same sex partners. As you know, at the recent General Convention of the Episcopal Church nearly 80% of both the House of Bishops and the House of Deputies (clergy and lay) voted to provide rites for such blessings. Our bishop opposed the resolution, but because as he put it, "the church has spoken," he has made the decision to allow rites of same sex blessings as a matter of pastoral care subject to his approval (approval based on the clergy's recommendation). I applaud his honesty and his courage. I have supported this change in the church as a deputy to five General Conventions since 1991. These are not marriage rites, but rights of the blessing of commitment, the blessing of promises made to one another, promises to live faithfully with each other. Our policy for such blessings, as is the policy for weddings, is that these will be pastoral responses to members of All Saints. We will not become a public "blessing of commitment chapel," nor will we become a "wedding chapel."

This decision by the Episcopal Church has not been made hastily to say the least. For over thirty years we as a church have been in prayerful and ardent and sometimes contentious conversation about this issue. Since 1976 when the American Psychiatric Association declared that homosexuality was not pathological, and that it is just the way some folks are made, then the church began its quest to deal with such new knowledge. The familiar passages of scripture in Leviticus and in Paul were excised by some to prove that such a predisposition was condemned. But there are also passages in scripture that condone slavery, bigamy, the subservience of women, prohibition of certain foods such as pork and shellfish...and of course, there is plenty of scriptural warrant for violence as well. There is also scripture that speaks of peacemaking and loving and respecting one's neighbor; of welcoming the stranger; plenty of warrant for gracious hospitality, and warrant for bearing justice and dignity to our world. Context and cultural norms have to be considered when interpreting scripture. The world has changed and continues to change. The point I'm making is that our vocation as post-modern thinking Christians, when it comes to decisions in life, is to imaginatively engage scripture, taking into account new knowledge and experience (what Richard Hooker called reason; I think of it as common sense); the trajectory of our tradition, tradition that is forever being reinvented, evolving, just as our interpretation of what God is saying to us is ever evolving. I'll invoke yet again my 19th-century friend S.T. Coleridge in his apology to the puritans of his day, that it is the imagination that gives life to scripture, not the reverse. In fact Coleridge, in fine Romantic fashion, equated the human imagination with the Holy Spirit. I believe the Spirit has led us well regarding the resolution of this issue.

I believe in reaching this decision the church has made a giant step not only towards maturity, but a new-found relevancy. If we are not in the business of blessing love that is among us, and the love of our neighbor and the love of our world, then why should we exist? Perhaps another way to speak of blessing is that it is the act of bestowing dignity.... dignity that is empowering and life-giving. The GLBT community has endured indignity and marginalization and scorn over centuries, even millennia, and now we have the privilege of offering them that which is the right of each and every one of God's children: sacred dignity. I ask you sincerely, as I asked the vestry last night, to trust and support this decision. We will be a witness to God's love for all of God's people...that in God's vision for our world there are no outcasts, that everyone stands in the light of dignity which is the very light of Christ alive among us. In moving forward in this way I believe we take a giant step towards bringing the kingdom of God ever nearer.

I invite your questions and comments on this matter. Please feel free to discuss this with me, Mary Robert, and the vestry. This is a new day in the life of the church, so there will be doubts and uncertainty, but we will handle this with solemnity, beauty, and good order, just as we do with our entire liturgical practice here. Finally, let me say that I am so very proud to be the rector of a genuinely welcoming and inclusive church, a church that stands tall for what is just and right. I believe with all my heart we are doing right.

On the Calendar:

Wednesday, September 19
9:15am L'Arche (Chapel)
12N Holy Eucharist (Chapel)
12N Debtors Anonymous (DA)
4pm St Cecilia choir rehearsal
7pm Adult choir rehearsal

Thursday, September 20
12N Al-Anon
7pm AA

Saturday, September 22
10:30am PFLAG

Sunday, September 23
8am Holy Eucharist
9am Breakfast
9:20am Sunday School begins
10:30am Holy Eucharist
Reception following
6:30-8pm Conversation on Race Relations in Mobile (☞ supper)

Wednesday, September 26
9:15am L'Arche (Chapel)
12N Holy Eucharist (Chapel)
12N Debtors Anonymous (DA)
4pm St Cecilia choir rehearsal
7pm Adult choir rehearsal

Thursday, September 27
12N Al-Anon
7pm AA

Sunday, September 30
8am Holy Eucharist
9am Breakfast
9:20am Sunday School
10:30am Holy Eucharist
Reception following

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

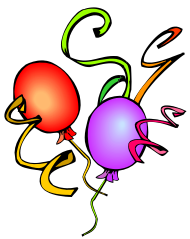
- To all those who made Food Share happen this past weekend. The next weekend will be October 18-20.
- To all the volunteers who helped our Family Promise guests: Henry Brewster, Beth Hardaway, Martha Durant, Matt McDonald, Woody Hannum, Barbara



Brewster, Ben Foster, Mark Williams, Karen McDonald, Rosemary Williams, Breck Pappas, Aguol Kuot, Douglas Greene, Boone Reeves, Liam Gray, Laura Hampton Greene, Kristen Ritter, Dustin Reeves, Emma Gray, Venice Carr, Nyirou Kuot, Atong Kuot, Clark

Kelly, Jean Tucker, Mary Robert, Frances Rouse, Pete Mackey, Homer McClure, Michael Morrison, Clayton Ryan, Gretchen Thiel, Albert Lilly, Fred South... not to mention the big help we get from St Mark and Trinity volunteers.

- To all those who participated in the 'make-up' appreciative inquiry dialogues on Sunday. Mark your calendars, everyone, for October 14, when we'll meet in Stirling Hall at 9am to hear the results of those dialogues.
- To everyone who helped fill the Refugee Pantry basket. Thanks for your generosity.
- And to all those who made the Ministry Fair a great success. We showed our flexibility by squeezing in-



to the Parish Hall space since Stirling Hall was occupied and still managed to stir interest among new and not so new folks in the ministries that take place at All Saints. A new Ministry was born as well! There is now a Funeral Guild,

made up of people who are willing to be at the church to greet, to usher and to give directions to people who attend funerals here. It is not too late to join this or any other ministry. Call or email the office if you do not know how to reach the contact person of the particular ministry you wish to join. (438-2492 or asstrector@allsaintsmobile.org) We will be glad to help you out.

The Thursday Night Supper Club will be on this week, Sept 20 at 6:30pm at the home of Keith and Margaret Winkler, 9601 Three Notch Road. Please RSVP to Margaret at 666-0984 and let her know what you'll be bringing.

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*

Mobile in Black & White

On Sunday, September 23, All Saints will host a **Community Conversation on Race Relations in Mobile** at 6:30pm 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 will begin at 7pm. Please **RSVP to the church office** if you plan to attend (438-2492). Everyone is invited, but space is limited.



The EYC will NOT meet this Sunday since Breck will be out of town. However, be on the lookout for word about a mid-week casual meeting after school somewhere! Thanks!

Ladies:

Please remember to blot your lipstick before you go to receive communion. It is very difficult to remove lipstick stains from the purificators (linens used to wipe the chalice). Thanks for your cooperation!



Mark your calendars!

The Blessing of the Animals will take place on Sunday, October 7, at 4pm in the courtyard. All animals and their people are invited. Please make sure they are appropriately restrained.

Jim Flowers to be a waiter at the Atlanta Bread Company, Mon, Sept 24

Jim will be serving YOU for Family Promise! Come eat at Atlanta Bread on Dauphin Street on Monday, Sept. 24 between 6 and 8pm. When you order your food, tell them you want Jim to be your waiter and he will bring your meal to you. Your (generous) tip will go entirely toward Family Promise and its wonderful program. Kids eat free on Mondays, so bring them with you! When I was a waitress on the 10th, a young boy came in with his mother and sister to eat. His mother told me he had asked her if he could give a whole month's allowance; she said if that's what he wanted to do, he could. He gave me \$20.



After the night is over, Jim will count his tips; we will see who earned the most and announce the totals in the Herald. Prize: bragging rights for a year! See you Monday, Sept. 24! --Mary Robert

Christian Education Classes Resume for the Fall this Sunday

Join us this Sunday, September 23, as Sunday School classes for children and adults begins at 9:20am. For children 4 years old and under, the nursery is open (Stirling Hall) from 7:45am to 11:45am.

Children in K-5 through 5th grade are invited to participate in the Godly Play class. The room is located on the 2nd floor of the Parish Hall. Godly Play is a wonderful mix of story-telling, wondering and responding to the stories through art and play. Time: 9:20 to 10:10am. Parents: please come pick up your children.

One adult class is called the Christian Living Today class, the Beth Murray Memorial class, or the 'heretic' class, depending on your frame of mind! The class is basically discussion centered around books they read, DVDs they watch, or speakers in the class. All are welcome to participate. The class meets in the Walter K. Smith Room.

New this year, the Rector will lead conversations on the lections appointed for the day each Sunday from 9:20 a.m. to 10:00 (between services, beginning this Sunday). We are incorporating the Senior High class with this study group, so Adults and High School students are invited to attend. It has become our style to do things here intergenerationally, so we feel this will be a rich opportunity for both our adults and youth to be in conversation together.

It's that time of year again!!!!

Bayou Bash is rapidly approaching and is scheduled for November 10th from 6 to 10 p.m. As always, this event cannot be done without your help and we need all hands on deck to make this the best Bayou Bash in All Saints' history. If you want to volunteer to help out, please call or e-mail Chris Conte at 604-2073 or ctc@helmsinglaw.com.

Katharine Flowers has volunteered to be in charge of the auction this year, which is the most important moneymaker of the event. If you have an item or service that you wish to donate, or if you want to help out with the auction itself, please contact Katharine at 644-9887.

The deadline for registering for the ECW Annual Fall Conference at Beckwith is this Friday, Sept. 21. The conference will be held Oct. 5-7. It includes modules for the ECW, Women of Vision, the Diocesan Altar Guild, and Parish Nurses (CEUs available). All information and registration forms are on the bulletin board in the All Saints Parish Hall.

Attention, Everyone! We have an immediate need for some support with youth Sunday school, specifically 6-8 grades. We have a wonderful new curriculum for Middle School in the Episcopal Church called Weaving God's Promises. The problem is, we have no teachers. The people who have been teaching this age group have been doing it for years now and would like to be able to go to a class for themselves. Is there anyone who is interested in teaching this fine group of kids? If so, please call Mary Robert asap. (You don't have to be a parent to do this!)

Another choice is that interested middle schoolers could be mentors for the Godly Play class. This would involve helping the children in many aspects of the class, and hearing some good stories at the same time. If your middle schooler is interested, please let me know.

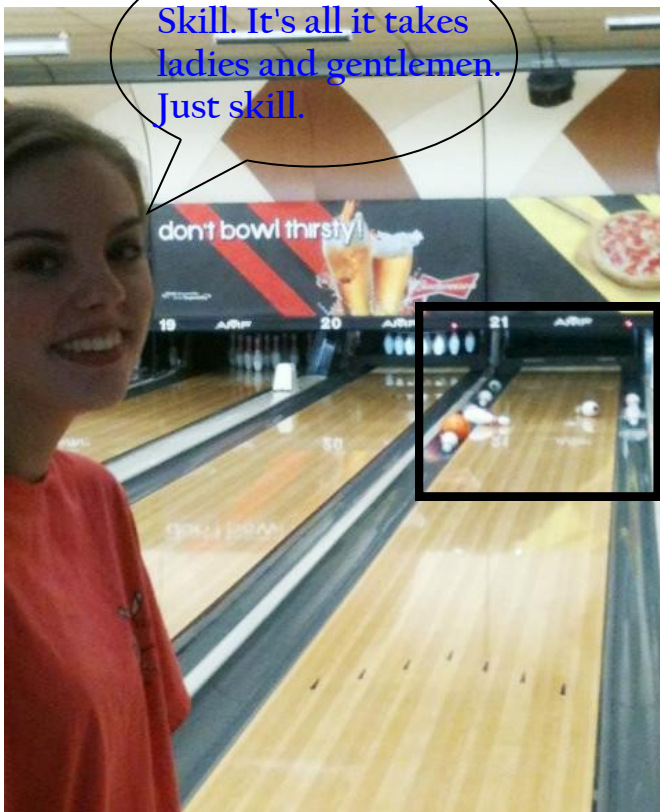
If you have any suggestions, please let Mary Robert know, asstrector@allsaintsmobile.org or at 438-2492.

Pictures from Recent Events



The August Birthday Celebration

Kay Montgomery being served at Atlanta Bread Company for Family Promise tips!



Look carefully!

The EYC went bowling on Sunday. Parker was bowling and the bar came down and knocked all of the pins down; then the bar came back and swept them forward! It was a Reverse Strike...and she got credit for it!



Sunday, September 23, 2012
17th Sunday after Pentecost, Proper 20

The Lessons

[Jeremiah 11:18-20](#)

[Psalm 54](#)

[James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a](#)

[Mark 9:30-37](#)

The Collect of the Day

God, who draws near, who comes to our level, whose nature is revealed in lordship laid aside: give us grace to welcome you in the one who tests the bounds of our community: in the child, the outcast, the one who comes with no power save that of remaking our heart; through Jesus Christ, the one who will be betrayed. Amen.

Those Who Serve

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

Bread bakers: Jeff Clearman, Betty Bentley

Flower Guild: Jean Tucker, Kathy McKenzie

Breakfast: Jeff Clearman, Martha Harris, Suzanne Cleveland, Barbara Evatt

Reception: Rosemary Williams, Karen McDonald

8:00am

Lector: Serena Willcox

Intercessors: Larry Hallett

Chalice: Burl Ratcliffe

Ushers: Bill Evatt, Will English

Greeter: Renee Dillard

10:30am

Lectors: Molly Allison, Thomas Locke

Intercessor: Hendrik Snow

Chalices: Skeeter Robertson, Ruth LaMonte

Acolytes: Boone, Reeves, Dustin Reeves, David Reeves

Ushers: Ricky Bradford, Henry Brewster, Thomas Locke

Music for Sunday

Voluntary Stanley Vann *Prelude on "St. James"*

Processional Hymn 390 *Lobe den Herren*

William Mathias S-278 *Gloria in Excelsis Deo*

C. Hylton Stewart *Psalm 54*

Sequence Hymn 670 *Song 13*

Offertory Anthem William Bradley Roberts *Little Lamb, Who Made Thee*

Presentation Hymn 379 *Abbot's Leigh*

William Mathias S-128 *Sanctus*

William Mathias S-165 *Agnus Dei*

Communion Hymn 669 *Herzlich tut mich verlangen*

Motet Peter Aston *I Give You A New Commandment*

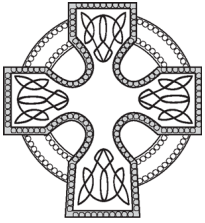
Post Communion Hymn 477 *Engelberg*

Processional Kenneth Leighton *Fanfare*

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



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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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)