

The Herald

December 11, 2011

Third Sunday of Advent

From the Rector: Of Hopeful Purpose

K and I were walking our dog towards British Park this past Sunday afternoon. It was a beautiful Fall afternoon. We walked by a vacant lot in which two men, obviously homeless, were standing in the middle of it eying it with puzzled disappointment, because the owner had bush-hogged all the underbrush so that people could not sleep on the property unseen. I don't blame the owner, because as the critical mass of homeless people gather at this sight, after a while, in our experience as neighbors a few doors down, there is an inevitable fight, and we have to call the police to unravel the human mess, these tangled and broken stories....The problem of homelessness is as complicated as it is persistent.

We walked further down Government Street and passed two men in dingy clothing carrying worn backpacks. Their faces and hands made leathery, tanned and chapped by the brute force of living from day to day in the outdoors. They were walking at a steady pace as if for some purpose...what purpose they could be about I could scarcely imagine....but it crossed my mind that each had a mother and a father, like me...that both of them had a story, like me....perhaps they had siblings.... children...maybe they were on their way home....maybe just trying to escape the impending cold....perhaps being on the move, traveling persistently the road of life, quite literally keeps one open to survival....Perhaps that was what I saw in their earnest singularity... the will to live...They traveled as if they saw a hidden road unseen to the rest of us, leading them to someplace or some thing....and that it was of dire importance that they arrive there...maybe there was hope between them.

I've noticed over the years that the homeless among us usually travel accompanied. I imagine it is because of safety, but perhaps more importantly, it is just being able to simply take care of each other. The light that gutters against the dark is the light of community, even if only two. No matter our wealth or lack thereof...no matter the stories of our lives, all part comedy and all part tragedy, we cannot make it down the road without each other...that is our singular purpose: to take care of each other...to bear each other's burdens...We are our brothers' and our sisters' keepers....It is at the heart of the teaching of Jesus and of all the world's religions that for the world's sake we must love our neighbor...Love the ones given to us along the way.

I imagine that each of those two men on their seemingly despairing journey, are most thankful for the company of each other...and we should be as well...We should be thankful to have companions along the perilous journey we call life. Surely hope is engendered in our relationships, in our companionship; and surely some meaningful purpose as well....if nothing more than to just love one another....and perhaps that is just enough purpose, enough light by which to travel the dark... Let us hope, as we hope always this time of year.... that it is enough.

On the Calendar:

Tuesday, December 6
11:30am All Sts serves @ 15 Place
3:30pm St Michael choir rehearsal

Wednesday, December 7
8am Race Relations Committee
9:15am L'Arche (Chapel)
12N Holy Eucharist (chapel)
4pm St Cecelia choir rehearsal
7pm Adult choir rehearsal

Thursday, December 8
12N Al-Anon
7pm AA

Saturday, December 10
10:30am PFLAG
1-3pm L'Arche in Stirling Hall

Sunday, December 11
8am Holy Eucharist
9am Breakfast
9:20am Xmas Pageant practice
10:30am Holy Eucharist
Reception following

Tuesday, December 13
12N Golden Circle
3:30pm St Michael choir rehearsal
5pm Murray House Board mtg

Wednesday, December 14
9:15am L'Arche (Chapel)
12N Holy Eucharist (chapel)
4pm St Cecelia choir rehearsal
6pm Rector's Forum
6pm 15 Place Board mtg
7pm Adult choir rehearsal

Thursday, December 15
9am Food Share prep
12N Al-Anon
7pm AA

Friday, December 16
5:30pm Food Share packing

Saturday, December 17
8am Food Share distribution



The Episcopal Church welcomes you

What a wonderful service of Lessons and Carols we had on this past Sunday morning! Many thanks to all those who read lessons and to all those who sang carols: the three choirs of All Saints—St Michael and All Angels, St Cecelia, and the Adult choir.

Please check out the calendar of special events for December in this Herald. There are lots of things to do to help you prepare for the mystery of Christmas.

Habitat for Humanity of Southwest Alabama will be hosting their "Reindeers and Rooftops" Benefit and Silent Auction Fundraiser at the new Habitat ReStore (the old *Rooms To Go* building), 3712 Airport Blvd, on Thursday, December 15, 2011 from 6 until 9! Come

ReStore and preview the new store, enjoy scrumptious food, sip on a specialty cocktail or just enjoy complimentary beer and wine! All proceeds will go directly to the final funding of a Habitat house that was started this fall. For tickets contact Laura Williams at williams203@comcast.net or at 251-406-0596.

Our prayers are offered for:

- Sarah Walter and family, at the death of her aunt, Florence Goff, on Dec. 1.
- Julie Praytor and family, at the death of her father, Max Herman, on Dec. 2.
- the safe return of Matt Robertson from Afghanistan. Matt is the son of Skeeter Robertson.

IHN Week begins on Christmas Day! The next time All Saints hosts the families of IHN/Family Promise begins on the evening of Christmas Day and continues



until Sunday morning, January 1, 2012. As you might imagine, it may be difficult to find all the volunteers needed to staff that week. Please look at your calendars now, and see if you can spare some time to help those who do not have warm, comfortable homes in which to spend Christmas with their families. To sign up, contact Henry Brewster at 479-9781 or hbrewster@brewsterlaw.net.

Bayou Bash T-shirts make good stocking stuffers! Great-looking, long sleeved tees printed with the Bayou Bash alligator are on sale for only \$10 each. Since all the bills have been paid for the Bash, every penny you spend on a shirt is added to the amount of money to be donated to our various community ministries. Shirts are available during the church office hours: M-Th, 9a-4p; F, 9a-1p.

Christmas Pageant Practice!

Practice for the Christmas Pageant will be held this Sunday and next (Dec. 11 & 18) during the Sunday School hour. Please meet in Stirling Hall at 9:15 and everyone will go to the church together. We still need sheep and shepherds for the pageant, so come even if you have not previously signed up!



The pageant will be held this year during the 5pm service on Christmas Eve. Email Renea Greene at renea_greene@bellsouth.net if you have any questions.

Christmas Wish List: 15 Place is putting together gift bags for its guests for Christmas and would appreciate any help we can give them. Items needed for the bags are:

For everyone:

- Hygiene items
- Soap, Shampoo
- Lotion, Sunscreen
- Insect repellent towels
- Combs
- White socks
- Knit caps, Gloves, Scarves
- Blankets
- Snack foods (like cheese crackers, fruit rollups)
- Big pullovers
- Fast food gift cards
- Phone cards
- Bus passes



For women:

- Sanitary supplies
- Sports bras and underwear, mostly L and XL

For men:

- Underwear
- If you can help supply any of these items, call Valerie Mitchell at 533-6000 or e-mail her at valerie.mitchell@saadhealthcare.com. Your gift will make a difference for those in need in our community.

Flu season is upon us!

Flu and pneumonia shots are strongly advised for some age groups, and suggested for others.

Check with your doctor and be sure to take care of yourself!



Gaudete

Brad Reynolds

Because Christmas is almost here
Because dancing fits so well with music
Because inside baby clothes are miracles.
Gaudete
Because some people love you
Because of chocolate
Because pain does not last forever
Because Santa Claus is coming.
Gaudete
Because of laughter
Because there really are angels
Because your fingers fit your hands
Because forgiveness is yours for the asking
Because of children
Because of parents.
Gaudete
Because the blind see.
And the lame walk.
Gaudete
Because lepers are clean
And the deaf hear.
Gaudete
Because the dead will live again
And there is good news for the poor.
Gaudete
Because of Christmas
Because of Jesus
You rejoice.

"Gaudete," the Latin word for "rejoice," is the Third Sunday of Advent in the liturgical calendar of the Western Church. This Sunday is often symbolized by the use of a pink candle in the Advent wreath.

Brad Reynolds, S.J., is a photographer and artist in residence at Gonzaga University, Spokane, Wash. His poem is taken from America; The National Catholic Weekly (December 11, 2006): See http://www.americamagazine.org/content/article.cfm?article_id=5183

We still need your pledge cards!

If you have not yet turned in your 2012 pledge card, please do so **as soon as possible**. A Vestry member will be calling you soon to remind you. A reliable budget cannot be made without you!

Are you trying to think of gifts for the person who has everything?

How about helping out others in the world who are less fortunate -- in honor of your loved one? Buy someone a chicken, educate a young girl, improve the water supply, feed the hungry, vaccinate a child... the choices are endless...

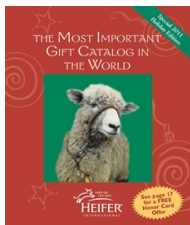
Here are some organizations that will help in those and other ways:

Episcopal Relief and Development (<https://www.er-d.org/>)

Order chickens, goats, clean water wells, seeds and other basics from the *Gifts for Life* catalog, contribute to the Disaster Response Fund, help the Episcopal Church of Sudan, the Malaria/*NetsforLife*® Inspiration Fund, US Hurricane Relief Fund and many more.



Heifer International (<http://www.heifer.org>)



Choose a meaningful gift such as goats, chicks, rabbits, water buffalo, geese and more to give a loved one and help children and families around the world receive training and animal gifts that help them become self-reliant.

American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem (<http://www.afedj.org>)

The Diocese of Jerusalem covers 5 countries and 2 territories: Jordan, Israel, Syria, Lebanon, Gaza and the West Bank, as well as the city of Jerusalem. It provides pastoral care and humanitarian aid through almost 30 parishes, 14 schools, 2 full-service hospitals, 4 outpatient clinics, 4 guesthouses, 4 institutes for the disabled, and 2 homes for the elderly. The American Friends act as a partner with the Diocese of Jerusalem by helping to increase its capacity to teach and heal. AFEDJ raises funds for and promotes the humanitarian work of the Diocese of Jerusalem and its institutions so it may better serve the needs of all people in the Diocese.



Kiva (<http://www.kiva.org>)

Kiva is a non-profit organization with a mission to connect people through lending to alleviate poverty. Leveraging the internet and a worldwide network of microfinance institutions, Kiva lets individuals lend as little as \$25 to help create opportunity around the world. The current repayment rate of all Kiva partners is over 98%. When money is repaid to a lender, the lender can decide whether to take the money out or to relend it to other applicants.



During Lent of 2008, those who attended All Saints' Lenten Program paid a suggested \$5 each week for supper. At the end of the last week, the group decided to give all the money to Kiva clients requesting loans, and to relend it whenever there was enough to do so. In April 2008, we made our first deposit with Kiva of \$919.00. Since then, we have made 64 loans to individuals and groups for a total of \$3550.00! Our loans have gone to people in 30 different countries and have been used in sectors such as agriculture, food, clothing, arts, health, education and transportation services.

Pay it forward!

It's time for Christmas Greenery and Flowers! If you would like to help offset the cost of these beautiful decorations for the church, please use this form to make memorials or thanksgivings for loved ones, and turn it and your donation (suggested: \$50) in to the church office. **The deadline is Tuesday, Dec. 20, at 4pm.**

Please PRINT the name(s) as you would like them to appear. Check M(emorial) or T(hanksgiving)

M T

M T

M T

M T

Looking Ahead

December

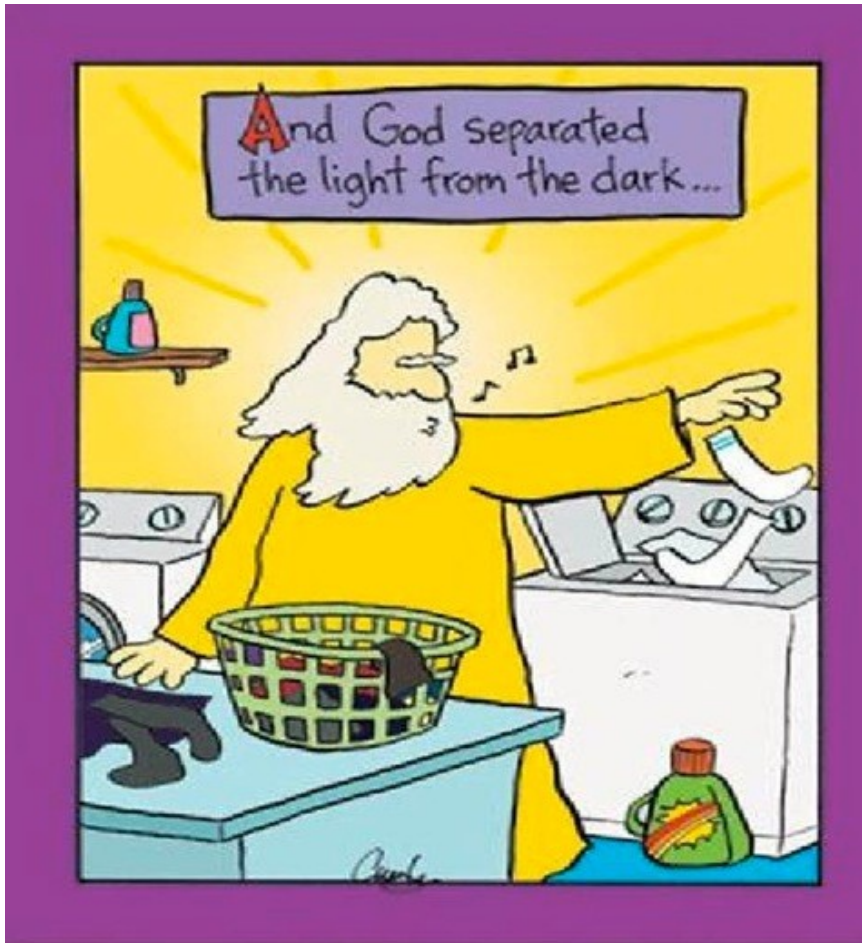
- 10 - PFLAG, 10:30am
- 11 - 3rd Sunday of Advent: 8am and 10:30am Holy Eucharist; Xmas Pageant practice, 9:20am
- 13 - Golden Circle, 12N
- 15 - Food Share prep, 9am
- 16 - Food Share packing, 5:30pm
- 17 - Food Share distribution, 8am
- 18 - 4th Sunday of Advent: 8am and 10:30am Holy Eucharist; Xmas Pageant practice, 9:20am
- 19 - Vestry meeting, 6pm
- 21 - St Michael and St Cecelia choirs rehearse, 4pm; Hanging of the green & Chili Supper, 5:30pm
- 23 - Office closed
- 24 - Christmas Eve: Holy Eucharist and Xmas Pageant at 5pm; Choral Prelude & Holy Eucharist at 10:30pm
- 25 - Christmas Day: Holy Eucharist, 10am (no breakfast, no Sunday School, no reception); *IHN Week begins*
- 26 - Office closed
- 27&28 - no choir rehearsals
- 30 - Office closed



January

- 1 - Feast of the Holy Name: 10am Holy Eucharist; (no breakfast, no Sunday School, no reception)
- 2 - Office closed

A little humor...



Sunday, December 11, 2011

Third Sunday of Advent

The Lessons

[Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11](#)

[1 Thessalonians 5:16-24](#)

[Psalm 126](#)

[John 1:6-8, 19-28](#)

The Collect of the Day

Lord of light, who sent the Baptist to offer hope and face the world's scorn: open our ears to hear the cries from the margins, exposing our fears, inciting our vision and calling us to a step of faith; through Jesus Christ, the one who is to come. Amen.

Those Who Serve

Altar Guild: Jeff Clearman, Martha Harris, Ellen Wingard, Julie Prayor, Rosemary Williams

Flower Guild: Burl Ratcliffe, Diana Nichols

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

Reception: Debi Foster

8:00am

Lector: Mary Hunter Slaton

Intercessors: Joe Basenberg, Serena Willcox

Chalice: Burl Ratcliffe

Ushers: Bill & Barbara Evatt

Greeter: Renee Dillard

10:30am

Lectors: Molly Allison, Michael Morrison

Intercessors: Martha Harris, Hank Caddell

Chalices: Andy Mitchell, Nancy Lancaster

Acolytes: Ben Foster, Boone Reeves, David Reeves, Dustin Reeves, Atong Kuot

Ushers: Ricky Bradford, Henry Brewster, Henry Callaway

Music for Sunday

Voluntary Johann Sebastian Bach Four Advent Chorale Preludes from the *Orgelbüchlein*: *Nun komm' der Heiden Heiland*, BWV 599; *Gott, durch deine Güte*, BWV 600; *Herr Christ, der einge Gottes-Sohn*, BWV 601; *Lob se idem allmächtigen Gott*, BWV 602

Processional Hymn 56 *Veni, veni, Emmanuel*

Richard Webster *Missa Dorica, Trisagion*

Charles Villiers Stanford *Psalm 126*

Sequence Hymn 597 *Jerusalem*

Offertory Anthem David Hurd *This is the Record of John*

Presentation Hymn 75 *Ascension*

Richard Webster *Missa Dorica, Sanctus*

Richard Webster *Missa Dorica, Agnus Dei*

Communion Hymn 272 *The Truth From Above*

Motet George Fredric Handel *Rejoice Greatly*

Post Communion Hymn 65 *Bereden väg för Herran*

Processional Pamela Decker *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland*

Please keep in your prayers

✚ For healing:

Ellen Fails

Elizabeth Smith

Geoff Peach

Frances Reed

Joy Russ

Jami Salac

Jerry Kozart

Taylor Merry

Scott Podstata

Abraham Kuol

Terry Godwin

Ethan Fisher

Kathy Davis

Harriet Schofield

Logan Barnhart

Becky Boulter

Katie Hammond

Roy Muth

Jim Gray

Jane Arnau

Joanne & Dan Young

Taylor Parton

Jessica Montalvo-Lopez

Butch Boyington

Gregg Pounds

Evina Valera

Ed Givhan

Iris Prosch

Jerry

Richard Melton

Martha Murdock

LaNiece Bland

Lamar Elledge

Sharon Cleverdon

Mike Downing

Patsy Childress

Anna Marie Brown

Laura

✚ For those who serve in the armed forces:

Spencer Abbot

Matt Abbot

Wes Parks

Jonathan Carter

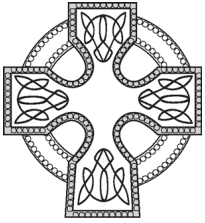
Scott Tanos

Kyle Metcalf

DeMario Snead

Randy Johnson

Robert Carter



All Saints Church

151 SOUTH ANN STREET
MOBILE, AL 36604

www.allsaintsmobile.org

Clergy

The Rt. Rev. Philip M. Duncan II, Bishop
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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
Gretchen Thiel and Christa Harkins, Nursery Workers
Liz & Scott Kirby, Directors of Youth Ministries

All Saints 2012 Vestry

Joe Basenberg
Ricky Bradford
Henry Callaway
Valerie Case
Harold Dodge
Elizabeth Doyle
Rob Gray
James Hamilton
Woody Hannum
Amy Hunter
Emily Kelley
Don Mosley
Diana Nichols
Jean Tucker
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): Liz & Scott Kirby
Finance Committee: Clark Kelly, treasurer
Flower Guild: Katharine Flowers
Food Share: Mark Taylor, Burl Ratcliffe
Golden Circle: Laura Rutherford, Wylly Stirling
Hospitality & Events: Jean Tucker
IHN/Family Promise: Henry Brewster
Lay Eucharistic Visitors: Bill Evatt
Lectors, Intercessors & 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: Harold Dodge, Louie Wood
Stewardship: Woody Hannum, All Saints Vestry
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)