

The Herald

December 12, 2010

3rd Sunday of Advent

From the Rector: Of the One Faith

This past Sunday afternoon I was asked to participate in the Religious Freedom walk sponsored by the Springhill Avenue Temple. There were seven clergy there representing four world religions. Each of us was asked to speak briefly regarding our respective takes on the chosen theme: loving our neighbor. There were two Catholic priests, one a Jesuit, the other a parish priest, the priest of the Greek Orthodox Church, a rabbi, a Muslim imam, three Buddhist monks, and me, the sole representative of the so-called Protestant Christian tradition.

Each person spoke about their own tradition's admonition to love their neighbor, to live for the sake of each other, to recognize the need of our neighbor as if the need were our own. It was as if we were all of one faith only. I

didn't disagree with anything anyone said, because what they were all saying implicitly is that the religious life is not about belief system, but practice. In the practice of the good we are all brothers and sisters, all in solidarity for the good of the whole.

The experience that afternoon caused me to grieve over Christianity's penchant to exclusivity over the centuries...right belief, orthodoxy, at all costs...believe what we tell you to believe, or you're not in, but out...Many lives have been wrecked because of making right belief the standard of faithfulness...that is making doctrine an idol...and it is quite the easy way out of our spiritual responsibility to bring God's commonweal to bear in our own day...just believe and all will be well...I've outgrown that...It is our enlightened doing the faith that brings God's goodness in earth...our enlightened doing that saves.

When it came my turn to speak, I named the reality that we, all the world's people are really (certainly in the eyes of God I think) one faith...I think God is utterly confused by our arbitrary divisions...I addressed the assembly as "people of the one faith." Because we are all people who act "as if." We are all people who act as if the universal vision of compassion, mercy, equality and justice is true. No dogmatic divisions can stand against the practice of goodness. That is what Jesus, Muhammad, the Buddha, the prophets of Israel modeled for us...the good and right way to live as a people, so that we are indeed one as God would have it...a way to live which then teaches us what to believe...belief being the artful and ever changing interpretations and articulations of the practice of the faith.

We walked the campus of Springhill college on a crisp, beautiful day...One people whose pledge is to love our neighbor...that loving neighbor is to love God and ourselves...It is on this simple but profound promise that the lives of all on earth are made one, contingent each to each, belief systems notwithstanding...one body...one faith...one hope for us all.

On the Calendar:

Wednesday, December 8
12N Holy Eucharist (Chapel)
6pm 15 Place Board Meeting
7:30pm Adult Choir rehearsal

Thursday, December 9
12N Al-Anon (Smith Rm)
7pm AA (Smith Rm)

Saturday, December 11
10:30am PFLAG

Sunday, December 12
8am Holy Eucharist
9am Breakfast
9:25am Christian Education
10:30am Holy Eucharist
Reception following

Monday, December 13
5:30pm L'Arche Board Xmas Party

Tuesday, December 14
12N Golden Circle
3:30pm St. Michael & All Angels Choir
5:30pm St. Cecelia Choir rehearsal
5:30pm Family Promise Host Coordinators (Stirling Hall)

Wednesday, December 15
12N Holy Eucharist (Chapel)
7:30pm Adult Choir rehearsal

Thursday, December 16
12N Al-Anon (Smith Rm)
7pm AA (Smith Rm)
7:30pm Choir rehearsal w/ Trinity choir

Sunday, December 19
8am Holy Eucharist
9am Breakfast
9:25am Adult Christian Education
9:30am Christmas Pageant
10:30am Holy Eucharist
Reception following

At the Annual Parish Meeting last Sunday, five new members of the Vestry were elected to serve 3-year terms. They are: Henry Callaway, Valerie Case, Marion Elledge, Woody Hannum, and Amy Hunter.

Also elected were four deputies to our Diocesan Convention, which will be held February 10-12, 2011 at St. James' Episcopal Church, Fairhope. The deputies are: Joe Basenberg, Andi Barrett, Martha Harris and Louie Wood.

Congratulations to all!

A South Alabama Cares tree is in the office vestibule. Please consider taking an ornament from the tree to provide Christmas gifts (wish lists are on the backs of the ornaments) for some of the South Alabama Cares clients. Instructions for wrapping and returning are next to the tree.

Prayers are needed for Thomas Lancaster, born Tuesday, Dec. 7, to Will and Allison Lancaster. Thomas is Nancy Lancaster's first great-grandchild! He birth included some difficulties and these first several days are crucial in determining whether or not he will have some brain damage. Please keep Thomas, Will, Allison and all the family in your prayers.

Pledge Cards for 2011

If you have not yet turned in your pledge card, or have not received one, for 2011, PLEASE turn it in to the church office this week! The Finance Committee and the new Vestry will begin making next year's budget soon. We need your pledge to make this happen!!

Stewardship Report

Last year, 2009, our total number of pledges made was 140, for a budget of \$444,000.00. As of Tuesday, Dec. 7, 2010, 100 pledge cards have been returned to the office for a total of \$340, 145.00. Of these 100 pledges, 14 decreased from their amounts last year, 43 have increased since last year, and there are 12 new pledges. There are still 52 pledges that were made last year that have not been made this year. The Vestry cannot make a budget based on guesses. PLEASE make every effort to fill out those cards and turn them in as soon as possible!!

Pageant Practice this Sunday!



This Sunday, please plan to be at Sunday School at 9:20am in order to have a practice for the Christmas Pageant, which happens on the 19th. The rehearsal will last for half of the time and Sunday School will take the other half of the time.

It's still not too late to sign up for a part if you haven't done so. Call or email Elizabeth Doyle at eliz_doyle@comcast.net or 694-3019 OR see her during the Sunday School hour.

Put on your thinking caps! Jean Tucker needs your help! She donated 'Dessert-a-Month for a Year' to the silent auction at the Bayou Bash. Somebody bought it. Unfortunately, Jean can't remember who it was, and it is time for her to make the December Dessert. Does anyone know who bought the desserts? If you think you do, please call Jean at 753-1984 to let her know, or better yet, call the lucky person who bought them and ask him/her to call.

Speaking of Bayou Bash... the totals are still not in yet, but we are awaiting them with eager longing! Estimates are that we did not raise as much as last year — the economy has taken a toll on our wallets. But we probably raised more than we did in 2008. Please be patient, and we'll bring the news as soon as we know it!

We have bills to pay... We are still nearly a month behind on pledge collections, and it is putting the church in a cash crunch. Please make every effort to catch up your pledge for 2010!



The Episcopal Church welcomes you

Memorial Flowers



Memorial flowers are a beautiful way to remember a loved one, celebrate a special event, or to give thanks for someone who has touched your life. To donate flowers for the altar, please call 438-2492.

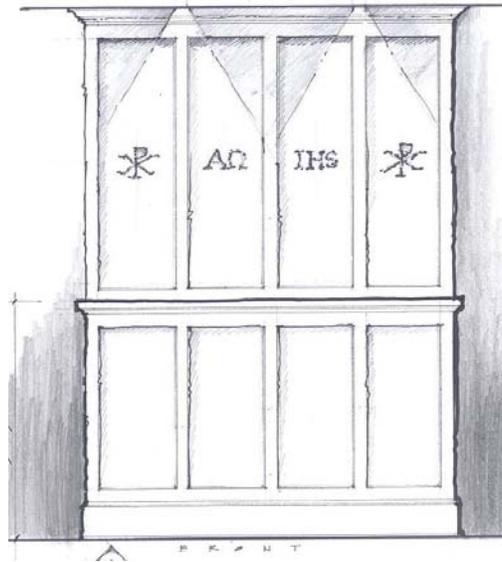
Our prayers are offered for the family and friends of Gaylord Clark Lyon, who died last week. *May the souls of the departed rest in peace.*

Jayne Carson is a member of the Episcopal Church of the Redeemer in Mobile, and has been a participant in the Diocesan School for Deacons for the past three years. Deacons in the church are the ones set apart to be servants to those in need. Deacons are called to connect the resources of the church to the needs of the least of us, reminding us of our call to follow Christ in sacrificial ministry. Jayne has been assigned to All Saints for field training until she is ordained in February at the Diocesan Convention. Please give Jayne a warm All Saints welcome! *Ed. Note: apologies for misspelling Jayne's name last week. The 'y' is correct!*

Chapel Reredos Being Carved

The new chapel reredos is almost complete! A reredos (the carved wooden panel and retablo behind the Altar upon which the Cross sits) has been commissioned which will give focus and beauty to this intimate space. Hastings and Anne Read are doing the work; they are consummate woodworking artisans who were reared in the Church of England. They understand the importance of the aesthetics in this enterprise.

There is almost enough money to pay for the reredos, but we need a little more to improve the lighting. Now would be a good time to make a memorial if you are interested. Please mark your donation for 'Chapel memorial.' The reredos will be dedicated at the Epiphany service in January, 2011.



The reredos, which will be against the wall behind the chapel altar, is hand carved. There is spot lighting above it. The shelf (or retablo) can hold candles, vases and the cross.

Christmas Greenery and Flowers can be given as memorials or in thanksgiving for loved ones. If you would like to do so, please turn in this form and your donation (suggested: \$50) to the church office by the deadline of Monday, Dec. 20, at 4pm.

Please PRINT the name(s) as you would like them to appear. Check Memorial Thanksgiving

M T

M T

M T

M T

Fundraiser Organized for Food Bank

Brewer Ayres, first-born son of Jim and Pam Ayres (it is close to Christmas, y'all), organized an out-of-uniform day at Daphne Middle School to raise awareness for the hungry. The title of his fundraiser was "Operation Wishbone: Feed the Needy." He promoted it on morning announcements and asked the students to donate a dollar for turkeys and hams for the Bay Area Food Bank. If they made a donation, the students could wear their Alabama or Auburn shirts and jeans on a designated day. Brewer will be recognized as Daphne Middle School's Red Ribbon Representative at a banquet on January 10.

In this picture, Brewer is presenting a check for \$200.00 made out to the Bay Area Food Bank, which will be credited to All Saints.

Thanks, Brewer, for your generosity, and congratulations on a job well done!



Christmas Lessons and Carols

On Sunday, December 26, at the 10:30 service, the combined parishes and choirs of Trinity Church & All Saints' Church will celebrate together with a Festival of Christmas Lessons & Carols. As many of you know, Trinity is undergoing a complete renovation of the church nave, choir and sanctuary. They have been having service in the Great Hall for several months now, using piano instead of the organ. This will bring together the choirs and parishioners of both churches for a time of worship and community. The 8:00 am service of Holy Eucharist will be held as usual.

Music for the service includes carols by Boris Ord, Charles Wood, Paul Manz, Dale Adelman, Glenn Rudolph, Harold Darke, Ralph Vaughan Williams, and H. C. Stewart.

Decisions for life

By Drew Courtright, Dec. 06, 2010 [Episcopal News Service]

When you think of the Kanuga Conference Center in Hendersonville, North Carolina, you may think of the lake, the fireplace lounge, the mountains, the chapel, the incredible toast, but you may not think of youth. I do and I think of Winterlight. I think of singing, small groups, variety shows, ultimate Frisbee, fellowship, dorky dances, worship and, yes, toast. As a participant for all four years of high school and a staff member for four more, I have a special place in my heart for the Winterlight community and I would like to invite you to join us this year at Winterlight.

But what is Winterlight? Now in its 35th year, the Winterlight conference, held annually at Kanuga from Dec. 27 to Jan. 1, is a time for high schoolers to gather, celebrate, explore their thoughts and beliefs, worship and make friends from many states -- all within a welcoming, supportive Christian community. In large groups, small groups, cabins or inn rooms; over breakfast, lunch, dinner and snack; through discussion, worship, prayer, and the Holy Spirit, the Winterlight community comes together each year to explore a theme of the Christian faith and how we can live as Christ's body in the world.

This year's theme is "Decisions for Life." We will be considering what it means to choose God with our hearts, bodies, and souls and how a relationship with Jesus affects daily life. One aspect of that relationship that Winterlight stands behind is serving the larger community. After three years working with Stop Hunger Now to alleviate hunger around the world, Winterlight 35 is focusing on the local community through a partnership with Blue Ridge Community Health Services, an organization that serves the basic health needs of migrant and vulnerable populations. We will learn about and participate in their mission by making blankets for the BRCHS Outreach Closet, living into Christ's example of love and service.

What could Winterlight be for you? Well, you might have the time of your life. You might experience an epiphany. You might learn something. You might get closer to God, or you might not. I can't promise you any of that, but I can say that you will be welcomed by the body of Christ and loved and supported as a child of God. Please consider becoming part of Winterlight this year. Click [here](#) for more information, as well as last year's slideshow and applications.

-- Drew Courtright is a longtime participant and Winterlight staffer.



Family Promise® of Coastal Alabama

Yard Sale: Donations & Shoppers Needed!

Drop-Off Items' Date: December 10th

Yard Sale Date: December 11th; 7:30am

Location: Forest Hill United Methodist Church

Cleaning out your home for the holidays? Donate items you no longer need to our Yard Sale on Saturday, December 11th at Forest Hill United Methodist Church beginning at 7:30 am. Proceeds go to benefit local homeless, and Family Promise of Coastal Alabama.

Prayers for Peace in Sudan

By Lynette Wilson, December 03, 2010 [Episcopal News Service]

Episcopalians, Methodists, Presbyterians, Lutherans, Roman Catholics and Mennonites gathered at the Church Center for the United Nations in New York Dec. 3 to kick off a weekly noontime prayer vigil in solidarity with the people of Sudan in the lead up to the Jan. 9 referendum, in which the south is expected to vote for independence from the north. "The first line of defense for Christians is prayer," the Rev. Petero Sabune, the Episcopal Church's program officer for Africa, said during the vigil. "Right now people are praying in Nzara, Renk, Torit and Mundri. Prayer is a powerful thing; it can go through space and time."

Throughout the season of Advent and leading up to the referendum people are invited to pray for peace in Sudan on Fridays at noon eastern time. People throughout the 31-diocese Episcopal Church of Sudan have committed to praying at noon local time in solidarity with people worldwide.

The referendum is the final provision of Sudan's Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), signed in 2005 by the two warring parties -- Sudan People's Liberation Movement in the south and the north's Khartoum-based Government of Sudan. The CPA ended a 21-year civil war -- fought by the Arab and Muslim north and rebels in the Christian-animist south -- that killed more than 2 million people and

displaced an estimated 7 million more, [including the Kuot family of All Saints. Ed. note] During the prayer service, Christine Mangale, of the Lutheran Office for World Community, said she sent a notice to her friends and colleagues asking them to pray. "They are one with us; in Asia and Latin America, they are one with us," she said.

Those gathered at the U.N. chapel prayed that the referendum takes place without conflict; for government leaders in both north and southern Sudan, that they "may govern with open and discerning hearts and minds toward reconciliation and peace"; and they prayed for the people of Sudan, those who live in fear of persecution and for the refugees and internally displaced people. Kayon Watson from the Mennonite Central Committee, a relief agency, asked that "the love of people be greater than the love of greed and power."

Religious leaders of all denominations, including Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori, have called for a "Season of Prayer," in the run up to the referendum. "This is an issue that concerns people of goodwill throughout our world ... and has brought people together," said the Rev. Gene Squeo, a Roman Catholic priest, during the vigil. Squeo asked God to look after the people of Sudan and closed by saying, "Help us always, wherever we may be, to be people of peace."

EYC News

December 12th

Mulherin Home Christmas Parade. We will be having a Christmas parade for all of the residents, which will be lots of fun! Please let me know if you can attend! Begin getting creative with costumes! 3-5pm

December 19th

EYC Ushers. EYC will be ushering for the 10:30 service. I need 4 people, so please let me know if you can be there.

EYC Christmas Party. 5-8pm: All ages are welcome for the party and dinner.

All Junior EYC-ers (middle school) need to be picked up at 8pm.

Senior EYC (high school) will have a Christmas movie marathon lock-in!!

Final details to come in next week's Herald.

December 26th

No EYC. Merry Christmas!!

Contact Info

Catherine Mackey - 490.6675 - SCatherineMackey@gmail.com

Looking Ahead

December

- 8 - 15 Place Board meeting, 6pm
- 11 - PFLAG, 10:30am
- 12 - 3rd Sunday of Advent; 8am and 10:30am Holy Eucharist
- 14 - Golden Circle, 12N; Family Promise Host Coordinators meeting, 5:30pm, Stirling Hall
- 16 - 7:30pm Combined rehearsal of All Saints and Trinity choirs
- 19 - 4th Sunday of Advent; 8am Holy Eucharist; Christmas Pageant, 9:30am; 10:30am Holy Eucharist
- 20 - Vestry meeting, 6pm
- 22 - Hanging of the Green and Supper, 5:30pm
- 24 - Christmas Eve; office closes at noon; Holy Eucharist at 5:30pm and at 10:30pm with choirs
- 25 - Christmas Day; no service
- 26 - 1st Sunday after Christmas; 8am Holy Eucharist; no Sunday School; 10:30am Christmas Lessons and Carols with the combined choirs of All Saints and Trinity Episcopal Churches
- 27-31 Office closed



Sunday Lectionary:

3rd Sunday of Advent, 12/12

[Isaiah 35:1-10](#)

[Psalm 146:4-9](#)

[James 5:7-10](#)

[Matthew 11:2-11](#)

Lay Ministers for Sunday, December 12

Altar Guild: Betty Bentley, Diana Nichols, Paula Reeves, Clayton Ryan

Flower Guild: Suzanne Drew, Kathrine Butler

Breakfast: Charlotte Hall, Amy Hamilton, Karen McDonald, Amy Thompson

Reception: Julie Woodard, Jean Tucker

8:00

Lector: Larry Hallett

Intercessor: Bill Evatt

Chalice: Burl Ratcliffe

Ushers: Pete Mackey, Harold Dodge

Greeter: Renee Dillard

10:30

Lectors: Catherine Mackey, Rob Gray

Intercessor: Warren Butler

Chalice bearers: Henry Callaway, Bruce Barrett

Acolytes: Ben Foster, Darrel Williams, Louie Wood, Meredith Mosley

Ushers: Andy Mitchell, James Hamilton, Chris Conte, Bill Hines

Music for Sunday, December 12

Voluntary Marcel Dupré *Magnificat I, from Fifteen Pieces for Organ Founded on Antiphons, Op. 18*

Processional Hymn 56 *Veni, veni Emmanuel*

Franz Schubert *Kyrie S-96*

Thomas Norris *Psalm 146:4-9*

Sequence Hymn 64 *O Heiland, reiss*

Offertory Anthem Henry Purcell *Rejoice in the Lord Alway*

Presentation Hymn 75 *Ascension*

Franz Schubert *Sanctus and Benedictus qui venit S-130*

Franz Schubert *Agnus Dei S-164*

Communion Hymn 615 *St. Flavian*

Motet Wm. Kevin Davis *Advent Carol*

Post Communion Hymn 65 *Bereden vag for Herran*

Processional Johann Sebastian Bach *Fugue on the Magnificat, BWV 733*

Prayers of thanksgiving are offered for the safe return of Stephen DeWeese from the war in Afghanistan. Stephen is Andi Barrett's nephew.

Please keep in your prayers . . .

✦ For healing for:

Thomas Lancaster

Theford Daniel Jones, Jr.

Betty Torbert

Edgar Hughes

James Ogilvie

Don Armentrout

Danny Moreau

Dot Casey

Devanie Ellison

Scott Podstato

Barbie Driver

Frederick Salvo

Brian Montgomery

Patsy Childress

Pete Gaillard

David Sanders

Marion

Debbie Davis

Chris

Leila Hollowell

the White family

Kate Makkai

Brenda

Tillye Semple

Laura

✦ For the safe return of those who serve in the military:

Spencer Abbot

Matt Abbot

Glenn Foster, Jr.

Soren Rodning

Zack Hadley

T. J. Sherman

Jamie Pontious

Our policy is to keep names on the prayer list for one month. After that, they will be removed. If you want a name to be on the list longer, please call the office; the request will be updated and it will be kept on for another month.

Refugee Pantry Items

We need items such as **bar soap** (regular size), **toilet paper**, **tooth-brushes** and **garbage bags**. Please put them in the church office or the Ann St. narthex. Thanks!



All Saints Church

151 SOUTH ANN STREET
MOBILE, AL 36604

www.allsaintsmobile.org

Return Service Requested

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
Catherine Mackey, Director of Youth Ministries
scatherinemackey@gmail.com
Irene Raymond, Parish Sexton
Elizabeth Dunnam, Tracy Barton, Nursery Staff

All Saints 2010 Vestry

Jim Ayres
Chris Conte
Harold Dodge
Rob Gray
Renea Greene
Charlotte Hall
Martha Harris
Clark Kelly, Treasurer
Pete Mackey, Senior Warden
Matt McDonald
Susan Meztista
Michael Morrison, Junior Warden
Diana Nichols, Clerk
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): 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: Charlotte Hall, Jean Tucker
IHN/Family Promise: Henry Brewster
Lectors & Chalice Ministers: The Rev. Mary C. 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 a.m. Holy Eucharist
9:00 am Breakfast
9:25 a.m. Christian Education Classes (during school year)
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist
Wednesdays 12 Noon Holy Eucharist (Chapel)