

The Herald

December 16, 2012

Third Sunday of Advent

From the Rector: [Of Heresy](#)

Tonight at the Rector's Forum we will discuss the early councils of the church and how they dealt with the polyphonic points of view that existed in emerging Christianity during the first five centuries of the Common Era. Differing theologies abounded across the intellectual spectrum from Gnosticism, to Arianism, Apollinarianism and many, many others. Heresy as it has become known, means a theology or belief outside the so-called "mind of the Church." In antiquity, after Christianity became the established religion of the empire, heresy would have been beliefs outside the consensus of the early councils of the church endorsed by the emperor, whose concern was not so much to achieve a strictly accurate belief system, but to achieve unity in the church and therefore unity in the realm, religious and political life being intimately related.

But heresy has a very positive and creative side to it as well, both then and now. The so-called heretics of the early church included men (and perhaps some bold women) who were genuine, intellectually curious, and imaginatively adventurous in their seeking to know the nature of the mystery of God in Christ. The early heresies provided substantive challenge to the status quo of church doctrine, and fostered a milieu of discovery with regard to what would be considered orthodox theology. The arguments were often fascinating, most were quite civil, but alas, some became bitter. Some bishops were exiled because of their beliefs. But suffice it to say the inchoate theology of the emerging church evolved in a passionate and creative dialectic, which produced syntheses of ideas that became accepted as "the mind of the church."

The center of most of the arguments of the early church councils concerned the true nature of Christ. The writer of the Gospel of John informs us that the Christ is the incarnate logos, the divine Word of God in human flesh. But once said, what on earth does it mean? There were two divergent schools of thought: on the one hand the Syriac (eastern/Antiochene) school which held that Jesus was a good man, a wise prophet/teacher who by following the way of Torah, the very way of God, became the likeness of God in earth; one whom we are to emulate so that the world would live justly as God would have it. On the other hand were the docetics/pneumatics, who believed that Jesus was truly divine, the very emanation of God in earth, God himself merely carried in a human body, if a human body at all. Naturally, arguments travelled along a vast continuum between these extremes. Tonight we will discuss the tentative syntheses of these arguments.

Things have not changed really. Theological challenges, dialectics still abound. The church still struggles mightily with issues of theology, catalyzed to great extent by the Reformation and Counter Reformation of the sixteenth century and beyond. Today one can find quite easily vastly different theologies among Christian denominations, even within a single denomination. Moreover, now that the world has become so interconnected via the renaissance of technology, we now must contend with the theologies of the other world religions. Contend is perhaps the wrong word. Perhaps it is better for us to say that we are to be in genuine, imaginative conversation with all the world's theological propositions, because in the final analysis all theologies are speculative, always have been, always evolving still to this day, always about discovery, discovery as to the nature of this God, the three in one, we call love. If all were settled, what would be the fun of that? The sacred mystery still beckons us today as it did the early church fathers....we are still called to come and see.

On the Calendar:

Tuesday, December 11

6pm Rector's Forum & supper

Wednesday, December 12

9:15am L'Arche (Chapel)

12N Holy Eucharist (Chapel)

4pm St Cecilia choir rehearsal

7pm Adult choir rehearsal

Thursday, December 13

12N Al-Anon

7pm AA

Sunday, December 16

8am Holy Eucharist

9am Breakfast

9:20am Sunday School

10:30am Holy Eucharist

Reception following

IHN/Family Promise begins

6:30pm EYC evening hosts, IHN

Monday, December 17

6pm Vestry mtg

6pm 15 Place Board mtg

IHN continues

Tuesday, December 18

IHN continues

Wednesday, December 19

9:15am L'Arche (Chapel)

12N Holy Eucharist (Chapel)

4pm St Cecilia choir rehearsal

7pm Adult choir rehearsal

IHN continues

Thursday, December 20

12N Al-Anon

7pm AA

IHN continues

Fri & Sat, Dec 21 & 22

IHN continues

Sunday, December 23

IHN ends

8am Holy Eucharist

9am Breakfast

9:20am Sunday School

10:30am Holy Eucharist

Christmas Pageant rehearsal

Reception following

5:30pm Hanging of the Green & supper

The Rector's Forum meets tonight, December 11 at 6pm. Bring a dish to share for the potluck supper; conversation follows the meal. The Forum will NOT meet on Dec. 25 (!) but will pick up again on January 8.

IHN / Family Promise Week begins this Sunday evening, Dec. 16 and runs through Sunday morning, Dec. 23. All the slots are filled, but it would be great to have 2 people overnight every night. If you have signed up to help, please remember to come at your appointed time! If you have not helped before and are interested, please call Henry to volunteer at 251-338-0630.

From the Treasurer: Just a reminder! As the year end nears, we need everyone who has not paid their pledge in full to do so in the next couple of weeks. During the next few weeks, the parish will have expenses related to our wonderful Christmas programs in addition to our regular monthly expenses. Therefore the sooner that everyone can fulfill their pledge, the better. If you are in doubt about your pledge status, please contact Mary Holbrook at the church office (438-2492) or at mary@allsaintsmobile.org.

In addition to fulfilling your 2012 pledge, please turn in your 2013 pledge as soon as possible. If you have misplaced your pledge card (like me), you can pick up another one from the church office, call Mary Holbrook or even email your pledge to her. The Finance Committee would like to begin working on the 2013 budget in the next couple of weeks and this cannot be done without receiving everyone's pledge.

Thanks,
Curt Doyle

The Vestry meets on Monday, Dec. 17, at 6pm in the Saad Room. All current members, as well as the newly-elected members are asked to attend.



2012 Christmas Ornaments are here! Created from recycled church programs by Wyll Lewis of *American Pop!*, they are available in Advent Blue or Christmas Gold; and to remind us of the unique architecture of All Saints and its history, the ornaments have an oxidized copper patina. How much do they cost? Whatever you'd like to donate — all proceeds go directly to the fund for Stirling Hall kitchen updates. Pick one up for you or a friend during the 10:30am reception following service, or in the church office during regular office hours.

The EYC will meet this Sunday, Dec. 16, at Stirling Hall, to participate with IHN/Family Promise Week as evening hosts. Meet there at 6:30pm to play with the kids. Please eat supper before you come.

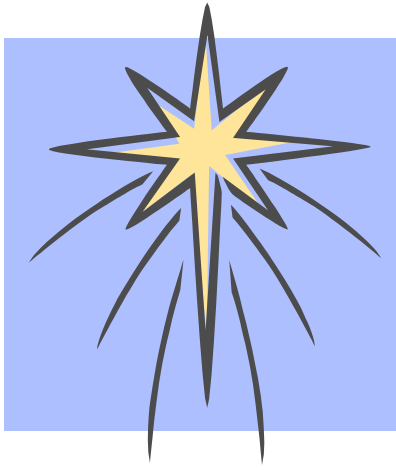
The Friday Night Supper Club will have its Christmas Celebration at the home of Gwen and Edgar Hughes on December 21, 7:00 p.m. The Hughes live at 1050 Palmetto Street, and you may call them at 433-5881 to arrange what dish you might bring. Guests and new members are always welcome! P.S. If the world ends during supper club, 😊 hold hands so you can all go out together!

Help through ER-D! It's not too late to help the victims of Hurricane Sandy who are still recovering from the superstorm. Remember that the people of the northeast were very generous in helping people all along the Gulf Coast after Katrina. You can support these efforts by contributing to the [Hurricane Sandy Response Fund](#) at ER-D, which will ensure that our help goes where it's most needed.



Congratulations to Lillian and Malcolm Carsten! Laura Carsten, daughter of Malcolm and Lillian, married Thilo Mahrenbach, son of Michael and Annegret Mahrenbach of Herbrechtingen, Germany on November 23 in Ulm, Germany. Dr. Carsten is an assistant professor of political science at Curry College on Milton, MA. Her husband, a mechanical engineer, is presently working at Leibniz University in Hannover, Germany. He is actively pursuing the acquisition of a green card so that he might join his wife in America. Best wishes to Laura and Thilo!





It's time to get ready for the Christmas Pageant!

Once again, the story of the birth of the Christ child will be told at the time of the usual Gospel reading during the 5pm Christmas Eve service. Instead of just the familiar words, though, the story will be presented in tableau, with the familiar characters we know so well: Mary and Joseph, the donkey, the angel Gabriel, the innkeeper, shepherds, sheep, stars, more angels, the wise men and their camels. All children and teenagers are invited and encouraged to participate, including the St Cecelia Choir and acolytes!

If your children would like to be in the pageant, please let Mary Robert know by Wednesday, Dec 19 (438-2492, asstrector@allsaintsmobile.org) so that we can be sure we have all the costumes we need.

There will be one rehearsal only, on Sunday, Dec 23, immediately following the 10:30 service. Costumes will be handed out at that time. This should not last longer than 30 minutes.



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 Thurs, Dec. 20. 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

All Saints' 2013 Stewardship Campaign

Our pledge goal for 2013 is to increase our total financial giving by 5% resulting in a \$462,303 budget. To date, we have received 83 pledges for \$310,411. That is an increase of 30 pledges totaling \$105,341 since the beginning of December, and while this is a significant increase, we are still short of our 2013 goal by \$151,892. I know many, including myself, are very busy this time of year! However, please take a moment to fill out your pledge card and send it in. This Sunday is our pledge in-gathering, and the vestry needs an accurate pledge count in order to effectively budget for next year.

Please keep in mind that of the proposed 2013 budget, \$450,000 is needed just to maintain the status quo. If we are unable to reach our target, we will have to make some very challenging decisions that will include significant cuts to the church's operating budget. So, please take time to reflect and put forth your best effort during this stewardship season.

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013 (to date)</u>
Total Pledges	143	83
Total Pledge Dollars	\$441,068	\$310,411
2013 Goal		\$462,303

Thank you,

Don Mosley

Just a reminder that during the 2013 stewardship program, chairpersons of task groups that were created as a result of the Appreciative Inquiry (AI) process have been speaking on Sundays to both services. They have been sharing their thoughts and encouraging your participation. This Sunday, December 16, is our Pledge In-gathering. The final 2 chairs will speak at both services, and we hope that if you have not yet brought your pledge card, you will do it then. During the services, the pledge envelopes will be offered on the altar, and our Vestry will be able to move forward in planning the 2013 budget. If you are interested in being part of any of the task forces, please contact the chairpersons to pledge your time and effort or obtain more information.

Youth ministries/Sunday School/EYC

Chair: Woody Hannum, Phone: 433-2056, Email: ehannum@usouthal.edu

Physical Improvements

Chair Darrel Williams, Phone: 476-1593, Email: djwilliams@darreljwilliamsassociates.com

Membership Growth

Chair: Valerie Case, Phone: 340-7416, Email: vcase7@gmail.com

December 16: Pledge In-gathering

Congregational Support, Chair: Jean Tucker, Phone: 342-0742, Email: jwtucker@usouthal.edu

Financial Stability/Stewardship, Chair: Don Mosley, Phone: 680-8942, Email: dcmosley@usouthal.edu

Noah's Pudding



Ashura is a holiday celebrated annually in Turkey. It signifies many events for Muslims, amongst the most significant being the day Noah's Ark set on dry land. The month long festivities center on promoting friendship, good relations between neighbors and universal peace and understanding. In Turkey, a traditional dish is prepared during this month known as Noah's Pudding. It is meant to symbolize the celebratory meal Noah made when he came off the Ark. It is a sign of peace, of community, and of a bright future.

The Prophet Noah called his people to the religion of God for 950 years. When his people insisted on unbelief and persisted in their wrongdoings, God ordered him to build an ark. After completing the construction of the ship, Noah embarked in it, upon God's command, with two animals of each kind, male and female, and his family—except those against whom the Word (of punishment) had already gone forth,—and the believers. When Noah's Ark came to rest on Mount Ararat in northeastern Turkey, Noah's family celebrated with a special dish. Since their supplies were nearly exhausted, what was left (primarily grains, dried fruits and the like) was cooked together to form a pudding.

The making of ashure is a common practice among Muslim and Christian people in the Middle East today. Traditionally, ashure is made in large quantities to commemorate the ark's landing and is distributed to friends, relatives, colleagues, classmates, etc. without regard to the recipient's religion or belief system as an offering of peace and love. Ashure prepared at home is shared with the neighbors. Generally, people who prepare it send a cup to each of the neighbors in their building. As tradition goes, the residents of forty houses to your east, west, north and south are considered neighbors. One has responsibility of maintaining good relations with their neighbors regardless of what their religion or beliefs may be. It is also a custom to prepare ashure in large cauldrons and distribute it to the poor.

This Sunday, Dec. 16, the reception after the 10:30 service will be a taste of Noah's Pudding for the people of All Saints from some of the Turkish Community in Mobile. Please plan to join us in the Walter K. Smith Room and share in this wonderful offering of peace and love from our neighbors!



Adult Advent Announcement

O Lord,
Let Advent begin again
In us,
Not merely in commercials;
For that first Christmas was not
Simply for children,
But for the
Wise and the strong.
It was
Crowded around that cradle,
With kings kneeling.
Speak to us
Who seek an adult seat this year.
Help us to realize,
As we fill stockings,
Christmas is mainly
For the old folks —
Bent backs
And tired eyes
Need relief and light
A little more.
No wonder
It was grown-ups
Who were the first
To notice
Such a star.

David A. Redding, from *If I Could Pray Again* (1965)



Sunday, December 16, 2012

Third Sunday of Advent

The Lessons

[Zephaniah 3:14-20](#) [Canticle 9](#) [Philippians 4:4-7](#) [Luke 3:7-18](#)

The Collect of the Day

God of flood and fire, calling us to turn from dead halls echoing with greed: may the gift of your Spirit come to us from another place, burning with life and a hope that will not be quenched; through Jesus Christ, the one who is to come. Amen.

Those Who Serve

Altar Guild: Melanie Petithory, Kim Gray, Gretchen Thiel, Bruce Rockstad
Bread bakers: Jeff Clearman, Betty Bentley
Flower Guild: Katharine Flowers, Clayton Ryan
Breakfast: Katharine Flowers, Kim Gray, Renea Greene, Clayton Ryan
Reception: Debi Foster, Jean Tucker

8:00am

Lector: Burl Ratcliffe
Intercessor: Jeff Clearman
Chalice: Serena Willcox
Ushers: Barbara & Bill Evatt
Greeter: Renee Dillard

10:30am

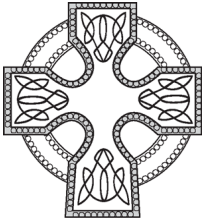
Lectors: Molly Allison, Ben Harris
Intercessor: Debi Foster
Chalices: Louie Wood, Ruth LaMonte
Acolytes: Darrel Williams, Douglas Greene, Emily Kelley, Kim Gray
Ushers: Ricky Bradford, Michael Morrison, Thomas Locke

Music for Sunday

Voluntary Johann Sebastian Bach – *Gottes Sohn ist kommen (BWV 600)*
Processional Hymn 56 *Veni, veni Emmanuel*
Richard Webster – *Trisagion, Missa Dorica*
Anglican Chant David Hurd – *Canticle 9 (Ecce, Deus)*
Sequence Hymn 65 *Bereden vag for Herran*
Jeffrey Rickard – *Nicene Creed*
Offertory Anthem Paul Manz – *E'en So Lord Jesus, Quickly Come*
Presentation Hymn 640 *Aberystwyth*
Richard Webster – *Sanctus, Missa Dorica*
Richard Webster – *Agnus Dei, Missa Dorica*
Communion Hymn 69 *St. Mark's Berkeley*
Motet Anon. 16th cent. – *Rejoice in the Lord Alway*
Post Communion Hymn 76 *Winchester New*
Processional Colin Mawby – *Solemn Procession*

Please keep in your prayers:

- ✚ For healing for: James Henry LeBatard, Julie Tadlock, Eleanor Mae Hunt, David Leff, Brittany, Angelo Harris, Melanie Wright, Jack Ratcliffe, Steven Bodiford, Arthur Johnson, Walter Sims, Alan Grubbs, Mitch Price, Austin Brown, Jim Wilson, Barbara Deming, John Stephens, David Barrineau, Johnny Madden, Brian Hammond, Heather and family, Martha Collier, JoAnn Pappas, Dunn Chandler, Geoff Peach, Scott Podstata, Abraham Kuol, Roy Muth, Jim Gray, Jane Arnau, Jessica Montalvo-Lopez, 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, William Wesley Pollard
- ✚ For those who have died,



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: Don Mosley, 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)