

The Herald

December 18, 2011

Fourth Sunday of Advent

From the Rector: Of the Heroic

One of my favorite books as a child was a book entitled *Gods and Heroes*. It was an illustrated collection of Greek myths written for children. To this day I can see Zeus in my mind's eye. My mother read it to us over and over until the cover finally fell apart. I still remember the battles of the titans and the gods, the exploits of Odysseus, of Hercules, Perseus, Achilles...of Prometheus the fire bringer. Of course, the Hero is an archetype in every culture... the one who is able to overcome evil...the one who is able to rise to their full humanity and conquer seemingly unconquerable tasks through feats of bravery and strength. Joseph Campbell's book *The Hero with a Thousand Faces* is a marvelous compendium of literary and oral accounts of the heroic figure in cultures all around the world, both ancient and modern heroes in our collective lore, from Aeneas to Luke Skywalker....and the many ones over the ages who are called on to save their people from the darkness of our world.

James Joyce reminds us in his masterpiece *Ulysses*, a modern retelling of Homer's *The Odyssey*, that the heroic is also manifest even in the most mundane circumstances of life; that the heroic is not limited to grand feats of the seemingly impossible, but that the potential for the heroic exists in the everyday life of each of us....perhaps as simple as an act of kindness, mustering the will to forgive, choosing tenderness.... Rearing children calls for acts of the heroic almost on a daily basis....speaking out and acting for the good, in whatever context, requires our calling on the heroic with which we are endowed as people of God.

Heroism requires consciousness, the ability to put things in perspective, and it requires learning from each other in community... I would argue that the figure of the hero throughout the world's mythology is a representation of enlightened community...communities empowered and emboldened to overcome the slings and arrows of life that we surely will encounter.... Certainly Jesus is one such hero... Jesus, who represents a heroic community that understands, has the perspective that love is greater than death, that compassion will thwart injustice, that mercy will undermine oppression, that inclusion and hospitality will engender dignity. These virtues of the Jesus movement found in the followers of Jesus over the centuries are heroic. They stand against the evil in our world on a day-to-day basis, often unseen, but also sometimes in startling ways.

The light that is coming into the world is the light of the heroic....bear it with honor dear brave and strong people of God, for the world needs the hero, the heroine... always has, and always will.

On the Calendar:

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

Sunday, December 18
8am Holy Eucharist
9am Breakfast
9:20am Xmas Pageant practice
10:30am Holy Eucharist
Reception following
5pm Conde Explorers mtg

Monday, December 19
6pm Vestry meeting

Tuesday, December 20
3:30pm No choir rehearsal

Wednesday, December 21
9:15am L'Arche (Chapel)
12N Holy Eucharist (chapel)
4pm St Michael & St Cecelia
choirs rehearse
5:30pm Hanging of the Green, chili
supper
7pm Adult choir rehearsal

Thursday, December 22
12N Al-Anon
7pm AA

Food Share is this weekend! The regular December Food Share will be held this weekend, beginning on



Thursday morning, 12/15, at 9am with setting up Stirling Hall and receiving the food delivery. On Friday, evening, at 5:30pm, 12/16, food is packed and the Hall is set up for distribution on Saturday morning, 12/17. Come by 7:30am to help put out any frozen food and unload the Christmas hams. Distribution begins at 8am and everything is finished by 8:45am.

Although the pledge drive is officially over, there are still outstanding pledges. **PLEASE get your pledges in** so we can use them to help determine our budget for 2012!

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 Carols and Renaissance Songs

will be performed by a Madrigal Quartet, featuring Joanie Brittingham, soprano; Victoria Turner, mezzo-soprano; Thomas Rowell, tenor; and Patrick Jacobs, baritone. Robert Holm is the pianist. The program is Thursday, December 15, St. Joseph's Chapel on the campus of Spring Hill College at 7:30 pm. Admission is \$10, and \$5 for students.



Last Christmas Pageant Practice!

The last practice for the Christmas Pageant will be held this Sunday, Dec. 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!



Christmas Pageant, 2008

The pageant will be held during the regular time to read the Gospel in the 5pm service. Participants will wear their costumes and process into church with the choir, sitting in the first couple of pews in the front until it is time to begin. There will be carols during the pageant and everyone is invited to sing them. After the pageant, children may sit with their families for the remainder of the service. Photos may be taken during the pageant (please, no flash!) and after the conclusion of the service. 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, Big pullovers
- Snack foods (like cheese crackers, fruit rollups)
- 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.



The Annunciation

Edwin Muir

The angel and the girl are met.
Earth was the only meeting place.
For the embodied never yet
Travelled beyond the shore of space.

The eternal spirits in freedom go.
See, they have come together, see,
While the destroying minutes flow,
Each reflects the other's face
Till heaven in hers and earth in his
Shine steady there. He's come to her
From far beyond the farthest star,
Feathered through time. Immediacy
Of strangest strangeness is the bliss
That from their limbs all movement takes.
Yet the increasing rapture brings
So great a wonder that it makes
Each feather tremble on his wings.

Outside the window footsteps fall
Into the ordinary day
And with the sun along the wall
Pursue their unreturning way.
Sound's perpetual roundabout
Rolls its numbered octaves out
And hoarsely grinds its battered tune.

But through the endless afternoon
These neither speak nor movement make,
But stare into their deepening trance
As if their gaze would never break.



BC:AD

U.A. Fanthorpe (b. 1929)

This was the moment when Before
Turned into After, and the future's
Uninvented timekeepers presented arms.

This was the moment when nothing
Happened. Only dull peace
Sprawled boringly over the earth.

This was the moment when even energetic
Romans
Could find nothing better to do
Than counting heads in remote provinces.

And this was the moment
When a few farm workers and three
Members of an obscure Persian sect
Walked haphazard by starlight straight
Into the kingdom of heaven.



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:

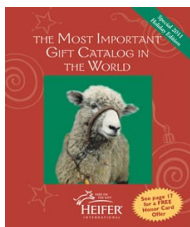
Episcopal Relief and Development (<https://www.er-d.org/>)

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

M T

Looking Ahead

December

- 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***
- 26-30 Office closed; call Mary Robert at 251-458-8581 for emergencies



January

- 1 - Feast of the Holy Name: 10am Holy Eucharist; (no breakfast, no Sunday School, no reception)
- 2 - Office closed
- 6 - Feast of the Epiphany: Holy Eucharist in the Chapel at 6pm; potluck supper & burning of the greens following

Now is the time to turn in memorials/thanksgivings for Christmas flowers

and greenery! The deadline is next Tuesday, Dec. 20. Please use the form located on the previous page of this newsletter. Print the names the way you want them written. Mark them as memorials or thanksgivings. Turn in the form and a check (suggested donation: \$50) made to All Saints and marked for flowers to Mary Holbrook.



Christmas Day and New Year's Day are both on Sundays. On those days, there will be one service only - at 10am. There will not be any breakfast, Sunday School or reception those days. Our normal Sunday schedule will resume on January 8.

Next week's Herald publication will be a 2-week newsletter

covering the holidays through New Year's Day. The calendar for January and the schedule of those who serve will also be published in this issue. Please look carefully at the schedule to see if you are serving. If you cannot serve on a particular date, be sure to get a sub as soon as possible and leave a message on the office phone!

The church office will be closed from Dec. 26 through Jan. 2. Please call Mary Robert for any emergencies (458-8581). Jim Flowers will have the week off; he and Katharine are awaiting the birth of their first grandchild, due on Dec. 25..

Musica Sacra will be rehearsing in the choir room during the week that the office is closed, on Tuesday, Dec. 27; Thursday, December 29; Tuesday, January 3; and Thursday, January 5 from 7-9pm each night. Please do not sound any alarms if you see the lights on in the Parish Hall!

The Feast of the Epiphany will be celebrated on Friday, January 6, at 6pm in the Chapel. Come join us for this unique Holy Eucharist service of light. Bring a potluck dish and we'll all have supper afterwards, including a bonfire for burning all our greenery from Christmas!



The next date for baptisms is Sunday, January 8, The Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord. If anyone would like to receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism during this time, please call the office (438-2492) and leave a message.



Sunday, December 18, 2011

Fourth Sunday of Advent

The Lessons

[2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16](#)
[Romans 16: 25-27](#)

[Canticle 15](#)
[Luke 1: 26-38](#)

The Collect of the Day

God of impossible love, you needed Mary to give consent, to bear the scandal, to carry your word within herself: may her courage give hope to women and men who yearn to sing new songs of justice and find the world a dwelling place for God; 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: Beth Hardaway, Clayton Ryan
Breakfast: Jean Tucker, Burl Ratcliffe, Robert Rodriguez
Reception: Jean Tucker

8:00am

Lector: Pete Wilson
Intercessors: Bill Evatt, Elyzabeth Wilder
Chalice: Lee Van Dyke
Ushers: Caroline Coker, Mark Taylor
Greeter: Renee Dillard

10:30am

Lectors: Valerie Mitchell, Richard Coarsey
Intercessors: Bruce Barrett, Diana Nichols
Chalices: Skeeter Robertson, Thomas Locke
Acolytes: Darrel Williams, Mark Williams, Grace Williams, Sarah Williams
Ushers: Hank Caddell, Jim Ayres, Don Mosley

Music for Sunday

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

Processional Hymn 56 *Veni, veni, Emmanuel*

Richard Webster *Missa Dorica, Trisagion*

Benjamin Hutto *Canticle 15, Magnificat*

Sequence Hymn 66 *Stuttgart*

Offertory Anthem Malcolm Archer *The Linden Tree Carol*

Presentation Hymn 265 *Gabriel's Message*

Richard Webster *Missa Dorica, Sanctus*

Richard Webster *Missa Dorica, Agnus Dei*

Communion Hymn 258 *Psalm 86*

Motet Otto Goldschmidt *A Tender Shoot*

Post Communion Hymn 278 *Rustington*

Processional Dietrich Buxtehude *Magnificat nono toni (BuxWV 205)*

Please keep in your prayers

✚ For healing:

Tripp Tate Diedrich

Martha Rose Hester

Dunn Chandler

Lynn Hastie Bozone

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

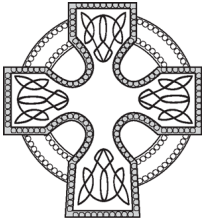
Scott Tanos

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
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
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)