



ALL SAINTS
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Herald

April, 2015

Easter

From the Rector: Of Gift and Choice

Among the leadership we talk a lot here at All Saints about “growing the church.” (Not that numbers necessarily reflect growth) We are aware about how mainstream denominations have declined systematically in numbers of members over the past several decades. The Episcopal Church is no exception, so our task is made all the more daunting given cultural realities. The reasons for such decline in “institutional religion” are complex. Many books have been sold of late attempting to analyze why the younger generations (X, Y, Millennials) don’t go to church. At our recent vestry retreat we all agreed that we have something special at All Saints. The vestry was asked point-blank to say why they came to All Saints... why they stay. The answers were consistent with what many of

us know and have known about All Saints for years: We are graciously welcoming; we are inclusive and affirming of all manner of folk; our liturgy is beautiful and our preaching is meaningful; we deeply value intelligent and critical inquiry into matters of faith; seeking and discovery are more important to us than dogma; we genuinely care for our neighbors; and we sincerely intend as best we are able to live out our faith in the world. People around Mobile know this about us.... So why aren’t we overflowing with numbers, doggone-it?!

I think our culture has made religion so very easy... a commodity, a consumer product, as it were... the churches that the church growth experts laud are the ones who provide “services.”... gyms, exercise facilities, childcare, ATM’s... yes! I swear... and theologically, success, emotional well-being, and perpetual happiness... and liturgically, entertainment... It’s a one way street... people want to consume religion... to show up and have it done to them... a spiritual inoculation for the week.

But the life of faith is a two-way street... both gift and choice... A vibrant faith community is certainly a gift, and All Saints is one such gift... but it also requires choice... the choice of honesty and engagement and responsibility... The life of faith is in no wise passive. By being a part of this community I would hope one feels challenged to question their faith... to ask the profound questions of life, to be compelled and inspired by their life here to live the gospel, loving one’s neighbor... calling out injustice... welcoming the stranger among us... One’s life of faith is not merely a citation in one’s obituary... but a way of life that informs our minds, souls, and bodies; a way of life that conditions us for the rigors of love.... and that requires much of us.... that requires all of us... and there are many who simply don’t wish to make that choice.... The life of faith takes arduous work, courage, persistence, risk, and imagination. I hope and I believe that being in the community of All Saints engenders such a life... Anything less would sell the vision of the Gospel truth short.

I am speaking of resurrection life. It is surely a gift, but it is just as surely a choice. Our saying yes to life in the face of death is our vocation, a practice; and saying yes to resurrection requires arduous work and courage and persistence and risk and imagination. At the end of the gospel of Mark the young man dressed in baptismal white seated in the empty tomb, announcing the resurrection of Jesus, directing the women to Galilee, is pointing us into this way of life... into ministry, into creative selflessness. Indeed as the women emerge from the tomb to follow Jesus, they become the next generation of Christ’s raised body given for the world. By God’s grace we are the raised body of Christ in our own generation... If we so choose.

Easter Message 2015

It's still dark when Mary ventures out to find the tomb. The graveyards around Jerusalem don't have much greenery today. The earth is mostly rock and stone, and it is far from easy to make a place to secure a body. Jesus' body was put in a cave-like space, with a stone rolled across the opening to close it up. Mary has made the journey from wherever she's sheltered over the last day, through darkened streets, perhaps hearing cocks begin to crow and townspeople start to stir.

She nears the place, but somehow it seems different than they left it – this can't be it, can it? Who moved the stone? A trip begun in tears and grief now has added burden–confusion, anger, shock, chaos, abandonment. His very body has been stolen.

She runs to tell the others. The three tear back to the tomb – no, the body is not there, though some of the burial cloths remain. Who has torn away the shroud and stolen him away? Why must the cruel torture continue, sacrilege and insult even after death? Who has done this awful thing? The men run away again, leaving her to weep at even greater loss.

She peers in once more – who are these, so bold appearing? “Fear not, woman... why do you weep?” She turns away and meets another, who says the same – why do you weep, who are you looking for? This gardener has himself been planted and now springs up green and vibrant, still rising into greater life. He challenges her to go and share that rising, great news of green and life, with those who have fled.

Still rising, still seeking union with Creator, making tender offering to beloved friends – briefly I am with you, I am on my way. Go and you will find me if you look.

The risen one still offers life to those who will look for evidence of his gardening – hope, friendship, healing, reunion, restoration – to all who have been uprooted, cut off, to those who are parched and withered, to those who lie wasting in the desert. Why do we weep or run away when that promise abides?

We can find that green one, still rising, if we will go stand with the grieving Marys of this world, if we will draw out the terrified who have retreated to their holes, if we will walk the Emmaus road with the lost and confused, if we will search out the hungry in the neighborhood called Galilee. We will find him already there before us, bringing new and verdant life. The only place we will not find him is in the tomb.

The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori
*Presiding Bishop and Primate
The Episcopal Church*



Family Promise Heads Up!

Our next opportunity to serve guests from Family Promise will begin on Sunday, May 3, with supper. Please mark your calendars now in order to be available when sign-up time rolls around!

Rector's Forum

The Rector's Forum will resume meeting on Tuesday, April 21 in the Saad Room. Potluck supper is at 6pm followed by conversation at 6:30pm. Anyone who is interested in learning more about the Episcopal Church or in becoming an Episcopalian is encouraged to come; everyone is welcome!

Golden Circle

Tuesday, April 14 is the day for the next Golden Circle. Come join us at 12N in Stirling Hall for a delicious lunch and bingo!

Food Share in April will be on Saturday, Apr. 18. Come help pack food bags at 7:30am on Saturday morning just before the distribution at 8am. We'll pack the food, distribute it, and finish by 8:30.

The Refugee Pantry

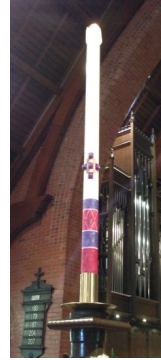
During April, the pantry needs toilet paper, laundry detergent, toothbrushes and toothpaste, bar soap and dish soap. Please put it by the volunteer desk on Sundays or drop it off M-F during office hours.

April Birthdays	
2– Anna Mary Shield	22– Susan Moore
4– Rose Ellen Stanbery	23– Melanie Petithory
5– Jayne Chiepalich	23– Barbara South
6– Rob Gray	25– Savannah Wesley
11– Sandra Lee	26– Lucy Perkins
15– Laurie Owen	27– Stephen Chiepalich
15– Hendrik Snow	29– David Powers
18– Betty Bentley	29– Will English
18– Elizabeth Slaton	30– Samantha Twilley
19– Caroline Mosley	30– Olivia Kelley

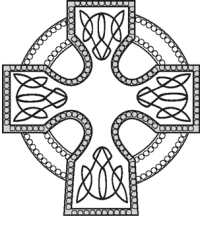
If we have inadvertently left your birthday off of the list, please call the office (438-2492) to let us know. We will add your birthday to the church database.



April 2015



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 <i>Wednesday in Holy Week</i> 9:15a L'Arche –chapel 12N Holy Eucharist 7p Adult Choir	2 <i>Maundy Thursday</i> 12N Al-Anon 6p Holy Eucharist 7p AA, Smith Rm	3 <i>Good Friday</i> 12p Good Friday Liturgy 6p Good Friday Liturgy	4 <i>Holy Saturday</i> 9a Holy Saturday Liturgy 730p Great Vigil of Easter
5 <i>Easter Sunday</i> 10:30a Holy Eucharist Reception & Easter Egg Hunt follows	6 Office closed	7	8 9:15a L'Arche –chapel 12N Holy Eucharist	9 12N Al-Anon 530p Tai Chi, Stirling Hall 7p AA, Smith Rm	10	11 10:30a PFLAG
12 <i>2nd Sun. of Easter</i> 8a Holy Eucharist 9a Breakfast 9:20 Sunday School 9:30 Adult Classes 10:30a Holy Eucharist Reception follows	13	14 12N Golden Circle 4p Junior Choristers	15 9:15a L'Arche –chapel 12N Holy Eucharist 7p Adult Choir	16 12N Al-Anon 4p Senior Choristers 7p AA, Smith Rm	17	18 7:30a Food Share
19 <i>3rd Sun. of Easter</i> 8a Holy Eucharist 9a Breakfast 9:20 Sunday School 9:30 Adult Classes 10:30a Holy Eucharist Reception follows	20 6p Vestry mtg	21 4p Junior Choristers 6p 15 Place Bd 6p Rector's Forum	22 9:15a L'Arche –chapel 12N Holy Eucharist 7p Adult Choir	23 12N Al-Anon 4p Senior Choristers 7p AA, Smith Rm	24	25
26 <i>4th Sun. of Easter</i> 8a Holy Eucharist 9a Breakfast 9:20 Sunday School 9:30 Adult Classes 10:30a Holy Eucharist Reception follows	27	28 4p Junior Choristers	29 9:15a L'Arche –chapel 12N Holy Eucharist 7p Adult Choir	30 12N Al-Anon 4p Senior Choristers 7p AA, Smith Rm		



All Saints Church

151 SOUTH ANN STREET
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Clergy

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All Saints 2015 Vestry

Cecil Gardner, Senior Warden
Clayton Ryan, Junior Warden
Hank Caddell Richard Coarsey
Chris Conte Elizabeth Jenkins
Clark Kelly Ed LaMonte
Barbara Michell Valerie Mitchell
Burl Ratcliffe Jana Simpson
Rose Ellen Stanbery Evi Valera
Pete Wilson
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
Caring Committee: Beth Hardaway
Choirs: Jeff Clearman
Community Ministries: Matt McDonald
Constitution & By Laws: Pete Mackey
Finance Committee: Curt Doyle
Flower Guild: Katharine Flowers
Food Share: Mark Taylor, Burl Ratcliffe
Golden Circle: Wylly Stirling, Mary Hunter Slaton
Hospitality & Events: Jean Tucker
IHN/Family Promise: Henry Brewster
Lay Eucharistic Ministers: Beth Hardaway
Lectors, Intercensors & Chalice Ministers: The Rev. Mary Robert
Long-Range Planning: Curt Doyle
Nursery: Elizabeth Doyle, Amy Hunter
Parish Development: Clark Kelly
Property: Ricky Bradford
Refugees: Martha Harris
Ushers: Louie Wood
Stewardship: 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)