



ALL SAINTS
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Herald

December, 2015

Advent, Christmas

From the Rector: Of Ends and Beginnings

I saw on Facebook just the other day a picture of a man holding a cardboard placard with the words, "Prepare, the beginning is near." This was obviously a take-off on the classic cartoon of the premillennialist prophet standing on the street corner proclaiming that the end is near. Premillennialism infects modern western Christianity. It is the premise, based on the Book of Revelation... sort of... that a fallen and depraved world waits for the second coming of Christ to set things right, and that at this so-called second coming, Christ will gather the few faithful and take them up into heaven. It is a theology of 'end times' popular in fundamentalist circles. It is based on the idea that there is no redemption in this life, that fulfillment comes only in the hereafter. End time

theology is a theology based on fear, and it demeans the richness of life that we have been given and are meant to share.

The Book of Revelation is of the literary genre called "apocalyptic." Such literature emerged in Jewish culture in the late second century B.C.E. New Testament and Gnostic scholar, Elaine Pagels argues that such literature emerges during times of social, economic and political stress. Indeed in the late second century in Palestine, the socio-political climate was one of drastic change and uncertainty. This is the era in which the apocalyptic book of Daniel was written, and the highly influential apocryphal Book of Enoch. Revelation in the New Testament canon carries the same ethos into the early centuries of the Common Era. This literature speaks of violent end times when God will set right a world gone wrong. It is not surprising that such a theology would gain traction in our own day and age, an age of violence and rapid change and uncertainty.

But our faith is not about end times, at least according to the teachings of Jesus. Jesus speaks of God's radical new order of peace and justice and dignity and well-being as a present reality. Jesus sees the apocalyptic expectation of God's vision of the world breaking into the present day as we speak, but not only as we speak, but as we practice the reality of God's love in our lives... loving kindness, doing justice, walking in humility... living into our true humanity. In other words, the means of Love are the ends of love in the making. Love is our vocation for the present day. Love is the incarnation of hope.

Our faith is one of hope and expectation and possibility. The life of faith is always in renewal, always beginning. That is why worship is characterized by celebration and beauty. Each new day for us is an invitation to love, an invitation to experience the mystery of life as if it is beginning for the first time. Certainly we experience the end of things in this life, but as followers of the gospel vision we stand at the end of things and proclaim and practice the new. We stand, as people who "act as if", for possibility and new life taking root in present time. Advent is the season of the church in which we prepare for the beginning, giving hope its authoritative voice, that we do not live for the end, we live for the New... forever possible.... forever beginning... again.



The Episcopal Church welcomes you

Helping the Homeless

Are you looking for a way to help others? Maybe you need some service hours. Do you want to "get ready" for Christmas in a way that doesn't involve the mall and crazy traffic? Come to **Stirling Hall at 9am on Saturday, Dec. 12**, and help us fill "blessing bags"- plastic zip bags with useful items such as tissues, hand sanitizer, water bottles, etc. Everyone who helps can take some of the bags to put in their cars; give them to people you see on the street who need it. It will help them AND you!



If you would like to help provide what goes into the bags, bring bottled water or white crew socks.

Pledges and Budget

Since this is the last month of the year, please make sure that your pledge is up to date and paid by Dec. 31. If you have not yet turned in your pledge card for 2016, please do so as soon as possible, so that the Finance Committee can make the new budget.

Rector's Forum

The Rector's Forum will meet on **December 8th only**, in the Saad Room at **6pm** for potluck supper, followed by good conversation. Everyone is invited.

Vestry Orientation & Meeting

The December Vestry meeting will be preceded by an orientation for new Vestry members at **5:00pm on Monday, Dec. 21** in the Saad Room. Come with your questions! All Vestry members, new and old, will meet for the regular monthly session at **6pm**.

Rehearsals

During the week leading up to Christmas, the Choristers WILL rehearse on **Tuesday, Dec. 22** and the adult choir will rehearse on **Wed, Dec. 23** as usual.

Flowers and Greenery

The flowers and greenery in the church at Christmastide are usually given in memory of or in thanksgiving for loved ones. If you are interested in this, please use the form on the next page

Refugee Pantry

The Pantry is in need of laundry soap, bar soap and dishwashing liquid (not for dishwashers); dryer sheets, toilet paper, paper towels and cleaning supplies for kitchen and bathroom. Please leave your gifts outside the church office.

December Birthdays				
2 - Barbara Brewster	10 - Melva Frazier	19 - Don Mosley	21 - Darrel Williams	26 - Barbara Michell
3 - Anna Marie Brown	13 - Steve Chiepalich	19 - Kristen Ritter	21 - Emily Kelley	26 - Kathrine Butler
3 - Bryce Kelley	17 - Warren Butler	20 - Paul Carsten	22 - Brenda Woodmansee	26 - Carol Mackey

Christmas Pageant, Dec. 20

On the **Fourth Sunday of Advent, Dec. 20**, everyone is invited and encouraged to come to the **10:30 service** and 'BE' the Christmas Pageant, which will be the Liturgy of the Word portion of the service. Together we will tell the story of the coming of Christ, and **EVERYONE will have a part to play in the pageant!** Don't worry, there are no lines to speak, only hymns to sing collectively as we celebrate. After the pageant is finished, we will say the Peace and move in to the Eucharist as usual.

Following the service, we will change the interior of the church from Advent to Christmas with the **Hanging of the Green!** Everybody is invited to either help and to stay for a warm lunch of chili and fixin's after the decorating is complete. Please mark your calendars now and plan to stay — we aren't complete without you!!



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: \$60) in to the church office. **The deadline is 12N, Wednesday, Dec. 23.** 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





December 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 9:15a L'Arche –chapel 12N Holy Eucharist 7p Adult Choir	3 12N Al-Anon 7p AA, Smith Rm	4	5
6 Advent 2 745a Nursery open 8a Holy Eucharist 9a Breakfast 920a Godly Play class 930a Adult Christian Ed 1030a Holy Eucharist Reception follows	7	8 3:45p Chorister rehearsal 7p Concert: <i>With Music and Justice for All</i>	9 9:15a L'Arche –chapel 12N Holy Eucharist 7p Adult Choir	10 12N Al-Anon 7p AA, Smith Rm	11	12 9a Packing gift bags for homeless 10:30a PFLAG
13 Advent 3 745a Nursery open 8a Holy Eucharist 9a Breakfast 920a Godly Play class 930a Adult Christian Ed 1030a Holy Eucharist Reception follows	14	15 3:45p Chorister rehearsal	16 9:15a L'Arche –chapel 12N Holy Eucharist 7p Adult Choir	17 12N Al-Anon 7p AA, Smith Rm	18	19
20 Advent 4 745a Nursery open 8a Holy Eucharist 9a Breakfast 920a Godly Play class 930a Adult Christian Ed 1030a Christmas Pageant & Holy Eucharist Greening of the church Chili lunch to follow	21 5p Orientation for new Vestry 6p Vestry mtg	22 3:45p Chorister rehearsal	23 9:15a L'Arche –chapel 12N Holy Eucharist 7p Adult Choir	24 Christmas Eve <i>Office closes @noon</i> 5p Holy Eucharist 1040p Choral Prelude 11p Holy Eucharist	25 Christmas Day <i>Office closed</i> 10a Holy Eucharist , Chapel	26
IHN Week IHN Week IHN Week IHN Week IHN Week						
27 Christmas 1 745a Nursery open 8a Holy Eucharist 9a Breakfast No Godly Play class 930a Adult Christian Ed 1030a Holy Eucharist Reception follows IHN Week	28 <i>Office closed</i>	29	30 9:15a L'Arche –chapel 12N Holy Eucharist	31 <i>Office closes @noon</i>		



All Saints Church

151 SOUTH ANN STREET
MOBILE, AL 36604

www.allsaintsmobile.org

Clergy

The Rt. Rev. J. Russell Kendrick, Bishop
Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast
The Rev. James B. Flowers, Jr., Rector
rector@allsaintsmobile.org
Office: 251.438.2492 Home: 251.436.8932
The Rev. Mary C. Robert, Assistant Rector
asstrector@allsaintsmobile.org
Office: 251.438.2492 Cell: 251.458.8581
The Rev. Ruth B. LaMonte, Priest Associate
rblamonte@aol.com
Home: 251.928.4631

All Saints Church Staff

Jeff Clearman, Principal Parish Musician
jeff@allsaintsmobile.org
Dara Walker, Financial Administrator
finance@allsaintsmobile.org
Office Volunteers
office@allsaintsmobile.org
Burl Ratcliffe, Parish Sexton
sexton@allsaintsmobile.org
Emma Bearden and Nyirou Kuot, Nursery Staff

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
Communications Committee: Clark Kelly
Community Ministries: Matt McDonald
Constitution & By Laws: Pete Mackey
Finance Committee: Curt Doyle
Flower Guild: Katharine Flowers
Godly Play: Frances Rouse
Hospitality & Events: Jean Tucker
IHN/Family Promise: Henry Brewster
Lay Eucharistic Ministers: Beth Hardaway
Lectors, Intercissors & Chalice Ministers: The Rev. Mary Robert
Long-Range Planning: Curt Doyle
Nursery: Laura & Jason Burce, Katie Herndon
Physical Plant: Clayton Ryan
Pre-Adult Christian Education: Ed LaMonte
Refugees: Martha Harris
Stewardship: Hank Caddell
Special Ministries Camp: Elizabeth Doyle, Karen McDonald
Ushers: Louie Wood
Wedding Guild: Betty Bentley

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)