

The Herald

February, 2014

Epiphany

From the Rector: [Of Reading and Revelation](#)

I have just finished reading a five-page handwritten letter from a person in Huntsville, Alabama who read my essay on AL.COM. He started his letter by saying he disagreed with me, and then proceeded into a litany of quoting verse after verse of scripture. He never really said anything about what he disagreed with, but kept insisting that one must read scripture “as written” since it was composed by the very hand of God. Reading his letter reminded me once again of the immobilizing plague of biblical illiteracy in our culture. Some of it is lack of instruction, for which I blame the church; some of it is just plain ignorance, and the frightening thing about such ignorance is that it seems willful: the abdication of good common sense for an illogical, unreasonable, supernatural, and contradictory belief system; and to make matters worse, a belief system emphasizing humankind’s unworthiness and, paradoxically enough, Christian exclusivity. This ethos in the church at large has been responsible for many leaving the church, and with good reason. It is also the ethos which, if it persists, will prevent new generations of seeking souls from discovering a belief system with integrity and relevance, a belief system that embraces honesty, and intellectual and spiritual discovery... and authenticity.

In terms of an approach to reading scripture I would like to offer an alternative. First, a brief explanation as to what scripture is: Scripture is not a single coherent narrative beginning with Genesis and ending with Revelation. It is best described as a library whose shelves are stocked with a diverse genre of literature compiled over different ages and eventually canonized, made orthodox, by the prevailing powers that be. This literature compiled from approximately 500 B.C.E. until the third century of the Common Era, includes poetry, legend garnered from the oral tradition, excursions on liturgical practice and hymnody, delineation and interpretation of purity laws, myth, fanciful stories of love and violence, stories of conquest and defeat. In many cases it is Rated, not suitable for children. It is a marvel to be sure, in that it contains within it, despite its many dimensions and contradictions, the story of what it means to be human in the presence of God. Scripture is not history, but the interpretation of history through a theological and sociocultural lens.

As to its authorship, scripture was written by a few men. I say “few men” because the vast majority in the ancient world were uneducated, and women did not have the authority nor worth in the eyes of ancient society to be considered credible scribes. Scripture was written by people under the influence of their age, within the context of prevailing knowledge, attitudes, mores, and customs. When reading scripture we must always consider context in order to properly interpret scripture for our own age. There is no absolute truth engraved in stone. Truth evolves with new knowledge, new experience, new imaginative inspiration. Perhaps the attractiveness of fundamentalism in our culture is that it opts for absolute truth, absolute certainty, leaving no room for doubt. But where is the passionate life of discovery in that? Doubt is an essential dynamic of faith... questions far more important than answers. Scripture, then, approached rightly, is artful speculation, still evolving, still revealing, still becoming... scripture is forever being written anew on the pages of the human imagination.... imagination sprung from the mind of God.

I am convinced that unless the church treats scripture with the honesty and integrity it deserves, we will continue to languish as uninspiring, irrelevant and false. I believe with all my heart that scripture has much to teach us, that it can be awe-inspiring, but we must take responsibility to become literate in matters of biblical interpretation. Understanding does not come without work. We just have to open our eyes and think, and breathe into scripture with all due passion and expectation the life of imagination. It will come alive; it will feed our souls; and we will not be disappointed.

Congratulations to New Officers

Don Mosley has been appointed by the Rector to be the Senior Warden for the Vestry during 2014. Ricky Bradford was re-elected at the January Vestry meeting as the Junior Warden and Valerie Mitchell was elected the new Clerk. Others serving on the Vestry are: Joe Basenberg, Hank Caddell, Richard Coarsey, Chris Conte, Cecil Gardner, James Hamilton, Burl Ratcliffe, Clayton Ryan, Jana Simpson, Mary Hunter Slaton, Rose Ellen Stanbery and Pete Wilson. Curt Doyle remains the Treasurer.

A Letter from the Senior Warden

Dear Friends,

We ended 2013 on a strong note with 96% of pledges met. This is up from previous years and solidifies gains made in 2012 (95%). If you were unable to complete your 2013 pledge by December 31, it is not too late! Please contact Mary Holbrook or drop the balance off in the office at your earliest convenience.

Also, as many of you know, All Saints has struggled to pay its full pledge to the Diocese for the last 8 to 10 years. Your financial commitment helped to change that in 2013. The Stewardship Committee and the Vestry would like to thank you for strengthening your efforts so that we could fulfill our obligations.

On another note, our Caring Committee has made significant progress. The number of visits, cards, letters, and casseroles delivered to parishioners has been nothing short of amazing. The volunteers have and continue to work tirelessly to ensure those in need are taken care of.

While we accomplished much during 2013, much more is left to be done in 2014 to reach our three year vision.

Currently, we have received pledges totaling \$425,000 for 2014. These figures are down from last year (135 pledges totaling \$447,366.88). At All Saints, we are encouraged to "Give Generously, Serve Faithfully, and Celebrate Joyfully." We have a real chance to build on our recent accomplishments, but the window opportunity is closing. The finance committee needs to iron out the 2014 budget to present to the vestry, so if you have not yet made a pledge for 2014, the time is now.

Yours in Christ,

Don C. Mosley, Jr.
Senior Warden and Stewardship Co-Chair

Encore! Encore!

Mobile in Black and White, a documentary on race relations in Mobile directed by Rob Gray, will have an encore showing at The Crescent Theater in downtown Mobile (208 Dauphin Street) on Sunday, February 9th, at 8:30pm. *Mobile in Black and White* was recently nominated for Best Documentary at the San Diego Black Film Festival and has also been screened at the Praxis Film Festival in North Carolina. Tickets are \$10 and are available at <http://www.crescenttheater.com/2014/mobile-black-white/>



Cleaning Days - A Request

I'm scheduling a series of bi-weekly cleaning days for Stirling Hall. The goal is to empty, sort and clean the storage closets and kitchen before having the main room floor stripped and polished. I would appreciate your help in getting this done, especially if you or your group uses any of the closets or has knowledge of what is stored in the closets. Below is the schedule. All cleaning is on Saturday and begins at 10:00 AM.

February 8 - Dish Closet

February 22 - Storage Closet

March 8 - IHN Closet

March 22 - Bayou Bash/Sound Closet

April 5 - Kitchen/ Tables and Chairs

I would also like to schedule May 3 for cleaning the pews and woodwork in the church. More about this as we get closer to the date.

Thanks for your help,

Burl Ratcliffe

Golden Circle meets on Tuesday, Feb. 11 at 12 noon in Stirling Hall. Come for lunch and bingo!

Many thanks to the anonymous donor of the brand new crib for the nursery!

Food Share in February



Beginning in February, we are starting a new process for getting ready for Food Share. Since packing the food takes such a short time, we will pack it on Saturday morning (instead of Friday evening), just before the distribution at 8am. Please come on Saturday, Feb. 15, at 7:30am - we'll pack the food, set up tables and distribute the food, and it will still take less than an hour to complete!

Serving Sunday, Feb. 9, 2014

Lessons: [Isaiah 58:1-12](#)
[Psalm 112:1-9](#)
[1 Corinthians 2:1-16](#)
[Matthew 5:13-20](#)

8am

Lector: Larry Hallett
Intercessor: Bill Evatt
Chalice: Serena Willcox
Ushers: Fred South, Henry Callaway

10:30am

Lectors: Valerie Mitchell, Ben Foster
Intercessor: Rob Gray
Chalices: Beth Hardaway, Ben Harris
Acolytes: Louie Wood, Caroline Mosley, Achol Atem
Ushers: Michael Morrison, Ricky Bradford, Alan Blair

Flower Guild: Jana Simpson, Elizabeth Doyle
Breakfast: Renea Greene, Clayton Ryan, Katharine Flowers

Serving Sunday, Feb. 16, 2014

Lessons: [Ecclesiasticus 15:15-20](#)
[Psalm 119:1-8](#)
[1 Corinthians 3:1-9](#)
[Matthew 5:21-37](#)

8am

Lector: Lee Van Dyke
Intercessor: Joe Basenberg
Chalice: Henry Callaway
Ushers: Bill & Barbara Evatt

10:30am

Lectors: Debi Foster, Sarah Frances Greene
Intercessor: Hank Caddell
Chalices: Clayton Ryan, Lister Thomas
Acolytes: Brewer, Liam & Gillian Ayres
Ushers: Curt Doyle, Doug Greene, Douglas Greene

Flower Guild: Charlotte Hall, Beth Hardaway
Breakfast: Ray Hester, Larry Hallett, Jason Burce, Edgar Hughes

Serving Sunday, Feb. 23, 2014

Lessons: [Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18](#)
[Psalm 119:33-40](#)
[1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23](#)
[Matthew 5:38-48](#)

8am

Lector: Serena Willcox
Intercessor: Larry Hallett
Chalice: Lee Van Dyke
Ushers: Will English, Mark Taylor

10:30am

Lectors: Ben Harris, James Hamilton
Intercessor: Martha Harris
Chalices: Brewer Ayres, Betty Bentley
Acolytes: Michael Morrison, Emily Doyle, Sarah Frances Greene
Ushers: Hank Caddell, Jim Ayres, Chris Conte, Henry Brewster
Flower Guild: Carol Mackey, Kathy McKenzie
Breakfast: Donnie Barnett, Ron Feuerlein, Jack & Rose Ellen Stanbery, Fred South
Reception: Martha Durant

Serving all February

Altar Guild: Barbara Evatt, Barbara Caddell, Kathy McKenzie, Bill Evatt, Rose Ellen Stanbery

Please keep in your prayers:

✚ For healing for: Sue Oom, Ken and Nancy, Lonice Jones, South Sudan, Larry Preul, Danny Moreau, Tommy, Ruth and Ruth Langan, Jean Dodge, Ruth LaMonte, Lee Hamilton, Johnna Rogers, James Henry LeBatard, Ann, Sheri Hewitt, Buddy Smith, Vince Pilgrim, Jamie Pilgrim, Tras Costa, Celita, Baby Connor, Kim, Kris & Paul, John Stephens, Alisha, Georgezetta Ratcliffe, Sybil Wilson, Howard Young, Terrance Ulmer, Opal Berry, Cora Teague, Josh Watson, Kay Myers, the White family, Susan Hannum, Sharon, Katie Hammond, Skip Shirah, Amanda, Achol Guet, Barbara Blum-Barnett, Caroline Fletcher, Mackenzie Petersen, Nancy Golson Smith, Trinity Church, Nancy Quittmeyer, Regina Slayton, Steven Bodiford, Walter Sims, Mitch Price, Austin Brown, Barbara Deming, Heather and family, Martha Collier, JoAnn Pappas, Dunn Chandler, Jessica Montalvo-Lopez, Evina Valera, Ed Givhan, Sharon Cleverdon, Patsy Childress, Anna Marie Brown, Laura
✚ For those who serve in the armed forces, especially: Spencer Abbot, Matt Abbot, Jonathan Carter, DeMario Snead, S.T. Heath

Lent is only a month away!

Mark your calendars now for Ash Wednesday, March 5

The service of Imposition of Ashes
will be held at

12 N in the Chapel and at 6pm in the Church



TED Talks for Lenten Program

For our Lenten Program this year, we will gather on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. in the chapel for a Taizé service, followed by supper, a TED talk, and discussion in Stirling Hall. This is an opportunity to worship quietly, break bread together, and engage topics that matter to the world and, therefore, that have gospel implications. The following is some information on TED talks. If you have not seen a TED talk, you are in for a treat. They are nothing short of inspiring.

From TED's website:

TED is a nonprofit devoted to "Ideas Worth Spreading." It started out in 1984 as a conference bringing together people from three worlds: *Technology, Entertainment, Design*. Since then its scope has become ever broader. Along with two annual conferences -- the TED Conference and TEDGlobal -- TED includes the award-winning TED Talks video site, the Open Translation Project and TED Conversations, the inspiring TED Fellows and TEDx programs, and the annual TED Prize.

TED conferences bring together the world's most fascinating thinkers and doers, who are challenged to give the talk of their lives (in 18 minutes or less).

On TED.com, we make *the best talks and performances from TED and partners available to the world, for free*. More than 1500 TED Talks are now available, with more added each week. All of the talks are subtitled in English, and many in other languages, too. These videos are released under a [Creative Commons BY-NC-ND license](#), so they can be freely shared and reposted.

TED's mission statement begins:

We believe passionately in the power of ideas to change attitudes, lives and ultimately, the world. So we're building here a clearinghouse that offers free knowledge and inspiration from the world's most inspired thinkers, and also a community of curious souls to engage with ideas and each other.

For more information about TED, click [here](#).

As is our custom, suppers will be provided by volunteer groups (e.g., vestry, supper clubs, choir). Please call the office (438-2492) to say which date you want to serve. The choir will begin rehearsal at 7:30pm, when the program is over, instead of 7pm. A nursery will be available if needed; please call or email Mary Robert ahead of time if you need the nursery for your child/children.

Dates for Lenten programs are: March 12, 19, 26 and April 2 and 9.

Please mark your calendars right away with the dates you are to serve!

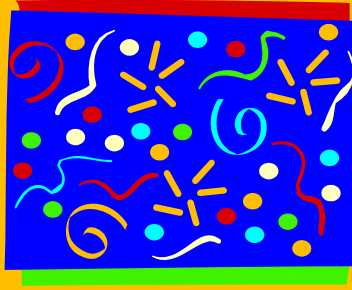
If you cannot be present for the date you are scheduled, please try to get a substitute and let the church office know who it is. If you can't find a sub, let the office know as soon as possible. 438-2492.

Lay Ministers for February 2014

Date	Time	Lector	Intercessor	Chalice	Acolytes	Ushers	Altar Guild	Flower Guild	Breakfast	Reception
Feb 2 <i>Presentation of Christ</i>	8am	J Clearman	S Willcox	B Ratcliffe		R Dillard W Hannum	B Evatt B Caddell K McKenzie B Evatt RE Stanbery	K Butler S Drew	C Mackey V Case B Schneider K Kelly D Mosley	
	1030 am	J Ayres A Blair	F Rouse	N Lancaster L Wood	B Foster D Reeves D Reeves	J Hamilton B Hines R Pappas	Bread bakers: B Hardaway L Carsten			M Morrison E Doyle
Feb 9 <i>5th Sun after Epiphany</i>	8am	L Hallett	B Evatt	S Willcox		F South H Callaway		J Simpson E Doyle	R Greene C Ryan K Flowers	
	1030 am	V Mitchell B Foster	R Gray	B Hardaway B Harris	L Wood C Mosley A Atem	M Morrison R Bradford A Blair				M Durant
Feb 16 <i>6th Sun after Epiphany</i>	8am	L Van Dyke	J Basenberg	H Callaway		The Evatts		C Hall B Hardaway	R Hester L Hallett J Burce E Hughes	
	1030 am	D Foster SF Greene	H Caddell	C Ryan L Thomas	B Ayres L Ayres G Ayres	C Doyle D Greene D Greene				R Williams
Feb 23 <i>7th Sun after Epiphany</i>	8am	S Willcox	L Hallett	L Van Dyke		W English M Taylor		C Mackey K McKenzie	D Barnett R Feuerlein J & RE Stanbery F South	
	1030 am	B Harris J Hamilton	M Harris	B Ayres B Bentley	M Morrison Em Doyle SF Greene	H Caddell J Ayres C Conte H Brewster				B'day Celebration

February Birthdays

1- Caroline Buerger	10- Kim Gray	16- Rob Nichols	20- Meg Caldwell	25- Renea Greene
2- Danielle Juzan	11- Ari Moore	16- Avery Kelly	20- Laura Hampton Greene	26- Paula Reeves
2- Owen Burce	13- Allan Tucker	17- Martha Durant	21- Gillian Ayres	28- Hayley Praytor
6- Annette Dove	13- Nick Galanos	18- Hank Caddell	22- Johnna Rogers	28- Thomas Praytor IV
10- Donnie Barnett	15- Charlotte Hall	18- Douglas Greene, Jr	25- Bill Evatt	29- Richard Coarsey



February 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 <i>Presentation of Christ</i> 8a Holy Eucharist 9a Breakfast 9:20 Godly Play 9:30 Youth, Adult Classes 10:30a Holy Eucharist Reception follows 5-7p Conde Explorers	3	4	5 9:15a L'Arche –chapel 12N Holy Eucharist 7p Adult Choir	6 12N Al-Anon 4p St Cecelia Choir 7p AA, Smith Rm	7	8 10a Cleaning Day 10:30a PFLAG
9 <i>5th Sun after Epiphany</i> 8a Holy Eucharist 9a Breakfast 9:20 Godly Play 9:30 Youth, Adult Classes 10:30a Holy Eucharist Reception follows 5-7p Conde Explorers	10	11 12N Golden Circle 5p Murray House Board Mtg	12 9:15a L'Arche –chapel 12N Holy Eucharist 7p Adult Choir	13 12N Al-Anon 4p St Cecelia Choir 7p AA, Smith Rm	14	15 7:30a Food Share packing & distribution
16 <i>6th Sun after Epiphany</i> 8a Holy Eucharist 9a Breakfast 9:20 Godly Play 9:30 Youth, Adult Classes 10:30a Holy Eucharist Reception follows	17 6p Vestry mtg	18	19 9:15a L'Arche –chapel 12N Holy Eucharist 7p Adult Choir	20 12N Al-Anon 4p St Cecelia Choir 7p AA, Smith Rm	21	22
23 <i>7th Sun after Epiphany</i> 8a Holy Eucharist 9a Breakfast 9:20 Godly Play 9:30 Youth, Adult Classes 10:30a Holy Eucharist Birthday Reception	24 6p 15 Place Board	25	26 9:15a L'Arche –chapel 12N Holy Eucharist 7p Adult Choir	27 12N Al-Anon 4p St Cecelia Choir 7p AA, Smith Rm	28	

Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori calls for Day of Prayer for South Sudan on February 16

Tuesday, February 4, 2014

Episcopal Church Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori has called for a Day of Prayer for South Sudan on February 16. Bishop Jefferts Schori is joined in this call by the Rev. Gradye Parsons, the Stated Clerk of the Presbyterian General Assembly <https://www.pcusa.org/>, and the Reformed Church in America <https://www.rca.org/>.

“The world is increasingly concerned over the rampant violence in South Sudan,” the Presiding Bishop said. “The recent increase in armed conflict, murder, and mayhem has been fomented in part by inaccurate reports of tribal partisanship. The new nation needs peace, in order that all its people might thrive. The Episcopal Church of Sudan is partnering with others on the ground in that work of peace-building. The Sudanese communities within our own Episcopal Church have been important and effective leaders in this work. I ask your prayers for peace, as well as your awareness and involvement in the lives of our brothers and sisters across the globe. The Prince of Peace serves the whole world. As his disciples, may we do no less!”

In July 2011, a referendum called for the African country of Sudan to become two nations – Sudan and South Sudan. Since that time, many residents of South Sudan have experienced violence and suffered inhumane treatment.

“For fifty years, as civil war raged in Sudan, it was clear to people there that the outside world knew very little of their plight, and cared less,” noted Bishop Catherine Waynick, Diocese of Indianapolis. “While this new month-long conflict has taken a huge toll and set the development of South Sudan back in incalculable ways, there is at least the assurance that this time things are different.”

The Diocese of Indianapolis maintains a companion relationship with Episcopal Diocese of Bor in South Sudan. “The world does know, and brothers and sisters around the Anglican Communion do care, and the very stones will not need to cry out for justice and peace, because we are assaulting heaven with prayers of our own. It means the world to them,” Bishop Waynick said.

Presiding Bishop Jefferts Schori has noted that The Episcopal Church now has a number of Sudanese congregations and communities of faith as a result of the Lost Boys of Sudan, who immigrated to the United States as refugees beginning in 2001.

“My life was forever changed by the people of South Sudan,” explained Robin Denney, former Episcopal missionary who was based in Juba, South Sudan. “They showed me that the Gospel brings life in the midst of death, and they awakened in me a deep love of the Gospel. As we commit ourselves to prayer for South Sudan, and as we give, let us open our hearts to hope and to be changed, for as I learned in South Sudan, God will never be defeated.”

Resources

Advocacy and Educational Resources

The Episcopal Church Office of Government Advocacy Memo to Congress, January 2014:

<http://episcopaldigitalnetwork.com/ens/files/2014/01/South-Sudan-USG-Memo.pdf>

Weekly E-Blasts from the American Friends of the Episcopal Church of Sudan:

<http://www.afrecs.org/communications.htm#eblast>

“Crisis in South Sudan,” A Report of the Congressional Research Service, January 2014:

<http://www.fas.org/sfp/crs/row/R43344.pdf>

United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Resources on South Sudan:

<http://www.usaid.gov/crisis/south-sudan>

International Crisis Group Publications on South Sudan: <http://www.crisisgroup.org/en/publication-type/crisiswatch/crisiswatch-database.aspx?CountryIDs=%7B8B313EA2-534B-4421-B78C-776E93632115%7D>

Episcopal Relief & Development

Episcopal Relief & Development: www.episcopalrelief.org

For more of the latest update on South Sudan <http://www.episcopalrelief.org/southsudan>



All Saints Church

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MOBILE, AL 36604

www.allsaintsmobile.org

Clergy

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Burl Ratcliffe, Parish Sexton
Gretchen Thiel and Aguol Kuot, Nursery Staff

All Saints 2014 Vestry

Don Mosley, Sr. Warden
Ricky Bradford, Jr. Warden
Joe Basenberg
Hank Caddell Richard Coarsey
Chris Conte Cecil Gardner
James Hamilton Valerie Mitchell
Don Mosley Burl Ratcliffe
Clayton Ryan Jana Simpson
Mary Hunter Slaton Rose Ellen Stanbery
~~Pete Wilson~~

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
Community Ministries: Matt McDonald
Constitution & By Laws: Pete Mackey
Episcopal Youth (EYC):
Finance Committee: Curt Doyle
Flower Guild:
Food Share: Mark Taylor, Burl Ratcliffe
Golden Circle: Wylly Stirling, Mary Hunter Slaton
Hospitality & Events: Jean Tucker
IHN/Family Promise: Henry Brewster
Lay Eucharistic Visitors:
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: 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