

The Vicar's Message

Dear People of God,

Stewardship time is close upon us and soon you will receive a letter from the wardens and me related to stewardship. Often we think of this as a four-letter word, "GIVE", and consider it something we don't talk about in public as if it were taboo.

"Taboo." It's a strange, mysterious, ancient sounding word that we don't use much any more in our modern, scientifically enlightened world. A taboo is something that is forbidden. A taboo is a prohibition. It is usually associated with something sacred and mysterious. Something that is taboo is set aside, never to be touched and desecrated by human hands. We are usually afraid of the taboo. We are in awe of its power. Taboos control us. In the ancient world certain places or things may have been considered taboo. You stayed away. Hands off! In our modern world we are less likely to speak of the taboo. Nothing seems to be sacred. Nothing is forbidden. Everything is up for grabs.

One of the biggest taboos in our society today is talking about money, and specifically, revealing how much money one makes. People are more willing today to talk about their sex lives (which used to be taboo) than they are about how much money they make. That is the most personal and intimate of secrets. I know of families today where children have no idea what their parents make. A friend once told me that all through his college years, his father would never apply for financial aid. Why? Because in applying for financial aid he had to reveal his personal income. He ran a business. How much money he made was nobody's business but his. He wasn't about to reveal such an intimate and personal thing to a financial aid officer, someone he didn't even know. Such a thing was unthinkable, forbidden, – taboo.

The church does not remain unaffected by such taboos. The subject of money is also a big taboo in the church. I have often heard people brag about their church to a friend by saying, "At our church we don't talk about money." Many times I have heard people complain when the subject of money is brought up in the church. Money seems too secular, too worldly, not spiritual enough.

Why is the subject of money so often taboo in the church? Some complain that such a worldly matter as money has no place in the spiritual business of the church. That could hardly be further from the truth. The truth of the matter is that there is probably nothing in our society that is as spiritual and religious a matter as the subject of money. If you want to find out what people truly value in life, look at their checkbook. If you want to see what someone is truly loyal to, what one truly trusts, then examine how they spend their money.

As Jesus said, "Sell your possessions, and give alms; provide yourselves with purses that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." (Luke 12: 33-34)

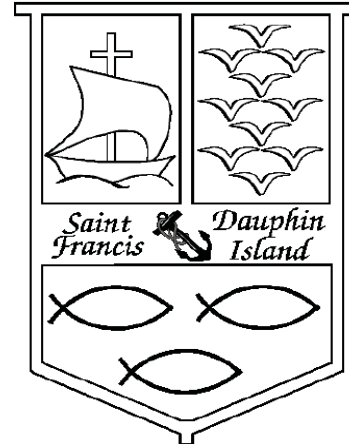
Yours in Christ,
Roy+

To receive your newsletter by e-mail please send an email to: dibirder@centurytel.net with the subject "subscribe St. Francis Newsletter." This will save the postage. And... you will get all the news sooner! with the pictures in color!!!

St. Francis Episcopal Church
P.O. Box 407
401 Key St.
Dauphin Island, AL 36528

<<First Name>> <<Last Name>>
<<Address>>
<<City>>, <<State>> <<Zip>>

St. Francis Newsletter St. Francis Episcopal Church



The Rev. Dr. Walter LeRoy Elam, 111, Vicar
The Rt. Rev. Philip M. Duncan, 11, Bishop
Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast

401 Key St.
P.O. Box 407
Dauphin Island, AL 36528

Church Phone 861-2300
Vicar Phone 990-3596

Every Sunday
Adult Sunday School @ 9:30 AM
Children's Sunday School @ 9:30 AM
Church Service @ 10:30 AM
Nursery

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US!

ECW News

The ECW monthly meeting was October 12, 2009 with 8 members present. It was so nice to have Theo back with us. She and Frank were sorely missed during their long stay in North Carolina. We are all grateful for their return and for the fact that Frank is feeling better. Thanks to Lamona for taking care of the treasury duties during Theo's absence.

John and I were unable to attend the wonderful Lobster Dinner because of "birding responsibilities" but as Martha reported, it was a huge success. We are always pleased to be able to contribute to Wilmer Hall.



Mmmmm.... Lobster Good!!

Circle your Calendars! November 14th – 9:00 am until 2:00 pm. The St. Francis Fall Bazaar. This is your opportunity to plan for the holidays – stock your own cupboard or freezer or do some shopping for friends and family. There will be: Seafood Casseroles, Chicken Rotel Casseroles, Santa Fe Soup, Cheese Straws, Pickles, Baked Goods, Wimberly's famous Chicken Salad Sandwiches and of course the absolutely wonderful St. Francis GUMBO! We are so blessed to have such a dedicated group of parishioners who are willing to spend so much time creating these epicurean delights.

New for this year: **Bring Your Own White Elephant Sale.** If you have items at home you no longer use or need, bring them, along with a table and chair to the Fall Bazaar. For \$10 you may have a spot on the lawn to display your wares, visit with friends and neighbors and make a little spending money for the upcoming holidays. Please plan on taking anything you do not sell home with you. If you need more details call Martha (861-5224). Spread the word to others and help make this addition to the bazaar a success!

Mary Porter, ECW President

Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. Show hospitality to one another without grumbling

1Peter 4:8-9

Church News & Announcements

O my goodness! What in the world happened to our cool weather? October seemed to think it was August around here for the first week or so ---- if you're one of those who enjoy heat and humidity, then you were very happy! Wimberly and family were VERY happy at granddaughter Garland's California wedding ---no heat, no humidity and a fabulous time ...dancing, visiting, and oohing and aahing over the new baby! Not to be left out of a fabulous time was Blanche – who revels in the heat and humidity – with her sister and cousins (from Pennsylvania and Tennessee) as they all thoroughly enjoyed themselves right here on our island. I do think that all of us who were there more than enjoyed ourselves at the Lobster dinner on the 10th. We sold 85 lobsters for Wilmer Hall and seated about 72 people in the parish hall. Eugenia Carey once again had “fun - inducing” decorations – a sea life theme that transformed the parish hall. Of course, the food table was covered with delicious dishes --- no one should have left there not happy nor hungry! A huge thank you to everyone that worked so hard to make this such a neat night and successful fund raiser for Wilmer Hall. I think you'll be interested in this item ---Christopher Hume's (who is on our prayer list as he is serving in Afganastan) grandfather, Chris Hume, told me at the lobster dinner that Christopher had called him from Afganastan that very afternoon---- the wonder of it is that the conversation was as clear as if Christopher had been on the island! Amazing!!! Another bonus of the weekend was to see our wonderful Mary Ely, with daughter Susan and her friend Gail, all at St. Francis. They'll be on our island for a nice visit.

Then on Sunday, the 11th –our garden was filled up with members, friends and their pets! I counted about 40 people ---the Opanowitz' with “Baby” (only turtle there), Eugenia with her gorgeous cat, Mia, Don with “Mardi” (pink toenails to match her bow), the Ashcrafts with their FAT cat and dog, Brenda and Horton Smith with THREE dogs... Dana and Howard with their two fabulous dogs of questionable heritage, Dena McKee with her cat, Walter, who was sporting a birding cap, Mack Russell with his BIG BLACK poodle, Marolyn Greene with Winston – all shiny clean ---the Felice's with their dog, Wimberly and Ellen with Lucky and Gus, Julia with her precious and lucky white Maltese, a lot more that I can't remember right now --- just a wonderful turnout and once again, no snarling or growling, no fights or anything!

What great fun it was for us to see Ed and Eileen Johnson after all this while ----they look wonderful and are very happy with their new home! All seemed right again when Ed echoed a loud “AMEN” at the end of church on the 18th!!!! Oh we miss that! Of course, Eileen was right in there making pickles with the pickle girls the day after they arrived! Bill and Nancy Boyer arrived here in time to enjoy our weather, willing and ready to get in there and “stir and chop” for our gumbo! I hope they know how much we need and appreciate their help!

A blessing for St. Francis has been the acolytes on Sunday mornings ---Jimmy Mackin – grandson of Walt and Marcia Hayes – and Austen Allen – Ann Warmack's grandson. Most Sundays one of them is here to light the candles and our hearts.

Dave and Linda are off for Florida and a wonderful cruise next month ---we always miss them when they leave ---

Linda Percival's arm is sore from waving her “Phyllis phlag” for the World Series! She is in good shape as she did the very same thing last year! She and John will also take to the high seas, along with Linda's mother and friend Harry, as they cruise the Caribbean. John and Mary Porter will take in the birding sites in Louisiana so we will be missing a lot of our friends!

Once again, “cooking” seems to be the main activity right now ----but how much fun we do have!!!! A wonderful crew showed up to make the chicken broth and chop the chicken –all in preparation for putting it all together on Friday. Same crew, plus a few more, showed up to mix all of the ingredients and seasonings for our delicious gumbo! The men did a superb job of stirring (constantly) the big pots and then washing and putting them away. Even with all of the hard work, we manage to have the BEST time together and we thank everyone!

The weather is promising to become cool once again ---- we had a few hot and humid days there but we look forward to cool times and no storms! Word is that Stella will be back on the island this week --- what an answer to prayer and how very much we have missed her! Can't wait to see her! October was a busy and fun month for St. Francis and we consider ourselves so very blessed to have our friends at St. Francis!

Love ya'll --martha

Sundays	
Adult Sunday School @ 9:30 AM Children's Sunday School @ 9:30am Choir Practice @ 9:45am Holy Eucharist Rite II @ 10:30AM 1st Lesson - Theo Hawkins 2nd Lesson - Chris Ashcraft Ushers - Paul & Martha Mayson Refreshments - Lil Tatum	1
Adult Sunday School @ 9:30 AM Children's Sunday School @ 9:30am Choir Practice @ 9:45am Holy Eucharist Rite II @ 10:30AM 1st Lesson - Julia Willis 2nd Lesson - Martha Mayson Ushers - John & Mary Porter Refreshments - Julia Willis Vestry Meeting @ 11:45	8
Adult Sunday School @ 9:30 AM Children's Sunday School @ 9:30am Choir Practice @ 9:45am Holy Eucharist Rite II @ 10:30AM 1st Lesson - John Porter 2nd Lesson - Mary Porter Ushers - Mel Lucas & Wimberly Hory Refreshments - Eugenia Carey	15
Adult Sunday School @ 9:30 AM Children's Sunday School @ 9:30am Choir Practice @ 9:45am Holy Eucharist Rite II @ 10:30AM 1st Lesson - Linda Percival 2nd Lesson - Blanche Emerson Ushers - Mel & Lamona Lucas Refreshments - Anne Elam	22
Men's Breakfast @ 9:00AM Adult Sunday School @ 9:30 AM Children's Sunday School @ 9:30am Choir Practice @ 9:45am Holy Eucharist Rite II @ 10:30AM 1st Lesson - Julia Willis 2nd Lesson - Lamona Lucas Ushers - Donna & McCune Dudley Refreshments - Donna Dudley	29

Dates to Remember:

- Nov. 8 - Vestry Meeting @ 11:45 AM**
- Nov. 9 - ECW Meeting @ 10:00 AM**
- Nov. 14 - Fall Festival 9 AM - 2 PM**
- Nov. 28 - Men's Breakfast @ 9:00 AM**

From the Vestry

The St. Francis Vestry met on Sunday, October 18. After Father Elam opened with prayer, he reminded us that October is the month to consider Stewardship. I hope by now you have received your pledge cards from Gail. I also hope that you will respond quickly this year so we can give Gail time to help us get our budget completed and to the Diocese.

As you think of Stewardship please do think of who you want to recommend for the two vacancies on the Vestry. Think also of our delegates to the Convention this year. We will vote on these at our annual meeting in November. Any ideas you may have for outreach to new families, any ideas for projects for St. Francis or any ideas of needs that we can address will be welcomed by the Vestry.

By now the Fall Bazaar is close at hand. Gumbo is made, casseroles are cooked and plans are in place. Come fill your freezers for the holidays. The dollars from the Bazaar go to supporting our charities.

Of concern to all of us is the flu epidemic. It appears that it is spreading rapidly. All of us have someone in the family who has it. Your Vestry is naturally concerned. At this time we think some ordinary precautions are what we need. Julia has provided several containers of hand sanitizer, use these. Stay home if you are sick. When you bring food try to stick with just finger foods instead of dips and things to cut and spread. There may be more. We will try to stay informed and let you know.

Mel Lucas, Senior Warden

Remember in your Prayers:

Stella Anderson, Mike Barnard, Susan Newlin Bernstein, Mitch Bowman, Dottie Crum, John Cruse, Hetty Cunningham, Glenn Foster, Marolyn Greene, Caroline Hall, Ross Havard, Frank Hawkins, Joshua Irving, Clifford Kircus, Glay Maggard, Hap Myers, Sarah Pritchett, Tony Tully, Helen Wilson and those in our armed forces, especially Christopher Hume and Stanley Robinson.

