

The Vicar's Message

Dear People of God,
The following hymn comes from the 1940 hymnal. It reminds us of who we are as Episcopalians and of the different seasons of our church year. As we enter this season of Advent, let us not forget that this is a season of preparation for the celebration of the coming of the Lord. Let us not hurry toward that celebration but take the time to prepare in our hearts a place for Him to live in our lives more fully.

Happy New Year!

Roy+

Hymns for Children

Advent tells us Christ is near;
Christmas tells us Christ is here.
In Epiphany we trace,
All the glory of His grace.

Then three Sundays will prepare,
For the time of fast and prayer;
That with hearts made penitent
We may keep a faithful Lent.

Holy Week and Easter then,
Tell who died and rose again.
O, that happy Easter Day!
"Christ is risen indeed!" we say.

Yes, and Christ ascended too,
To prepare a place for you.
So we give him special praise
After those great forty days.

Then he sent the Holy Ghost
On the day of Pentecost.
With us ever to abide;
Well may we keep Whitsuntide.

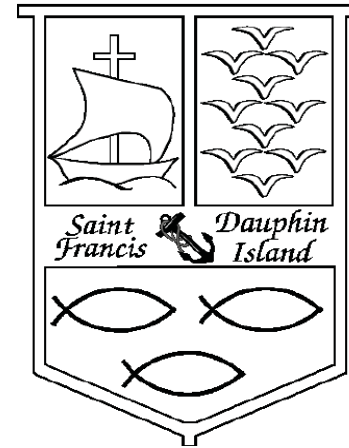
Last of all, we humbly sing
Glory to our God and King;
Glory to the One in Three,
On the feast of Trinity. Amen.

Published: The Parish Choir, 1850
Katherine Hankey, 1888

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

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 November 9, 2009 with 6 members present. We were so happy to have Joan Rockstad back on the island after a long spring and summer hiatus! Eugenia was not able to attend because of surgery and Joan graciously agreed to take minutes.

The Fall Bazaar again demonstrated the dedication and commitment of St. Francis members. Gumbo and casseroles were in great demand, delicious looking baked goods did not last very long, pickles sold out early in the day and of course Wimberley's chicken salad sandwiches were top sellers. Theo reported that over \$2,000 was collected the day of the bazaar.

We were very pleased to be able to provide assistance for Christmas to a local family. Community Outreach is made possible by all the hard work that goes into the fund raising efforts of ECW.

Advent season is upon us – a time of waiting – a time of hope and expectation. May everyone's Advent Season be filled with love and peace.

A Christmas Prayer

"We thank you for this place in which we dwell,
for the love that unites us,
for the peace accorded us this day,
for the hope with which we expect the morrow,
for the work, the health, the food
and bright skies which make our lives
delightful for our friends in all parts of the earth."

Robert Lewis Stevenson

Mary Porter, ECW President

From the Editor:

To receive your newsletter by e-mail please send an email to: John Porter, 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!!!

Also... Visit our website at where you will get all the news and more: <http://www.stfrancisdi.com> You'll really enjoy this!

Church News & Announcements

November 2009

Cool temps welcomed in November for us on the island ---a tad of rain, leaves changing colors, plenty of Monarch butterflies, black eyed susies filling the ditches - all marked the end of muggy hot days of October! To add, there are White Pelicans on the shoals --I do think they are quite early this year! These huge white birds are a sight to see and we hope they stay around!

Anyway, windows and doors are open to cool breezes and absolutely gorgeous days were on our menu as we honored All Saints Day on November 1st and entered into the Thanksgiving month! To add to our enjoyment we also have the winning ways of our New Orleans Saints for a change!!! Also, the World Series provides entertainment for us fans of sports! Oh yeah, the Percivals were there --they were the ones dressed in red and waving a white "phlag." FYI - the Yankees won the series and I am in depression because of no baseball until next April!

On November 8th, Wimberly's whole crew -----actually about 30 of them, revved up for the christening of Ellen Ann (Elle) Cooper ----she was the most adorable little baby -having just flown in from San Diego with her parents and grandparents! The family hosted a reception afterward so that we were able to meet everyone and admire Miss Elle. She merely kicked her foot when Roy put the holy water on her! Then Mother Nature, not to be outdone by this precious little girl, sent hurricane Ida ---actually tropical storm by the time it arrived here ---yes, this all happened on the second week of November!!! Crazy! Deck furniture moved in, boats either moved or tied in their lifts --rain and wind --Am sorry to say, but the west end once again suffered the most. The roads and ditches are covered with sand, a few steps went missing --all in all, we have a lot to be thankful for that we fared no worse.

On Saturday, the 14th, the lawn of St. Francis was once again crowded with vendors and yard sale people -- pay \$10.00, set up your table with new or used items, enjoy the day and take all remains

home with you at the end of the day! It was a first for us and really, a lot of fun and drew a nice crowd which came inside and purchased baked goods or chicken salad sandwiches! Another successful event for the ECW!

On Sunday,15th, a good crowd attended the annual meeting. John Porter and Dana Fleming were elected to the vestry and the Porters will attend the diocesan convention as our delegates!

Mary and John Porter returned from a nice, long birding excursion to the "outback" of Louisiana where they found plenty of birds to watch....also enjoyed their tour of Avery Island - home of our "always on hand" Tabasco Sauce! They were here only a week or so before they were off to the northwest (Portland, Oregon) for a visit with Mary's family, son, brother and assorted others... and to experience a huge change of weather and scenery --- great way to spend Thanksgiving in a whole other part of the country and with your family!

Happiest of news! ---Ruth Lane is embarking on a whole new chapter in her life as she is to be married in December! Jim (husband to be) is a friend from years ago --the two renewed friendship and look what happened! We are so very happy for the two of them --only bad news is that she will be moving to north Alabama --up around Huntsville! We are also happy for Chris and Angela Ashcraft as they have purchased a house on Riviere du Chein (Dog River) ---this will be so much easier for them as they LIVE on Hwy.193 --going to work, school, playing football and soccer ---

Thanksgiving week could not have been more enjoyable --the weather was crisp and clear! All the better to count our many blessings ---for some reason it seems to be a priority to count our blessings --to maintain and share them. Don't we all have more than we ever realized? Although I know that we approach the season of Advent with penitence, I want to do so with a renewed sense of thanksgiving and joyous anticipation of the birth of our blessed Savior. So blessings and thanksgiving to all of you!

martha

Sundays	
Adult Sunday School @ 9:30 AM Children's Sunday School @ 9:30am Choir Practice @ 9:45am Holy Eucharist Rite I @ 10:30AM 1st Lesson - Julia Willis 2nd Lesson - Lamona Lucas Ushers - Mel Lucas & Mary Hutchinson Refreshments - Martha Mayson Vestry Meeting @ 11:45	6
Adult Sunday School @ 9:30 AM Children's Sunday School @ 9:30am Choir Practice @ 9:45am Holy Eucharist Rite I @ 10:30AM 1st Lesson - Ellen Cooper 2nd Lesson - Martha Mayson Ushers - John & Mary Porter Refreshments - Ann Warmack	13
Adult Sunday School @ 9:30 AM Children's Sunday School @ 9:30am Choir Practice @ 9:45am Holy Eucharist Rite I @ 10:30AM 1st Lesson - Theo Hawkins 2nd Lesson - Chris Ashcraft Ushers - Joy & Mack Russell Refreshments - Joan Rockstad	20
Christmas Eve Service @ 6:00 PM Holy Eucharist Rite I 1st Lesson - John Porter 2nd Lesson - Mary Porter Ushers - Donna & McCune Dudley	24
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 - Blanche Emerson Ushers - Mary & John Porter Refreshments - Mary Porter	27

Dates to Remember:

Dec. 6 - Vestry Meeting @ 11:45am

Dec. 14 - ECW Meeting @ 10:00am

Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve Service @ 6:00pm

Dec. 27 - Men's Breakfast @ 9:00 AM

From the Vestry

The St. Francis Vestry met on November 8. Father Roy opened with prayer. He commented on how nice we looked following the pressure washing and repainting of the porch and steps.

Mel announced that the men's restroom is scheduled to be repaired and repainted. This has now been completed.

Julia asked that the guidelines for weddings at St. Francis, use of Wilkins Hall, funerals, getting dates and events on the calendar, and the use of the Columbarium be reviewed and updated if necessary. Mel asked Julia to get a committee and get this completed and provide copies to be kept in the office. This is scheduled for December 3.

Gail then gave the Treasurer's Report which was reviewed and accepted. A discussion ensued about the water bill. Everyone is encouraged to conserve where possible. Paul Opanowitz announced that he had reset the sprinklers to water for only 15 minutes twice weekly now that summer is over and the plants are a year old.

Plans were discussed for the Annual Meeting which was held on November 15.

The Junior Warden and the Senior Warden accompanied Father Elam and Anne to St. Mary's for the Diocesan Meeting for Small Churches for some dynamic discussions! Theo, Joan, and Lamona sang with St. Mary's choir.

Congratulations to the ladies of the ECW for another successful Bazaar.

Mel Lucas, Senior Warden

Remember in your Prayers:

Tony Tully, Dottie Crum, Marolyn Greene, Ross Havard, Hap Myers, Susan Newlin Bernstein, Glenn Foster, Caroline Hall, Clifford Kircus, Stella Ander-son, Glay Maggard, Mitch Bowman, Hetty Cunningham, Frank Hawkins, John Cruse, Sarah Pritchett, David Porter, Sylvia Cushing, Jerry Hoecutt, Marguerite Miller, and those in our armed forces, especially John Boone, Stanley Robinson and Christopher Hume.

