

The Vicar's Message

Dear People of God,

A "dead balloon" has no life. It continues to lie wherever you put it. It doesn't move. It has no power. Take a "dead balloon" and do what Jesus did for us - blow into it. What happens? The balloon is full of air, but it is still dead, going nowhere until that power is released.

Under the "spirit's/breath's/wind's" power, the balloon can move. It goes out. However, when the wind power within the balloon is released, you don't know where the balloon is going to go; but you know it's going somewhere. (We don't know where the wind comes from or where it is going.)

Jesus did not give the disciples the Spirit's power so that they could stay behind locked doors in fear. It is given as a power to move people out into the world. Even if we don't always know exactly where we will end up, we are to always step out in faith in the power of the Holy Spirit.

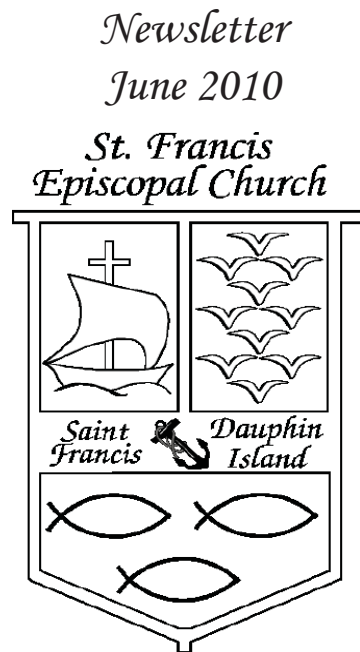
What happens to the balloon after it has "spent" its power? It seems dead again, all out of power. It is flat. There is no more "spirit/breath" within it. On the one hand, we are not like that balloon. Jesus promises that the Holy Spirit will be with us forever. We will never run out of the Spirit's power. The Spirit given to you in baptism remains forever. On the other hand, over and over in Acts, we read that certain disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit. Their filling didn't happen just once, but over and over again. So, we also need to be refilled. We receive this power weekly when we return to church as a refilling station to receive Jesus again in the hearing of the word, in the sharing of sacrament, and through the fellowship of the saints.

Power can be used two ways: it can be unleashed or it can be harnessed. The energy in ten gallons of gasoline, for instance, can be released explosively by dropping a lighted match into the can, or it can be channeled through the engine of a car in a controlled burn and used to transport a person hundreds of miles. Explosions are spectacular, but controlled burns have lasting effect - staying power. The Holy Spirit works in both ways. At Pentecost, He exploded on the scene; His presence was like "tongues of fire" (Acts 2:3). Thousands were affected by one burst of God's power. But the Holy Spirit also works through the Church (the institution God began to use to tap the Holy Spirit's power for the long haul) through worship, fellowship, and service. It is through the church that Christians are provided with this "staying power", therefore, attend church every Sunday and receive His power.

Yours in Christ,

Roy †

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The Rt. Rev. Philip M. Duncan, 11, Bishop
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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

ECW News: The ECW's monthly meeting was held on May 10, 2010 with five members present. Linda Miller conducted the meeting and opened with asking everyone to read the Episcopal Church Women's Prayer.

Lamona Lucas has been researching the **Daughters of the King Ministry**. She gave a report on the book, *St. Benedicts Tool Box*, used by the **Daughters of the King**. It was decided to order ten of the books for use by members with the possibility of beginning a study.

The ECW regular meetings will be suspended for the summer months but will resume regular meeting times in September. This will not interfere with the Pot Luck Dinner that will be held sometime in July. Stay tuned for details for that event.

Martha's comments about the oil spill certainly speak for all of us. It is difficult to understand and even more difficult to think about potential outcomes. So, let's just pray we will be able to handle and overcome whatever is in store for all who are affected.

Episcopal Church Women's Prayer

Almighty God, we pray that You will bless our work in mission and ministry in the world.

Help us to pray fervently, labor diligently and give liberally to make known the power of your love given through your son Jesus Christ.

Let us not forget the lessons from the past nor fear the challenges of the future. Anoint us with your grace and shine in our hearts as we reflect your light throughout the world. Amen.

Mary Porter
Interim Treasurer, ECW

From the Editor:

To receive your newsletter by e-mail please send an e-mail to: John Porter, dibird@centurytel.net with the subject "subscribe St. Francis Newsletter." This will save the postage.

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

Church News & Announcements

NEWS FOR JUNE

April's last hurrah was most assuredly interesting! Tornadoic storms were predicted all around us but fortunately stayed away! The famed Dauphin Island Sailboat Regatta had to be postponed until Sunday when they ran a "half race" --- so we don't really count that! Actually, we received some badly needed rain and a whole lot of wind! It is just wonderful to see our island "greening"up! Even better to see (I should say experience) is Austen Allen (Ann Warmack's wonderful grandson) and our own Joy Russell turning out the lively tunes on the choir room piano! That piano hasn't had so much fun in I don't know when! Anyway, this twosome does make fabulous music together! Speaking of music – Cadillac Square is certainly humming with school buses packed with children eager to run and enjoy their picnic lunches.....the weather could not be more cooperative than it is at the beginning of May....

John and Mary Porter had a fabulous time on their South Carolina lowcountry trip – birding with friends from Birmingham and around the state ---- lots of birds and lots of fun! On their return, they enjoyed the visit of Mary's brother, Sam Flint, from Washington State. Gail and Paul Opanowitz enjoyed having Paul's sister, Sue and her husband visiting from Maryland. A special experience that I wish all of you could share is to sit on Eugenia's front porch as she spreads out a feast of meal worms for her bluebirds, calls them and they come flying! They don't seem to mind that people are within a few feet of them – they just grab up those worms and fly them to the babies in the bluebird house!!! Just wonderful! Dave and Linda Miller's WONDERFUL May Day surprise was Dave's "Best in Show" award in the Dauphin Island Art Festival! Actually it was a print of the picture that Dave did for the ECW to give to Ed and Eileen as a going away gift ---- oystermen and their boats by the old bridge! Congratulations!!!! Stella enjoyed her time with family attending graduations and christenings! Ann Warmack enjoyed the christening of a grandchild in Mississippi. Blanche was off to enjoy Trinity Sunday at her beloved Trinity church in Tennessee. This will be a family gathering so fun and visiting are on the horizon! Sad to say but Frank and Theo have run for the hills again --- they are enjoying North Carolina in their condo in Cramerton, NC – we surely do miss them! Family and friends are gathering all over our island for Memorial Day --- fun in the sun!!!!

Well, what can I say? The oil crisis certainly changed the look of our island –you had to be here to understand the scope of equipment –boats, disposal trucks, person-

nel by the hundreds, booms – just name it –more than we EVER wanted to know about oil spill experiences. Good from bad --- the island hasn't been this clean for a long long time as the crews spent days picking up until the time they were called. I wish all of you could be with us on Wednesdays at 5:00 for a short Evening Prayer and then the Litany for the Gulf Oil Crisis. Most of us have done what we can right now for the clean up so that leaves a lot of diligent prayers to be said! It is quite hard to know just what to pray for –we don't wish this on anyone --- kinda like praying for a hurricane not to come!

We DO have some good news to report ----- Joy Russell is doing well from her surgery as is Walt Hayes. Joy has been back to St. Francis and we cannot wait for Walt to come back! The Porters were in Birmingham for a ballet recital and band concert for each of Mary's granddaughters. They are now looking forward to the girls, Beth and Anna, spending a week with them in June. Poor Lamona, she is not enjoying herself as she is the chief nurse for Mel----Mel broke his arm (right below his shoulder) in a fall and is out of commission for a while! Mary Hutchinson is definitely back in commission and chipper as ever.

I think everyone on this island wants that fantastic dragonfly that is the centerpiece of the window Mack 'n' dd's EMPORIUM---- what a great picture they paint! John Porter is definitely using Joy's pictures to the best advantage in his slide shows on our web page ---- stfrancisd.com ---- that and the picture inserts that he uses with the newsletters ---- makes it all so much more personal don't you think?

As May comes to a close, I am wondering just what I'll be writing this time next month ----- the oil news is good one minute and disappointing the next. Must add that our family has enjoyed trips to Sand Island these last few weeks --- besides the beach being totally cleaned, the water is just beautiful, porpoises playing - going for mullet on the sand bars is quite a sight --- must say that if you like heat, then you are very happy!! The temperatures are acting like it is summertime! Although I really do like burying my head in the sand whenever there is a situation that I can do nothing about --- we all have to deal with that awful feeling in the pit of our stomachs that our life here is about to drastically change. But then, we may end up being better off---- who can tell!!! As I have said, prayer is about the only thing going for us right now –so let's all jackup our faith, bend our knees, and pour out those fears to our Father ---- for sure, He will hear us and bless us!

Hope to see you at St. Francis! martha

Dates - June	
Wednesday Evening Prayer @5:00PM Litany for the Gulf Oil Crisis	2
Blanche Emerson	
Adult Sunday School @ 9:30 AM Children's Sunday School @ 9:30am Choir Practice @ 9:45am	6
Holy Eucharist Rite I @ 10:30AM 1st Lesson - Julia Willis 2nd Lesson - Blanche Emerson Ushers - Tabitha & John Braswell Refreshments - Dana Fleming	
Wednesday Evening Prayer @5:00PM Litany for the Gulf Oil Crisis	9
Martha Mayson	
Adult Sunday School @ 9:30 AM Children's Sunday School @ 9:30am Choir Practice @ 9:45am	13
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Holy Eucharist Rite I @ 10:30AM 1st Lesson - Linda Miller 2nd Lesson - Martha Mayson Ushers - Wimberly Hory & Paul Mayson Refreshments - Barbars Edgar	
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Blanche Emerson	
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Wednesday Evening Prayer @5:00PM Litany for the Gulf Oil Crisis	30
Martha Mayson	

From the Vestry

It is hard to describe the frustration I feel sitting here immobilized with a broken shoulder. We had to cancel the all day Vestry Retreat. I could not cook breakfast after promising breakfast every month. Not good. What is wonderful though is the thoughtfulness and the prayers, cards, visits, food and real Christian love and concern shown by our dear St. Francis friends. For that I am deeply grateful.

We have rescheduled the Vestry Retreat for July and we plan to work on a five year plan to present to you. We seek your input. If you have thoughts, ideas, suggestions please give them verbally or in writing to any member of the Vestry.

Thanks to Paul Opanawitz and Paul Mayson who have assisted Mr. Hocutt and have the yard looking really nice. Lots of trimming and pruning among other things. Thanks also to Julia Willis, who has really been an outstanding Junior Warden.

I am here and I will be glad to hear from any of you with your ideas. Lamona and I will be getting back in the swing of things as we are able.

Mel Lucas, Senior Warden

Dates to Remember:
June 13 - Vestry Meeting @ 11:45am
June 27 - Men's Breakfast @ 9:00am

ECW will not meet again until Monday, September 13

Remember in your Prayers:

Ross Havard, Glenn Foster, Caroline Hall, Clifford Kircus, Glay Maggard, Mitch Bowman, Marolyn Greene, Helen Wilson, Hetty Cunningham, Frank Hawkins, John Cruse, Hap Myers, Marianne Russell, Tommy Gaillard, Sulin Arendall, Vicki Wright, Mary Hutchinson, Carolyn Allender, Betty Torbert, Walt Hayes, Mel Lucas, Bob Rifley, Joy Russell, Helen Dumars, Jan Zirlott, Mary Lou Turner and those in our armed forces, especially Stacy Eubanks, John Boone and Stanley Robinson

