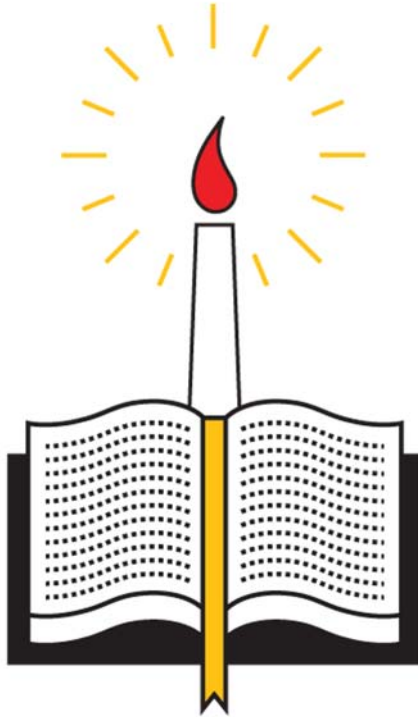


St. Francis Episcopal Church



Newsletter - February 2011

Church News and Announcements

NEWS FOR FEBRUARY

Hey, how 'bout the new format for the newsletter? I think John Porter did a fabulous job – bless his heart, he spent countless hours working this out so that it would be easily read and also show a mailing space. HUGE THANK YOU'S to JOHN! Thank you also to the “folders” who fold, stamp and get this newsletter out each month...especially Theo Hawkins, who is always ready to help.

Thank you, once again, to Paul Opanowitz for repairing the light fixture at the front door to the church. For that wonderfully faithful group who attend Evening Prayer services each Wednesday, this light surely helps everyone. Another big THANK YOU goes to the chalice bearers who lead this service each week ---- Mary Porter, Lamoana, Blanche, Frank and our newest – Linda Percival. Actually, don't you think ALL of our chalice bearers deserve our thanks and appreciation -- Julia Willis, and Joe Felice. Actually, I don't know if anyone ever stops to thank our chalice bearers, readers and ushers -- so here is a truly heartfelt –THANK YOU!!! These servers take their responsibility very seriously and faithfully show up for their duties.

Have you all met Tommy Watts – our new organist? This friendly and energetic young man is most interesting and is anxious to get to know the congregation -- if you take time to have a conversation with him, it'll be well worth your time. Tommy is also going to be doing the bulletins now – so if you have a prayer request or item of interest, please call him at 447-5208. He'll be glad to hear from you!

Judy Bogar has been busy washing sheets and towels after her family left -- the whole family was here for 8 days during

Christmas -- they had a wonderful time being together for the first time in a while. Thank goodness, the weather was pretty nice and they could enjoy the beach and golf course. Some of them stayed at the Holiday Isle – thoroughly enjoying the work out room and the pool!

Charles and Anne Ferguson and Anna Baker enjoyed themselves a week or so ago -- Charles and Anne worked at the Estuarium on Wednesday afternoon – came home and dressed – went into Mobile to the Cathedral to hear the concert by the Notre Dame Symphony. Of course, the Notre Dame fight song was played and Anne could sing all of the words -- (of course, hers were the words we all sang as teen agers! “beer, beer for old ----High, bring on the whiskey – bring on the rye –etc) Then on Friday, the threesome went to the Greek Church for the Epiphany Procession there -- quite a lovely event, Anne reports. They then were invited to the Community Center for those delicious Greek goodies prepared by the ladies. Two thoroughly enjoyable and interesting activities.

You know, John and Mary Porter take in the symphony and Joe Jefferson performances – they enjoy a leisurely lunch somewhere and then attend the matinees -- what a grand way to spend a day!

Linda Percival received news that their house in Philadelphia had been robbed – mostly her jewelry. She flew right up, police requested that she visit a certain jewelry store to see if her stuff was there -- we'll be anxious to question our sleuth when she returns and hope the jewelry has been returned! Our Eugenia was off to see her brand new granddaughter! Excited and so happy describes our girl! Another

News and Announcements (Cont.)

exciting happening at St. Francis was the 60th wedding anniversary for Dan and Linda Griswold... they shared the fun with us by hosting a celebration for coffee hour ...this active couple also enjoyed activities at the campground given by friends there. Isn't that just the very best!!!!

Been to the Island Grill yet? This endeavor is in the grill at the Isle Dauphine Club ---serves breakfast and lunch and seems to be receiving rave reviews. Jeff Collier seems to be in charge so we wish him all the best -- big plans appear to be in the works for the golf course and the Isle Dauphine and we certainly hope to see them fulfilled and our island restored to its glory!

Some kind of flu bug has invaded our midst -- some of our "people" have felt pretty lousy -- happy to say that most are on the mend. However, bug or not -- this could not dwindle nor discourage a wonderful group entering into great discussions and actually learning something from Roger Porter's Thursday afternoon book study! This study is eagerly awaited each year and everyone is thankful that Roger is so will-

ing to give his time and effort for us!

Actually, things on the island have been pretty quiet this month --not a lot of activity to report BUT -- things are gearing up for Mardi Gras -- first parade on Saturday the 5th -- so fun --cannot wait! It's great to stand on Bienville , visit with friends, meet new people -- gawk at the getups, smell the aromas from the grills set up along the street -- fun, fun, fun!!! Of course, the St. Francis group had a fun evening together on Saturday -- honoring our "snowbirds" -- fried chicken, yummy casseroles and delish desserts! And then wouldn't you know, they all got together on Sunday morning to enjoy one of Mel's wonderful breakfasts!!! This group can eat, for sure and enjoy doing it together!

Remember that February is LOVE month! Don't forget those valentines and especially that chocolate candy!!! Love, joy and peace to all of you -- martha

Remember in Your Prayers

Carolyn Allender, Agnes Bancroft, Scooter Bancroft, Mike Bennett, Dick Cobb, Nancy Connell, Cunningham, McCune Foster, Marolyn Greene, Frank Hawkins, Mary Samantha Klein, Martha Myers, Marianne Russell, Smith, Betty Torbert, Jim Wilkes, Jan Zirlott; and those in our armed forces John Boone, Stacy Eubanks, and Stanley Robinson



The Vicar's Remarks

Dear People of God,

Recently in my sermon, I spoke of the Church being a place where people could meet God and get involved in His purpose. I said that my hope is that the Church not be another social organization, a club, or a fraternity. These all have their place in society, but the Church ought to be something different.

I was reminded of Bishop Furman Stough's words, "the Church began in Jerusalem as a loving community; it moved into the Greek world and became a philosophy; into the Roman world it became an institution; into the Western world it became a business."

If we are not careful this can become very true. If we talk about the Church in secular terms and not in theological terms, if we act in social and not Biblical terms, we turn the Church into just another social organization. Below are a few scripture verses that tell us how to be the Church:

[Colossians 3: 8; 12-17

[Romans 12: 1-18

[Philippians 2: 1-4; 14-15

[John 4: 7-12

[John 2: 15

[James 5: 8-10

[Psalm 100

Let us "read, mark and inwardly digest them" (BCP 236) that we might truly be The Church and fully Christian.

Pax Christi!

Roy

Choir Reception for Tommy Watts

The choir of St. Francis would like to invite our church family to a reception for Tommy Watts, our new organist Saturday February 12, 2011, 4:00 - 7:00 pm. The reception is at the home of Al and Jean Clark, 808 Indian Place (phone 861-2101).

Come and join us as we fellowship with Tommy. There is even a program:

Getting to Know You, featuring Tommy Watts.

Report from The Vestry

VESTRY NOTES JANUARY 2011

The St. Francis Episcopal Church Vestry met on Sunday, January 9, 2011 after refreshments in Wilkins Hall. Father Roy opened the meeting with a prayer. He then turned to Senior Warden, Mel who called on Paul Opanowitz who reported on his current project.

Paul reported that he was getting bids on the recommended extension of the metal roof on the church to cover the ramped walkway into the sanctuary. He hopes to have estimates by the next meeting.

Mel discussed with Father Roy some of the things to come up for a vote at the Diocesan Convention. It was decided that we would continue to pay the 20% assessment as we always have. Mel will be our delegate to the Diocesan Convention in Fairhope in February.

Gail gave the Treasurer's Report. She reported that we ended December with income exceeding expenses by \$3,642.20 which reduced the deficit for the year to \$4,026.02. She explained that we needed \$12,000 of the building fund in 2010 in order to meet operating expenses. Overall, though, our financial picture is better than in 2008. She reminded us that the insurance has gone up.

Mary Porter reported on the ECW. She told us how the ECW had been serving the children and their families in need at the Dauphin Island School. Food baskets fed families at Thanksgiving and Christmas, Santa's Workshop was assisted and children given dollars to shop for their family members. The principal, Diane Allgood, visited the ECW meeting this month to thank us for these things and all the clothes and warm jackets we purchased.

Mary also reminded the group of the Pot Luck Supper on Saturday, January 29 honoring our winter visitors. She urged us all to attend.

Mel reminded the group of the breakfast on the last Sunday of each month. He said he would welcome any help.

John was complimented on the new format of the Newsletter. The new format, the printing and the pictures are all very nice. He is getting the census data that is now available and will be assessing where we fit into the demographics of the Island. This will help us to analyze our opportunities for outreach. He is exploring other methods of collecting data. He is also investigating the possibilities of a wireless loop in the nave. This would greatly assist the members who are hard of hearing including those with hearing aids.

There are a lot of activities coming up at St. Francis. Mel thanked the Vestry members for their support. All the members of St. Francis stay very active and are always willing to serve in whatever capacity they are needed. It is a pleasure to serve.

Mel Lucas, Senior Warden

Report from the Episcopal Church Women

The ECW monthly meeting was January 10, 2011 with 12 ladies present. It is so nice to have Anna Baker, Maryanne Bunde, Anne Ferguson, and Linda Griswold with us for the winter. We appreciate all our "winter visitors" and the wonderful way they impact our church with their presence.

We all enjoy the coffee and refreshments after the church service on Sundays. It gives us time to greet visitors, catch up with friends and enjoy the fellowship of each other. Different members provide the goodies each week and it takes a bit of organizing to ensure there is always someone responsible for this task. The ECW will keep a list posted on the refrigerator in the kitchen for each six months. Ann Warmack has volunteered to call each week to remind the person in charge – if you cannot be there on your week please find a replacement and call Ann (725-4921) to let her know. If this is something you have always wanted to do but have never had the opportunity PLEASE call (Mary; 861-2120) and let me know. We will find a place for you!

The Pot Luck Dinner was so much fun! You can just look at the pictures and tell we had a good time. The room was decorated with a Mardi Gras theme – thanks to our premier decorator, Eugenia Carey!!! Everything was colorful and sparkly – including Eugenia! Plates were piled high with fried chicken and a scrumptious assortment of salads and veggies – but most of us left room for some of the delicious deserts! Julia Willis created some beautiful "goody bags" full of skin products and good smelly stuff especially for our winter visitors. We all enjoy and appreciate our friends from all over the country who spend their winters here and make St. Francis their church. Thank You! Many other thank yous are certainly owed but to list all of you would be almost impossible – we have so many members who help put up tables, take down tables, wash the tablecloths, find extra chairs, etc., etc. We appreciate and love you all. I would be remiss though if I didn't mention Joy Russell and her expert photography skills – what a talent she has and how generous she is with her pictures. So please, consider this as a group hug and a group "thank you."

January is over – it has certainly taken its toll on our island – flu and colds have been everywhere. Hopefully, the lack of a shadow for Punxsutawney Phil will prove to be true and we will enjoy an early spring. One thing for sure – The St. Francis Arts and Crafts Show is getting closer. We already have several vendors signed up and plans are underway for a great event. Pamela Felice is the event chairperson and Wimberly Hory is, of course, the food chairman, but we need all the help we can get – tell all of your friends the date, April 16, 2011 – 9:00 – 4:00 and encourage them to come and enjoy our 9th Annual Arts & Crafts Show.

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

Mary Porter, ECW President

Calendar for 2011

Holy Eucharist Rite II @ 10:30 am

	February 6 5th Sunday after the Epiphany	February 13 6th Sunday after the Epiphany	February 20 7th Sunday after the Epiphany	February 27 8th Sunday after the Epiph- any
Reader	Cindy Smith	Pam Felice	Lamona Lucas	John Porter
Chalice	Joe Felice	Julia Willis	Linda Percival	Mary Porter
Ushers	Walt & Marcia Hayes	Bob & Cindy Smith	Mack & Joy Russell	Mel Lucas & Wimberly Hory
Refreshments	Julia Willis	Anne Warmack	Mary Porter	Lamona Lucas

Wednesday Evening Prayer Service @ 5:00 pm

Litany for the Gulf of Mexico

February 2	February 9	February 16	February 23
Linda Percival	Blanche Emerson	Mary Porter	Frank Hawkins

Sunday School

Adult @ 9:30 am Except last Sunday of the month

Children @ 9:30

Choir Practice Sunday @10:00 am

Dates to Remember

Choir Reception	Saturday, February 12, 4:00 -7:00 pm
Vestry Meeting	Sunday, February 13, 11:45 am
ECW Meeting	Monday, February 14, 10:00 am
Men's Breakfast	Sunday, February 27, 9:00 am

A Note from the Editor.

As you will note from the Vestry reports we have embarked on several new projects relating to outreach and accessibility, in part based on an increased awareness of who we are and in part based on new information about the people of the Island, potential candidates for mission outreach. For the later part we will rely on census data recently made available from the 2010 data. Our initial effort for the former is the questionnaire on the next page. With the question about birthday our first thought was to list birthdays for each month in the newsletter, as we have noted in newsletters from other parishes in the diocese. But after looking at the census data we realized that age should be an important element in the profile of our congregation, so we are also asking for birth year as well as birth date. Like so many other organizations we must be aware of the trend towards aging out in our group and do all we can in outreach to assure a blessed future for St. Francis.

There are two copies of the form attached, so married couples can each complete one. Please return your form in the offering plate.

Some of us, your editor included, have come to realize that they need a little help in the sense of hearing. To that end we have included a question relating to that problem. There are several approaches for a solution, one of which the installation of a wireless device whose signal can be received by many types of hearing aids, making hearing and understanding even better. Perhaps an even better approach would be the installation of earphones in the pews. We will be checking with the Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind for technical support.

Another possibility for outreach discussed at the vestry workshop was the recording of the services to make them available on CD/DVD or maybe over the internet. We are exploring means of reaching out into the community this way.



St. Francis Episcopal Church
Membership / Visitor Information

Name _____

Physical Address _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Email Address _____

Home Phone (____) _____ Cell (____) _____ Work (____) _____

Birthday _____

Audio help from the pulpit would be helpful

Member

Seasonal Visitor

Visiting

Please Print All Info

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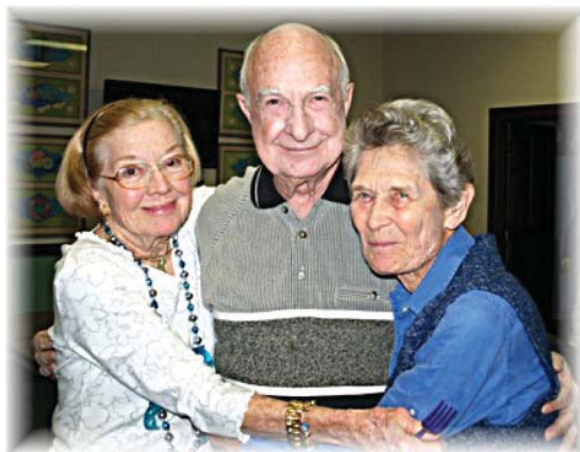
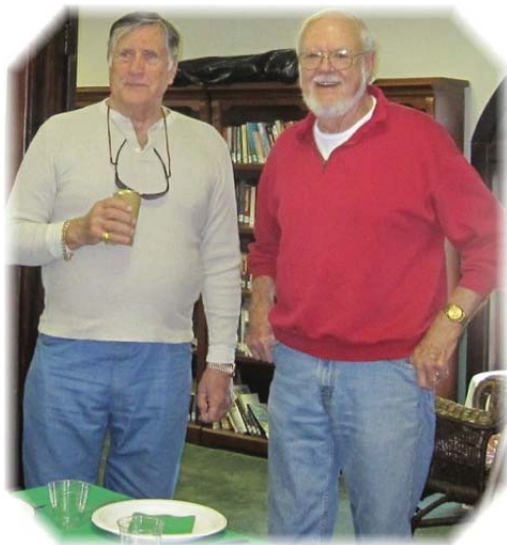
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Pot Luck Dinner - a la Mardi Gras



Photos courtesy Joy Russell & Mary Porter



Mystery Guest