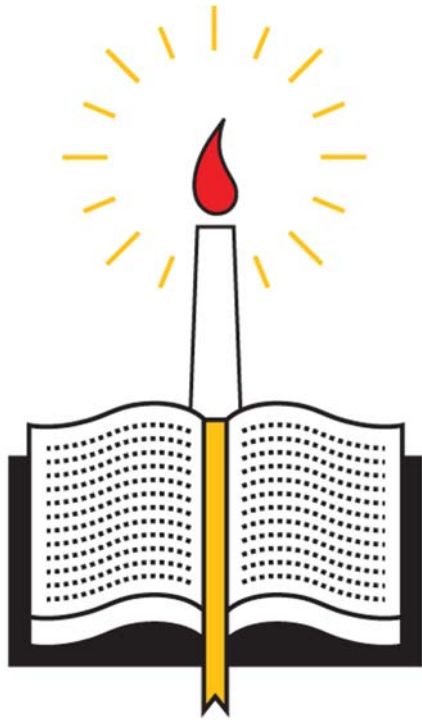


St. Francis Episcopal Church



Newsletter - March 2011

Church News and Announcements

NEWS FOR MARCH

I guess February is supposed to be cold but this is ridiculous! Rain, gusty winds and LOW temps ushered in this month ---actually, on the 5th, Paul was sitting there eating his breakfast when I heard him yell --“It’s sleeting!” --sure enough, little ice pellets were dancing all over our deck! Then, just to make things more interesting -- Purple Martins were flying all around checking out their house! I immediately emailed Eugenia this news --she calls the martins --God’s Purple Jewels! Isn’t that wonderful? I might add however, the cold weather could not keep our group from Evening Prayer on Wednesdays ---warm and cozy in the church, warm and loving hearts for that beautiful service! Nor could the cold discourage the first Mardi Gras parade on the 5th ----not quite so many people but certainly a good turnout for a fun and colorful parade! Then on Sunday, the Super Bowl turned out to be a really good game --I know for sure that the Bundes thought it was super! (huge Green Bay fans!) Another happy note is that Sandy and Joe Ridenaur are back on the island with us----this active couple immediately joined Roger’s book study and Joe added his voice to the choir. Thank goodness, they arrived in time to enjoy the hospitality and fun at the covered dish supper! Roger Porter’s study group has once again attracted a large and enthusiastic group --isn’t he so special to come down each week for us? However, we do have a very sad note ---our precious Bob Smith died on the 7th of February ---Bob was always eager and willing to help in any way --always ready with an encouraging word and a happy smile! Our deepest sympathies and prayers for Cindy. There will be a memorial service at St.

Francis for Bob on March 5th.

Our Eugenia was off to Baja to watch the Blue Whales! She will long remember the thrill of seeing 5 of these huge creatures! 88 feet long!!! Just imagine! Anyway, her trip was wonderful from beginning to end and we are so happy for her! Howard Fleming has been on a “family visiting” jaunt up along the east coast ----Dana will join him for a fun last leg of the trip. Dana enjoyed a lively birthday celebration with some girlfriends ---while playing at the “boats” -- Dana won the whopping amount of \$2.40! Do you think she just put it back into the slots? Oh no --she gave it to Bay Area Food Bank! Oh yes, she also ran a marathon for an added attraction. Speaking of attraction ---our John Porter was the keynote speaker for the Woman’s Club’s January meeting and was he ever a hit! The ladies loved him and his presentation of just what DIBS is and does! Then the next week, the Mobile Press quoted John quite a bit on the impact of the bird migrations here on the island. Speaking of birds ---there seems to have been quite a few “sightings” here on the island of some early arrivals of tanagers ---Joy Newlin called Mary Porter to say that she had seen grosbeaks and tanagers in her woods at Spanish Fort! So get those binoculars shined up and be on the “ready” for this fabulous blessing of the birds here on our island. Paul has seen an osprey carrying sticks heading toward the sound and then he saw a Great Blue Heron carrying sticks flying across Bienville -- right near Eugenia’s house! Eugenia and Don have their very own Blue Heron reality show right across the street! You need to sit in their yard and listen to the incredible racket those birds make as they build and

News and Announcements (Cont.)

repair nests ---then of course, the family arguments are wild! Speaking of "sights" --that is exactly what it would have been to see Linda Percival at the Pensacola Airport when her cat escaped its carrying case in the terminal! All ended well --just another funny Linda story!

WHOA -- WHAT IN THE WORLD WAS THAT? (or something akin to this) --was heard Friday (Feb. 18)about the time we were settling down for a glass of wine -- tuning in to the news ---our house was shaking on its pilings --pictures fell --anything that could rattle was doing so ---SCARY, I tell you -- only lasted a few seconds but it happened! We soon learned from "Breaking News" that it was a 3.5 earthquake about 10 miles off of Fort Morgan. Earthquake or not, we are enjoying absolutely gorgeous weather --- blue skies and warm wonderful sunshine! I personally am enjoying the beautiful camellias that a special angel friend slips in and leaves for me! Thank you! Try to get your hands on the latest AAA magazine --there is a very nice story about Dauphin Island and some beautiful pictures of birds.....very nice to read some

good news for a change about our island! Now ,this has had me puzzled for several weeks ----HOW IN THE WORLD did someone come up with a crowd count of 67,574 people for the Conde Cavalier parade? Did everyone get a number as they came to the parade ---very interesting number I'd say! Remember --gumbo cooking begins on March 10th -- 11th ---this is such a fun and productive way of ministering and using our gifts --so get ready as many hands make for light work, laughter and fabulous "bonding" time!

Spring is definitely coming! The red buds and pink buds are in full blossom -----such a bright sight after the dismal gray cold! Hibiscus plants that we thought were frozen are sprouting little green leaves on every branch --- I'm ready to get those pruning shears and go to work! February has been a very special month ---warmth from the sun and warmth from wonderful and loving friends --cherished gifts from God! martha

Remember in Your Prayers

Mary Hutchinson, Clifford Kircus, Tillie Semple, McCune
Dudley, Marolyn Greene, Mike Bennett, Martha Mayson,
Hetty Cunningham, Brad Cox, Cindy Smith,
Frank Hawkins, Agnes Bancroft, Jim Watson, John
Cruse, Scooter Bancroft, Gabriel Wilkes, Hap Myers,
Eldon Dugan, Ann Montgomery, Marianne
Russell, Dick Cobbs, Samantha Klein, Carolyn
Allender, Penny Minchu, , Nancy Connell, Betty
Torbert, Kathryn Watts, Ross Havard, Jan Zirlott,
Valbory Slater, Caroline Hall, Glenn Foster, and those in our
armed forces, Stacy Eubanks, John Boone and Stanley Robinson.



The Vicar's Remarks

Dear People of God,

The Lenten Season is upon us. I recently ran across the following and thought that along with our regular Lenten fast and our giving up certain items, we might also take on this list of GIVE UPS.

GIVE UP grumbling! Instead, "In everything give thanks." Constructive criticism is OK, but "moaning, groaning, and complaining" are not Christian disciplines.

GIVE UP 10 to 15 minutes in bed! Instead, use that time in prayer, Bible study and personal devotion.

GIVE UP looking at other people's worst points. Instead concentrate on their best points. We all have faults. It is a lot easier to have people overlook our shortcomings when we overlook theirs first.

GIVE UP speaking unkindly. Instead, let your speech be generous and understanding. It costs so little to say something kind and uplifting. Why not check that sharp tongue at the door?

GIVE UP your hatred of anyone or anything! Instead, learn the discipline of love. "Love covers a multitude of sins."

GIVE UP your worries and anxieties! Instead, trust God with them. Anxiety is spending emotional energy on something we can do nothing about: like tomorrow! Live today and let God's grace be sufficient.

GIVE UP TV one evening a week! Instead, visit some lonely or sick person. There are those who are isolated by illness or age. Why isolate yourself in front of the "tube?" Give someone a precious gift: your time.

GIVE UP buying anything but essentials for yourself! Instead, give money to God. The money you would spend on the luxuries could help someone meet basic needs. We are called to be stewards of God's riches, not consumers.

GIVE UP judging by appearances and by the standard of the world! Instead, learn to give up yourself to God. There is only one who has the right to judge, Jesus Christ.

Pax Christi !

Roy †

Report from The Vestry

VESTRY NOTES FEBRUARY 2011

The Vestry had its February meeting on the 13th with all members present. Father Roy opened with prayer and Mel recognized Paul Opanowitz who reported on his work on the grounds. His request for a covered walkway was tabled until there is more than one firm bid. He was told to go ahead with planting grass and to get quotes on painting the new fencing that was installed last year.

Mel reported on the Diocesan Convention. The budget is in real trouble as are the organizations that look to the Diocese for help. Beckwith may have to close in the fall if they don't find funds. Murray House is down to 16 residents and needs at least 26 to make it. They did not, however, pass the resolution designed to force all churches to pay their 20% assessment to the Diocese through having those who fail to do so lose voting delegates.

Mel and Roy discussed the upcoming 25th Anniversary of St. Francis. We need to plan an event in celebration of this milestone. Mel asked John and Mary Porter to chair the planning. Jim Early has lots of information and pictures. Everyone is encouraged to think of people who were present and events that took place so we can include them. The Bishop will be invited.

Julia said the wiring needs to be checked and possibly work will need to be done to get it up to safe and current code. She will arrange this. Leo Jones is looking at our air vents inside the church and how they direct the air. Roy said churches are looking at ways to go green and we need to think about that and move in that direction.

Father Roy was asked about providing communion to the shut ins of our church. He said he would be glad to provide it at the request of the parishioner. When asked about the LEM's giving it he said this was the Bishop's call.

Gail gave her usual excellent report. She also had the Vestry view and approve the financial portions of the parochial report. She noted that she only has 16 pledges. I encourage you not to treat this lightly. The Diocese looks at it very carefully. Please keep this in mind. No matter how large, or small, we look better to have more parishioners pledge. We need to remember that St. Francis needs to ever look for ways to encourage membership.

John Porter reported on his study of demographics. He urged the completion of the form he had given out. Mary Porter reported for ECW that plans are well underway for the Art and Crafts Festival and lots of help will be needed to assist in this very successful project.

Mel Lucas, Senior Warden

St. Francis gives many thanks to Jamie Bogar for all the hard work and hours he spent maintaining and beautifying the grounds of St. Francis. This fine young man repeatedly responded without hesitation when called upon and was a pleasure to work with. Thanks again Jamie for your service to St. Francis.

Paul Opanowitz, Junior Warden

Report from the Episcopal Church Women

The ECW monthly meeting was February 14, 2011 with 17 ladies present. We were happy to welcome Stephanie Smith to our group.

We received a beautiful thank you card from Wilmer Hall thanking us for the camper scholarships the ECW provided for two of their residents to attend Camp Beckwith this summer. Camp Beckwith is our diocesan camp and conference center located on Weeks Bay. Being able to attend summer camp is a new experience for these children and we are so pleased to be able to make it possible with our outreach funds.

Plans for the 9th Annual St. Francis Arts and Crafts Festival are underway! Pamela Felice has been busy getting information to all types of media. Vendors have been actively sending in their applications and while we have limited space, there is still room for more artists and craftspeople. Applications can be picked up at the Welcome Center, by calling Mary at 251-861-2120 or to show how high tech St. Francis has become – a form can be downloaded from our web site: www.stfrancisdi.com. The proceeds from the vendors' booth fees go to support Wilmer Hall Children's Home in Mobile.

There is a lot of preparation involved in planning our show, with much of it being in the kitchen under the direction of Wimberly Hory. Gumbo cooking is scheduled for March 10th and 11th and again on March 24th and 25th. This activity is not just for the ladies – the men are vital to the process. If you have questions about how you can help please call Wimberly (861-8292).

The Lenten season is almost upon us – a time for reflection and meditation. The days are getting longer and spring is singing her song of joy and transformation. I would like to share something from ***Finding God Day by Day for 2011***:

Perhaps this is a season for us all to sort through the good and the sorrowful in our lives, and see the patterns of God's grace and generosity toward us. The earth is holding the promise of new life and new beginnings. So can our hearts hold a promise, a promise that our loving God is with us always, even to the end of the age.

Cricket Cooper

Mary Porter, ECW President

Men's Breakfast



Refreshments



Bible Study Group

Fr. Roger Porter is leading a bible study group each Thursday at 2:00 pm in the parish hall. The book they are studying is ***The Greatest Prayer*** by John Crossan

From The Editor

The Vestry has undertaken a project to publish a directory of membership including contact information and photographs of the membership, hence the repeat of the forms from last month on the following page. So far we have fewer than 30 responses from members! We have not set a time line on the project but expect it to be an important part of our 25th anniversary celebration. Remind all your fellow parishioners to fill it out if they haven't yet.

Don't Forget... Spring Ahead

Daylight Savings Time starts at 2:00 am Sunday, March 13... Be sure to set your clock **ahead** one hour, Saturday night March 12!



St. Francis Episcopal Church
Membership / Visitor Information

Name _____

Physical Address _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email Address _____

Home Phone (_____) _____ Cell (_____) _____

Birthday _____

Audio help from the pulpit would be helpful

Member

Seasonal Visitor

Visiting

Please Print All Info

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Calendar for 2011

Holy Eucharist Rite II @ 10:30 am

	March 6 Last Sunday after the Epiphany	March 9 Ash Wednesday	March 13 First Sunday of Lent	March 20 Second Sunday of Lent	March 27 Third Sunday of Lent
Reader	Theo Hawkins	John Porter	Linda Miller	Linda Percival	Julia Willis
Chalice	Blanche Emerson	Julia Willis	Lamona Lucas	Joe Felice	Chris Ashcraft
Ushers	Walt & Marcia Hayes	Stella Anderson & Mel Lucas	Mack & Joy Russell	Mel & Lamona Lucas	Al Clark & Wimberly Hory
Refreshments	Lamona Lucas		Pat Hibbert	Sally Czepiel	Jean Clark

Wednesday Evening Prayer Service @ 5:00 pm

Litany for the Gulf of Mexico

2 March	9 March	16 March	23 March	30 March
Lamona Lucas	Mary Porter	Blanche Emerson	Linda Percival	Lamona Lucas

Sunday School

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

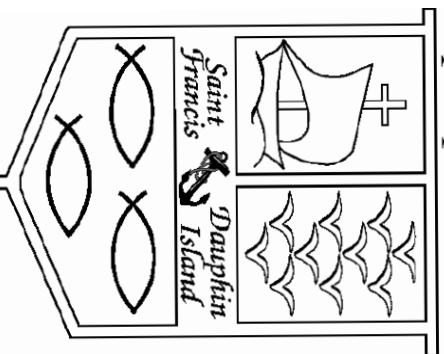
Children @ 9:30

Choir Practice Sunday @10:00 am

Dates to Remember

Vestry Meeting	Sunday, March 13, 11:45 am
ECW Meeting	Monday, March 14, 10:00 am
Men's Breakfast	Sunday, March 27, 9:00 am

Newsletter
March 2011



The Rev. Dr. Walter Ekko, D.D., Vicar
The Rt. Rev. Philip H. Duncan, D.D., 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!

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