

## The Vicar's Message

Dear People of God,

Advent, a season of four Sundays, opens the church year. The season begins on the Sunday closest to St. Andrew's Day, November 30. The observance of Advent originated in France during the fourth century. The duration of the season varied from four to seven weeks until the Bishop of Rome in the sixth century set the season to four weeks. In ancient times Advent was strictly observed: every Christian was required to attend church service and fast daily. The word, "advent", consists of two Latin words: ad & venire, "to come to." Advent's message is that God in Christ is coming to the world. This coming may be: 1. A past experience. God did come in Christ at Christmas. The prophets' promise was fulfilled in the Babe. 2. A present experience. God may come to you this Christmas in terms of rebirth, either for the first time, or a renewed birth in deeper dimensions of reality. 3. A future experience. Christ will return unpredictably at the end of the world. "He shall come again with glory to judge the quick and the dead."

The message of Advent since it promises the coming of the Lord, is "prepare." The Lord is coming whether the world is ready or not. For those unprepared, his coming means judgement. For those ready for His coming, it means salvation. How does Advent suggest that we prepare? 1. Repentance - forsake the sins of the world for a Godly way of life. 2. Prayer - pray for the coming of Christ, for He shall save, 3. Patience - His coming may be delayed. Watch and wait, for His coming may be sudden.

The mood of Advent is expressed in color. It is expressed in the liturgical color, purple. It depicts a feeling of quiet dignity, royalty and repentance. Purple was the traditional color of a king's robe; the coming Christ is King of kings. Advent, like Lent, is a time for solemn and sober thought about one's sins, leading to repentance. It denotes a quiet time for watching, waiting, and praying for Christ to come again, either personally or universally. Traditionally, Advent is a penitential season, originally known as the "Winter Lent." This mood of solemnity is expressed not only in the liturgical color, purple, but in the music of the Advent hymns like "O Come Emmanuel."

Advent stresses not so much fulfillment as anticipation of fulfillment: the Lord is coming! Christians have great expectations of Christ's coming again. As a family looks forward to a son returning from war and a bride anticipates her wedding day, so Christians look forward with joy to Christ's coming. Yet, this is a different kind of joy - joy of hope amid solemnity. It is quiet joy of anticipation and not joy of a celebration of a past event. This type of joy is expressed in the Advent hymns: "Joy to the World, the Lord is come(ing)," and "O Come Emmanuel ...Rejoice, Rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel."

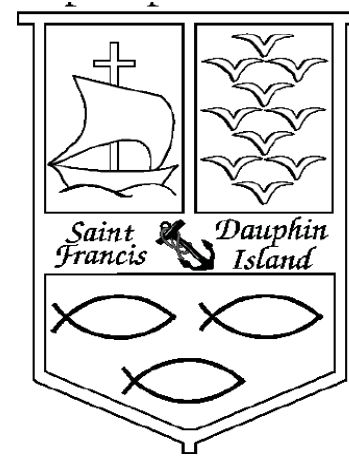
To observe Advent seriously is vital and a necessary time of preparation for a meaningful, spiritual Christmas. Wishing you a Blessed and Holy Advent!

Pax Christi !

Roy †

St. Francis Episcopal Church  
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## Newsletter December 2010



The Rev. Dr. Walter LeRoy Clam, 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

Martha Mayson, vice-president presided at the November 8, 2010 monthly meeting with eight members present.

The Fall Bazaar again demonstrated the dedication and commitment of St. Francis members. Gumbo, Brunswick Stew, Santa Fe Soup and casseroles were in great demand. Delicious looking baked goods did not last very long, pickles are always a popular item and of course Wimberley's chicken salad sandwiches were top sellers. The front and side lawns were covered with participants in our second annual "Bring Your Own Garage Sale." Treasurer, Theo reported that over \$3,500 was collected for the day.

Our School Project, designed to provide assistance for Dauphin Island School, has been very productive. We have been able to help with uniforms, warm jackets and Santa's Workshop. Pamela Felice has worked with the PTO and the school principal to determine needs and how we can help.

St. Benedict's Tool Box continues to be a blessing for many of the women in the church. This is a study organized by Lamona Lucas, to enable each of us to have a more personal relationship with God. The study is individual and each woman goes at her own pace, but we meet together every other week to encourage one another. Please consider joining us. If you are interested call Lamona Lucas (861-3762).

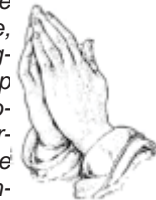
Advent season is upon us - a time of waiting - a time of hope and expectation. May everyone's Advent Season be filled with love and peace.

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

## Remember in your Prayers:

Nancy Connell, Mel Lucas, Ross Havard, Glenn Foster, Caroline Hall, Clifford Kircus, Marolyn Greene, McCune Dudley, Hetty Cunning- ham, Frank Hawkins, John Cruse, Hap Myers, Marianne Russell, Carolyn Allender, Betty Torbert, Jan Zirlott, Walt Hayes, Tillie Semple, Mike Bennett, Julia Pryor, Martha Mayson- Mary Allen, Brad Cox, Agnes Bancroft, Scooter Bancroft and those in our armed forces, especially Stacy Eubanks, John Boone, and Stanley Robinson.



## Church News & Announcements

Well November arrived with a lot of action ----first the elections and then the crazy weather here on the island! We had something like mini tornadoes scattered around ----the winds picked up a 21 ft. boat out of a boat lift and left it upside down in the water, Mel and Lamona took refuge in the elevator! Thank goodness, Thursday dawned very cool and crisp as we began cooking the gumbo! By Friday afternoon, we had a freezer full of that delicious concoction as we enjoyed toasting ourselves, laughing and sharing tales! This is a treasured activity for all of us there! Thank you everyone!

Especially enjoying themselves were John and Mary Porter while they were in Louisiana for the "Yellow Rails and Rice" event --- this is the final cutting of the rice fields and as the combine rolls along the rows of rice, the rails (These are birds by the way) fly up in great numbers! The fact that John was riding on the combine probably scared a lot of them up! Anyway, they enjoyed beautiful weather and touring the Louisiana coast during this outing. Dave and Linda Miller also enjoyed touring around North Carolina and Georgia, visiting family, before they make their way to Merritt Island in Florida for the next 6 months --- yuck!!! We really miss them when they are away! For those of you here on the island and at St. Francis, how about that precious Amelia Felice singing in the choir! Theo says that Amelia has a beautiful voice and all are thrilled to have her up there! This young family has really done yeoman's work for us this month! If you didn't taste their Brunswick stew then you have missed something --- just delicious! Joe and Pamela made two huge pots of this stew to sell for the bazaar---one taste and people were clamoring to buy! I'll tell you who did NOT miss anything --Joy Russell and her friends from Birmingham!!! They were so cute and having a wonderful time --- (of course, Joy had that camera clicking!) Marcia Hayes and Lois Maggard were busy also selling the Save our Shores items from **mack n' dd's EMPORIUM...** they did a great business! Thank you, Russells, for your donations from these sales!!

Also working like little demons were the ladies of the church ---- you guessed it -- chopping, cooking, making that delicious chicken salad just right! What fun we have as we do this; however ---- nothing can take the place of that laughing, teasing ---- remember that song --"the more we get together, the happier we are" -- well, we should be ecstatic!!!! It all paid off with our very successful bazaar.

Mel and Lamona had a nice time at Troy University's homecoming on the 13th and 14th ---- Mel is excited about his shoulder surgery -- he has been in considerable pain for some time and now sees the light at the end of the tunnel! Prayers for him to have a full recovery are going out! Linda and John Percival will have several full houses for Thanksgiving as families and friends gather so Linda can cook for them! (tehee) Stella loaded up her van and headed for the cabin in the hills -- lots of family there! Headed for Lake Martin were John and Mary Porter so John's son Paul could

cook for them! Dana and Howard Fleming cooked up a delicious feast for Blanche this year -- fun for all! Lets all say prayers for McCune Dudley as he is undergoing chemo for a type of adult leukemia. ... Donna is a great nurse -- ferrying them back and forth to the cancer center every day for his treatments. McCune's pants are getting baggy but other than that he looks wonderful! Kathryn Carver once again created a hit weekend--- Dauphin Island Arts Festival on the 20th in Cadillac Square was a super hit! A lot of vendors on a gorgeous fall day ----Joy Russell snapped pictures of Santa with the children, Mary Porter served as her elf ---- this is quite a big job as children and names have to be matched ---- St. Francis is proud of these girls! The Russell household was packed again for a big weekend ---- fun, good looking family! Frank and Theo enjoyed their holiday company -- Theo's daughter Evie, friend and grandson, Evan.

By now I would guess that all of you know of the death of John Stringer.... Shock and disbelief are yet with us as we try to confront this tragedy. John was very special to us -- each in different ways. As for me, he was always so accommodating about getting the music to me if I needed it early -- we had so many lengthy, interesting and sometimes, just giggling fit conversations over the years. We all prayed for John as he worked so long and hard at Spring Hill College for his doctorate..... we shared his frustrations and his triumphs..... seldom did one see him lose his temper or his cool. ... we cannot believe that he is gone. St.Francis hosted his funeral on a rainy Monday, Nov. 15th. Our sanctuary overflowed with friends and parishioners. John would have been so honored with the absolutely "heavenly" music provided by our choir..... Father Hicks, from St. Mary's, delivered a heartfelt eulogy chronicling his deep friendship with John. Our faithful ECW, under the direction of Jamie and Judy Bogar, provided a gracious and plentiful setting for the visitation following the service. Friends from far and near, enjoyed a bountiful table and sharing "John" stories. In my mind, John is up there accompanying angels as they sing!

Thanksgiving Day was just beautiful -- cool, clear --the best for being thankful!!!! We enjoyed a big family gathering --- A LOT of laughs, food and beverages! Also enjoyed another "thanksgiving" on Friday afternoon when Auburn won the Iron Bowl!!!!

As friends and families gather for Thanksgiving this year, we do so with hearts full of gladness, thankfulness, memories of those lost to us -- bittersweet feelings mixed with turkey, dressing and pumpkin pie! I think all of us are reminded to make the most of every opportunity -- to see God in our circumstances--- to pray constantly for His guidance and goodness. I am particularly thankful for my wonderful friends at St. Francis -- you all are rich components of my life.....I am so thankful for you!

God bless us and bring us peace. martha

| Services - December  |    |
|--|----|
| <b>Wednesday Evening Prayer@5:00PM</b><br><b>Litany for the Gulf Oil Crisis</b><br>Blanche Emerson   | 1  |
| <b>Adult Sunday School @ 9:30 AM</b><br>Choir Practice @ 9:45am<br><b>Holy Eucharist Rite I @ 10:30AM</b><br>1st Lesson - Theo Hawkins<br>2nd Lesson - Joe Felice<br>Ushers - Walt & Marcia Hayes<br>Refreshments - Joan Rockstad  | 5  |
| <b>Wednesday Evening Prayer@5:00PM</b><br><b>Litany for the Gulf Oil Crisis</b><br>Mary Porter   | 8  |
| <b>Adult Sunday School @ 9:30 AM</b><br>Children's Sunday School @ 9:30am<br>Choir Practice @ 9:45am<br><b>Holy Eucharist Rite I @ 10:30AM</b><br>1st Lesson - Cindy Smith<br>2nd Lesson - Lamona Lucas<br>Ushers - Bob & Cindy Smith<br>Refreshments - Bobbie Meade<br><b>Vestry Meeting - 11:00 am</b> | 12 |
| <b>Wednesday Evening Prayer@5:00PM</b><br><b>Litany for the Gulf Oil Crisis</b><br>Frank Hawkins   | 15 |
| <b>Adult Sunday School @ 9:30 AM</b><br>Children's Sunday School @ 9:30am<br>Choir Practice @ 9:45am<br><b>Holy Eucharist Rite I @ 10:30AM</b><br>1st Lesson - Linda Percival<br>2nd Lesson - Julia Willis<br>Ushers - Mack & Joy Russell<br>Refreshments - Donna Dudley                                 | 19 |
| <b>Wednesday Evening Prayer@5:00PM</b><br><b>Litany for the Gulf Oil Crisis</b><br>Lamona Lucas  | 22 |
| <b>Christmas Eve Service @ 6:00 PM</b><br><b>Holy Eucharist Rite I</b><br>1st Lesson - John Porter<br>2nd Lesson - Mary Porter<br>Ushers - Mel & Lamona Lucas  | 24 |
| <b>Adult Sunday School @ 9:30 AM</b><br>Childrens Sunday School - @9:am<br>Choir Practice @ 9:45am<br><b>Holy Eucharist Rite II @ 10:30AM</b><br>1st Lesson - Theo Hawkins<br>2nd Lesson - Julia Willis<br>Ushers - Wimberly Hory & Eugenia Carey<br>Refreshments - Ann Dowling                          | 26 |
| <b>Wednesday Evening Prayer@5:00PM</b><br><b>Litany for the Gulf Oil Crisis</b><br>Blanche Emerson   | 29 |

## From the Vestry

The annual Parish meeting for St. Francis, was held, Sunday, Nov 21. Fr. Roy, opened with a prayer. Reports were given from the Sr. & Jr. Wardens, along with the financial and ECW reports.

Newly elected to the Vestry were Mack Russell, and Stella Anderson. Mel Lucas, will remain as Sr. Warden and Julia Willis, will continue as Jr. Warden until Vestry elects another. The addition of these newly elected members completes the Vestry for the next few years. A fine group to lead the business of the Church. A thank you to Chris Ashcraft, for his years of service as was given in Mel's, report.

Mel & Lamona Lucas, will represent our church at the Diocese Convention in 2011. Fr. Roy, gave his report and closed with a prayer.

Lunch was served while we had the meeting and including clean up we were out of Wilkens Hall and on our way home by 1pm. For those of you who were not able to stay, please try to attend next year's meeting in November of 2011, It's a date.

Mel and I want to again thank every member of St. Francis, due to everyone working at some task or another our jobs are easier.

Julia A. Willis, Jr. Warden



## Christmas Poinsettias

We are now taking donations for Christmas Pointsetias to decorate the sanctuary. They will be \$12 each this year. Make your check out to St.Francis Episcopal Church and send it along with the number of plants you want to donate and the names of those to be remembered or honored to Mary Porter, 1404 Cadillac Ave., Dauphin Island, AL 36528.