

St. Francis Episcopal Church



Newsletter - January 2011

Church News and Announcements

JANUARY NEWSLETTER

THANK YOU SANTA CLAUS!!!! What a great present to us for Auburn to win the SEC championship!! I do know that EVERYONE is not as thrilled as we are but we are so proud and happy for Auburn!...now on to the National Championship on the 10th of January! The weather was incredible on this first weekend --plenty of sun, just enough breeze, crystal clear skies, lots of white pelicans have returned to our island --so big, white and awesome! But quick as a wink, all of this changed to howling winds, heavy grey clouds, rain ----go light that fire in the fireplace, don't go out, grab your book and enjoy winter on Dauphin Island!

These conditions certainly don't stop a lot of people here with Christmas plans up north ----of course, Blanche jumped a plane on Wednesday headed for Maryland where she will celebrate with Rob, Michele and her special Lottie! Stella... left for the "lake cabin" on Sunday after church so that she will be with most of her large -- and ever growing -- clan in Talladega! What fun they have as they have so many of their own traditions! Carolyn Allender's son, Forrest, picked her up on Tuesday so they can travel around the south visiting her family and friends! The Felices were off for Atlanta and will enjoy family there! Actually, Mary and John Porter got a jump start on everyone as they spent a weekend in Birmingham with her family and friends there on the second weekend. But, Sue Pond wins going the farthest by far! She took her 2 grandsons and flew to Prague, Budapest, Croatia for several weeks of seeing marvelous sights, visiting incredible places -- totally enjoying new experiences!

Don't get me wrong but there will be plenty going on right here ---- McCune and Donna will love having their daughter, Caroline, visit here from North Carolina for a while. McCune

looks great and Donna is hanging in there like a real trooper! Wimberly will only travel a short distance -- to Mobile as her family is coming there to celebrate. I'm sure they all are eagerly looking to seeing Garland and Kyle, Rosie, Nolan and precious grand baby -- Elle.... isn't that so Christmas? Theo and Frank will be hosting her sister, Gayle, and Theo's son for the holidays....don't worry, chief chef, Theo, has the kitchen detail under control! The Russell clan will gather on the 26th --- no telling what this fun group will cook up. Linda and John Percival returned from a visit to London long enough to spend one night in Philadelphia before grabbing the cat and hopping a plane for Dauphin Island. Linda loves her "red neck" island Christmas decorations --- her children find it quite amazing to give her such things as the red shot gun shell tree lights -- and I understand that she will be most upset if she doesn't get a gun rack for her pickup truck from Santa! Actually Linda slipped Paul a turkey wish bone during church last Sunday to give to me! Isn't life grand and aren't people funny? Having Mary and Tom Hutchinson here is like a present to us -- we love this fun and giving couple! Oh, yes -- another couple sharing Christmas right here is Mel and Lamona ---they are spending time with Mel's shoulder therapist this year instead of off on a family cruise and then to the Keys for several months. See, good comes from everything --Mel's shoulder replacement was really a great gift to us. Paul and I are beside ourselves with joy as all of our family will be here with us! Of course, there will be some hunting going on but at least we'll have all of us for several days!!!

On the worst night ---misty, very cold rain, blowing wind --Paul and I were visited by a marvelous group of carolers -- the Felice family, Baptist minister's family, children from the school -- singing so beautifully that we cried with thanksgiving for this blessing. There was our Amelia right up there singing in her beauti-

News and Announcements (Cont.)

ful clear voice --- best gift one could wish for. Another unexpected gift was Sarah Phillips sermon on the last Sunday in Advent. She told of Joseph --- his background, how he rose above the standards of that day to choose a higher road and became a main character in the Nativity story.

Of course, all of St. Francis, our island friends , are enjoying reuniting with our snowbird friends --- the Bundes arrived ahead of the bad weather up north and are right in there with us ---the Fergusons probably felt like George Washington crossing the Delaware ---they had to contend with ice, snow, all that wintry fun but they are here ---finally with us! We have been enjoying the Griswolds for all of December and look forward to more.

Well 2010 was surely a year to remember ---for good or bad. The oppressive heat, the oil spill, the tar balls pretty much wiped out our summer --- no boating, no fishing, no playing on the beach ---no long summer fun! BUT, mind you, remembering that good comes from EVERYTHING we can only be thankful and move

on in a more aware way. Our beaches will be cleaner than EVER in another month or so, the seafood industry seems to be flourishing -- or will be by this summer, Sand Island is going to be rebuilt ---this will be a fascinating undertaking, for sure. The core of our St. Francis is stronger than ever -- the loving care and warmth that is US will only become stronger and more widespread. To be sure, there are some threats to us but nothing that we cannot come out of bigger and better! We are thankful for the St. Benedict's group for the part it is playing. We can most assuredly look forward to 2011 with renewed courage and enthusiasm. Thanks be to God!!!

I personally end this year with a spirit of thanksgiving --- thanksgiving for all of you who have cared so much, who have called, offers of help daily, especially for those blessed prayers for my healing and peace and strength for my family. I am so thankful for the bonds of friendship and shared faith -- active, loving faith... YOU ARE THE BEST!!!! martha

Remember in Your Prayers

Martha Mayson, Bob Smith, Cindy Smith, Gabriel Wilkes, Ann Montgomery, Samantha Klein, Nancy Connell, Mel Lucas, Ross Havard, Mary Hutchinson, Glenn Foster, Caroline Hall, Clifford Kircus, Marolyn McCune Dudley, Hap Myers, Marianne Betty Torbert, Jan Semple, Mike Bennett, Agnes Bancroft, in our armed forces, especially Stacy Eubanks, John Boone, and Stanley Robinson.



Greene, Hetty Cunningham, Frank Hawkins, John Cruse, Russell, Carolyn Allender, Zirlott, Walt Hayes, Tillie Brad Cox, Jim Watson, Scooter Bancroft and those

The Vicar's Remarks

Dear people of God,

We have just celebrated Christmas - the coming of God into the world. Therefore, we live in a God-invaded world and our lives cannot stay the same.

I recently read the following in the Forward Day By Day that points out how we are to change our lives according to the fact that God is present in the world and our lives:

Matthew 3: 1-12. *"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."* The invitation to Holy Communion in Rite I begins, 'Ye who do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbors, and intend to lead a new life ...'

For those who would be followers of Christ there is an urgency to change: from bad to good, from the old man to the new man, from complacency to devotion. And yet, is not this urgency to change the very thing that our heart resists? How delightful are the courts of "Status Quo." How satisfying the state of somnambulance. Or so many think.

Whether it be the individual Christian, the local congregation, the church at large, or the nation, there is no real communion with God without change. If we want things to remain as they are, we are telling God to be quiet.

Repentance goes against the grain. Change is sharper than the pains of childbirth. An intention to lead a new life is the farthest thing from the mind. But if you would see God, you must repent, you must change, you must intend something better than the life you are living.

You can be just as you are if you insist, but isn't it hell? (Sunday, December 5, 1966)

As I said earlier and in my sermon on Christmas Eve, because of the birth of Christ, we live in a world invaded by God and because of this, things are changed forever. The question: Are you living a life that reflects this?

Pax Christi !

Roy †

Report from The Episcopal Church Women

The ECW's monthly meeting was held on December 13, 2010 with 13 members and one guest, Diane Allgood, Principal of Dauphin Island School present.

Ms. Allgood thanked the ECW for our support of the Dauphin Island School. We were able to help with Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets, uniforms and warm jackets and The Santa Workshop. Special thanks to Pamela Felice and Martha and Paul Mayson for all of their help with the coordination of these efforts.

Wilkins Hall is now sporting a brand new flat screen TV – great for the Exercise Group that meets there three mornings a week and an ideal way to have a “Movie Night!” This was all made possible by a generous donation from EugeniaCarey and was made useable by the skills and talents of Joe Felice who mounted it on the wall. Please take time to admire his handiwork. A lot of members were involved in the process, but to try to name them all would only leave out someone. So, if you helped with the TV in any way, Thank You!

Mark your calendars! Saturday, January 29, 2011 is the date for our covered dish dinner in honor of our winter visitors on Dauphin Island. Please plan to attend. Covered Dish Dinners may take us back in time to the days when churches had “dinner on the grounds,” but they are always fun and everyone enjoys them. If you have never been able to attend, please make an effort – stay tuned for more information.

Our St. Benedict group took a small break during the holidays but we will resume meeting in January. If you are interested in being a part of this Episcopal Community please call Lamona Lucas (861-3762) for more details.

We have had the shortest day of this year – full moon and all -- and that means spring is not so far away! In an effort to be ready we have set the date for the Spring Arts and Craft Festival – April 16th. This is an event we all look forward to – local artists, artisans, food, fun and more! Pamela Felice has agreed to be Chairperson of the event but she will be looking for a LOT of help! So, again, Mark Your Calendars and spread the word!

Please join us for our January ECW meeting – open to all women in the church: January 10, 2011 10:00am Wilkins Hall.

There are several members of our church and community who are dealing with serious illnesses – please use the prayer list to pray for them and their families.

A New Year's Prayer

A new year is unfolding—like a blossom with petals curled tightly concealing the beauty within. Lord, let this year be filled with the things that are truly good—with the comfort of warmth in our relationships, with the strength to help those who need our help and the humility and openness to accept help from others.

As we make our resolutions for the year ahead, let us go forward with great hope that all things can be possible—with Your help and guidance.

Anonymous

May the coming year bring peace, kindness, patience, love and joy to us all!

Mary Porter, ECW President

Calendar for January 2011

Holy Eucharist Rite II @ 10:30 am

	January 2 2nd Sunday after Christmas	January 9 1st Sunday after the Epiphany	January 16 2nd Sunday after the Epiphany	January 23 3rd Sunday after the Epiphany	January 30 4th Sunday after the Epiphany
Reader	Julia Willis	Cindy Smith	Theo Hawkins	Lamona Lucas	Julia Willis
Chalice	Joe Felice	Lamona Lucas	Julia Willis	Linda Percival	Chris Ashcraft
Ushers	Walt, Marcia Hayes	Bob, Cindy Smith	Mack, Joy Russell	John Porter, Stella Anderson	Mel Lucas, Wimberly Hory
Refreshments	Anne Elam	Judy Bogar	Wimberly Hory	Blanche Emerson	Theo Hawkins

Wednesday Evening Prayer Service @ 5:00 pm

Litany for the Gulf of Mexico

January 5	January 12	January 19	January 26
Linda Percival	Mary Porter	Frank Hawkins	Lamona Lucas

Sunday School

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

Children @ 9:30

Choir Practice Sunday @ 9:45 am

Dates to Remember

Vestry Meeting	Sunday, January 9, 11:45am
ECW Meeting	Monday, January 10, 10:00am
Covered Dish Supper	Saturday, January 29, 6:00pm
Men's Breakfast	Sunday, January 30, 9:00am



*Christmas Tree
Wilkens Hall
2010*

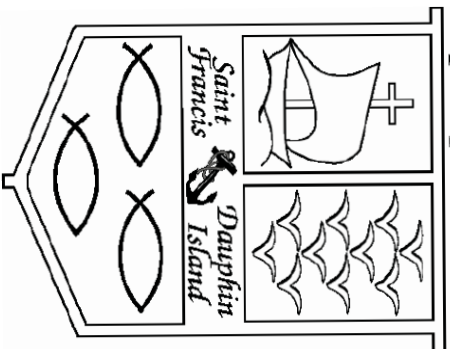
Sanctuary - 2008



Courtesy - Eileen Johnson

Newsletter

January 2011



The Rev. Dr. Walter Ekkop Elam, III, Vicar
The Rt. Rev. Philip H. Duncan, II, Bishop
Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast

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

Church Phone (251) - 861-2300
Vicar Phone (251) - 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**