

# *St. Francis Episcopal Church*



**Newsletter - May 2011**

## Church News and Announcements

April made its debut in a manner most becoming to any debutante -- beautiful, low humidity -- the crimson clover and buttercups are playing together on the causeway, pecan trees are showing off their new foliage, boats are polished and shined, motors tuned and raring to go, fishing tackle inspected, fun new lures bought in high hopes of catching that big one--yeah, summer is calling -- "Bring it on!"

Roger Porter wound up his book study with a beautifully moving Eucharist... his love and devotion to St. Francis and the love and devotion of our members who attended ( a lot of snowbirds, who unfortunately had returned home) make this rite one to be remembered and we all say "Thank you, Roger from the bottom of our hearts!" Our faithful, hardworking members are ready for a break also -- the most successful St. Francis Arts and Craft show demanded hours of work and thank goodness, so many of you showed up to help make those sandwiches, set up booths, ---must say we are a GRAND group! One other moving experience this month was on Wednesday evening prayer service -- those entering the sanctuary heard Jean Clark singing favorite hymns from the balcony as she accompanied herself on the guitar-- surely, "the presence of the Lord was in that place." What a memorable Easter gift!

The hole in our hearts from missing McCune Dudley, who passed away, certainly has not healed but actually brought even more to the forefront. Every year McCune would design, cut the palms, instruct Paul Mayson where to nail them for the front and side doors of our sanctuary. Then along with arranging palms on the altar, he made the elaborate crosses for Palm Sunday. I really do wish we had not failed his cross making class in Sunday School several years ago -- I am guessing that all of you know how many of McCune's ideas were incorporated in the building of St. Francis, the

parish hall and of course, our storage house/wedding chapel! His beautiful palms in our garden will probably outlive us all and are a great source of pride to us. He made the original stepping stones from pizza boxes ---and generously gave many of our trees and plants.

This busy time was perfect for Blanche's friend from medical school, Sue Johnson, to make her visit ----Blanche had her in the kitchen cooking chickens, eggs and chopping onions etc -- all steps in the preparation of Wimberly's delicious chicken salad -- 85 big fat chicken breasts were used! Sue was quite a sport and jumped right in to do whatever was needed. The Millers have also enjoyed having family with them -- along with all of the preparations for the Arts and Craft show! Then of course, Linda and John Percival have family at all three places -- Treasure Court, Portier Court and Holiday Isle! A lot of menus to plan and prepare -- a lot of fun to be had! Theo and Frank certainly enjoyed having Evie and Evan here. Of course, Wimberly's house was full of family and friends and good eats! A fun Easter surprise was the arrival of Ed and Eileen from Huntsville-- they had most of their large family here at the Holiday Isle for a lot of family fun! Another Easter gift, was the return of Tom and Mary Hutchinson -- home from the hills of Tennessee... it seems that they were gone for a very long time this year. We were sad to see Anna Baker leave as she has surely found a special place in our hearts.

If you were not able to attend the Arts & Craft Show that the ECW hosted on the 16th -- then you missed a REAL treat! The yard of the church was covered with tents (61 of them!) full of fantastic artwork -- glassware, wooden craftwork, wonderfully crafted and colorful jewelry, soaps, fabulous artwork of every genre -- it was WONDERFUL! The ECW sold those delicious chicken salad sandwiches, gumbo and all of their pickles! With the 16th

being Discovery Day on the island, and the birders here for AOS (big bird group) our churchyard and parish hall were full of visitors... everyone happy, oohing and aahing! SO very proud of our ECW and the men who helped with this huge project... you do realize that Wilmer Hall gets all of the application (\$35.00) fees – so it was a nice gift for them.

Fun, Flowers, Friends and Food -- all partially describe the ceremony and reception blessing the marriage of Al Clark's daughter Mary Evelyn to Kurt Thwaites. You would not have recognized our parish hall with all of the flowers, food tables ( you can just imagine all of the delicious food that Jean prepared!) The newlyweds were so very happy and anxious to begin their new life in Brazil.

Good news for all! With all that wind on the 15th & 16th, the birds decided to stick around for a while -- the Shell Mounds were packed, Porters' house was packed ( along with many more) -- everyone was really excited about the Painted Redstart (this is a bird rarely seen around here) who gave impressive performances at the bird sanctuary and at the Shell Mounds. Paul and I enjoyed a yellow warbler show as they were all over the oak tree in front of our house.

Well, April came in like a lamb and, for us, out like a lamb--- a lion cannot begin to describe the horrific destruction in Tuscaloosa, Birmingham, up to Guntersville as tornadoes tore through that area on the 27th and 28th. Our prayers and sympathies will be constantly with the many who lost not only their homes but also their lives. Now with all of this weather, we have not received a DROP of rain! Time to put on the rain dancing shoes and go for it! However, our blessings far outnumber our losses. Many of us have buried close friends this month – our hearts and prayers are certainly with their families. We are so very thankful for the Easter reunions of family and friends – the laughter and comfort of close friends. Our joy is the knowledge that Jesus has risen and is always there for us in any situation.

Now, as our friend Cleo Delaney says “see ya round the maypole,” ... love and blessings to all!!!martha

## **Remember In your Prayers**

Brad Cox, John Cruse, Matthew Delaney, Eldon Dugan, Glenn Foster,  
Marolyn Greene, Caroline Hall, Cathy & Carl Hammerdorfer, Ross Havard,  
Frank Hawkins, Fr. John Hicks, Samantha Klein, Jeff Krantz &  
Family, Win McGowin, Bobbie Meade, Penny Minchu, Ann  
Montgomery, Hap Myers, Jan Pulliam, Marianne Russell,  
Cindy Smith, Bill Swinford, Betty Torbert, Molly Valentine,  
Gabriel Wilkes, Jan Zirlott & those in our armed forces:  
Stacy Eubanks, John Boone, & Stanley Robinson



# The Vicars Message

Dear People of God,

Someone recently asked me a very good question about the action in the Eucharist of pouring a little water into the wine before the consecration. The water is symbolic of the water that came out of Jesus' side with the blood, when the Roman soldier pierced Jesus' side (John 19:34). This question made me aware of some of the other symbols, actions and language that many may like explained. What follows are just a few.

## **Church Seasons:**

**Advent** - The beginning of the Church year. Advent means the coming of our Lord. It is a time of preparation for the coming and the Feast of the Nativity. The color for Advent is usually purple.

The **Christmas Season** is the 12 days following the 25<sup>th</sup> of December to January 5<sup>th</sup> and the color of this season is white symbolizing purity, happiness and joy. The Coronation hangings may be substituted for the white to show the importance of this season and the coming of the King of Kings.

**Epiphany** begins on January 6<sup>th</sup> and means "showing forth," manifestation or revelation. It commemorates Christ's manifestation to the gentiles, symbolized by the visit of the three "Wise Men". The color is green symbolizing hope, life and growth.

**Lent** - The term derived from Anglo-Saxon and means "long days" or "spring". The 1<sup>st</sup> day of Lent is the 40<sup>th</sup> weekday before Easter, Ash Wednesday, and the season is a time of "special acts of discipline and self-denial" (BCP). Lent ends in *Holy Week*, 7 days before Easter and begins with Palm Sunday or Passion Sunday. Thursday of the week is Maundy Thursday and derives its name from the word meaning "mandate" or commandment. "To love one another as He loved them and to partake of the Blessed Sacrament as he instituted the Eucharist." The color for Lent is purple and change to red for holy week which ends with the stripping of the altar and veiling of the crosses in black symbolizing the shadows of betrayal, trial, suffering and death. Good Friday is the darkest day of the Christian year. Services are held at noon, the hour of Christ's crucifixion, when the faithful meditate upon the cross and the last hours and words of Christ.

**Easter Season** is the "feast of feasts" and the apex of the Christian year. The date of Easter is always the first Sunday after the first full moon following the spring equinox on March 21<sup>st</sup>. The Easter season includes Ascension Day and lasts a full 50 days ending with the Day of Pentecost. In Easter we look to the future. The Easter message is one of hope and life. The Day of Pentecost means "fiftieth day" in Greek. On the Day of Pentecost, we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit sent by the Lord to the Apostles. We celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit as the birth of the Church. The color for Easter is white or coronation with the color for the Day of Pentecost being red symbolizing the tongues of fire.

**Season of Pentecost** begins with the first Sunday following the Day of Pentecost and is Trinity Sunday. The Sundays following are numbered "... after Pentecost" until Advent, when the cycle begins again. The color is green symbolic of growth and development in the love of God. All Saints Day is the last principal feast of the Church year. All Saints is to be observed on the Sunday following November 1<sup>st</sup>.

Additionally, I want to explain some of our language.

1. **Apostolic Succession:** Anglicans, Roman Catholics, the Orthodox, and some other Christian churches accept the authority of bishops who stand in direct line going back to apostolic times. Bishops assume the role of an apostle in maintaining the church unity and the integrity of the church's life and teaching through the centuries. The bishop is the visible symbol of the church's continuity through the ages.

2. **Cathedral:** From the Latin for "chair", it is the church that serves as seat or headquarters of a diocesan bishop. The city in which the cathedral is located is the "see city."

3. **Episcopal and Episcopalian:** Episcopal is an adjective. The noun form is Episcopalian. Episcopalians attend the Episcopal Church. The adjective may be used with a lower case "e" to describe the function of a bishop or any church that has bishops (Greek: *episcopos*).

4. **Narthex:** An entrance hall or foyer. This area may also be referred by some as a vestibule.

5. **Nave:** The area where the congregation sits, stands or kneels during worship.

6. **Sanctuary:** The area immediately surrounding the altar, often enclosed by an altar rail. While many Protestants refer to the entire church building as "the sanctuary", we do not. Our usage stems from the ancient understanding of temple practice of setting the "holy of holies" apart from other sacred spaces in the edifice, as well as the ecclesial understanding of the sacredness of the altar area.

Our language is unique and conveys a theological understanding of our faith. Therefore, it is important for us to speak the same language as we proclaim to others who we are as Christians. More to come ...

Pax Christi,

Roy †



## Report from The Vestry

The St. Francis Vestry met on Sunday, April 17 following the morning service. After Father Roy opened with prayer, Mel called on Paul to report all the things done to get ready for our many spring events, including a wedding, the Arts and Crafts Festival and especially our glorious Easter services. I am sure you join us in being proud of our buildings, grounds, courtyard and a vote of thanks goes to Paul and Julia for all the work painting, washing, planting, pruning and sprucing up.

Julia reported the electrician had taken care of the lighting problems. Julia chose and placed new lights along the sides of the church and they are lovely.

Mel reported that he is still waiting for word from the organ company that came to evaluate our organ. They are to get us information on the cost of repairs.

Two items of new business included: Paul will get a locksmith to put the locks on all our doors in good working order. Julia will get Mobile Fixture to schedule a professional to come clean our stove, vent, and hood.

Gail gave her usual good Treasurer's report and it was accepted as presented. Gail is certainly appreciated by the Vestry for giving us thorough and timely information as well as taking care of all our bills, reports, and obligations.

Lamona reported for Mary Porter, President of ECW, that the St. Francis Arts and Crafts Festival was a huge success. We had more vendors than ever before and were, therefore, able to make a substantial donation to Wilmer Hall. Our crowds were large and the ladies sold more food items than ever before thus adding to their treasury that enables them to serve the needs of our parish and our community. They are already working on our Easter brunch. We owe the ladies of ECW an enormous vote of thanks. They serve us so well. I cannot tell you how many hours these ladies spend preparing all that we enjoy. ECW continues to serve the children and families of the Dauphin Island School. They are also always ready to meet the needs of those in the community as well as many worthy charities in the larger Mobile community.

I am so proud of St. Francis. We are not large but we have so many dedicated members willing to serve. They really work so hard and are to be commended.

I know you all grieve with me over the loss of one of our founding members. McCune Dudley. Few realize how much he and Donna have done for St. Francis over the years. He will be sorely missed.

Melvin Lucas, Senior Warden

# Report from the Episcopal Church Women

ECW NOTES APRIL 2011

The ECW had an exceedingly busy month! We all loved the blessing of the marriage of Al and Jean Clark's daughter. The reception was just lovely and Jean had so many goodies left for our refreshments the next day.

The work that went into the St. Francis Arts and Crafts Festival was amazing. We had a record number of vendors and sold more food items than ever before. It was a real success! We really do appreciate all the hard work that goes into an activity like this. Mary, Eugenia, and Dena McKee did a great job with the vendors and with setting up the show. Lamona appeared on WKRG's Morning Show to promote the Festival and Pamela Felice was instrumental in contacting many new outlets to publicize our show. The ladies that managed the kitchen and the food outdid themselves. We sold so much gumbo and pickles and the now famous chicken salad. So much food, so much work, so many workers! We even pressed Blanche's friend Sue into service. She was delightful!

Holy Week was beautiful. The palms for Palm Sunday were thanks to Anne Elam and Donna Dudley. Every service throughout the week was well attended and the culmination was a glorious Easter with two services. The lilies were beautiful thanks to Mack Russell and Blanche. Julia outdid herself with the flowers. She and Anne did a beautiful job! The food was great as usual. Thanks to Donna for our traditional milk and honey punch and to Mel for the champagne and orange juice.

The ECW was pleased to assist the Dauphin Island School again. We were able to give \$1,000 dollars to a fund to assist a member who has been seriously ill and has a fund at Bay Bank established to assist her. In addition we gave \$1,000 to the Ozanam Charitable Pharmacy which assists indigent people get the medicine they need. This is the kind of thing we do with the money we earn.

As you can see, we really have been busy. Now we look forward to a summer without oil on our beaches and I am sure more ways the energetic ladies of St. Francis ECW can serve. The St. Benedict group, which has named itself The Sisters of St. Francis are planning to go to Beckwith in May and become a Circle. They will meet other members of the Episcopal Community and see what other Circles are doing. Much more about this later.

Lamona Lucas, ECW Secretary

# *Calendar for 2011*

## **Holy Eucharist Rite II @ 10:30**

	<b>May 1 Second Sunday of Easter</b>	<b>May 8 Third Sunday of Easter</b>	<b>May 15 Fourth Sunday of Easter</b>	<b>May 22 Fifth Sunday of Easter</b>	<b>May 29 Sixth Sunday of Easter</b>
<b>Reader</b>	Anne Elam	John Porter	Pamela Felice	Cindy Smith	Anne Elam
<b>Chalice</b>	Julia Willis	Mary Porter	Linda Percival	Blanche Emerson	Julia Willis
<b>Ushers</b>	Walt & Marcia Hayes	Howard Fleming & Stella Anderson	Mack & Joy Russell	Wimberly Hory & Dan Griswold	Stella Anderson & Al Clark
<b>Refresh- ments</b>	Gail Opanowitz	Eugenia Carey	Marolyn Greene	Mary Hutchinson	Cindy Smith

### **Sunday School**

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

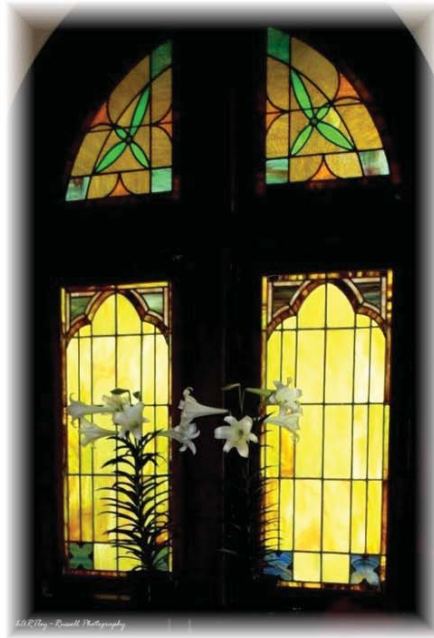
Children @ 9:30

### **Choir Practice Sunday @ 10:00 am**

### ***Dates to Remember***

<b>Vestry Meeting</b>	<b>Sunday, May 8 @ 11:45</b>
<b>ECW Meeting</b>	<b>Monday, May 9 @ 10:00</b>

# Easter







Mimosas and Wimberley's Cheese Straws Yumm!



Delicious Milk Punch!

# EASTER SWEETS!



Easter Eggs and other goodies!

