

St. Francis Episcopal Church



Newsletter - 2011

Church News and Announcements

NEWS FOR NOVEMBER

GLORIOUS, GLORIOUS, GLORIOUS!!!! That can just barely describe the weather on the first weekend of October! We actually had to dig out jackets and sweaters and oh, it felt so good after our really hot summer! It was also a beautiful Sunday to welcome Roger Porter to St. Francis for the next few monthshe is always welcome, we love his warm and caring demeanor and look forward to working with him. The Monarch butterflies are loving this weather also as they migrate through –it seems as if every bush is alive with their colorful wings. Joining the butterflies are acres of black-eyed susies and breezy goldenrod—in fields and ditches – showing their happy faces to all. John and Mary Porter are not so very happy right now as they are involved in a full scale war against squirrels! A lot of you know from experience that this is not an easily won war! Mary says one of those critters all but stuck his tongue out at her.... the “critter getter” has screened over every hole he can find but the squirrels seem to have found their secret entrance and have been having a ball in John’s workshop! On a much higher plain than the squirrels, it was such a delightful surprise to turn around in church on October 1st and see Mary Ely and Susan Ryan sitting there –looking spry and spiffy as usual. They are here to attend the festivities for a grandson’s wedding. Just love seeing them! Also loved seeing Lil and Stevie Tatum back with us ----they have moved back from Tuscaloosa so we hope to be seeing a lot of them. Also back is Joan Rockstad –just in time for the gumbo cooking!!!! Oh yes, that IS Judy Bogar you saw in church –we are so proud of her recovery –she worked like crazy to get that new knee adjusted to its new home so kudos to Judy!!!!

Linda and John Percival took advantage of the delightful weather to enjoy themselves in New Orleans for a few days. Then later in the month, they were off to frolic in Paris!!! Now

how fun is that? Gail and Paul Opanowitz returned from a visit with Tom and Mary in Tennessee –just had a wonderful time and report that Tom and Mary absolutely LOVE their home and time spent there. BUT we’ll be so glad to have them back here with us for a while! Also having a blast while on the high seas were Marolyn and Buddy Greene and Walt and Marcia Hayes as they all celebrated on one of the last cruises on the Elation. Calm seas, fabulous food, lots of talking and laughing kept this crew happy for sure. On a really BIG cruise are Mel and Lamona as they flew to Venice to board a ship for a month long cruise –returning on the QE2! Now while the Lucases are riding on the QE2, John Porter is riding a tractor (and loving it!). He and Mary spent the last weekend of October in Louisiana at the “Yellow Rails and Rice” festival –also explored some of the wildlife refuges in south Louisiana ---they look forward to this every year and had a great time!

I just love this story ----Howard Fleming and his dog – “Ugly” – have been attending a special school that will qualify them to visit hospitals and nursing homes... can’t you just see the happiness on faces as these two appear? Happy faces were in abundance on the 15th as the Art Trail and the combined meeting of the Alabama and Florida bird societies were all here on our island. More gorgeous weather was on hand as our island was packed with people enjoying themselves ----enjoying the art exhibits that were set up from Fort Gaines to Marti’s with side trips to mack ‘n’ dd’s and The Lighthouse Bakery--- and enough migrating birds to keep the birders interested. Surely, I think that Eugenia should have won the “Scarecrow” contest sponsored by the chamber ---Paul M. told Eugenia that Don was looking really bad out on Bienville – she needed to see to him! (for those who missed the scene, scarecrows on bicycles!) Big kudos to Kathryn Carver and Dena McKee as they seem to be the ones worked so hard to coordinate this event sponsored by the TDC. Proud of you, girls!!!!

News and Announcements (Cont.)

We are so happy for our Joy Russell as she is now working out of the new "Urgent Care" facility in front of Walmart ---actually this girl is quite in demand in other locations and at Providence --no wonder, sharp as a tack, good looks with all of that capability makes her a number one recruit. Anyway, we are happy that she is closer to us most of the time! (So is Mack!)

You know, cooking gumbo is usually a royal pain – meaning a TON of work for the cook - but NOT SO when one cooks at St. Francis! A large crowd, all ready to work and in good humor - showed up on the 20th/21st and 27th and 28th. Mother Nature could not have given us any more beautiful weather –you do know that the pots are cooked on burners on the breezeway so the weather plays quite an important part in this whole operation! The kitchen was going full blast as the chickens were chopped, the shrimp and crab picked through for shells -----stories and laughs exchanged –just a wonderful time together..... and the gumbo is DELICIOUS!!! ECW is selling the gumbo for \$18.00 a "seafood filled" quart and \$9.00 for a pint ---so get yours now! This is a wonderful "thinking of you" present or Christmas present or just to heat up and enjoy for dinner yourself!

How about Bill and Nancy Boyers coming from Hendersonville, Tenn to help us make gumbo? Also John and Marylee Dyson come from Iowa to do the same ----great couples and great help! Thank you!!!!

A welcoming sight on the last week of October was the multitude of oyster boats working in the Sound ---I understand that their catch is delicious and just the right size! Hope they save some to sell on the island and not ship them all off! Doesn't a Dauphin Island homegrown oyster on the half shell just make your mouth water?

Fun costumes, scary monsters and candy of every description were seen all over our island as trick or treaters of all ages scavenged for the goodies on a really chilly Halloween night! Several establishments featured/sponsored spooky events= so fun was had by all ages! Please deliver us from eating all that forbidden Halloween candy!

GOD IS SO VERY VERY GOOD! October has been a wonderful month ---friends are back to visit, new friends have shown up to work and play with us, the gumbo is once again finished, a welcomed cold front came down just in time to push hurricane Rina far away (we did not even have a scare of a hurricane this year) Jean Clark has played her guitar and sang for us each Wednesday Evening Prayer, Mary and Tom are back here with us -----yes, we have been very

Remember in Your Prayers

Jaylene Brooks Allen,	Carolyn Allender,	Sharon Beach,
Sue Beech, Jo Blount,		Patty Borman, Lida
Cotton, Brad Cox,		Amy Dodd, Eldon
Dugan, Ross Havard,		Jerry Hocutt, Alison
Lane Kasten, Jamie		Kent, Michael Lane,
Sandee Mackinaw,		Martha Mayson,
Jamelle Roy, Tommy		Watts, & those in
our armed forces;		Stacy Eubanks, & Stanley Robinson.



The Vicar's Remarks

Dear People of God,

Recently, I was reading the Bishop of Alabama's column in their diocesan newspaper and his words reminded me of some I have often preached and taught. I have said before, that we are to be Christ to one another; we are to seek Christ in others; we are sacraments to one another (an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace to others).

Bishop Parsley's words follow:

Each time we celebrate the Holy Eucharist, we remember the stories of the feeding of the crowds. They are Eucharistic stories, and our lives are meant to be Eucharistic lives. As Jesus took the loaves, blessed, broke and gave them, so are we to do with our lives.

He goes on to say:

When we do so, like Jesus, God's abundance is revealed in our scarcity. God's power is shown through our weakness. God's love is released through our poor hearts.

This does not mean that everything works out miraculously in our situations of need and challenge. Sometimes what we are given is simply strength to bear up under the disappointments of life and the courage to keep on giving ourselves in the midst of the storm. Sometimes loaves and fish are multiplied beyond our wildest dreams. But the abundance of God is always there. Often hidden, but there.

Our part is self-offering: the taking, the breaking, and the giving of ourselves. The rest is up to God. Faith trusts the good that God is preparing for us, both in this life and in the life to come. "Even at the grave, we make our song, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!"

When he invited the people to receive the consecrated bread at communion, Augustine of Hippo would often say,

"Be what you see;
Receive who you are."

Those words invite us to be the bread that we receive - our truest selves in Christ. They challenge us to live Eucharistic lives, lives of faithful self-offering in the service of the goodness and truth of God. For as we take our little lives and ask God to bless, break, and give them, things still happen that are beyond our wildest dreams.

And usually there is a lot left over.

I invite you to "Be what you see" and I challenge you to live Eucharistic lives.

Pax Christi !

Roy †

Report from The Vestry

VESTRY NOTES OCTOBER 2011

The Vestry met for a business meeting on October 9 with all members present. Mel Lucas, Senior Warden called the meeting to order and Julia Willis offered a prayer. Mel announced that the Annual Meeting would be on November 20 and requested that all reports from various ministries be submitted in written form to be included in the minutes. Lunch will be provided and Mel asked that reminders be included each week so we will have a good attendance. Two members of the Vestry will rotate off so Mel asked Stella Anderson and Dana Fleming to be getting nominations and suggestions. Delegates for the Diocesan Convention are elected at the Annual Meeting also.

Mel tabled the needed maintenance and repairs of our facilities until the pledges are in and we are able to see what the budget will be for the coming year. The committee will meet and assess the needs and establish priorities.

Julia brought up the status of the organ. The Pipe Organ Specialties of Laurel, Mississippi have evaluated the organ and will be submitting a proposal for repairing it. This too will depend on the budget.

Gail gave a financial report which was accepted as presented. She asked to add Julia as a signatory on the accounts held by Bay Bank. This was approved.

Dana agreed to accept the responsibility of heading up the 25th Anniversary events. She will get with John Porter who has collected and copied many original documents and has interviewed Jim Early and others. Hopefully a booklet, power point presentation, DVD or some keepsake can be produced to commemorate this important occasion.

Mary reported on the gumbo dates and the all important Bazaar November 19. I think these ladies are mighty energetic and I am sure they will need lots of help. They raise funds to serve the needs of the community and St. Francis is very grateful.

If you have not gotten your pledge in, please do. We are anxious to be able to prepare the budget and know better where we stand for the coming year. Many, many thanks to all of you for all that you do.

Mel Lucas, Senior Warden

Report from the Episcopal Church Women

ECW News:

The ECW monthly meeting was October 10, 2011 with seven ladies present. We opened with prayers, took care of monthly business quickly and proceeded to make plans for the Fall Bazaar – November 19th – from 9:00 am til 2:00 pm. Any time our ECW organizes an event it takes a lot of planning, coordination and dedicated church members to make it successful! We are extremely fortunate to have so many members who are willing to give their time and talents for the different processes involved. If one picture is worth a thousand words then the pictures included in this newsletter are “priceless.” Martha describes the **Gumbo Making** far better than I, but let me reiterate everything she said. It is an experience that almost defies describing!

John & I just returned from a wonderful trip to Southwest Louisiana where we did a lot of bird watching. One day we were privileged to find a large flock of American Avocets in a small pond by one of the county roads. These beautiful birds have long thin upturned bills that they use to sweep through the shallow waters to stir up the crustaceans and other delicacies they like to eat. When these birds “group feed” they appear to be marching in a circle with heads down sweeping their bills from side to side. It is indeed a sight to appreciate and remember forever. The point of this seemingly unrelated story is to demonstrate how the cooperation and coordination used by these birds makes “dinner” so much easier. Please do not think that I am comparing St. Francis members to a flock of birds, but it did make me think of the efforts expended by so many people to accomplish the task of making all the gumbo, casseroles, pickles, etc. in order be able to raise money to help our community. TEAM is often used as an acronym for “Together Everyone Accomplishes More.” We at St. Francis certainly have team work! Thank you everyone.

So, mark your calendars, tell your friends, bake a cake or other delectable deserts, candies, whatever is your specialty. The “Bring Your Own Garage Sale” will be \$10.00 per spot on the front lawn. Participants should bring their own table, chairs, and items to sell and take home what is not sold! This has been a huge success for the last two years. No registration – no reservations – first come first served for great spots!

St. Francis Fall Bazaar
November 19, 2011 – 9:00 am – 2:00 pm
Gumbo, Casseroles, Pickles, Baked Goods!

The next ECW Meeting is November 14, 2011 – 10:00 – Wilkins Hall. We hope to see you there!

Mary Porter
ECW President

Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. Show hospitality to one another without grumbling

1 Peter 4:8-9

Fall Gumbo Preparation



Putting it all Together!







Photos courtesy: hARTley-russell & John Porter

Calendar for 2011

Holy Eucharist Rite II @ 10:30 am

	November 6	November 13	November 20	November 27
Reader	Jean Clark	Diane Hall	John Porter	Julia Willis
Chalice	Linda Percival	Blanche Emerson	Mary Porter	Lamona Lucas
Ushers	Marcia & Walt Hayes	Al Clark & Wimberly Hory	Leo Jones & Jo McPhearson	Mack & Joy Russell
Refreshments	Dana Fleming	Ann Warmack	Annual Meeting	Gail Opanowitz

Wednesday Evening Prayer Service @ 5:00 pm

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

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	November 13 @ 11:45 am
ECW Meeting	November 14 @ 10:00 am
Annual Meeting	November 20 @ 12:00 pm
Men's Breakfast	November 27 @ 9:00 am