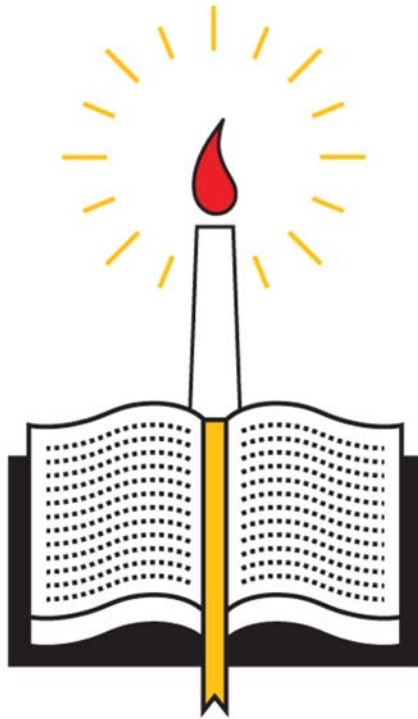


St. Francis Episcopal Church



Newsletter - October 2011

Church News and Announcements

NEWS FOR OCTOBER

Well, a life lesson learned anew! Be careful what you pray for!!! Remember, last month when I said that some of us had prayed for a “mini” hurricane? Well, that’s just what we got on Labor Day weekend --the upside was that we needed that soaking rain so badly --the down side is that a lot of family/ friends plans had to be changed. Despite all the news warnings -our island did not flood - run off happened quickly! To say that Saturday was a good day to watch football is an understatement. Linda Percival called from Philadelphia to harass Paul about the Auburn fans that left early from what they thought was a losing game. Lesson learned the hard way when Auburn mounted an exciting comeback to win! Then on Tuesday, 6, God blessed us with THE MOST GORGEOUS day - it was a real fall day - crisp, cool and clear! inside work be darned, get outside and enjoy the day!!! Actually we enjoyed over a week of gorgeous weather ... cool mornings, warm mid days and then really cool breezes in late afternoon!

Couple of fun birthdays this month - Wimberly’s family and friends showed her a great time for her big day... Lunch at the country club with dear friends and then on Thursday, Barbara Hory and Wimberly’s daughter Ellen treated Stella, Blanche and Wimberly to a Five Rivers Delta Cruise, followed by lunch at Felix’s. Some jerk “rear ended” Stella as she was coming into Felix’s -- then took off at about 70 miles per hour - thankfully, Stella and Blanche were fine, car a little dinged. Then on Sunday the 18th, Jim Early celebrated his 90th birthday! Linda Miller, who had “cookies for the day” really outdid herself with some of Jim’s favorite foods - a beautiful cake, and Champaign punch – voices were raised in a joyful version of

“Happy Birthday.” Jim is amazing - fine physical shape, mind sharp as a tack, very articulate and a fixture in the choir with his marvelous voice!

Hope you all have had a chance to read September’s issue of Mobile Bay Monthly - a wonderful piece - “Dauphin Island Revisited” is a treat to read. The photography is outstanding and I loved Dena McKee’s quote, “It’s (Dauphin Island) a place of community spirit, beaches and art festivals”..... Dena’s remarks include the St. Francis Art Festival in a fun and different way. Of course, the birding is an addictive pastime for people from all over the country. Speaking of such -we’ve been invaded by hummingbirds! Those colorful little scutters are emptying feeders all over the place and providing fascinating aerobatics! Then Eugenia was excited about having about 12 Baltimore Orioles “bathing” in her yard! All of these are signs that we need to clean up those binoculars, grab our bird books, open our eyes and ears - fall migration will be here any time now!

Dana and Howard Fleming are off enjoying visiting friends and family in the Carolinas and in Ohio - we miss that great couple! Kudos to another great and talented couple – Al and Jean Clark; Jean not only sings in our choir each Sunday but on most Wednesdays she sings from the balcony those wonderful old hymns and chants. I was the object of Al’s gift of teaching relaxation earlier this month - I was very anxious about passing a test and he and Jean came to our home and shared their instruction on relaxing and meditation with Paul and me. These two have extremely full schedules at University of South Alabama yet find the time to eagerly give their time to Dauphin Island Little Red School -- ah, by the way, I passed the test without a qualm and Paul is traveling

News and Announcements (Cont.)

on Airport Blvd. in a much nicer attitude! Thanks to Al! Kudos also go to Dave Miller -- this talented artist was asked permission by the city to display his Sand Island Lighthouse painting on a billboard! Congratulations, Dave - this is a huge compliment to you! Thanks really go to Mel and his "cooks and bottle washers" for their delicious and well attended breakfasts on the last Sunday of each month... forget those diets - enjoy those scrambled eggs and cheese grits.

We are so thankful that Judy Bogar is recovering nicely from knee surgery and that Bob Willis is recovering from his new pacemaker implant. How special it was that we could pray so personally on Wednesday Evening Prayer. Julia is very thankful that daughter, Stephanie, came to help with Bob -- she always does Julia a world of good! Isn't our Blessed Lord so very good to us? It's THAT time of year and once again Linda Percival's Phillies are sitting pretty and ready to take the series again.... oh well. On a sad note, our sympathy and prayers go up for Sally Czepiel in the loss of Tom. Sally and Tom enjoyed a life of caring and traveling - besides Tom running a successful business (Scott Paper).

Now, if the World Series is looming, so is

the time for cooking our St. Francis gumbo! We'll be gathering on the 20th, 21st and the 27th and 28th of October for our chopping, stirring, laughing, talking and visiting and then celebrating when the last quart is filled! This time is not only good for the cooking but for bonding together -- and you know we can never bond too much! This is an especially good time for St. Francis - all of you are invited to come participate - choppers, stirrers and tasters are always needed -and of course, we have to have our "peanut gallery!" (Opinions are always welcome!)

Just a word about me -Your "lovin", prayers, cards, calls and emails have paid off in spades! My feeding tube was removed on the 14th -THANK YOU, SWEET JESUS! I still have a way to go with treatment but this was a huge step and you all were such a part of it! Not one day goes by that I do not receive some word of encouragement and support - HOW in the world can I say THANK YOU? Paul and my family join me in saying. "Thank You" --- You have been so wonderful! _ me

Remember in Your Prayers

Louis & Alec Alcoser, Jaylen Brooks Allen, Carolyn Allender, Pamela Andrews, JoAnn Bailey, Sharon Beach, Cruse, Matthew Delaney, Allen Foster, Glenn Foster, Havard, Ron & Darlene Samantha Klein, Alison Lane naw, Martha Mayson, Win gomery, Marianne Russell, Watts, Gabriel Wilkes, Rev.



&

Those in our armed forces: Stacy Eubanks, John Boone, & Stanley Robinson

The Vicar's Remarks

Dear People of God,

As you read this, by now I have begun my sabbatical until Christmas Eve. During this time I will be involved in a number of spiritual exercises from silent retreats to some exciting possibilities at Camp Beckwith. Sabbatical time is an ancient tradition in the Church and from our Judeo-Christian heritage. Its origin is accounted for in a double way. According to Exodus, it represents the rest God took on the seventh day from His work of creation, whereas according to Deuteronomy, it is apparently kept in remembrance of the deliverance from Egypt. The Sabbath serves a twofold purpose of being a day set apart for worship of God as well as for the rest and recreation of man.

The Sabbatical Year (every 7 years) required the land to remain fallow and all debtors and Israelite slaves to be freed. There was also the Year of Jubilee when Jewish slaves regained their freedom and land reverted to its former owner.

From this the Church historically set aside a Jubilee Year for a time of special indulgence and from that, in modern times, in the Church and in academia, the Sabbatical year has been granted every seventh year for rest, travel, study and/or research. The Bishop being aware that I have been in place for over 10 years has granted me a sabbatical time for rest, reflection, research, and spiritual growth and re-creation.

I have not abandoned you, as Fr. Roger Porter and others from St. Paul's will cover for me for Sunday Holy Eucharist and emergencies. During this period of time, I ask you to reflect on the future of St. Francis and your vision for the parish. Seeking discernment during this time, I also ask that you would pray for me that God will guide and lead me into a deeper understanding of His will for me and the future of St. Francis.

May God bless you and your ministry in this place as we continue to build the Kingdom of God together.

Pax Christi !

Roy†

Would you like to ???

Have your cell phone listed on the St. Francis mailing list?? This would give us an opportunity to get in touch with you in case of an emergency or when you are off of the island. If you would like to be included, please add your name and number to the list on the table in Wilkins Hall that has the flower list and mailing list. Any questions? Call Mary Porter, 861-2120 or 205-516-2602. If you would like to email the number please send to maryflintporter@gmail.com

Report from The Vestry

VESTRY NOTES SEPTEMBER 2011

The Vestry met on September 11 and after Father Roy opened the meeting with prayer, Mel called on the Junior Warden's report. Paul reported that the cement barriers on the parking lot have been painted yellow for safety. He also reported that the leaks in the men's bathroom have been repaired and the floor stabilized. The area around the storage building has been cleaned and re-seeded and loose porch boards secured. The inside flood light for the stained glass window has been repaired and put on a timer. Paul asked questions concerning bids and it was reaffirmed that all work costing over \$500.00 must have 2-3 bids if possible and be approved by the Vestry. If it is impossible to get bids or necessity requires, decisions will be made by the Vestry.

Julia reported that the carpet is scheduled to be cleaned and she provided a cleaning schedule for the housekeeper which was approved. She will check off the items as completed and sign the sheet which will provide the invoice to the Treasurer to be paid.

It was discussed and approved to put arc lights in our front oak trees hooked to switches in the Church and in Wilkins Hall with a 5 minutes delay after being turned off. This will give us light for safety for after-dark activities. It was also discussed and approved to replace all the water faucets in our three rest rooms. They are corroded and leaking.

The Junior Warden asked to have the buildings repaired and repainted and the porches replaced with Trex and cement steps. He also asked to have the inside taped, spackled and repainted. Mel appointed a committee consisting of the Junior Warden, Mack Russell, and the Senior Warden to obtain and review bids and present them to the Vestry for consideration.

Gail gave the Treasurer's report and pointed out that we are spending out of our reserves since our contributions are down and our expenses are up. Please be mindful of this when you consider your pledges to St. Francis next month. Her report was approved as presented.

Lamona Lucas reported for Mary Porter that ECW had held a very successful covered dish supper enjoyed by our members and their guests. They are cooking gumbo two times in October and are holding the Fall Bazaar in November. They are busy ladies.

Lamona also reported that the Sisters of St. Francis, our local circle of the Episcopal Community is studying hard and the new group has begun their study of St. Benedict.

The Annual Meeting was set for November 20th. Elections for Vestry will be held and Delegates to the Convention appointed at that time. Lunch will be provided. Please plan to be there

Mel Lucas, Senior Warden.

A note from the Editor.

Just a reminder! We are continuing to encourage e-mail subscriptions to the newsletter, saving paper, ink and postage!

Just send an e-mail to dibirder@gmail.com with the subject: ***Subscribe St. Francis Newsletter*** and you'll get your next issue hot off the press...

Report from the Episcopal Church Women

ECW News:

The ECW monthly meeting was September 12, 2011 with nine ladies present. We were all so pleased to have Connie Johnson join us.

A very special thanks to a very special man: – Thank you Jim Early for letting us celebrate your 90th birthday on September 18th. Everyone had so much fun – as you can tell from the pictures (compliments of Mack and Joy Russell) and from Martha's narrative. Jim's daughter, Anne Heffernan was there to help us celebrate and all in all it was a great party!

As our wonderful migratory birds are moving though Dauphin Island to go south for the winter, the seasons are slowly changing – days are shorter, nights are longer and soon it will be cooler. Along with the seasonal reminders of change some things can be counted on to remain the same. Gumbo and Casserole making time! Wimberly and Blanche have been busy making lists, plans and recruiting help for October 20th and 21st and October 27th and 28th. Please try to help this wonderful crew of dedicated women and men who work so hard for the benefit of St. Francis. The result of all of this hard work raises funds that support local charities and families. In September we were able to support the Salvation Army, The Bay Area Food Bank and several local projects.

November 19th is the date for our annual Fall Bazaar where we will have a variety of goods to help stock your freezers and pantries for the upcoming holidays – gumbo, casseroles, cakes, cheese straws and other tasty goodies. We are also sponsoring the "Bring Your Own Garage Sale" again this year. If you have items you would like to sell just gather them up, bring a table and chairs and find a spot on the St. Francis lawn. This has proved to be a big success – no registration or reservations – first come, first to get a spot and all for only \$20.00. What you do not sell you are asked to please take home with you.

The next ECW Meeting is October 10, 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

Jim's 90th Birthday Celebration





Russell Photography



hARTley - Russell Photography





Calendar for 2011

Holy Eucharist Rite II @ 10:30 am

	October 2	October 9	October 16	October 23	October 30
Reader	Linda Miller	John Porter	Jean Clark	Diane Hall	Kathryn Carver
Chalice	Linda Percival	Lamona Lucas	Julia Willis	Mary Porter	Blanche Emerson
Ushers	Joan & John Lane	Mel Lucas & Jo McPhearson	Al Clark & Wimberly Hory	Stella Anderson & John Porter	Mack & Joy Russell
Refreshments	Kathryn Carver	Julia Willis	Mary Hutchinson	Jean Clark	Cindy Smith

Wednesday Evening Prayer Service @ 5:00 pm

Litany for the Gulf of Mexico

October 5	October 12	October 19	October 26
Linda Percival	Lamona Lucas	Mary Porter	Blanche Emerson

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	Oct. 9 @ 11:45am
ECW Meeting	Oct. 10, @ 10:00am
Men's Breakfast	Oct. 30, @9:00am