

# The Vicar's Message

Dear People of God,

Recently, a group of women (headed by Lamona Lucas) asked me about organizing a chapter of The EPISCOPAL COMMUNITY here at St. Francis. The Episcopal Community is a community of Episcopal Church women nation-wide who take a vow (not unlike nuns or monks, but non-monastic) to observe the Rule of the Community:

“The purpose of the community is to help build up the spiritual life of its members by being a part of a vowed community and by providing resources to help its members and their congregations of the Episcopal Church extend the Kingdom of God as revealed in and through Jesus Christ. We intend to carry out our purpose through praying, sharing, studying, and serving.” ( Article II)

With my blessing, they have begun the process to approach the Bishop for permission to organize. Some of our women have already begun to practice and seek guidance from God to follow the Rule of St. Benedict (The focus of The Rule is, “how to live in loving relationship with God, self, and others.” The center of The Rule is Christ, the cornerstone is scripture) and to live out their Baptismal vows seeking a deeper relationship with God, which is something we all need to do.

It is my belief that they will provide a model of a spiritual life that will be an inspiration to all of us. They will be praying for us daily, let us keep them in our prayers as they begin their Holy journey.

Yours in Christ,

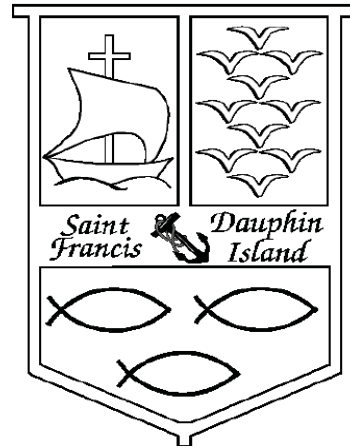
Roy†

## Reminder

Children's Sunday School starts again Sunday, Sept. 12, 9:30 - 10:15 except for Men's Breakfast Sunday.

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

## Newsletter September 2010 St. Francis Episcopal Church



The Rev. Dr. Walter LeRoy Elam, 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!**

## Accepting the Challenge

On Thursday, September 23 a program “ACCEPTING THE CHALLENGE” will be held in Wilkins Hall, St. Francis Episcopal Church beginning at 9 AM, ending at noon.

This program is for anyone who is involved with, or caring for, or knows of people who have dementia, or Alzheimer's. The four, 45 minute segments will explain the symptoms of the diseases, communication skills, evaluating their cognitive levels, and meaningful days (activities and problem behavior).

Jane Shrivner, Exec Dir. Somerby of West Mobile will present this comprehensive informational program with the showing of DVD's. Time will be allowed for a question and answer discussion of each segment.

To RSVP or for more information call Julia Willis @ 861-5100.

## ECW News

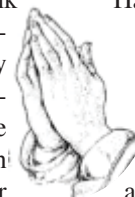
### Good News!

ECW monthly meetings will resume  
September 13, 2010; 10:00 in Wilkins Hall!  
Lamona Lucas will preside.  
Please join us!

Mary Porter, ECW Interim Treasurer

## Remember in your Prayers:

Ross Havard, Glenn Foster, Caroline Hall, Clifford Kircus, Marolyn Greene, Helen Wilson, Hetty Cunningham, Frank Hawkins, John Cruse, Hap Myers, Marieanne Russell, Carolyn Allender, Betty Torbert, Jan Zirlott, Walt Hayes, Tillie Semple, Dodie Fly, Darlene Hansen, Brian Opanowitz, John Lane, Ann Bridges and those in our armed forces, especially Stacy Eubanks, John Boone and Stanley Robinson.



### From the Editor:

To receive your newsletter by e-mail please send an e-mail to: John Porter, [dibird@gmail.com](mailto:dibird@gmail.com) with the subject “subscribe St. Francis Newsletter.” This will save the postage.

Also... Visit our website where you will get all the news and more: <http://www.stfrancisdi.com>  
You'll really enjoy this!

## Church News & Announcements

### NEWS FOR SEPTEMBER

What a treat when we opened the Mobile Press on Sunday, the first day of August!!! There smiling at us were our very own Ann Warmack, Wimberly and Anne Elam! Then inside on the front page of Metro Section was a large picture of the trio and a very nice write up about the sale of Save our Shore ---Save our Gumbo tee shirts, caps and aprons. We especially thank Mack and Joy Russell for their hard work in getting the items here and for being so generous to St. Francis. The shopping skills of Lamona and Eugenia certainly paid off as they used some of these "profits" to fill a shopping list for students at the Little Red School House! This endeavor seems as if it will become a prime target for the generosity of the ECW and our St. Francis members! Also on the 1st, the Walt Hayes contingent was in full force as Walt and Marcia ushered, grandson, Jimmy Mackin acolyted and granddaughter, Ryan, baked and decorated TWO cakes for our coffee hour! That's what I call family participation!!!! We are all enjoying having Jimmy and Stevie Tatum acolyting for us on Sundays ---they are both doing a wonderful job! By the way, Mack and Joy's daughter, Harper, is once again starring in a commercial -- this is for a saving and loan deal that I don't think we get down here but there is Marianne cute and fun as she can be!

Tom and Mary headed for the hills of Tennessee for a getaway while Stella headed to her cabin near An-niston for a respite from the heat -- don't know if anyone is able to escape this horrible heat -- the weather map shows all of the southeast in dark red for extreme heat!!! Yikes --- Blanche is off to Annapolis to babysit Miss Lottie while her parents are off, Linda Percival is off to Hilton Head, the Millers are back from North Carolina and Al and Jean Clark are off enjoying life on some exotic cruise!!!! John and Mary headed for Maggie Valley in North Carolina for some R & R -- We enjoyed having Sarah and Garry Phillips when Sarah preached this month also -- we look forward to hearing her again on Labor Day weekend! Blanche is happy as a lark entertaining Caroline and Michelle with fishing and crabbing for a long weekend.

Hooray for Dave and Linda Miller once again----the August issue of Mobile Bay Monthly features this talented couple -- showing quite a bit of their art and an interesting write-up about them. It's a huge compliment to them and their art! Now isn't St. Francis

becoming a beehive of celebrities this summer?

One of the best ideas to come from the vestry retreat -- held August 7th at the Lucas's -- was to record our service each Sunday, have CDs available for those who could not attend or whomever would like to have one -- our resident "techie," John Porter, will look into the cost and finer details of this endeavor -- do hope that we can pull this off! Also St. Francis is sporting a shiny new sidewalk along Key Street -- extending some 30 feet beyond the old, cracked and dangerously bumpy one!!! Paul Opanowitz did the leg work on this and we thank him.

One interesting sidenote to the heat we've endured --- ( we have now had some wonderful cooling rain showers )--- is that God has blessed us with just marvelous cloud formations ---white puffy giants against a blue blue sky -- makes one want to just stand and gaze! --Hypnotic!

A very sad note to end the month was news that Glay Maggard died on the 26th. We have so enjoyed having Glay and Lois as part of our family and have diligently prayed for him as he struggled with his treatments through these last few years. Lois has been a real trooper and a loving and supportive partner for Glay.

Hey Noah! Bring the ark!!!! This last weekend we have been flooded!!! Street and ditches overflowing --thunder, lightning, all that fun stuff! Our St. Francis is so very cozy when it rains like this -- a steady drumming on the metal roof, candles lit, music -- makes the rain so special!

Well, Mel and his merry band of cooks have once again fed us --delicious pancakes this time -- so it must mean the end of the month! I can truthfully say that most of us will be happy to see August go -- the cooling rain on this weekend is so very nice ---Football season begins Labor Day weekend -- we'll be Christmas shopping before long -- the oil in the gulf seems not nearly so daunting -- a lot of questions as to the long range harmful effects on seafood-- however, our family continues to enjoy fish, shrimp and crabs! -- Our Wednesday evening prayer liturgy has been meaningful to those attending, we've had no hurricane scares so all in all --LIFE IS GOOD!!!! We miss all of you who aren't here -- let us hear from you! God is blessing each and every one of us! - martha

Services - September	
<b>Wednesday Evening Prayer @5:00PM</b> <b>Litany for the Gulf Oil Crisis</b> Martha Mayson	1
<b>Adult Sunday School @ 9:30 AM</b> Choir Practice @ 9:45am <b>Holy Eucharist Rite II @ 10:30AM</b> 1st Lesson - John Porter 2nd Lesson - Mary Porter Ushers - Walt & Marcia Hayes Refreshments - Kathryn Carver	5
<b>Wednesday Evening Prayer @5:00PM</b> <b>Litany for the Gulf Oil Crisis</b> Blanche Emerson	8
<b>Adult Sunday School @ 9:30 AM</b> Children's Sunday School @ 9:30am Choir Practice @ 9:45am <b>Holy Eucharist Rite II @ 10:30AM</b> 1st Lesson - Linda Percival 2nd Lesson - Chris Ashcraft Ushers - Mel & Lamona Lucas Refreshments - Ann Warmack <b>Vestry Meeting @ 11:45</b>	12
<b>Wednesday Evening Prayer @5:00PM</b> <b>Litany for the Gulf Oil Crisis</b> Lamona Lucas	15
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<b>Wednesday Evening Prayer @5:00PM</b> <b>Litany for the Gulf Oil Crisis</b> Mary Porter	22
<b>Men's Breakfast @ 9:00 AM</b> Choir Practice @ 9:45am <b>Holy Eucharist Rite II @ 10:30AM</b> 1st Lesson - Cindy Smith 2nd Lesson - Martha Mayson Ushers - Bob & Cindy Smith Refreshments - Dana Flemming	26
<b>Wednesday Evening Prayer @5:00PM</b> <b>Litany for the Gulf Oil Crisis</b> Frank Hawkins	29

***Dates to Remember:***  
**Sept. 12 - Vestry Meeting @ 11:45am**  
**Sept. 13 - ECW Meeting @ 10:00am**  
**Sept. 26 - Men's Breakfast @ 9:00am**

## From the Vestry

VESTRY NOTES AUGUST 2010

I am so happy to be able to report to you that your Vestry has been busy. I know you join me in being pleased over our new sidewalk. Paul Opanowitz worked on that Julia Willis has been working with the contractor to regrade and gravel the parking area. Thanks to both of these vestry members for their hard work.

The annual audit has been completed thanks to David Miller, Paul Mayson and Howard Flemming. As usual the books were in perfect shape and they complimented Gail on a job well done. Our thanks to all of these members.

We finally had our vestry retreat. Father Massey Gentry came to lead us in our planning. He brought a lot of good information about the Episcopal church and the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast which helped us to put the needs of our parish in perspective. He discussed trends, the demographics of our Island population and our challenges specifically. We all agreed we need some practical guidelines more than we need a 5 year plan. Much discussion in the group came up with these and other ideas:

We want to get the latest census to analyze our population and our potential for growth and outreach.

We plan to explore possibilities for digital outreach. Maybe we can record the liturgy for use by homebound. Maybe we can make available on the internet. Technology can also be used to assist the hearing impaired in our services.

We discussed the need for lay services needed beyond pastoral services provided by the Vicar.

We discussed the need for another retreat similar to the Women's Retreat held last time. This time we want it to be open to everyone. (Julia has asked Sarah Phillips who said she would love to do just that, so expect to hear more on this)

We brainstormed how to increase Sunday School and the need for expanded space.

We talked about alternate ways of fundraising.

One thing we know, our St. Francis family will work hard to strengthen our parish. We care about each other and we love our Island. We all want to improve on our outreach efforts and continue to welcome visitors and new members. We will look for ways we can minister to the needs so evident at this time in our community.

We approved three new Chalice Bearers and Father Roy will be training them to begin serving soon.

Mel Lucas, Senior Warden