

# *St. Francis Episcopal Church*



**Newsletter - September 2011**

# Church News and Announcements

2011 NEWS FOR SEPTEMBER

So what's new pussy-cat? It is still hot as Hades – Paul and I saw a sign on Hillcrest Road in front of a Baptist church that said – “Satan called and he wants his weather back”! Sssh, don't tell this but a bunch of us were heard to say that we wouldn't mind just a SMALL hurricane --- daughter Julie in Tampa bemoans the fact that they have rain every night and every day, streets are flooded ---oh well, c'est la vie! Now with Irene hauling it up the East coast, maybe I better retract that statement!!! Just pray for a really good rain storm --- soon!

Stella escaped only a bit of the heat as she spent some fun time at the lake cabin --- Bill Boyer showed up at Evening Prayer saying that Dauphin Island felt just like Nashville! John and Mary Porter loaded up and left for North Carolina – with a fun stop in Lexington,, Kentucky to help one of John's grandsons celebrate his marriage. Sue Pond had an amazing trip to Cambodia --- ask her about it! Linda and Dave Miller are loving being grandparents to their cute Gracie from Atlanta... this is a good thing for them as they “recover” from being robbed by a vagrant on the island! Jean and Al returned from their fun cruise just in time to wash their clothes and pack again for their trip to Virginia. These two have to pack a lot of activity in as school begins in just a few weeks! Eugenia and Don packed themselves up and headed up to Cheaha park (north Alabama) hoping to cool off! Fred Cushing “cooled off” while on an Elation cruise to the Caribbean. Charles and Scoot Rutherford hoped to cool off more than they did in North Carolina – fun trip however.

Speaking of John Porter ----that wonderful

man's picture was all over the Mobile Press Register --- John and Ralph Havard walking through the bird sanctuary and then a close up of them talking. As usual, John did a superb job of explaining how the partnership between the Dauphin Island Bird Sanctuaries and Weeks Bay Foundation will provide perpetual care and protection for the habitat and the birds. He also explained the importance of our island as a major stopover for migratory birds.

We received news on the 11th that Max Sowers had passed away. This likeable man struggled these last few years and we are glad that he at last is at peace. Our prayers and sympathy go to Marilyn and her family. Also our prayers and sympathy go to the family of Evelyn Hudson, who passed away. Evelyn was a loyal member of the choir for many years. Special prayers and sympathy go to John and Mary Porter as John's youngest son, David, passed away while they were in North Carolina.

Now, what in the world is more fun than a new puppy? Paul and I are finding that we are pretty trainable by a 8” high, less than one pound, 8 week old maltese/shitsui! Its just like bringing a newborn home from the hospital --- only you don't have to housetrain a baby! Peppy is the new Mayson that is bringing so much fun and laughter. Then, my word! You really should go see Joy and Mack Russell's gorgeous standard poodle! She is the most beautiful dog I have ever seen -- she watches over Mack when he is at Mack & DD's... so venture in and see her!

On the 27th, Eugenia outdid herself with the decorations for the covered dish supper... the theme was “Tropical Breeze”

## News and Announcements ( Cont.)

so imagine pastel colored table clothes, palm leaves, leis and flower petals on every table. A huge crowd enjoyed this scene and all of the fabulously delicious food brought by those attending – of course, the fried chicken provided by the ECW was a hit as always! This crowd can certainly, cook, eat and enjoy themselves!

You will enjoy the new addition to our courtyard --- Stella's children gave a good looking Charleston bench in her honor for her 80th birthday --- now would you ever guess that Stella is 80? Never!!! The bench looks as if it were made for its place and we thank the Anderson children for being so thoughtful! Blanche replanted some of the pots there with bright marigolds and Gerber daisies --- the garden is a very happy place! Once again, THANK YOU to everyone who works to keep St. Francis looking her best.

Julia Willis has provided some most interesting history and insights into the Celtic people and that religion as the Sisters meet to study , learn and pray together. What a blessing it is that God gave us the precious gift of friendship, understanding and bonding. ( I should add that we have also shared some hilarious times together).

A few of God's wonderful blessings to notice: colorful and happy zinnias and the refreshing smell of fresh mint! Add especially dear friends to this mix, and honey, YOU ARE BLESSED!!!

As the heat of August continues, we all need a blessing --- let's open our senses and hearts to others during these dog days. We don't wish ill on others but we are very blessed that Hurricane Irene chose not to visit the gulf coast. Our sympathies go out to those on the east coast as they face her consequences.

Maybe, just maybe, we'll be blessed with some much needed rain and cooler temps in September--- I know it IS September but we can hope and pray we receive these blessings! Let's go for it! martha

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### Remember in Your Prayers

Louis & Alec Alcoser, Carolyn Allender, Pamela Andrews, JoAnn Bailey, Jo Blount, Dick Cobbs, Nancy Cox, John Cruse, Matthew Delaney, Eldon Dugan, Ron Fillingim, Allen Foster, Glenn Foster, Marolyn Greene, Caroline Hall, Ross Havard, Ron & Darlene Hansen, Fr. John Hicks, Samantha Klein, Alison Lane Kasten, Michael Lane, Sandee Mackinaw, Martha Mayson, Win McGowin, Bobbie Meade, Ann Montgomery, Marianne Russell, Cindy Smith, Bill Swinford, Molly Valentine, Gabriel Wilkes, Rev. Ellis Wilkins



&

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

## The Vicar's Remarks

Dear People of God,

I recently saw this article by the Rev. Peter Hopkins in *The Anglican Digest* and thought it worth sharing:

### Love Actually

Jesus said, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another" (John 13:34). But how, in practice, can we be more loving in everyday relationships?

#### Listening:

First we need to listen to others, just as Jesus did. He asked questions of people and waited for them to process their answer. According to James, "everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry" (James 1:19). You can become more loving by listening more to those around you. When someone is talking, try resisting the urge to jump in with a comment, but say, "tell me more!" Too often, we don't listen to others as we are already thinking of what we want to say before they've finished speaking. Listening takes time; you can't rush it !

#### Touching:

Jesus reached out to touch the untouchables in his world including lepers, the sick and children. That was completely out of character for rabbis of his day. In one reported survey, it was discovered that we all need at least eight to ten meaningful touches each day to maintain emotional health ! A warm handshake, touch on the arm, or hug can be of real value. Of course, it should be appropriate touch - helpful for the other person, not just for ourselves.

#### Speaking:

Jesus often spoke to those he came into contact with, using words of grace and truth: "the Word became flesh ... full of grace and truth" (John 1:14). In the course of our everyday relationships, we all have the opportunity of speaking words of grace, including offering comfort, giving encouragement, or expressing care and concern. However we should also be prepared to speak words of truth - asking for forgiveness, seeking reconciliation, or addressing conflict. These are the things which we all try to avoid addressing, however Paul encourages us to be "speaking the truth in love" (Ephesians 4:15), literally "truthing in love."

Pax !

Roy †

## Report from The Vestry - July

### VESTRY NOTES AUGUST 2011

The Vestry held a short business meeting on Sunday, August 20. After Father Roy opened with a prayer, the Vestry approved the very complete Audit Report prepared by the Audit Committee. Mel expressed appreciation for the work they did. Gail will send the report to the Diocese on time (as usual).

The next business was the acceptance of a lovely Charleston Bench presented to St. Francis by the children of Stella Anderson on the occasion of her birthday. It will be placed in our garden. The St. Francis family would like to express our appreciation for this lovely gift.

Finally, the Vestry reaffirmed that all gifts to St. Francis are accepted by the Vestry before they are accepted and placed. This is a good practice for us to remember

A reminder to you.....in the next month we will begin preparing the budget and you also need to be identifying eligible individuals interested in serving on the Vestry. This is a very serious service and I have been honored to serve.  
Mel, 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](mailto: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 August 8, 2011 with seven ladies present. After prayers and routine business were conducted, we all gave ourselves several pats on the back for the lovely reception we had for the Bishop.*

*ECW ladies know how to prepare for any type of occasion. The Pot Luck Dinner was a perfect example!! As Martha pointed out in her article, Eugenia Carey, our resident decorator, truly outdid herself with the theme of Tropical Breeze! It was extremely hot outside but once you stepped inside it was just like being on a tropical isle! We had so much fun! This is an event that we all look forward to – it is an opportunity to catch up on summer news and a promise that fall is getting closer. The food was all delicious – such a variety – it was difficult to choose! Well, some of us just tried to sample some of everything.*

*Hospitality and community are tenets of our ECW, and being able to provide a venue for members and friends to visit and enjoy each other's company is so important to us. Thanks to everyone who helped – as usual I do not want to mention names for fear of leaving out someone but I MUST mention Howard Fleming. He was there Saturday morning setting up tables and bringing chairs from the "shed" to Wilkins Hall and it was hot! Howard is a man of few words when he is working – he just gets the job done!*

*As I said last month, moving from one event to another: Mark your calendars for November 19, 2011. That is the date of our St. Francis Fall Bazaar -- gumbo, pickles, cakes and other goodies for sale and our 3rd annual "Bring Your Own Garage Sale." Stay tuned for more information about the gumbo making, how to help, etc.*

*The next ECW Meeting is September 12, 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*

*1Peter 4:8-9*

# POTLUCK SUPPER









# *Calendar for 2011*

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

	<b>September 4</b>	<b>September 11</b>	<b>September 18</b>	<b>September 25</b>
<b>Reader</b>	Linda Miller	Cindy Smith	Julia Willis	John Porter
<b>Chalice</b>	Blanche Emerson	Lamona Lucas	Linda Percival	Mary Porter
<b>Ushers</b>	Walt & Marcia Hayes	Mel Lucas & Stella Anderson	Al Clark & Wimberly Hory	Mack & Joy Russell
<b>Refreshments</b>	Lamona Lucas	Wimberly Hory	Linda Miller	Jo McPhearson

## **Wednesday Evening Prayer Service @ 5:00 pm**

### *Litany for the Gulf of Mexico*

<b>September 7</b>	<b>September 14</b>	<b>September 21</b>	<b>September 28</b>
Blanche Emerson	Linda Percival	Lamona Lucas	Mary Porter

## **Sunday School**

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

Children @ 9:30 am

## **Choir Practice Sunday @ 9:45 am**

### *Dates to Remember*

<b>Vestry Meeting</b>	<b>September 11 @ 11:45 am</b>
<b>ECW Meeting</b>	<b>September 12 @ 10:00 am</b>
<b>Men's Breakfast</b>	<b>September 25 @ 9:00 am</b>