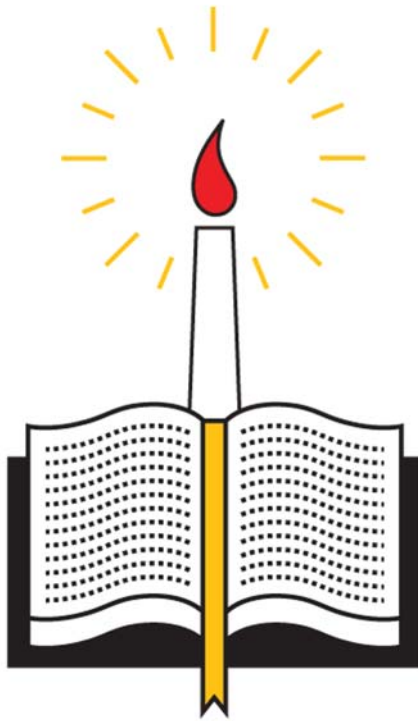


St. Francis Episcopal Church



Newsletter - April 2011

Church News and Announcements

NEWS FOR APRIL

Well, I guess you could say that March came in like a frisky lamb instead of a lion --- we definitely had those March winds but all in all, nice weather. We were all happy to see the circle of tulips on DIP –always a sure sign of spring ---- of course, so are the Lady Banks roses, the yellow jasmine – tiny green sprouts on bushes and trees! Oh, yes the camellias are absolutely breathtaking this year --- hope you've had the opportunity to "float" some in your home! Our island is also sporting a lot of spring breakers –families biking and beaching! Wimberly reports that the Welcome Center is busy, busy, busy! Golfers have been on the course almost every minute – enjoying not only the ideal weather but NO BUGS!!!! Theo and her group are making the very most of it --- good for them! The Blue Herons are building their huge nests –the purple martins are busy in their "apartments," several groups of Swallow Tailed Kites have been spotted – what a glorious site! Also the gulls are "singing on the pilings" –you DO know what that means! Azaleas are blazing, wisteria is trailing off trees --- our island is a paradise! These signs of spring also brought some fun and unusual reunions! Wimberly's granddaughter, Garland, and her ESPN coworkers were here Mardi Gras weekend for the high school football combine -- this fun and lively group of 15 had dinner at Ellen's (Wimberly's daughter) on Saturday night – devouring gallons of gumbo, jambalaya, and shrimp – ate everything but the huge salad!!! Anyway, each went home with a Mardi Gras bag of moon pies and beads which they loved! --- Southern hospitality going strong! Fun and interesting Mack 'n' dd's was the setting for a fun reunion ---Sue Pond's sister was visiting here with several friends and they were enjoying all of the delights in the shop. Somehow the name Greenville, Ala was mentioned , which by the way is

Joy's hometown – "friend" Joellyn asked if Joy remembered her 4 digit phone number, of course Joy did, then she asked if Joy remembered Joellyn's' number ---anyway, long story short, the group reunited with laughs and hugs, ate lunch together and then surprised me with a visit! Isn't life just wonderful! I know that Blanche's daughter Caroline and friend, Sarah, certainly think so as they visited on the most gorgeous weekend! I know they enjoyed walking from the public beach to the end of Pelican Island and back (about 5 miles) and I'm sure they fished! Bill and Nancy Boyers came down from Nashville to help with the gumbo cooking and then enjoyed having his daughter and granddaughter visit...so a lot of people are "catching rays" and then being amazed by the size of the "super moon" at night! A large group went to Fort Gaines to get a better view and did they ever get that! Joy Russell has some incredible pictures of this phenomenon. And then of course, on this fabulous weekend, there was March Madness ----if you're a basketball fan, you couldn't help but run in every chance to check out the really exciting games on TV! This is when you wish for a rainy weekend so you can innocently sit in front of the TV for hours ---And speaking of sitting –Mary and John Porter have done very little of that (sitting) this month! Fun family visits and active participation for the gumbo cook-off, the DI Woman's Club Silent Auction, getting ready for the St. Francis Art show and AOS have kept them jumping! How happy everyone was to see Linda and Dave Miller when they returned from a long stay in Florida! This talented couple always brings happiness to those around them and it's great to have them back here for a while! Also here for a visit was Marilyn Sowers --- she looks just grand –enjoyed her stay with Paul and Marlys Hohman for several weeks. We are happy for Mel and Lamona that they can get away for a little R & R – a circuit of

News and Announcements (Cont.)

the panhandle and ending up in Troy will certainly help them recover from a more than hectic and painful year! Stella really enjoyed being at the induction into the Alabama Hall of Fame of her sis-in-law - Evelyn Anderson – Miss Anderson suffered a paralyzing spinal injury as a child but ended up teaching from her wheelchair for over 20 years and traveling extensively. We are thankful that Al Clark and Linda Percival are recovering so nicely and we keep them in our prayers. Now as some returned, our snowbirds began leaving us! This is always an emotional time as they are such a part of our family here. The Bundes, Ridenauers, the Griswolds and the Fergusons all hit the road for home-- we thank them for all the many things they do for us---- besides that, they leave a big hole in our hearts as we miss them so.

Once again a fun and hardworking group showed up for gumbo cooking ----they did a super job and the gumbo is absolutely delicious. Lots of laughter and kidding, good old fashioned “bonding” make this endeavor quite a happy occasion! Hard working is exactly how we would describe Paul Opanowitz ---he works tirelessly on the St. Francis grounds, built the much needed shelves in the storeroom and then he and Gail cooked a delicious breakfast for everyone on the last Sunday!!! Thank you Paul And Gail!!!!

We’ve always known that St. Francis has that “special something” and Paul and I have experienced it at its best. Daily we are reminded of the love and caring for us –phone calls, meals brought (delicious ones), cards, offers to help, words of encouragements and love are making this journey so much easier and pleasant. As always, “thank you” is so very inadequate so we want you all to know that our daily prayers are full of thanksgiving and love for each of you.

We ask special prayers of love and comfort for Donna and McCune---they have given so much of themselves to St. Francis -- Donna has proved to be real trooper and McCune is fighting bravely. We ask God’s blessings on them. martha

Remember in Your Prayers

Carolyn Allender, Agnes Bancroft, Scooter Bancroft, Mike Bennett, Al Clark, Dick Cobbs, Nancy Connell, Brad Cox, John Cruse, Hetty Cunning- ham, Matthew Delaney, Eldon Dugan, Glenn Foster, Marolyn Greene, Cathy & Carl Ham- merdorfer, Ross Havard, Frank Hawkins, Clifford Kircus, Samantha Klein, Penny Minchu, Martha Mayson, Ann Montgom- eryl, Hap Myers, Jan Pul- liam, Marianne Russell, Tillie Semple, Cindy Smith, Betty Torbert, Molly Valentine, Gabriel Wilkes, Jan Zirlott



The Vicars Message

Dear People of God,

As we draw close to the end of Lent and the beginning of Holy Week with Jesus' triumphal entry and then the agony of Good Friday with the week's culmination on Easter and the joy of the Resurrection, let us not forget that Jesus calls us, as does the Church, to spiritual discipline and preparation. We heard on Ash Wednesday, "I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditation on God's holy Word. And, to make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now kneel before the Lord, our maker and redeemer." (BCP p.265) This invitation does not end with Lent. The Invitation before Communion Rite I says "Ye who do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins and are in love and charity with your neighbors, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in his holy ways: Draw near with faith, and make your humble confession to Almighty God, devoutly kneeling." (BCP p. 330) In Rite II, we are asked to

"... confess our sins against God and our neighbor." (BCP p. 360) Note, confession is a part of preparation before receiving the Body and Blood of Christ.

St. Paul is very clear that this (confession) is necessary before we approach the Altar of God:

"Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of profaning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine him or herself, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgement upon oneself." (I Cor.11: 27-29)

Confession has from the beginning been a part of Church discipline. (Note the Rite of The Reconciliation of a Penitent, in the Book of Common prayer p. 446 and following). "Confession is good for the soul," they say. Indeed, a spiritual discipline of confession, either a daily recollection of your sins or a sacramental confession with a priest is a hallmark of a soul being trained by the cross: dying to sin and growing in grace.

You see, even Jesus endured the discipline of the cross. And it's the same for all of us who bear the name "Christian." Embrace the discipline and preparation of the spiritual life and share more fully in the joy of His Resurrection.

Pax Christi !

Roy †

Report from The Vestry

The March meeting of the Vestry was held on March 13, 2011 with all members present.

Father Roy opened with a prayer and Mel asked Julia to report on the evaluation of our wiring.

She reported that it was inspected and found to be up to code and in good condition. The lights along the sides of the church were found to be in hazardous condition due to age and normal deterioration. New brass sconces were installed and the congregation can see a whole lot better. The spotlights above the altar were also adjusted to prevent shadowing. Thanks a lot to Julia and Paul!

Paul reported that the sod project is complete and he and Jamie Bogar have been trimming trees and doing some spring cleanup. He reported the air conditioning vents on the altar have also been adjusted by Leo Jones to protect the candles. He reported the bids on the painting of the fences and the Vestry voted to take the low bid. He then put forth the roof over the ramp for discussion. The Vestry voted to table this project at this time due to excessive costs.

Dana brought up the request from a parishioner for a "cry room" in the balcony. The Vestry discussed this and said it had been discussed in the past and it was felt this would be quite expensive to undertake when Wilkins Hall already has a nursery.

Mary Porter reported that ECW has had wonderful participation in the gumbo preparation and will have one more "cooking" to fill our freezers for sale. The response from the vendors to the Arts and Crafts Festival has been great and we are looking forward to that event on April 16. The proceeds from the vendor registration will go to Wilmer Hall.

Julia reported that the big coffee pot in Wilkins Hall has to be replaced. Mel instructed her to purchase a large one. Mary said ECW would be voting to provide funds for a coffee pot.

Mel called on Gail for the Treasurer's report. Her report was accepted as presented. Father Roy asked her to send \$500 from his discretionary fund to Beckwith. ECW has already provided \$800 for two camperships to Wilmer Hall.

I think you can see that the Vestry has been busy. I want to commend them and in fact all the St. Francis family who give so generously of their time, talents, and money to serve this church. We have so much for which to be thankful. The love you show to everyone sick or in need in any way is truly commendable.

Mel Lucas, Senior Warden

Report from the Episcopal Church Women

The ECW monthly meeting was March 14, 2011 with 10 ladies present. Several of our members were off having a fun time on the golf course with a large group of DI residents and snowbirds. This group continued together for lunch and everyone reported having a wonderful time!

All of the ECW members are excitedly planning for the St. Francis Arts and Crafts Festival. Close to 80 gallons of gumbo have been prepared and frozen for the festival. *Gumbo Making* is more than just making the famous St. Francis Gumbo – it is the spirit of community and camaraderie that makes it so very special. Wimberly and Blanche do just a wonderful job of planning, shopping and making sure it is completed according to the plan, but it takes dozens of helpers to make this all happen. The process takes two days for one batch and this dedicated group made two batches – only two weeks apart. It has been said, “One picture is worth a thousand words,” so please enjoy the pictures included in the newsletter. In addition to the gumbo, there will be Wimberly Hory’s famous chicken salad for sale- both sandwiches and pints. We provide each vendor with a lunch and have special lunches made for those hungry birders who will be here for spring migration.

Currently, over 50 vendors have registered to participate and we have a waiting list. Of course our own, Linda and David Miller will be participating along with many local artists and quite a few from the surrounding area – including Mississippi.

Please help us share the word – mark your calendars, invite your friends and family for the weekend. If you would like a poster to put in a shop window let me know and I will get one for you (Mary: 861-2120). Remember, **April 16, 2011 – 9-4.**

Easter is close. I wish for everyone a special Holy Week and Easter Sunday.

On Easter Day, the veil between time and eternity thins to gossamer. ~Douglas Horton

Mary Porter, ECW President



Easter Lilies For the Sanctuary

Following our tradition, Easter Lilies will be available to decorate the Sanctuary for Easter Sunday. Blanche Emerson has arranged to get them for \$20 each. Please give your check and the information you want in the bulletin, a gift in honor of or memory of, to Julia Willis on or before April 17.

Calendar for 2011

For Lent: Holy Eucharist Rite I @ 10:30 am
For Easter: Holy Eucharist Rite II @ 8:30 & 10:30

	April 3 Fourth Sunday of Lent	April 10 Fifth Sunday of Lent	April 17 Palm Sunday	April 21 Maundy Thursday 5:00 pm	April 22 Good Friday Noon	April 24 Easter Sunday 8:30	April 24 Easter Sunday 10:30
Reader	Cindy Smith	Theo Hawkins	Lamona Lucas	Theo Hawkins	Julia Willis	Anne Elam	Julia Willis
Chalice	Linda Percival	Julia Willis	Linda Percival	Lamona Lucas	Blanche Emerson	Lamona Lucas	Blanche Emerson
Ushers	Walt & Marcia Hayes	Stella Anderson & Mel Lucas	Mack & Joy Russell	Mel Lucas & Wimberly Hory	Stella Anderson & Mel Lucas	All Clark & Wimberly Hory	John & Mary Porter

Sunday School

No Sunday School on Palm Sunday or Easter Sunday

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

Choir Practice Sunday @ 10:00 am

Dates to Remember

Vestry Meeting	Sunday, April 10 @ 11:45
ECW Meeting	Monday, April 11 @ 10:00

Pictures Courtesy: Mary Porter



Gumbo Preparation









Gumbo Preparation - Finale