

Holy Comforter Newsletter

December 11-24, 2011

2911 Woodley Road
Montgomery, AL 36111
334.281.1337
office@holycomforter.org
www.holycomforter.org

SERVICE HOURS

Sunday Holy Eucharist : 10:00 AM

Tuesday Holy Eucharist &
Unction: 10:00 AM

Wednesday Holy Eucharist: 6:00 PM

OFFICE HOURS

M-Th 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM

F 8:30 AM—1:00 PM

FOOD PANTRY HOURS

M & W 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Th 9:00 AM-Noon

STAFF

Interim Rector:

The Rev. Dr. David Perkins ext. 302

Priest Associate—Ministry in the Deaf Community:

The Rev. Jay L. Croft

Administrative Assistant:

Diane Harbin ext. 300

Secretary/Receptionist:

Eleshia Lusane ext. 301

Choir Master/ Organist:

Joel Gregory

Sexton:

Samuel Bates

Housekeeper:

Mary Jane Flowers

Nursery Worker:

Pat Lewis

VESTRY

Senior Warden:

Terri Via

Junior Warden:

Elva Goldman

Treasurer:

Rose Lollar

Clerk:

Jeri Tippit

Members:

Leanne Barber

Dennis Gibson

Bil Hitchcock

Nelya McKenzie

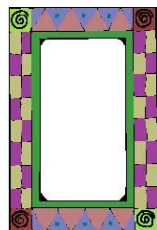
Ann Montgomery

Rand Neeley

Zola Powers

Thinking Outside the Box (While Loving the Box) December 15, 2011

By: The Rev. Dr. David W. Perkins



In last month's paragraph I began a three-part series about the relationship between worship and mission. The first viewpoint, "inside and out" (traditional), sees worship as preparation for mission. Worship is seen as an insider activity, for believers and prepares them for their mission in the world.

A second approach actually reacts against that one. Thomas Schattaer in the book *Inside Out: Worship in an Age of Mission* (Fortress, 1999) calls the second approach "outside in" (contemporary). In this understanding the "outside" work of mission is brought within the church's assembly. One subset can be found in the megachurches and in contemporary worship settings where liturgy becomes the scene of proclamation and evangelization, especially in seeker-focused churches like Willow Creek, Chicago and Saddleback Church in California. A second subset makes of liturgy "a platform from which to issue the call to serve the neighbor and rally commitment for social and political action." (Schattaer, p. 3) The civil rights movement setting in African American churches in the south would be an example.

In both cases, the relationship between worship and mission is viewed "instrumentally" but in this second approach that happens more directly than in the conventional approach. "The church's worship is reshaped to take up the tasks of the church's mission, construed as evangelical outreach, social transformation, or both. The tasks of mission become the principal purpose of the church's worship--outside in." (Schattaer, p. 4).

These approaches share two weaknesses. First, worship is divorced from mission and has an instrumental relationship to mission in the sense that worship serves mission. Second, both approaches assume an insider/outsider dynamic—worship focuses inside the assembly and conceives of the world as outside.

Next month, the third viewpoint, "inside out" (radically traditional.)

Peace,

Lectionary Readings: Year B, 3 Advent

Sunday, December 11:

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Psalm 126

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

John 1:6-8, 19-28

.....Daily Office.....

Year Two, 3 Advent

Tuesday, December 13:

Zechariah 2:1-13

Psalm 45

Revelation 3:14-22

Matthew 24:32-44

Wednesday, December 14:

Zechariah 3:1-10

Psalm 49

Revelation 4:1-8

Matthew 24:45-51

Lectionary Readings: Year A, 4 Advent

Sunday, December 18:

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26

Romans 16:25-27

Luke 1:26-38

.....Daily Office.....

Year Two, 4 Advent

Tuesday, December 20:

1 Samuel 2:1b-10

Psalm 66, 67

Titus 2:1-10

Luke 1:26-38

Wednesday, December 21:

2 Samuel 7:1-17

Psalm 111, 113

Titus 2:11—3:8a

Luke 1:39-48a

Crisis Information

For Pastoral Care, call the following in the order listed until you make contact:

The Rev. Dr. David Perkins
334-300-7589
Church Office
334-281-1337
Nelya McKenzie
334-284-5078 (H)
334-315-1261 (C)
334-244-3558 (W)



Diocese of
Alabama
Cycle
of Prayer

Sunday, December 11

- Saint Thomas, Huntsville
- Our companion diocese of Haiti and its bishop, Zaché
- For all those ordained to the priesthood this week.
- All retired bishops and clergy
- Widows and children of deceased clergy

Sunday, December 18

- St. Mary's on the Highlands, Birmingham
- St. Mary's, Jasper
- Our companion diocese of Haiti and its bishop, Zaché
- Kairos Prison Ministry
- Kairos Outside
- The New Beginnings Design Team

PRAYER FOR HOLY COMFORTER

Almighty and everliving God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with those who take counsel for the renewal and mission of Holy Comforter Church. Teach us in all things to seek first your honor and glory. Guide us to perceive what is right, and grant us both the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Please Pray For:

Parishioners:

Fred Earle
Judy Endicott
Betty Read
Marietta Sexton
Ami Simpson
Martha Stripling
Charlie Thomas



Friends/ Others:

Jane Barkley
Steve Endicott
Vicky Harris
Gina Robinson Johnson
Doug Miller
Trip Rowley
Ray Shirley
Bobby Skelton
Delores Smith



The altar flowers on Sunday, December 11th are given to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for the birthday of Maggie Prestridge.

The new flower schedule is now available. Reserve your flower dates now!



The altar flowers on Sunday, December 18th are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Johnnie Seanor and Lester Seanor.

Weekly Schedule: December 11-17, 2011

Sunday, December 11

9:00 AM Choir
Sunday School
9:30 AM Bookstore Open
10:00 AM Holy Eucharist—Rite I
11:15 AM Coffee Hour
Bookstore Open
11:30 AM Sign Language Service (Chp)
5:30 PM Foyer Christmas Party (Ann Speaks' home)

*Nursery available at 8:30 a.m.

Tuesday, December 13

10:00 AM Holy Eucharist (Chp)
NO Bible Study
11:00 AM St. Anne's (Jacqueline Beazley's home)
6:00 PM EFM (Hen)

Wednesday, December 14—No Newsletter

11:00 AM St. Mary's (McM)
6:00 PM Holy Eucharist & Healing (Chp)
6:45 PM Choir

Weekly Schedule: December 18-24, 2011

Sunday, December 18

9:00 AM Choir
Sunday School
9:30 AM Bookstore Open
10:00 AM Holy Eucharist—Rite II
11:15 AM Coffee Hour
Bookstore Open
11:30 AM Sign Language Service (Chp)

*Nursery available at 8:30 a.m.

Monday, December 19

6:00 PM Vestry Meeting

Tuesday, December 20

10:00 AM Holy Eucharist (Chp)
11:00 AM Bible Study
6:00 PM EFM (Hen)

Wednesday, December 21—Newsletter

6:00 PM Holy Eucharist & Healing (Chp)
6:45 PM Choir

Friday, December 23

OFFICE CLOSED

Saturday, December 24

5:00 PM Christmas Eve Service

Please make a note of the dates the church office will be closed for the Christmas and New Year's holiday: Friday, December 23rd, Monday, December 26th and Monday, January 2nd.



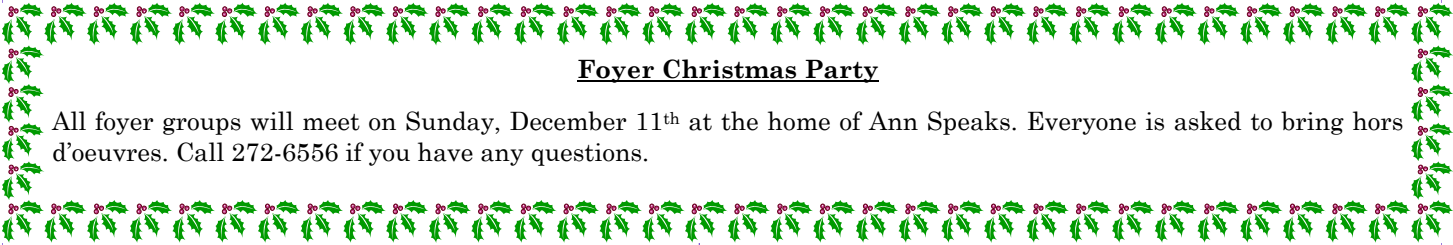
Christmas Eve Service

5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist w/ sign language interpretation
Coffee hour following service

Christmas Day Service

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Make your plans for worship on Christmas morning. The choir is preparing a beautiful mass, "Mass of the Nativity" by Richard Shephard, to be sung on Christmas morning. Please make plans to join in this service of joy on Christmas morning!



Foyer Christmas Party

All foyer groups will meet on Sunday, December 11th at the home of Ann Speaks. Everyone is asked to bring hors d'oeuvres. Call 272-6556 if you have any questions.

St. Anne's Guild

The Christmas holidays are fast approaching and St. Anne's Guild has planned their Christmas luncheon for Tuesday, December 13th beginning at 11:00 a.m. in the home of Jacqueline Beazley, 2429 Price Street. All ladies are invited to attend. This is a salad luncheon and everyone should bring their favorite dish. Call Jacqueline (334-262-1876) if you have any questions.

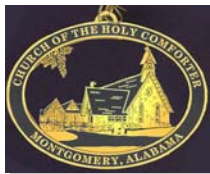
St. Mary's Guild

St. Mary's December meeting will be Wednesday, December 14th, at 11:00 a.m. in McMaster Hall. Ann Montgomery is in charge of our special meeting/dinner, and all guild members will have a hand in this one. We hope to see all members, past, present, and future, there for this festive occasion. If you haven't signed up for your part in this event, give Ann a call (277-6982) and I'm sure she can find something for you to do/bring. Come join us on the 14th. You won't be sorry!!!



DOK Advent Quiet Day

The Daughters of the King will host an Advent Quiet Day on Saturday, December 10th from 10AM – Noon. We'll meet in the library for two meditations and some quiet time to think and pray. All are invited to attend.



Holy Comforter Christmas Ornaments

Get started on your Christmas shopping early this year! We have Christmas ornaments bearing the likeness of The Church of the Holy Comforter on sale in the office. These boxed, gold-finished, brass ornaments will make wonderful gifts for family and friends any time of year, but most especially for Christmas. Each ornament sells for \$10.00, and all proceeds go to the Resurrection Garden Fund to help with the cost of perpetual upkeep of the grounds.



Christmas Flowers 2011

If you would like to make a contribution to help decorate the Church with poinsettias for Christmas, please complete this form and return it to the Church office. Please print full names clearly and return to the Church office by Monday December 19.

In Memory of:

--

In Thanksgiving for:

--

By: (Name, Address and Phone Number)

--

Names received by Monday, December 19 will be listed in our *Christmas Eve Order of Service*.



In Sympathy

The Holy Comforter church family would like to extend its deepest sympathy to Dabney and Rick McKenzie and family on the death of her mother Mary Hunter. May her soul and all souls that have gone on before her rest in peace.

Dear Holy Comforter Family,

Words alone cannot express my gratitude for your kindness, calls, cards, moral and spiritual support during the prolonged period of my recovery from eye surgery. However, please accept these words of thanks, since words are my stock-in-trade, and the medium by which I sincerely communicate what is within my heart. My sincere thanks to each of you. Because of your prayers and genuine concern I did not have to go it alone. You are my true family-in-Christ. May God bless you all, collectively as well as individually. May you all have a Merry Christmas; and may the Peace of God be with you and yours always.

Christ's Blessings,
Fred Earle

FOOD BANK



Holy Comforter Food Pantry: Meet the Client

By: Jean Murray, Food Pantry Volunteer

She sat bundled by the door, hunkered down in her jacket, waiting for her bag of groceries, muttering, "Ain't got no heat. They turned it off and the lights are next." We gave her groceries, our last blanket and a warm shawl. As she left, she was muttering further, "I don't know where I'm going to get the money to turn on the heat." It was the coldest day so far this year. We are out of blankets and coats. Our clients come for food, a message of sharing. Can we not help warm them also during the cold winter months? Thank you for your donations so far. Please check further in your closets.

Parishioner Spotlight: Taylor Lollar



Trinity's youth judicial team—Taylor Lollar, Turner Griffin, Stone Phillips, Tucker Helms, Jackson Britton, and Ashley Ann Adams—competed in the Alabama Youth in Government Competition and were chosen to represent Alabama at the National Mock Trial Competition to be held in Albuquerque, NM on May 3-6, 2012.



Update

As of Sunday, December 4th
Pledges - 58
New commitments - 7
Increased from last year - 22
Decreased from last year - 4
Same as last year - 25

A heart-felt thank you to all who have responded. Please give prayerful thought to your commitment of time and talent and financial support if you have not yet done so.



TREE OF LIFE PROJECT

Loved ones live forever in the hearts of the beloved. Now, your loved one can also live and be remembered through a tree on the campus of Holy Cross School. A living tree is a beautiful way to leave a legacy for someone you love. In honor or memory, a gift of a tree can touch the lives of children and family for many years to come. Prices vary by type of tree dedicated. The price includes a plaque installed to let others know the name of your loved one. Please contact Elizabeth Fritz at 395-8222 or visit our website, www.holycrossmontgomery.org under Support HCES for more information about this special opportunity.



Grace Church—Taizé Evening Prayer Service & Choral Evensong

Taizé Evening Prayer Service and Choral Evensong is on Sunday, December 11th at 6:00 p.m. This service is one of prayer, silence, and contemplative singing incorporating songs from the brothers of the Taizé community in Taizé, France combined with the beautiful music of Advent Evensong.