

February 21—March 6, 2010

# HOLY COMFORTER NEWSLETTER

## CONFIRMATION & RECEPTION

*(one service only)*

Sunday, February 28, 2010  
10:00 AM

The Rt. Rev. Henry Parsley  
Diocesan Bishop of Alabama

..... Candidates .....

Michael Butler  
Taylor McLemore  
Charles Speaks

*Reception to follow in McMaster Hall.*

The Church of the Holy Comforter  
Episcopal  
2911 Woodley Road  
Montgomery, AL 36111  
334.281.1337  
office@holycomfort.org

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2/21—3/6/10

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### Service Hours

Sunday Holy Eucharist :

Rite I: 7:30 AM

Rite II: 10:00 AM

Weekday Holy Eucharist & Unction:

Tuesday: 10:00 AM

Evening Prayer:

Wednesday: 6:00 PM

### Office Hours

M-F 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM

### Food Pantry Hours

M, W, F 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

### Crisis Information

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

Church Office

334-281-1337

The Rev. Drake Whitelaw

334-263-9196 (H)

334-300-3039 (Cell; use only for emergency)

Nelya McKenzie

334-284-5078 (H)

334-315-1261 (C)

334-244-3558 (W)

## Doubling Thomas The Rev. Thomas Joyner

What we call the beginning is often the end  
And to make an end is to make a beginning.  
The end is where we start from.

—T.S. Eliot

This is a time of beginnings and endings. We begin Lent, the forty days of intentional prayer and the tough work of self-examination. Lent is a time for us to pause and reflect, to take stock of who we are and where we're going. This promises to be a fruitful Lent for Holy Comforter and the opportunities for reflection and self-examination are many.

This is the beginning of Drake's sabbatical. She'll be gone for about four months and in that absence life here will continue. We will still go about the church's business: to praise God, to invite people into relationship with God, and to reach out to the community and offer the healing and reconciliation that Christ offers. The parish is invited and has opportunities for its own reflection and renewal to serve this mission. Invite someone you know to join us for this Lent also, maybe they are seeking what we can offer.

But it's a time of endings too. As many of you may know by now I will be leaving at the end of April to be the Assistant Rector at Holy Trinity in Auburn. I know this is an earlier exit than many expected (or even I expected) but so it is. We will all do what we can and Holy Comforter will be cared for and looked after during this time of transition. This is not the time for me to say goodbye.

*Continued on pg 3*



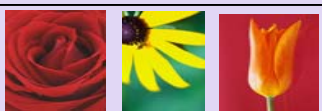
Please Pray For:

Parishioners:

Melissa Carlton
Robyn Craig
Sam Craig
Ruth Hyde
J.D. Johnson
Bette Overholser
Wayne Peterson
Marietta Sexton
Howard Stripling

Friends/ Others:

Walter Alvarenga
John Dunwoody
Gary Ford
Edie Gilger
Rosemarie Labellew
Martha Dell Stancik
Judith Weathers
Arthur Williams



Open Flower Dates

April 11, 18, 25
May 23
June 13, 20, 27
July 4, 25
August 8, 22, 29
September 19
October 17, 24, 31
November 14, 21, 28
December 12

Weekly Schedule: February 21-27, 2010

Sunday, February 21

Alleluias buried

7:30 AM Holy Eucharist
8:00 AM Breakfast
9:00 AM Choir
9:00 AM Sunday School
10:00 AM Holy Eucharist
11:15 AM Coffee Hour
5:00 PM Youth

\*Nursery available at 8:30 a.m.

Tuesday, February 23

10:00 AM Holy Eucharist
11:00 AM Bible Study
6:00 PM Book Group

Wednesday, February 24

12:05 PM Lenten Luncheon (St. John's)
3:00 PM Coffice
6:00 PM Instructed Eucharist
6:30 PM Supper
7:00 PM Choir

Friday, February 26

10:00 AM Spirituality Class

Weekly Schedule: February 28—March 6, 2010

Sunday, February 28

Confirmation/ Bishop's Visit
ONE SERVICE ONLY!

8:00 AM Breakfast
9:00 AM Choir
9:00 AM Sunday School
10:00 AM Holy Eucharist/ Confirmation
11:15 AM Reception
5:00 PM Youth—Progressive Supper

\*Nursery available at 8:30 a.m.

Tuesday, March 2

10:00 AM Holy Eucharist
11:00 AM Bible Study
6:00 PM Book Group

Wednesday, March 3

12:05 PM Lenten Luncheon (St. John's)
3:00 PM Coffice
6:00 PM Holy Eucharist
6:30 PM Supper
7:00 PM Choir

Friday, March 5

10:00 AM Spirituality Group



February Worm Schedule

Feb. 21: Jeremiah: Art
Feb. 28: Jeremiah: Drama



Youth February Schedule

All times are 5-7pm at the church unless otherwise noted

Feb. 21: outreach visit to Cara Vita
Feb. 28: Progressive supper with St. John's and Ascension youth group. Details TBA.

Instructed Eucharist—Wednesday, Feb. 24

All are invited to an instructed Eucharist on Wednesday, Feb. 24 at 6pm in the Chapel. It is the Feast of St. Matthias the Apostle. As a part of the confirmation program for our young people we will have an instructed Eucharist designed for all who would like to learn more about the theology and ritual we are so familiar with in our liturgy. Our youth confirmands and their parents will have their last session before the Bishop's visit on Feb. 28.

Lenten Luncheon
Wednesday, February 24th
At St. John's Episcopal

The menu will be chicken salad and croissants for \$7/plate. The luncheon will be hosted by Holy Comforter and St. Anne's will be in charge. We are asking all church women to please participate and bring pick-up ready sweets such as: cookies, brownies, lemon bars, sand tarts, etc. Please take your items to St. John's kitchen no later than Tuesday, February 23rd and give them to Mike.

Sympathy



The Holy Comforter family would like to extend our deepest sympathy to Elaine Smith on the death of her brother Roger Phelan.

May his soul and all souls that have gone on before him rest in peace.

Lectionary Readings:
Year C, Lent 1

Sunday, February 21
Deuteronomy 26:1-11
Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16
Romans 10:8b-13
Luke 4:1-13

Daily Office:
Year Two, Lent 1

Tues., February 23:
Genesis 37:12-24
Psalm 45
1 Corinthians 1:20-31
Mark 1:14-28

Wed., February 24:
Genesis 37:25-36
Psalm 49
1 Corinthians 2:1-13
Mark 1:29-45

Lectionary Readings:
Year C, Lent 2

Sunday, February 28:
Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
Psalm 27
Philippians 3:17—4:1
Luke 13:31-35

Daily Office:
Year Two, Lent 2

Tuesday, March 2:
Genesis 42:1-17
Psalm 61, 62
1 Corinthians 5:1-8
Mark 3:19b-35

Wed., March 3:
Genesis 42:18-28
Psalm 119:73-96
1 Corinthians 5:9—6:8
Mark 4:1-20



Diocese of Alabama  
Cycle of Prayer

**Sunday, February 21**

- Grace Church, Cullman
- St. Matthias, Tuscaloosa
- Our companion diocese of Haiti and its bishop, Zaché; our missionaries to Namibia, Jeremy and Penny Lucas
- The Commission on Spirituality
- Episcopal Relief and Development.

**Sunday, February 28**

- Christ Church, Albertville
- Iglesia Episcopal de la Gracia, Birmingham
- Our companion diocese of Haiti and its bishop, Zaché; our missionaries to Namibia, Jeremy and Penny Lucas
- Commission on Hispanic Ministry
- Hispanic Congregations in Aliceville, Montgomery, and Birmingham.



TO MY VALENTINES!



A heartfelt thank you to all those who made February 14 such a special parish event, complete with good food and tributes to Drake, as she left on her sabbatical. The tables in McMaster Hall and the library were beautifully set with centerpieces of roses and votives; the windows with decorative candles and greenery - all compliments of Kathy Barrowman. Roy Paul added a lovely and unique arrangement of pink roses in the hallway. Bil Hitchcock stepped in and provided us with just the right background piano music, that added to the festivities. Over a dozen women participated in the preparation of the supper: spaghetti, toss salad, French bread, cheesecakes and a taste of Tiramisu. Our youth groups added to the fun, and with great efficiency, served over 100 plates. And finally, a big thanks to Rosine and Mac Hall who spent long hours making sure all the plates were clean and spotless.

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY 2010!

Frances Steele

Please check the pictures on the bulletin boards. Great pictures of Mardi Gras Foyer 1 at Dede Harbin's and the Valentine's Supper!



**2010 Altar Flower Schedule**

The 2010 altar flower schedule is available on the wall outside the copy room. There are still many open dates, but don't wait too late to sign-up for the date you wish to give flowers. Please sign-up today!

**Doubting Thomas (continued from pg 1)**

This is Lent and for Lent to be anything other than an annoyance then we must use the time we have to the best of our abilities. It will be a meaningful Lent only if you're willing to make it a meaningful Lent.

Lent is a time for us to take a look at the things we've done wrong and to ask God and other people's forgiveness. It's a time for giving up those things that keep us from loving other people. We don't give up things just to deny ourselves but to serve as a discipline to allow us to see the world and other people differently. So we take on things also, that will help us grow, closer to God and each other. And it's a time to remember what it means to be a child of God.

At diocesan convention we listened to an address from John Meacham (the editor of Newsweek and member of St. Thomas in New York) who talked with us about the Episcopal church and it's role in society. Meacham challenged the Church to embrace the tension in who we are and who we want to be. He invited us to remember that conflict and struggle is a part of what it means to be people who make meaningful choices. And he ended by asking all of us to remember an important question that our Episcopal liturgy continually presents to us: Do you mean what you say?

Lent is a good time to think about that. Do you mean what you say?

**We will meet in the Resurrection Garden Sunday, February 21st before the 10:00 AM service to bury the Alleluias.**

**S t a f f**

- Rector:**  
The Rev. Drake Whitelaw
- Curate:**  
The Rev. Thomas Joyner
- Administrative Assistant:**  
Diane Harbin
- Secretary/Receptionist:**  
Eleshia Lusane
- Choir Master/ Organist:**  
Joel Gregory
- Day School Director:**  
Jenny Miller
- Sexton:**  
Samuel Bates
- Housekeeper:**  
Mary Jane Flowers
- Nursery Worker:**  
Pat Lewis

**V e s t r y**

- Senior Warden:**  
Terri Via
- Junior Warden:**  
Elva Goldman
- Treasurer:**  
Susanne Trest
- Clerk:**  
Michael Paul
- Members:**  
Leanne Barber  
Dennis Gibson  
Bil Hitchcock  
Rose Lollar  
Nelya McKenzie  
Billy McLemore  
Ann Montgomery  
Rand Neeley  
Zola Powers  
Kevin Trest

### A Letter from our Senior Warden...

Dear Holy Comforter Friends,

The vestry met for its annual retreat February 5-7 at Camp McDowell. Bishop Kee Sloan and The Reverend Pat Wingo were there to help us as we addressed concerns about and goals necessary for achieving the health, vitality and growth of Holy Comforter.

We began the morning session with Bishop Sloan asking each vestry member to name what Holy Comforter does best. The list was long and varied ranging from our food to our wonderful young people and our music to our welcoming of strangers. He recommended that we set long and short term goals as well as action plans with accountability to attain them.

Some of the areas covered were:

- \* our decline in numbers
- \* how to improve communication within the parish
- \* how to centralize information
- \* quarterly meetings with representatives of service guilds
- \* Drake's responsibilities while she's on sabbatical
- \* Thomas' responsibilities once he leaves (priority - Christian Formation, youth, Sunday School)
- \* plans for parish renewal
- \* Pat Wingo led the afternoon session and helped us more clearly define our SWEEPS program (Stewardship, Worship, Evangelism, Education, Pastoral Care, Service)

We came home knowing there is much to be done but with the enthusiasm that comes from a group working together to achieve our common goals.

Peace,



Terri Via, Senior Warden

### MONTGOMERY AREA EPISCOPAL CHURCHES LENTEN LUNCHESES AND REFLECTION AT ST. JOHN'S

**FEBRUARY 24—MARCH 31  
AT 12:05 P.M.**

Date Speaker

Feb. 24 The Rt. Rev. Kee Sloan,

March 3 The Rev. Liston Garfield

March 10 Amy Sander Montanez

March 17 The Rev. Dr. Andy MacBeth

March 24 The Rev. Heidi Kinner

### Parish Retreat is Coming! April 23-25

The Annual Parish Weekend at Camp McDowell, one of Holy Comforter's favorite traditions, is scheduled for April 23-25 this year. Children six and under eat and sleep free! If you would enjoy a weekend of relaxation, getting to know your fellow parishioners better, hiking, and canoeing please come and join in this wonderful event. No set schedule and plenty to do – or you can rock the weekend away on the porch of Eppes Hall enjoying the scenery around Clear Creek. Cost for the weekend to be determined. Please contact Thomas if you are in need of financial assistance.

Don't miss out on this once a year fun event!

### Holy Week Schedule 2010

#### Palm Sunday, March 28

Blessing of Palms/ Courtyard

9:00 AM Holy Eucharist

#### Monday, March 29

6:00 PM Holy Eucharist

#### Tuesday, March 30

6:00 PM Holy Eucharist

#### Wednesday, March 31

6:00 PM Holy Eucharist w/ supper

#### Maundy Thursday, April 1

6:00 PM Holy Eucharist with Choir

#### Good Friday, April 2

12 Noon Community Good Friday Service  
At Whitfield Memorial UMC

6:00 PM Stations of the Cross

#### Easter Vigil, Saturday, April 3

7:00 PM Holy Eucharist

#### Easter Sunday, April 4

9:00 AM Family Service w/Holy Eucharist  
& Flowering of the Cross

10:00 AM Reception

10:15 AM Egg Hunt/Balloon Release/  
Cascarones

11:00 AM Holy Eucharist with Choir

**12TH ANNUAL PLTE  
PARISH LEADERSHIP TRAINING EVENT  
MARCH 13, 2010  
AT ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH, BIRMINGHAM  
FEATURING THE REV. MELISSA SKELTON**

A wide variety of workshops have been designed to challenge and educate diocesan lay leaders and clergy. Are you looking for ways to enhance your ministry? Then you will want to attend our 12th annual PLTE: Parish Leadership Training Event will be held on Saturday, March 13th from 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM at St. Stephen's Church in Birmingham. The theme is Splendor Burning at the Heart of Things: Congregational Development in a Changing Church. There are 12 workshops planned, something for everyone! Below is a list of the workshops that are being offered.

- Bishop's with Wardens and Vestry
- ECW Episcopal Church Women
- Developing a Parish Website
- Creating a Magnetic Parish
- Charting Your Path
- Faithful Stewardship
- Basics of Insurance, Taxes
- Advertising & Public Relations
- Incorporating New Members
- Identifying New Leaders
- Basics of a Capital Campaign
- The Alabama Plan

ECW MEMBERS, VESTRY & WARDENS, CHRISTIAN FORMATION DIRECTORS, NEWLETTER/WEBSITE DESIGNERS, OUTREACH COORDINATORS, YOUTH MINISTERS ARE ALL ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND.

***THERE IS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!***

**The event fee is \$25.00 per person for one or more workshops. The registration deadline is March 5th. Forms are available in the church office.**

**UPCOMING EVENTS—Mark your calendars!**

**FEBRUARY**

February 28	10 AM Service—One service only!	Bishop's Visit/ Confirmation
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**MARCH**

March 21	9:00 AM	Renewal Event/ Dr. Alan W. Jones
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March 28	9 AM Service—One Service only!	Palm Sunday
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March 29-31	6:00 PM Daily	Holy Eucharist
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**APRIL**

April 1	6:00 PM	Maundy Thursday
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April 2	Noon	Good Friday @ Whitfield Memorial UMC
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	6:00 PM	Stations of the Cross
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April 3	7:00 PM	Easter Vigil
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April 4	9:00 AM	Easter Service
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	10:00 AM	Easter Egg Hunt
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	11:00 AM	Easter Service
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April 5		OFFICE CLOSED
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April 8-11		Family Promise
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April 11	9:00 AM	Renewal Event/ Deirdre Good
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April 23-25		Parish Retreat—Camp McDowell
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