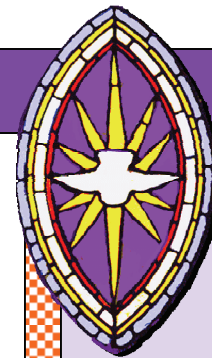


January 10-23, 2010

HOLY COMFORTER NEWSLETTER



1/10-1/23/10

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

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)

The Rector's Corner The Rev. Eleanor Drake Whitelaw

Next Sunday we will make the transition from the season of Christmas to the season of Epiphany. For most of us this is a relief. Now we can put the decorations away remove the dry Christmas tree, and put our homes back in order. If the season of Christmas is about birth, then the season of Epiphany is about growth. It is about recognizing God's presence with us. The growth should be twofold: internal, that is, a deepening relationship with God; and external growth, that is, how we live out our faith in the world.

Recently I watched an episode of the series 'The Tudors.' The episode I watched was the scene where one of Henry VIII's henchmen sheepishly comes to visit Catherine of Aragon, the thrust aside first wife of the king. Catherine, Queen of England and the daughter of the fierce Queen Isabella of Spain, is already in exile and is told by the henchmen that she must relinquish her title, all her holdings, and her royal trappings, including the jewels of state. The king agreed to allow her to live in isolation in a remote castle, but would not let her daughter Mary visit, nor would he pay her household expenses. The 'Queen' was reduced to poverty, and while begging the henchman for a chance to see her daughter, she sighs and utters these profound words:

"If I was given the choice between a life of happiness and a life of sorrow, I would always choose sorrow."

The young servant of the king is startled to hear these words from the queen and inquires what

Continued pg 3

Annual Parish Meeting Sunday, January 24th Immediately after the 10 AM Service. Luncheon will follow.

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

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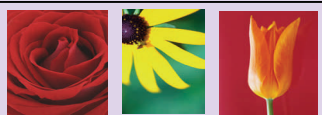
Please Pray For:

Parishioners:

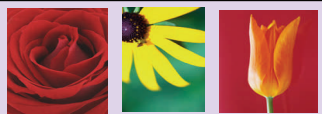
Robyn Craig
Sam Craig
Ruth Hyde
Wayne Peterson
Marietta Sexton
Howard Stripling

Friends/ Others:

Walter Alvarenga
John Dunwoody
Edie Gilger
Billy Hughes
Gene Murray
Jane Neil
Roger Phelan
Pat Roberts
Judy Ross
Martha Dell Stancik



A new flower schedule is available. Reserve your date today!!!



Weekly Schedule: January 10-16, 2010

Sunday, January 10

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
11:15 AM ECW Board Meeting
5:00 PM Youth

*Nursery available at 8:30 a.m.

Tuesday, January 12

10:00 AM Holy Eucharist
NO Bible Study
11:00 AM St. Anne's Guild
6:00 PM Book Group

Wednesday, January 13

11:00 AM St. Mary's Guild
3:00 PM Coffice
6:00 PM Evening Prayer
6:30 PM Choir
7:00 PM Inquirer's Class

Friday, January 15

10:00 AM Spirituality Group

Weekly Schedule: January 17-23, 2010

Sunday, January 17

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.

Monday, January 18
MLK Day—OFFICE CLOSED

6:00 PM Vestry Meeting

Tuesday, January 19

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

Wednesday, January 20

3:00 PM Coffice
6:00 PM Evening Prayer
6:30 PM Choir
7:00 PM Inquirer's Class

Friday, January 22

10:00 AM Spirituality Group

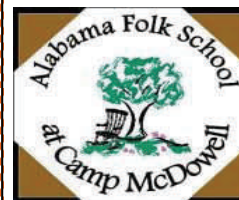
January Worm Schedule

Jan. 10: The Beatitudes: Art
Jan 17: **NO Sunday school** (MLK weekend)
Jan. 24: The Beatitudes: Drama
Jan. 31: The Beatitudes: Movie & Stewardship of Community



Youth January Schedule

Jan. 10: meet after 10am service for lunch and trip to MMFA
Jan. 17: NO YOUTH GROUP
Jan. 24: 5-7pm at Church
Jan. 31: 5-7pm at Church



Second Annual Sample the Arts Workshop
January 31-February 3, 2010
Alabama Folk School
at Camp McDowell

Please join us for our second annual Sample the Arts workshop. You can take as many as four different classes at this build-your-own-schedule retreat. Adult students will be able to choose from: *Appalachian Clogging*, JoAnna Laney; *Carpentry*, Dick Keydoszius & Mark Johnston; *Felting a Flower Applique*, Jackie Miller; *Pine Needle Basketry*, Jean Kerr; *Pottery with a Native American Flair*, Ruth Manasco; and *Silver Art Clay Jewelry*, Nancy Burleson. Occurring only once a year, students can choose classes (as you register) for each morning and afternoon of the "sampler." If craft classes aren't your interest, you may wish to choose a Bluegrass instrument to study with choices of electives in the afternoon. Bluegrass classes available include: *Bass*, Kathy Hinkle; *Fiddle*, Gathel Runnels; *Guitar*, Herb Trotman; or *Mandolin*, Jason Bailey.

Anyone interested in registering may call Danielle Dunbar at (205) 563-9990 or go to www.campmcdowell.com/folkschool. There are a limited number of spaces in each class set by the instructors. The 3-day workshop will be held January 31 – February 3, 2010.

Lectionary Readings:
Year C, 1 Epiphany

Sunday, January 10:
Isaiah 42:1-9
Psalm 29
Acts 10:34-43
Matthew 3:13-17

.....Daily Office.....
Year Two, 1 Epiphany

Tues., January 12:
Isaiah 40:25-31
Psalm 5, 6
Ephesians 1:15-23
Mark 1:14-28

Wed., January 13:
Isaiah 41:1-16
Psalm 12, 13, 14
Ephesians 2:1-10
Mark 1:29-45

Lectionary Readings:
Year C, 2 Epiphany

Sunday, January 17:
Isaiah 62:1-5
Psalm 36:5-10
1 Corinthians 12:1-11
John 2:1-11

.....Daily Office.....
Year Two, 2 Epiphany

Tuesday, January 19:
Genesis 9:1-17
Psalm 26, 28
Hebrews 5:7-14
John 3:16-21

Wed., January 20:
Genesis 9:18-29
Psalm 119:25-48
Hebrews 6:1-12
John 3:22-36



Diocese of
Alabama
Cycle
of Prayer

Sunday, January 10

- Church of the Epiphany, Guntersville
- St. Peter's, Talladega
- Our companion diocese of Haiti and its bishop, Zaché; our missionaries to Namibia, Jeremy and Penny Lucas
- Epiphany Ministry to Youth Offenders
- Adult Learning Center, Nativity, Huntsville

Sunday, January 17

- Grace Church, Anniston
- St. Timothy's, Athens
- Our companion diocese of Haiti and its bishop, Zaché; our missionaries to Namibia, Jeremy and Penny Lucas
- For our seminarians completing their third year of seminary.

Committee reports are due to Drake for the Parish Annual Meeting by January 10, 2010.

ECW Board Meeting

The ECW board meeting will be held Sunday, January 10th immediately after the 10:00 a.m. service in the Library.

St. Anne's Guild

St. Anne's Guild will meet Tuesday, January 12th at 11:00 a.m. in the Library and McMaster Hall. Jacqueline Beazley will continue her talk on the Five Women of Reformation.

St. Mary's Guild

Members of St. Mary's Guild will meet at the church at 11:00 a.m. on Jan. 13th. We will then carpool downtown to the Renaissance Center where we will have our meeting and then lunch, after which Douglass Porter will give us a tour of the place as promised last spring. Katie Ufford, Jacqueline Beazley and Katey Russell are our hostesses for the luncheon which will take place at the Center. Please be on time at 11:00 a.m. so that we can get a good start on our travel downtown. Call Betty Smith if you have questions about this meeting (272-4323). Hope to see you Jan. 13th.



Mark Your Calendars!!!—ECW'S Spaghetti Supper

The ECW will host a parish spaghetti supper on Valentine's Day, Sunday February 14th beginning at 5:30 pm. Tickets will be sold in advance, and the ticket price will be posted as soon as it is determined. We will also take the opportunity to toast Drake as she prepares for her sabbatical beginning at the end of February. Plan to join us for this evening of food, fun, and festivity.



she means. She replies:

"When I am happy I feel as though I am fine on my own, but when I feel sorrow, I feel closer to God."

Is this true? When things are good, when life is running smoothly, when health and wealth are secure, are we closer or farther away from our God? Or are Catherine's words more apt: Is it when we are at our weakest, most desperate, most sorrowful that we feel His presence?

I believe Catherine's words are profound and true. It is not true that God is absent when we are happy, it is just that we are less likely to search for God and think about Him when things are going well. God is always there, always caring, always working to bring things together for His good. It is just that we have to seek Him, and somehow this happens more readily when we really NEED Him - in our times of sorrow, failure, illness, grief, or emotional pain.

These are challenging times to live in. We have only to glance at the paper or listen to the opening lines of the evening news to have this confirmed. This was also true for the Wisemen who made the long arduous journey to find the child. It seems to me that during hard times, we as believers are better able to let go of our own 'solutions' and instead fall back on God and His mercy, like a small child reaching for comfort after a frightening dream or like the Wisemen seeking the fulfillment of the promises of scripture to bring a king to reign over the earth.

How grateful I am that He is there for us! How I pray for the wisdom to sense His presence from the heights of happiness to the depths of our despair. I pray that in happiness, as well as in our sorrow, each of us may feel ourselves drawing ever closer to God.

Blessings in this Epiphany season,

Drake

Staff

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

Vestry

Senior Warden:

Jeri Tippit

Junior Warden:

Terri Via

Treasurer:

Susanne Trest

Clerk:

Michael Paul

Members:

Leanne Barber
Dennis Gibson
Elva Goldman
Rosine Hall
Bil Hitchcock
Rose Lollar
Nelya McKenzie
Rick McKenzie
Alden Monroe
Kevin Trest



...From the Organ Bench



My undying thanks goes out to all who helped make the Lessons and Carols service such a success. Such an event makes me think of the book title, "It Takes a Village." There were so many people involved that just stepped up to volunteer when they saw something was needed, and I would like to publicly thank you. My friend **Elizabeth French**, Organist at All Saints, who so willingly and pleasantly entertained the idea when I offhandedly mentioned it to her at a wedding reception. **Bil Hitchcock** for endless hours copying and making sure the guest singers had music that was in the proper order. **Roy and Michael Paul** working to lay out the bulletin so beautifully. **Jeri Tippit, Roy Paul and all the "green hangers"** making the church and the altar look beautiful. **Ami Simpson and Michael Paul** for very creative ideas on publicity. **Mac Hall** coordinating the lectors without a hitch at a moment's notice. **Mary Lois Monroe** hemming the child's choir robe late Saturday night and making sure the bells were where they were supposed to be when they were supposed to be there. **Andrew Monroe** for volunteering to acolyte with such a great spirit at the last minute. **Jeri and Bil** bringing refreshments for the choir breaks. **Thomas's** quick answers to my frantic requests for the perfect prayers that had to be found rather late in the process. **Drake and Jim** for coordinating between the two churches so easily. **Ann Speaks** for coordinating a beautiful reception. **All the wonderful cooks** who brought and served such festive food - especially those tomato things! **The Singers and Lectors** from the churches that came together. **Church members who attended and brought friends and family to support it. Our Own Holy Comforter Choir** for their positive and willing spirits toward the idea initially, grace in hosting the event, and time and talent they gave to learn the music so beautifully. I thank all of you for all you did - big or little - that went into this festival service. Please accept my apologies, for I'm sure I have left someone out. The moment I press send I'll think of five more people who deserve thanks for their efforts. It is pleasantly rewarding to be in a place that can make something like that come together so effortlessly!

Cheers! And Happy New Year!
Joel

UPCOMING EVENTS—Mark your calendars!

JANUARY

January 9	9:00 AM-12 Noon	Vestry Orientation
January 16		Outreach Summit
January 19	MLK Day	OFFICE CLOSED
January 24		Annual Parish Meeting/ Luncheon

FEBRUARY

February 5-7		Vestry Retreat
February 11-13		Diocesan Convention
February 14	5:30 PM	ECW Spaghetti Dinner
February 16		Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
February 17	Noon & 6:00 PM	Ash Wednesday Service
February 28	10 AM Service—One service only!	Bishop's Visit/ Confirmation

MARCH

March 21		Renewal Event/ Allen Jones
March 28	10 AM Service—One Service only!	Palm Sunday
March 29-31	6:00 PM	Holy Eucharist

APRIL

April 1	6:00 PM	Maundy Thursday
April 2	Noon	Good Friday @ Westminster's
	6:00 PM	Stations of the Cross
April 3	6:00 PM	Easter Vigil
April 4	9:00 AM	Easter Service
	10:00 AM	Easter Egg Hunt
	11:00 AM	Easter Service
April 5		OFFICE CLOSED