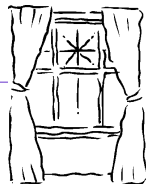




Holy Comforter Newsletter

January 22-February 4, 2012

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



LOOKING OUT MY WINDOW, February 2012 The Rev. Dr. David Perkins

February 22 marks the beginning of Lent with Ash Wednesday observances. We will gather at noon and 6 PM for the Imposition of Ashes and Holy Eucharist.

is vital so long as we understand what we are doing. We are seeking to deprive ourselves to align our bodies more fully with the hunger for God that drives us to turn to God in repentance.

Lent takes us into the desert with Jesus where he wrestled with the powers of darkness and fasted and prayed (See Matthew 4 and Luke 4 and Mark 1 for the story.). To arrive at the empty tomb and celebrate Easter, we must go the way of the desert. We cannot celebrate Christ's triumph over the powers of sin and death on Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter without having taken the measure of the darkness and evil that called forth Jesus' coming and prompted his suffering and death.

Jesus also prayed during his desert struggles, the precedent for adding spiritual practices in Lent. We are doing a Lenten study on the Wednesday evenings of Lent as a way of picking up the pace during this season, a way of adding a spiritual practice. Our studies will be about the challenges and opportunities of this transitional time at Holy Comforter. (See a paragraph elsewhere in this newsletter.) You can focus more on daily prayer and the reading of the Bible and writings on spirituality during Lent. You can add some form of service to your weekly routine.

Were we to ignore the darkness in our own lives and our complicity in the evils of our culture, we could not celebrate God's unconditional saving love and the profundity of that love. Grace becomes grace only when viewed against the backdrop of the human predicament that calls forth that grace. So, in Lent we seek a more clear vision of our need for God, our frailty, and the brokenness of our lives. We turn to God for a fresh experience of God's healing and transforming love.

You also can engage in the Sacramental Rite of Reconciliation. I will be available upon request to share with you in this sacrament during Lent.

The focus often gets misplaced in Lent, covered over with a focus on what we will give up during the Lenten fast. Jesus did fast in the desert for 40 days, the precedent for our Lenten 'fast. And, that fasting

The Ash Wednesday observance captures the themes of Lent and gives ritual expression to our human frailty and need for God. If you've not normally attended, I encourage you to do so this year.

God's peace,

David Perkins
Interim Rector

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:

Steven Speaks

Junior Warden:

Elva Goldman

Treasurer:

Rose Lollar

Clerk:

Jeri Tippit

Members:

Mac Hall

Bil Hitchcock

Ann Montgomery

Rand Neeley

Zola Powers

Amy Seanor

Terri Via

Lectionary Readings: Year B, 3 Epiphany

Sunday, January 22:

Jonah 3:1-5; 10

Psalm 62:6-14

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Mark 1:14-20

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

Year Two, 3 Epiphany

Tuesday, January 24:

Genesis 15:1-11, 17-21

Psalm 45

Hebrews 9:1-14

John 5:1-18

Wednesday, January 25:

Genesis 16:1-14

Psalm 49

Hebrews 9:15-28

John 5:19-29

Lectionary Readings: Year B, 4 Epiphany

Sunday, January 29:

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Psalm 111

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Mark 1:21-28

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

Year Two, 4 Epiphany

Tuesday, January 31:

Isaiah 52:1-12

Psalm 61, 62

Galatians 4:12-20

Mark 8:1-10

Wednesday, January 18:

Isaiah 54:1-10

Psalm 119:73-96

Galatians 4:21-31

Mark 8:11-26

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, January 22

- Christ Church, Tuscaloosa
- St. Peter's, Talladega
- Our companion diocese of Haiti and its bishop, Zaché
- Youth Ministries in the Diocese of Alabama
- Pre-School Partners (Birmingham and Anniston)
- The Journey School (Selma)

Sunday, January 29

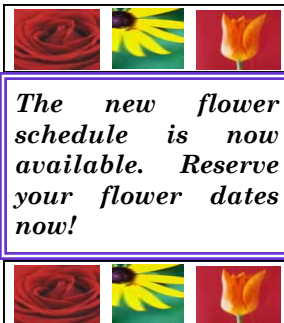
- St. Paul's, Carlowville
- St. Wilfrid's, Marion
- Our companion diocese of Haiti and its bishop, Zaché
- Diocesan Commission on Race Relations
- Good Samaritan Free Clinic (Cullman)
- St. Michael's Clinic (Anniston)

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:	Friends/ Others:	Dennis Ledbetter	Alfred Reeves
June Brinkley	Jane Barkley	Mike Lee	Trip Rowley
Marcella Foster	Kathy Barnett	Marvin Lewis	Ray Shirley
Betty Read	Elizabeth Via Brown	Nancy McGriff	Bobby Skelton
Marietta Sexton	Janice Cole	Bill McGuire	Delores Smith
Ami Simpson	Steve Endicott	Henry Moore	Ann Windle
	Vicky Harris	Bruce Olsen	Al Zdanis



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

February 5, 12, 19
 April 122, 29
 May 13
 June 3, 24
 July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
 August 5, 12
 September 16
 October 21, 28
 November 4, 11
 December 30

Weekly Schedule: January 22-28, 2012

Sunday, January 22

9:00 AM Choir
 9:30 AM Bookstore Open
 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist—Rite II
 11:15 AM Parish Meeting Luncheon
 Bookstore Open
 11:30 AM Sign Language Service (Chp)

*Nursery available at 8:30 a.m.

Tuesday, January 24

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

Wednesday, January 25—No Newsletter

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

Weekly Schedule: January 29-February 4, 2012

Sunday, January 29

9:00 AM Choir
 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.

Tuesday, January 31

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

Wednesday, February 1—Newsletter

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



In Sympathy

The Holy Comforter church family would like to extend its deepest sympathy to Martha and Howard Stripling and family on the death of her brother Bascom Slappey. May his soul and all souls that have gone on before him rest in peace.

Annual Parish Meeting & Luncheon Sunday, January 22nd Immediately following the service

St. Anne's is hosting the luncheon. Please bring a dish to share, enough for your family and a few more.

St. Mary's Guild

The next meeting for St. Mary's Guild will be on Wednesday, February 8th, at 11:00 a.m. at Arrowhead Country Club. We will have short meeting and then eat buffet style at 11:30 a.m.. Hope all members will be able to join us. Thanks to Barbara Johnson for arranging this outing at Arrowhead. Call if you need directions.



Ash Wednesday, February 22

Holy Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes in the chapel at noon and 6 PM

Lenten Study

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 22. For the next five Wednesdays after we will have a Lenten supper and study. The focus of the study will be the challenge of the unique transitional tasks a church faces during the interim period. The Lenten supper will be at 6 PM and the study will begin at 6:30.

Those developmental/transitional tasks include:

- Coming to terms with the congregation's history
- Discovering a new identity, a new sense of mission
- Helping the congregation's leadership to grow and change
- Rediscovering and strengthening linkages to the denomination
- Establishing a new commitment between people and the new priest to engage in their mission together.

The weekly studies will get at those challenges with these topics.

February 29—A timeline and celebration of Holy Comforter's ministry

March 7—Hurts and disappointments on the journey (ending with a healing service)

March 14—Visioning the future

March 21—Appreciating different spiritualities in the community

March 28—An open forum on mission

ECW SOUP SALE—MARCH 11TH



The ECW Soup Sale will be Sunday, March 11th. Make your favorite or call for a recipe. Freeze your soup in 1 quart freezer bags, marked with the name of the soup. Freeze it flat on a cookie sheet. Proceeds from the spaghetti supper and soup sale help fund our many outreach and in-reach projects. Thanks for all you do!



SAVE THE DATE! ECW'S ANNUAL VALENTINE SPAGHETTI SUPPER

Sunday, February 12, 2012 at 5:30 PM

Celebrate Valentine's Day, Sunday, February 12 at 5:30 p.m. with loved ones and friends. Reservations will begin being accepted on January 15th. Please write your name on the list on Eleshia's door. Tickets prices are 12 years old and up (\$15), couples (\$25), 6-11 years old (\$6) and under 6 years (no charge). Questions? Call Katie Ufford (288-1979). Proceeds from the spaghetti supper and soup sale help fund our many outreach and inreach projects. Thanks for all you do!

LIBRARY SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

Please join the Library Sunday School for a lively discussion of the book, "**Speaking Christian: Why Christian Words Have Lost Their Meaning and Power and How They Can Be Restored**" by Marcus Borg. According to Borg, "Christian language has become a stumbling block in our time" and some words "have acquired meanings that are serious distortions of their biblical and traditional meanings." This book's purpose is "to help us read, hear, and inwardly digest Christian language without preconceived understandings getting in the way." The class meets at 9:00 in the Library and always welcomes visitors and newcomers. Books are available on the table as you come in the door of the Library. If interested, take one and pay Douglass Porter \$15.50.

OUTREACH SUMMIT

9:30 AM- 3:00 PM

January 28, 2012

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Birmingham

**Keynote Speaker: Señora Eleana Mayorquin,
Episcopal Diocese of Honduras.**

Schedule of the Day

9:00am Registration, Hall Entrance
9:30am Welcome and Keynote, Church
10:30am-noon Workshops
12:00-1:00 Lunch, Networking
1:15-3:00pm Workshops
3:00pm Depart

These workshops are designed to give practical tips on implementing and sustaining outreach activities. Workshops Include:

- **Disaster Preparedness and Response**
- **Community Transformation through Outreach**
- **Hispanic Mission Outreach**
- **Global Short-Term Mission**
- **Youth Domestic Mission**
- **Kairos Prison Ministry**
- **Spirituality and Outreach**
- **Public Policy to Address the Needs of the Poor**

Fee: \$15 to include lunch, payable to the Diocese of Alabama, note "Outreach Summit"

Contact: For information, the Reverend Deacon Judy Quick, jgquick@bellsouth.net, 205.669.6862

For registration, the Reverend Pat Wingo, Deputy for Ministry Development, pwingo@dioala.org, 205.715.2060, ext 317 or **online registration** at <http://bit.ly/tnftSs>

Who Should Attend? Clergy, Lay Leaders, especially Parish Outreach Chairs, ECW, Youth Leaders, Youth, and anyone interested in Mission and Outreach

"Funding Your Outreach Ministries" Workshops:

Morning (10:30am-Noon)

- **Small Parish Outreach Funding**

Leader: The Reverend John Mark Ford (Rector, St. Catherine's, Chelsea), Mr. Bill Wheeler (Outreach Chair, St. Catherine's, Chelsea)

- **Medium Parish Outreach Funding**

Leader: The Reverend Allison Liles (Associate Rector, (St. Thomas, Huntsville)

- **Large Parish Outreach**

Leader: The Reverend Jack Alvey (Associate Rector, All Saints', Birmingham)

"Best Practices: How To Implement Outreach Programs" Workshops:

Afternoon: 1:15-3:00 pm

- **Disaster Preparedness and Response**
- **Community Transformation through Outreach**
- **Hispanic Mission Outreach**
- **Global Short-Term Mission**
- **Youth Domestic Mission**
- **Kairos Prison Ministry**
- **Spirituality and Outreach**
- **Public Policy to Address the Needs of the Poor**

For further details about the workshops and their leaders, see the diocesan website (www.dioala.org).