

January 24—February 6, 2010

# HOLY COMFORTER NEWSLETTER



1/24—2/6/10

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

Since it was announced last summer that I would be taking a sabbatical in 2010, many parishioners have inquired about this process in the life of the church. The Diocesan says that a priest should take a sabbatical every fifth year of ministry. In some cases that is simply not feasible due to the needs of the parish. So although delayed a little, my sabbatical is now fast approaching.

The concept of sabbaticals dates back to the Old Testament. The first biblical reference to 'sabbatical' occurs in Exodus 23:10-11, which says: "You may plant your land for six years and gather its crops. But during the seventh year, you must leave it alone and withdraw from it." This reference connects both the seventh day of rest after God's creation of the world in Genesis and the fourth commandment, "Remember that thou keep holy the Sabbath day" in Exodus. For clergy, finding Sabbath time can be challenging due to the pastoral, spiritual, worship, and physical needs of individual parishioners and the parish as a whole.

So what is a sabbatical? A sabbatical is Sabbath time away from the many demands of everyday  
*Continued on pg 3*

**Annual Parish Meeting  
Sunday, January 24th  
Immediately after the 10 AM service**

**Luncheon will follow  
St. Mary's will provide the meat.  
Please bring a dish to share, enough  
for your family and a few more.**

## Pastoral Care Training

January 30, 2010  
10:00 AM—12:00 Noon  
Library

### Who needs to come?

Team Leaders  
Pastoral Care Community Members  
Anyone interested in Pastoral Care

This training will help anyone making visits to others. It will also provide you with tools and materials to clarify pastoral needs and gifts.

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

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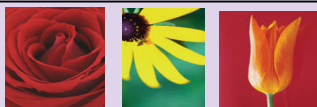
Please Pray For:

Parishioners:

Melissa Carlton
Robyn Craig
Sam Craig
Ruth Hyde
Bette Overholser
Wayne Peterson
Marietta Sexton
Howard Stripling
Barbara Zdanis

Friends/ Others:

Walter Alvarenga
John Dunwoody
Edie Gilger
Shea Neverick
Roger Phelan
Martha Dell Stancik



Open Flower Dates

January 24
February 14
April 11, 18, 25
May 2, 16
June 6, 13, 20, 27
July 4, 25
August 8, 15, 22, 29
September 19
October 3, 17, 24, 31
November 14, 21, 28
December 12

Weekly Schedule: January 24-30, 2010

Sunday, January 24

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, January 26

10:00 AM Holy Eucharist
11:00 AM Bible Study
NO Book Group

Wednesday, January 27

3:00 PM Coffice
6:00 PM Holy Eucharist
6:30 PM Supper
7:00 PM Choir
7:00 PM Inquirer's Class

Friday, January 29

NO Spirituality Group

Weekly Schedule: January 31—February 6, 2010

Sunday, January 31

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 2

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

Wednesday, February 3

3:00 PM Coffice
6:00 PM Holy Eucharist
6:30 PM Supper
7:00 PM Choir
7:00 PM Inquirer's Class

Friday, February 5

10:00 AM Spirituality Group

February 6-8

Vestry Retreat

New Senior and Junior Wardens Elected
Congratulations to Terri Via our new Senior Warden and Elva Goldman our new Junior Warden!



January Worm Schedule

Jan. 24: The Beatitudes: Drama
Jan. 31: The Beatitudes: Movie & Stewardship of Community

February Worm Schedule

Feb. 7: The Beatitudes: Story
Feb. 14: The Beatitudes: Music
Feb. 21: Jeremiah: Art
Feb. 28: Jeremiah: Drama

Youth January Schedule

Jan. 24: 5-7pm at Church
Jan. 31: 5-7pm at Church

Youth February Schedule

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

Feb. 7: Super games and supper
Feb. 14: help with ECW Valentine's spaghetti supper
Feb. 21: outreach visit to Cara Vita
Feb. 28: games/activities at church

Lectionary Readings: Year C, 3 Epiphany

Sunday, January 24:
Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10
Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 12:12-31a
Luke 4:14-21

Daily Office: Year Two, 1 Epiphany

Tues., January 26:
Genesis 15:1-11, 17-21
Psalm 45
Hebrews 9:1-14
John 5:1-18

Wed., January 27:

Genesis 16:1-14
Psalm 49
Hebrews 9:15-28
John 5:19-29

Lectionary Readings: Year C, 4 Epiphany

Sunday, January 31:
Jeremiah 1:4-10
Psalm 71:1-6
1 Corinthians 13:1-13
Luke 4:21-30

Daily Office: Year Two, 2 Epiphany

Tuesday, February 2:
Genesis 21:1-21
Psalm 61, 62
Hebrews 11:13-22
John 6:41-51

Wed., January 20:

Genesis 22:1-18
Psalm 119:73-96
Hebrews 11:23-31
John 6:52-59



Diocese of  
Alabama  
Cycle  
of Prayer

### Sunday, January 24

- Christ Church, Tuscaloosa
- Our companion diocese of Haiti and its bishop, Zaché; our missionaries to Namibia, Jeremy and Penny Lucas
- For all who work toward the millennium development goal of achieving universal primary education
- Pre-School Partners (Birmingham and Anniston)
- The Journey School (Selma)

### Sunday, January 31

- St. Paul's, Carlowville
- St. Wilfrid's, Marion
- Our companion diocese of Haiti and its bishop, Zaché; our missionaries to Namibia, Jeremy and Penny Lucas
- Diocesan Commission on Race Relations
- Good Samaritan Free Clinic (Cullman)
- St. Michael's Clinic (Anniston)
- The Birmingham Hospitality Network

What a wonderful family to be a part of! Thank you all so much for your cards, food, flowers and most especially your prayers during Donald's illness and untimely death. The love and support that you have shown us is very much appreciated. It is indeed wonderful to be a member of the Holy Comforter Family!

Peace,  
Leanne, Blake, Virginia, Allan, Emily and Addison Barber

### 17th Annual Contemplative Conference

Contemplative Outreach Birmingham will be hosting its 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Contemplative Conference on February 27-28, 2010 at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church at 3775 Crosshaven Dr. Birmingham, AL. The guest speaker, Dr. Elizabeth Anne Stewart, preaches, teaches and offers spiritual guidance throughout the Chicago area. The theme is "Mysticism and Encounters with the Beloved." She will examine the classic mystical path of Dark Night, Illumination, and Union demonstrating that the mystical path is open to all and that it has its place in contemporary life. The cost is \$75 and that includes lunch on Saturday. If you would like to register contact Diana Tschache at 205/991-6964 or [tschached@bellsouth.net](mailto:tschached@bellsouth.net).



### ECW'S Spaghetti Supper on Valentine's Day

Celebrate Valentine's Day, Sunday, February 14 at 5:30 p.m. with loved ones and friends. McMaster Hall will be decked out with hearts and roses! Tickets will be sold January 24th, 31st and February 7th after the worship services—12 years old and up (\$10), 6-11 years old (\$5) and under 6 years (no charge). We will also take the opportunity to toast Drake as she leaves on her sabbatical.

parish life and the crisis that invade the lives of members of our faith community each day. The purpose of my sabbatical is to rest and refresh physically, emotionally and spiritually, so that I can better serve Holy Comforter when I return.

Where does a clergy person go on sabbatical? The answer to that question needs to reflect the personality, desires, and interests of the individual. No matter what the sabbatical program entails, one or two overriding elements should be in place. First, the sabbatical should be refreshing and renewing. Second, the sabbatical should vary greatly from the normal routine of everyday life. I have divided my sabbatical into four major parts: family, travel and physical and spiritual renewal. I will begin with time with my family in several different locations. Then I will go to Arizona for an intensive physical renewal. From there I go to visit with friends and family and on to a spiritual retreat. Finally, I will go to Scotland to walk the moors, visit the sacred places, absorb the history and of course visit a few pubs. In between all of that I will play golf wherever possible and just have fun.

I am afforded this opportunity by the grace of Holy Comforter. I cannot thank you enough for pursuing the grant. The Endowment awarded only 149 grants across all denominations this year. The fact that Holy Comforter received one of only two Lilly Endowment Grants for Clergy Renewal in the state of Alabama speaks well for the enormous amount of love and effort that went into the application. It has afforded me the opportunity to, as the grant says, "Let my heart Sing."

I will begin my sabbatical on Monday, February 15<sup>th</sup>. My goal is to return to Holy Comforter on Sunday June 20<sup>th</sup>, refreshed, renewed, and empowered for the ministry Christ calls us to do in this special and holy place.

Blessings,

### 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:**

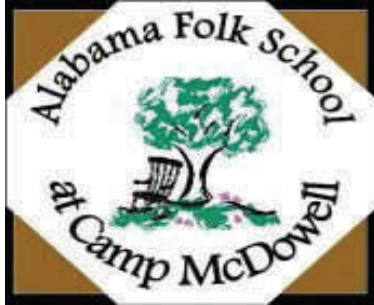
Susanne Trest

**Clerk:**

Michael Paul

**Members:**

Leanne Barber  
Dennis Gibson  
Bil Hitchcock  
Rose Lollar  
Nelya McKenzie  
Billy McLemore  
Ann Montgomery  
Rand Neeley  
Zola Powers  
Kevin Trest



**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 Appliqué*, 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](http://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.

**Introduction to Centering Prayer Retreat**

The Benedictine Sisters Retreat Center in Cullman and Contemplative Outreach, Birmingham are sponsoring an Introduction to Centering Prayer retreat to be held in Cullman, Alabama January 29-31. This retreat is designed for those new to Centering Prayer, a form of Christian prayer rooted in the ancient Christian contemplative tradition. Its purpose is to foster a deeper intimacy with Christ through the silence and stillness of contemplative prayer. Private rooms and the ability to maintain silence are required.

Registration will be from 6:00 – 7:00 pm on Friday, January 29, and the program will end after the noon meal on Sunday. The cost for the weekend is \$195/person for a private room; lodging, meals, and linens are included. For registration information, please contact the Benedictine Sisters Retreat Center at (256) 734-8302 or by e-mail at [retreats@shmon.org](mailto:retreats@shmon.org).

**UPCOMING EVENTS—Mark your calendars!**

**JANUARY**

January 24		Annual Parish Meeting/ Luncheon
January 30	10:00—12:00 Noon	Pastoral Care Training

**FEBRUARY**

February 5-7		Vestry Retreat
February 11-13		Diocesan Convention
February 14	5:30 PM	ECW Spaghetti Dinner
February 16	6:00 PM	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/ Alan 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
April 8-11		Family Promise
April 11		Renewal Event—Diedre Good
April 23-25		Parish Retreat—Camp McDowell