



# Holy Comforter Newsletter

September 18-October 1, 2011

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

## STAFF

### Interim Rector:

The Rev. Dr. David Perkins ext. 302

### 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 Tippitt

### Members:

Leanne Barber

Dennis Gibson

Bil Hitchcock

Nelya McKenzie

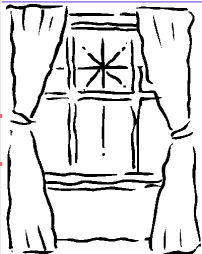
Ann Montgomery

Rand Neeley

Zola Powers

## Looking Out My Window, September 2011

By: The Rev. Dr. David W. Perkins



“Not for the faint of tongue.” So proclaimed the paper liner in my last tin of wintergreen Altoids mints. That brought a chuckle, because my Tabasco-conditioned palate does not find wintergreen Altoids particularly challenging. Then, my thoughts went to Holy Eucharist. Have my palate and my spiritual make up become so conditioned by repetition that I’ve forgotten that it is “not for the faint of tongue.”

Prayer C says, “Forgive us for coming to this table for solace only and not for strength; for pardon only and not for renewal.” In Holy Eucharist the Christ who lived, died, and was risen enters directly into our experience as we receive his body and blood. Such an encounter certainly is not for the faint of tongue. The Eucharistic experience calls us to become what we eat, to take on more fully the likeness of Christ—his ways of loving and relating, his radical, risk-taking commitment, and his servant style of life.

That does not mean that the Holy Table is an exclusive place, accessible only to the spiritual elite and radically committed. That gets things in reverse. Jesus shared his table with all kinds of people, even those unwanted by the religious establishment. But, those who shared table with Jesus ex-

perienced radical transformation. (See Luke 19:1-10 for the example of Zacchaeus.)

Like Jesus, we seek to make the Holy Table accessible, to live in the tension between what we are in and of ourselves and what we can become through God’s transforming love experienced in Eucharist. As Gordon Lathrop put it, “The task of the assembly is a task of polarity: make the center strong, the symbols large, the words of Christ clear, and make that center accessible, the circle large, the periphery permeable.” (*Holy Things: A Liturgical Theology* [Fortress, 1993], p. 132).

And, for those of us who regularly come to the Holy Table, my Altoids tin liner serves as a heads up—“Not for the faint of tongue.” We refuse to allow the weekly repetition to dull our spiritual palate to the revolutionary, transforming Christ we are receiving in bread and wine. May we pray, “Jesus, Savior, may your presence in bread and wine take me wherever you desire me to go.”

“Not for the faint of tongue.”

God’s peace,  
David Perkins, Interim Rector

## Lectionary Readings: Year A, 14 Pentecost

### Sunday, September 18:

Exodus 16:2-15  
Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45  
Philippians 1:21-30  
Matthew 20:1-16

### .....Daily Office..... Year One, Proper 20

### Tuesday, September 20:

2 Kings 5:19-27  
Psalm 78:1-39  
1 Corinthians 5:1-8  
Matthew 5:27-37

### Wednesday, September 21:

2 Kings 6:1-23  
Psalm 81, 82  
1 Corinthians 5:9—6:8  
Matthew 5:38-48

## Lectionary Readings: Year A, 15 Pentecost

### Sunday, September 25:

Exodus 17:1-7  
Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16  
Philippians 2:1-13  
Matthew 21:23-32

### .....Daily Office..... Year One, Proper 21

### Tuesday, September 27:

2 Chronicles 29:1-3; 30:1-27  
Psalm 97, 99  
1 Corinthians 7:32-40  
Matthew 7:1-12

### Wednesday, September 28:

2 Kings 18:9-25  
Psalm 119:121-144  
1 Corinthians 8:1-13  
Matthew 7:13-21

**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, September 18**

- Saint Matthew's, Madison
- Holy Cross, Uniontown
- Our companion diocese of Haiti and its bishop, Zaché
- For all who work toward the millennium development goal of global partnerships for development.

**Sunday, September 25**

- Saint Michael's and All Angels, Anniston
- Saint Michael's and All Angels, Millbrook
- Our companion diocese of Haiti and its bishop, Zaché
- For the ministry of all church musicians and choir members
- For our diaconal ministry to all who are homeless or in need of shelter.

**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:**

Melissa Carlton  
Fred Earle  
Bob Gamble  
Jim Kyker  
Betty Read  
Marietta Sexton  
Ami Simpson



**Friends/ Others:**

Christina Brown  
Steve Endicott  
Gina Robinson Johnson  
Rob McClendon  
Jerry McKenzie  
Judy Ross  
Trip Rowley  
Ray Shirley



*The altar flowers on Sunday, September 18th are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Joyce Drysdale.*

**Open Flower Dates**

November 6, 20

Only **TWO** flower dates are still open, but they won't be available for long. Sign up to reserve your desired date right away!



*The altar flowers on Sunday, September 25th are given to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for the birthday of Tim Barrowman.*

**Weekly Schedule: September 18-24, 2011**

**Sunday, September 18**

9:00 AM Choir  
Sunday School  
9:30 AM Bookstore Open  
10:00 AM Holy Eucharist—Rite I  
11:15 AM Altar Guild Meeting (Lib)  
Coffee Hour (McQ)  
Bookstore Open  
11:30 AM Sign Language Service (Chp)

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

**Monday, September 19**

6:00 PM Vestry Meeting (Lib)

**Tuesday, September 20**

10:00 AM Holy Eucharist (Chp)  
11:00 AM Bible Study

**Wednesday, September 21—No Newsletter**

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

**Weekly Schedule: September 25—October 1, 2011**

**Sunday, September 25**

9:00 AM Choir  
Sunday School  
9:30 AM Bookstore Open  
10:00 AM Holy Eucharist—Rite II  
11:15 AM Coffee Hour (McQ)  
Bookstore Open  
11:30 AM Sign Language Service (Chp)  
5:30 PM Foyer Kick-Off (Katey & Ron Russell's Home)

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

**Tuesday, September 26**

10:00 AM Holy Eucharist (Chp)  
11:00 AM Bible Study

**Wednesday, September 27—Newsletter**

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

### Flu and Pneumonia Shots are Available

Thursday, October 6th  
Whitfield United Methodist Church  
(Shephard Center Fellowship Hall)  
2673 Fisk Road  
12:00 noon-5:00 p.m.  
\$30/flu and \$50/pneumonia

You will be given a receipt for your payment that you can file with your private insurance provider. Also, Montgomery Area Council on Aging will be on hand to assist those who may want to review their current Medicare Drug Plan coverage. These services are open to all members of our community.



### Donate Toilet Tissue to the Food Pantry

The Food Pantry is in need of toilet tissue this month. I know we are a “food” pantry, but many of our recipients are homeless, unemployed, elderly, or the working and important personal care items like this are needed as much as food. Please think of your Holy Comforter Food Pantry the next time you go shopping for your household. Place all donations in the brown tall wicker basket that is located in McMaster Hall beside the double doors. We would also like to thank everyone that donated green beans. We are truly making a difference in our community.



### ECW'S 122ND ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE “He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands: Our Mission and Ministry in the World” Thursday, October 6th and Friday, October 7th, 2011 St. John’s Episcopal Church, Montgomery, Alabama

The ECW Diocesan Board and the Montgomery Convocation invite you to join us for the 122nd Annual Fall Conference in Montgomery October 6-7, 2011. Registration will begin at 10:00 a.m. at St. John’s Episcopal Church. Our conference speaker, The Rev. Elizabeth Wheatley-Jones, currently serves as Priest-in-Charge at All Saints, Grenada, Mississippi. The \$35 Registration Fee includes: talks by a nationally known speaker, a wine and cheese reception with silent auction and live music, a catered dinner, welcome bag surprises, plus lunches, snacks, wonderful worship and fellowship! A registration form, conference agenda, map and driving directions to the hotel and church are available on the website: [www.alabamaecw.org](http://www.alabamaecw.org). Questions call: Mitzi Chesser Waldo, ECW Montgomery Convocation Coordinator at 334-224-8045, or e-mail: [montgomery@ecw.org](mailto:montgomery@ecw.org). Registration forms and other information detailing the festivities of the Fall Conference and ways the women can help is available on the credenza.

### THE LIBRARY SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS BEGINS ITS FALL PROGRAM AS FOLLOWS:

#### Sept. 4, 11, 18

***Dietrich Bonhoeffer: Memories and Perspectives.*** Following up on the discussion about Dietrich Bonhoeffer led by John Porter a few weeks ago, we will watch a film for three class sessions with discussion following each segment. “Accounts from his family, friends, and students give intimate insight into the struggles, growth, and motivations of Bonhoeffer in a way that will make you ask anew what it means to be a Christian today.” As a leader in the Confessing Church, the group which opposed Hitler in our century, his is a story of courage and conviction.

#### Sept 25 – 6 or 7 weeks

***Forgotten God: Reversing Our Tragic Neglect of the Holy Spirit*** by Francis Chan. The author promises to “explore the fundamental knowledge most of us have about the Holy Spirit . . . and to help enable us “to open our hearts and lives to His presence and action more fully than we have ever done before.” Books are \$9.19 each.

#### Late fall – probably until Christmas.

***Speaking Christian: Why Christian Words Have Lost Their Meaning and Power and How They Can Be Restored*** by Marcus Borg. In this book Borg teaches us how to read, hear, and digest our Christian language without preconceived notions getting in the way. He redeems the language of Christianity by restoring its power to illuminate us and transform our world.

If you have any questions or want to order a book, contact Douglass Porter at 265-2600 or 462-2255 or email: [dporter1013@knology.net](mailto:dporter1013@knology.net). We welcome newcomers to the class!

### OUTREACH FUN RUN COMING!

Mark your calendars for the Saints and Sinners fun run on Saturday October 29, beginning at 8:00 AM at Chappy’s on Vaughn Rd. Brunch to follow at the home of Leanne Barber. Proceeds to benefit Catholic Social Services. Our goal is to raise \$1000. How you can participate:

- Be part of the Holy Comforter fun run team.
- Be a sponsor for the Holy Comforter fun run team (any amount accepted).
- Prepare food for the brunch at Leanne’s home.

More details to follow. Contact Nelya McKenzie (284-5078) or Zola Powers (265-8942) about how you wish to help with this fun Outreach project.

### Altar Guild Meeting

Altar Guild meeting on Sunday, September 18th immediately after the service in the Library. All members of the Altar Guild are asked to please be in attendance. Father David will be the speaker.

### FOYER GROUPS NOW FORMING

All members of the parish are invited to join the Foyer program by completing the information below and placing it either in the Alms Basin or in the basket on the credenza, near the Chapel.

**WHAT IS FOYER?** The word “foyer” is French and means “hearth” or “fireside”. The hearth is the symbol of refuge, hospitality, and fellowship within a dwelling. Foyer at the Holy Comforter is a gathering of parish members with a simple meal, conversation and genuine fellowship once a month in a parishioner’s home. Foyers are held Fall through Spring.

Foyer is the outgrowth of the Cathedral Church in Coventry, England, after the Cathedral was destroyed by fire during bombing raids in World War II. A priest found, in the rubble, three spiked nails dating from the 1300’s when the Cathedral was built. He formed a “cross of nails” to symbolize the unity of the parish as a Christian body. The parish formed itself into small groups that could meet in homes and follow the Benedictine Rule of Life. The goal of the Foyer program was the reconciliation of Christians and has grown into an international movement. The Foyer program at Holy Comforter began in 1980.

**HOW DOES FOYER WORK?** Members are organized into groups of about 12 to 14 people, with each group meeting monthly in a different group member’s home. Both singles and couples participate. The host provides a simple main dish and the other members bring side dishes, bread, appetizers, etc. Host duties rotate among the members and can be shared.

*This year’s Foyer Kick Off, will be on **Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011** at the home of Katey and Ron Russell (1231 Gregory Drive, Montgomery) at 5:30 p.m. At that time, Foyer Groups will be announced. **FORMS MUST BE TURNED IN BY SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18<sup>th</sup>.***

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

For info call the Church Office (281-1337) or Ann Montgomery (277-6982).

### Diocese Now Accepting Reservations for October Celebration with the Parsleys



The Diocese of Alabama is now accepting reservations for a celebration of the diocese and the 15 years of dedicated devotion and service given by our diocesan bishop, the Rt. Rev. Henry N. Parsley Jr., and his wife Becky.

The celebration will take place on Friday, October 28 at 6:30 p.m., at The Club (1 Robert S. Smith Drive, Birmingham, AL 35209). The event will be a seated dinner with a cash bar; dress is Coat and Tie.

Individual reservations may be purchased on a first-come, first-served basis for \$40 each from our diocesan

office. There are no allotments for any given parish, and no group reservations will be accepted.

Please register online by clicking the link button below, or call Denise Servant at 205-715-2060 ext. 300 (to hold a phone reservation, a check must be received within seven business days). Online reservations may be paid for an additional cost of \$2 per reservation by going online to <http://www.dioala.org/dfc/newsdetail/2/910>. Checks, payable to the Episcopal Diocese of Alabama with “Retirement Celebration” written on the memo line, may be mailed to Attn: Denise Servant, Retirement Celebration, Carpenter House, 521 20th Street North, Birmingham, AL 35203. Both online and phone reservations will be confirmed after payment is received. *Note: Carpenter*

*House business hours for June, July, and August are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday.*

As a part of our remembrance of Bishop and Becky Parsley, Catesby Jones will be compiling a book of brief stories, memories, anecdotes, and pictures. If you wish to share something, please send it to Catesby Jones, P.O. Box 1014, Selma, AL 36702. If you have any questions about the Retirement Celebration, please contact Melissa Strange at [melstrange@mac.com](mailto:melstrange@mac.com).

We look forward to sharing a wonderful evening with the diocesan family as we celebrate our ministry as a diocese and the Parsleys’ life and ministry among us.

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT  
HEALING SERVICE**

**Each Wednesday at 6:00 p.m.  
in the Chapel and led by Father David  
Everyone is invited to attend.**

**ATTENTION: NEW OFFICE HOURS**

**The church office will no longer be open 8:30 a.m.—4 p.m. on Friday. Its new hours on Friday will be 8:30 a.m.—1 p.m. starting Friday, September 23rd. Due to this change, until further notice the Food Pantry will only be open Monday and Wednesday, 1—4 p.m.**

The Commission on Spirituality of The Diocese of Alabama is proud to sponsor and invite you to attend a Fall Retreat, featuring the guest Speaker, The Rt. Rev. Larry Maze

**Fall Retreat 2011: "There is More to You than You Think"  
November 18-19, 2011**

Episcopal Church of the Ascension, 1912 Canyon Rd (Birmingham, AL)

Registration forms are available on the credenza. The deadline for registration is November 10th.

**Twenty Times You Should Call Your Priest**

1. When you are feeling crippled by guilt or shame.
2. When you are struggling with some aspect of church teaching or religious doubt.
3. When you simply need someone to talk to.
4. When you feel deeply in despair or are having thoughts of suicide.
5. When you or a loved one is seriously ill and perhaps facing death
6. When you or a relative continues to be despondent following the death of a loved one
7. When you or other family members are facing a surgical procedure or hospitalization
8. When you are facing adjustment to a physical handicap
9. When you are going through a long convalescence
10. Prior to the birth of a baby (or immediately thereafter if calling beforehand proves impossible)
11. When you or someone in your family desires to make a commitment of faith in Christ or to receive Holy Baptism or to be received or confirmed into the church
12. When you have begun to worry about excessive drinking or about any addictive behavior
13. When a loved one is drinking excessively or is abusing drugs
14. When you are having difficulty in your marriage or in a family relationship
15. When you are feeling a holy stirring, a calling from God, and need counsel
16. When you are choosing a life work and feel uncertain
17. When you are choosing a life mate and considering marriage
18. When as a parent you are concerned about either of the above for your son or daughter
19. When you or a loved one have become discouraged and life seems to have lost its meaning
20. When the behavior of a loved one shows marked and rapid change, whether it is toward excessive misbehavior or obsessive preoccupation with some unusual feature of religion

[Adapted from Robert D. Dale, Growing a Loving Church]

The Reverend David W. Perkins+, Th.D.