

Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit

858 KENT DAIRY RD. ALABASTER

MAILING ADDRESS PO BOX 2365 ALABASTER AL 35007

WWW.HOLYSPIRIT-AL.ORG

THE REV. LEE LOWERY



THE PARACLETE

VOLUME 8 ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2009



The Brotherhood of St. Andrew is collecting coats (men's, women's and children's) and all other cold weather outer wear.

Flyers will be in narthex starting this Sunday. Please bring all donations to the narthex by Dec. 13th. Arrangements will be made for a charity to pick them up for distribution. Thank you for your generosity.

Bill Meeks

"The world will never be won to Christ with what people can conveniently spare." - Bernard Edinger

Christmas Eve Service 5:30 pm

Parish Mission Statement

We are an inclusive, inquiring, and vibrant community with a rich Anglican tradition and a deep commitment to the teachings and mission of Jesus Christ. As His disciples, we are called not only to hear and herald God's Word, but also to show and share God's love, through meaningful worship, education, outreach, stewardship and fellowship, and other ministries that invite and welcome all people into fellowship with God and God's church.

Children's Starry Night, Noisy Night Children's Musical,
December 20th during the 10:30 service.

Parents, our children are practicing during Children's Chapel every Sunday. Please attend.

December 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																								
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">Nov 2009</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>T</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> </tr> <tr> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> </tr> <tr> <td>29</td> <td>30</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Nov 2009							S	M	T	W	T	F	S	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30						<p>1</p> <p><i>HAPPY BIRTHDAY GORDON MAREK AND JOY DUNLAP</i></p>	<p>2</p> <p>7:00 PM Wednesday Night service</p> <p><i>Happy Birthday Abby Picot</i></p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p><i>Happy Birthday Jenny Avritt</i></p>							
Nov 2009																																																														
S	M	T	W	T	F	S																																																								
1	2	3	4	5	6	7																																																								
8	9	10	11	12	13	14																																																								
15	16	17	18	19	20	21																																																								
22	23	24	25	26	27	28																																																								
29	30																																																													
<p>6</p> <p>Worship at 8:30 and 10:30</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Happy Birthday Michael Kelley</p> <p>office closed Mondays</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p> <p>7:00 PM Wednesday Night service</p> <p><i>HAPPY BIRTHDAY CHARLIE RAFFORD</i></p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>																																																								
<p>13</p> <p>Brotherhood of St Andrews after 2nd service</p> <p>Worship at 8:30 and 10:30</p>	<p>14</p> <p><i>Happy Birthday James Egner</i></p> <p>office closed Mondays</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Happy Birthday Sharon Greer</p>	<p>16</p> <p>7:00 PM Wednesday Night service</p> <p>EYC 7 PM</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p><i>HAPPY BIRTHDAY GLENDA JONES</i></p>	<p>19</p>																																																								
<p>20</p> <p>Worship at 8:30 and 10:30</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Happy Anniversary David and Lorraine Divers</p> <p>office closed Mondays</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Happy Birthday Kim Egner</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Christmas Eve Service 5:30 pm</p> <p><i>HAPPY BIRTHDAY STEVE SMITH</i></p>	<p>25</p> <p>Christmas</p> <p><i>Happy Birthday Kathy Olsen</i></p>	<p>26</p> <p><i>Happy Birthday Michele Berry, James Dunn</i></p>																																																								
<p>27</p> <p>Happy Anniversary David and Lorraine Divers</p> <p>Worship at 8:30 and 10:30</p>	<p>28</p> <p>office closed Mondays</p> <p><i>The Holy Innocents</i></p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <p>7:00 PM Wednesday Night service</p>	<p>31</p> <p><i>HAPPY BIRTHDAY CHRISTOPHER CORSCADDEN</i></p> <p><i>New Year's Eve</i></p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">Jan 2010</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>T</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> </tr> <tr> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> <td>30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>31</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Jan 2010							S	M	T	W	T	F	S						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31						
Jan 2010																																																														
S	M	T	W	T	F	S																																																								
					1	2																																																								
3	4	5	6	7	8	9																																																								
10	11	12	13	14	15	16																																																								
17	18	19	20	21	22	23																																																								
24	25	26	27	28	29	30																																																								
31																																																														

Anniversaries

Are we missing yours?



Please keep in your prayers.

Kin, Melissa, Noah, Todd, Lori, Jackson, Kassi, Francis, Lizzy, Michele, Chip, Karen, JoAnne, Abby, Amy, David, Amy, Sam, Joy, Jackie, Shirley, Michele, Pattie, Louise, Dustin, Steve, Frannie, Rhonda, Hameed, Naubert, Otis, Bob, Gordon, Harriet, Jay, Nancy, Peggy, Roxanne, Bill, Bobby, Frances, Charlene, Mary Margaret, Anne, Jerry, Charles, Don, Chrissy, Liam, John, Jim, Letisha

December Birthdays

- Joy Dunlap 12/01
- Gordon Marek 12/01
- Abby Picot 12/02
- Jenny Avritt 12/05
- Michael D Kelley 12/07
- Charlie Rafford 12/09
- James Egner 12/14
- Sharon Greer 12/15
- Glenda Jones 12/18
- Aaron Suarez 12/18
- Kim Egner 12/23
- Steve Smith 12/24
- Kathy Olson 12/25
- James Dunn 12/26
- Michelle Berry 12/26
- Christopher Corscadden 12/31

Please keep your vestry, your priest, your parish, your bishop, your diocese and your community in your prayers.



"Because they didn't have e-mail then. That's why God sent an angel to proclaim the baby's birth."

What's in your wallet?

Sam Houston was one of the most colorful men in history. Born on March 3, 1793 in Timber Ridge Church, Virginia, his family moved to Tennessee when he was fourteen. He lived four years with the Cherokee Indians and was "adopted" by them. He served in the Army and was wounded in the War of 1812. He was a Congressman and Governor of Tennessee. He moved to Texas and led the revolt of Texas's independence from Mexico. He was President of the Texas Republic twice. Once Texas entered the Union, he served as its Governor and U.S. Senator.

He came to accept Christ as his Savior late in life. He went to a stream for baptism and there he was reminded to remove personal valuables before he went into the water. He took off his glasses, removed some papers from his pocket, and handed over his watch. The pastor asked him whether he didn't want to remove his billfold lest his money become wet and unfit for use. Houston replied, "In my observation, if there is any part of the church member that needs baptism more than any other, it would be the billfold." So he was baptized with his wallet.

Finance news.

Our expenses are on target. At the end of October our projected expenses were approximately \$190,000 our actual expenses were approximately \$188,000.

Our pledged income is \$15,000 below budget at the end of October. Please catch up with your pledge if you are able.



Angel Tree

There are angels on our tree waiting to bring children Christian love and hope. We have four little girls from the Salvation Army needing warm cloths and a little fun gift also. The gifts are due no later than December 13. The Salvation Army needs them by Monday, December 14. Bring your gift unwrapped with your angel attached. If we have boxes made, you can put them in each child's box.

We also have two little angel boys from the nearby community who want some fun gifts from Santa. These gifts will be wrapped with their angel attached and we need these no later than Sunday, December 20.

Thank you all for your generous and caring hearts.



Congratulations to Rinsel McIntosh, Michael and Stephanie Picot confirmed on Sunday November 22, and to Broocks Smith-Slonneger received.

PARISH MEETING

JANUARY 17, 2010

VESTRY MEMBERS ELECTED

PARISH BUDGET APPROVED.

PLANS FOR THE YEAR

STATE OF THE PARISH

Our Vestry Stewardship Statement

We, your vestry, in response to God's gifts to us, pledge to this church a percentage of our incomes. We believe that giving is a spiritual discipline. A pledge signifies one's intention to give monetarily and may be modified if circumstances change. Each of us is completely committed to pledging as a spiritual practice, which allows our parish to budget and function financially.

We are of one mind when we say that stewardship is our story of journeying in faith. We invite you to join us. We are asking you to prayerfully consider giving a percentage of your time, talent, and treasure to help our parish, our church mission, and our commitment to our church. The entire vestry has pledged. Without your pledge, we cannot continue to function.

Thank you.

	Acolyte	Altar Guild	Lector	LEM	Usher	Vestry
Sunday, Nov 8, 10:30 AM Twenty Third Sunday after Pen- tecost	McNeil Gardner	J. Dykes L. Raines	A. Gardner - 1st C. Spencer - 2nd Bobby Grady - Prayers	B. Spencer	David Aldrich Brooks Slonneger	M. E. Spencer - Teller C. Agee - Vestry
Sunday, Nov 15, 10:30 AM Twenty Fourth Sunday after Pen- tecost	C. Cawthon	J. Elliott L. Wade	D. Cawthon - 1st B. Fowler - 2nd C. Agee - Prayers	A. Smith	A. Agee H. Roberts	R. Smith III - Teller G. Elliott - Vestry
Sunday, Nov 22, 10:30 AM Last Sunday after Pentecost: Christ the King	Alistair Del- champs	L. Divers M. E. Spencer	V. Delchamps - 1st Linda Lowery - 2nd David Aldrich - Prayers	A Delchamps	C. Agee R. Crowe	G. Elliott - Teller D. Divers - Vestry
Sunday, Nov 29, 10:30 AM First Sunday of Advent	B. Cawthon	J. Elliott Betty Grady	Joy Dunlap - 1st A. Smith - 2nd A. Gardner - Prayers	G. Elliott	K. Brooks R. Crowe	C. Agee - Teller R. Smith III - Vestry
Sunday, Dec 6, 10:30 AM Second Sunday of Advent	V. Delchamps	A. Logan M. E. Spencer	C. Spencer - 1st J. Dykes - 2nd L. Wade - Prayers	B. Spencer	C. Agee David Aldrich	I. Barnes - Teller M. Logan - Vestry
Sunday, Dec 13, 10:30 AM Third Sunday of Advent	Z. Roberts	A. Logan L. Wade	C. Agee - 1st J. Elliott - 2nd A. Smith - Prayers	G. Elliott	A. Agee Betty Grady	M. Logan - Teller R. Crowe - Vestry
Sunday, Dec 20, 10:30 AM Fourth Sunday of Advent	William Slon- neger	Betty Grady M. Logan	David Aldrich - 1st Brooks Slonneger - 2nd B. Fowler - Prayers	A. Smith	H. Roberts Brooks Slonneger	C. Agee - Teller G. Elliott - Vestry
Thursday, Dec 24, 5:30 PM Christmas Eve	C. Cawthon B. Cawthon V. Delchamps	M. Logan A. Logan M. E. Spencer	L. Wade - 1st D. Cawthon - 2nd Linda Lowery - Prayers	A Delchamps G. Elliott	B. Meeks H. Meeks	R. Crowe - Teller
Sunday, Dec 27, 10:30 AM First Sunday after Christmas	McNeil Gardner	L. Divers J. Dykes	Bobby Grady - 1st A. Gardner - 2nd Jill Ash - Prayers	G. Jones	Betty Grady B. Marek	D. Divers - Teller M. E. Spencer - Vestry
Sunday, Jan 3, 10:30 AM Second Sunday after Christmas	Alistair Del- champs	J. Dykes L. Raines	A Delchamps - 1st C. Agee - 2nd V. Delchamps - Prayers	G. Elliott	K. Brooks H. Roberts	R. Smith III - Teller I. Barnes - Vestry

Advent

Anyone who has expected a child knows there is much work to do. A place must be prepared for the baby.

Furniture must be moved around. The room surely must be painted and you might even add new carpet. Then comes the furniture. The baby bed and tiny sheets and a pillow -- all 600 thread-count, of course. Next, you purchase a funny-looking mobile that you will hang over the crib to make sure the baby is not too bored with the new surroundings. You take a chest from another room, strip it, and paint it white and shining. A neighbor gives you a changing table. You go to the toy store and buy 320 stuffed animals and goodies that the baby surely will need. There is considerable expense and money and time and energy devoted to getting ready for the baby.



Advent offers us another opportunity to get prepared for the coming of this new child, Jesus. Granted, there will be changes and adjustments when he comes. The Christmas carol says: "Let every heart prepare him room." Our text from 1 Thessalonians reminds us that this baby makes many demands on our lives. "May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints" (vv. 12-13).

-Copied-

The best way to reach out to others is to invite them. I know that Episcopalians have their own special version of growing the church, being a light on a hill that attracts people.

However, the friend you have who does not have a church home, may not be in a place to see that beacon yet. Perhaps they are waiting for someone to invite them to a place that will welcome them.

Why not invite them here?