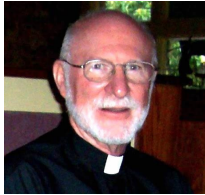


All Saints' Herald

Newsletter of
All Saints Anglican Parish
Aiken, South Carolina

A Parish of the
Anglican Catholic Church
Diocese of the South

From Fr. George's notebook...



Joy & Wonder of Christmas; Expectations of a New Year

What a wonderful Christmas we celebrated this year at All Saints! So much joy and fellowship leading up to the celebration of the Nativity of our Lord that extends into the New Year and through the Epiphany.

At this time, in particular, I reflect on just how momentous an event the Birth of Jesus Christ is: God so loved us that He entered the world as one of us, a frail human being but He was far from frail.

He chose to experience all that we experience beginning with birth, for it was through that process of developing in the womb of the Virgin Mary that He took on our flesh.

Entering the world in that manner, He was able to feel what we feel: our joys and sorrows, our pain and suffering, even death. All the emotions that make up the human being, He was able to experience.

Why would God do this? Why did He choose to be born into the world, into a lowly estate, and take on the afflictions of the flesh?

In one word: LOVE. He loved us so much that He wanted us to be united with Him for all of eternity.

But He wanted it to be our choice, not forced upon us.

To make it possible for us to choose Him, He had to clear the way and overcome and defeat Satan on his own turf.

And God did just that.

As Jesus Christ, the Son of God in the form of a man, He took on all that the

Devil could throw at Him, even death on the Cross, and won the way for us to be united with Him in His Heavenly Kingdom.

As I reflect on the wonder and awe of Christmas, I also am reminded that the Birth of Christ is a fact of history, not a myth. He truly lived on this earth. There were witnesses to His Presence, to His life, and to His death.

And we, as faithful Christians, are also witnesses: witnesses to the reality of Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour and testaments to His Redemptive Love.

In the coming year, 2011, let us grow in the knowledge and love of God by participating fully in the life of His Body, the Church, worshipping Him always and coming to His Table to be fed with a foretaste of the Heavenly Banquet.

I see an exciting year ahead for all of us at All Saints' and I hope you will share the excitement with me and our Parish Family.

We had many visitors to our small church over Christmas and, on the Feast of St.



Stephen, they were presented with a beautiful sight as snow

fell, covering the ground, the trees, and our church.

Let us take the beauty, the joy, and the hope of Christmas into the new year, resolving to be a Family in Christ. Thus, we will experience the Love of God and find the peace that waits for all who put their trust and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

May God bless you and keep you in the new year and fill you with the abundance of His Love.

Upcoming in January....

We will welcome in the New Year at All Saints' with **services** on **New Year's Day** at **10:30 a.m.** for the **Feast of the Circumcision of Christ**. No better way to start a new year than with worship and praise of our Lord Jesus Christ and reception of His Body and Blood.

On Sunday, the 2nd, which is also the **Second Sunday after Christmas**, we will welcome a **guest soloist** at the 10:30 service. She is **Angela Kilmartin**, from England, and will present a selection from the Messiah during the Offertory.

Christmas is not officially over 'til after the **Feast of the Epiphany** on **January 6th**. There will be a service at **5:30 p.m.** This is an important feast of the Church and celebrates the **Manifestation of our Saviour and Redeemer to the world**.

It is also important to remember that during January we celebrate the **Feast of St. Timothy**, Bishop and Martyr, on the **24th** and the **Conversion of St. Paul** on the **25th**. We will have **services** both days at **5:30 p.m.**

So, we are off to a good start on the new year.

The **ACW** will be meeting on **Tuesday the 4th at 2 p.m.** in the Parish House and the **Men of All Saints'** will be meeting on **Tuesday the 11th at 6:00 p.m.** at the Red Pepper Café.

The **Vestry** will have it's first meeting of the year on **Tuesday the 11th at 2:00 p.m.** in the Parish House. They will be putting the final touches on the agenda for the **Parish Annual Meeting** set for the **23rd following the 10:30 service**.

We will be electing members to the Vestry and conducting the business of the Parish. Please plan to attend the meeting and actively participate.

Of course, the Annual Parish Meeting is concluded with a **Solemn High Coffee**

Hour in the greatest of tradition for which offerings are appreciated!

If all goes as planned, we will have a new **Parish Directory** in time for the Annual Meeting. This will be a **photo edition** of the directory similar to the one published several years ago. However, there will be some change in the format to include Parish highlights and history.

Although a deadline for submissions was announced during the service on December 26th, that **deadline** has been extended to **January 12th** to allow members of the Parish to submit photos for the directory.

Looking ahead....

Ash Wednesday falls on **March 9th**, so we will have our usual **Shrove Tuesday Supper** on **March 8th**.

During **Pre-Lent and Lent** we plan to have the **Stations of the Cross** on **Fridays at 5:30 p.m.** and beginning on the Wednesday following Ash Wednesday, we will have a **Lenten Supper and program** each Wednesday immediately following the 5:30 p.m. service.

Plans are also in the works to have a traditional **Easter Even** Celebration of the **Eucharist**. Of course, on **Easter Day** we will have our wonderful celebration of the **Resurrection of our Lord**.

December News in Review....

This month was filled with activities at All Saints' from the first week when the ACW met with a program to write Christmas cards to our service members serving in Afghanistan and Iraq.



Once again, the **Altar Guild** did a great job polishing and cleaning in preparation for Christmas.



They met on the 11th and worked diligently until everything was shining that could shine and clean that could be cleaned!

On the 15th, we had our annual **Carol Sing**, or rehearsal for Christmas Eve, under the direction of Organist and Choir Director, Elizabeth Blount.



Members of the Parish gathered in the Parish House to learn about the carols we sing



and rehearse them so we could be in our best voices on Christmas Eve.

Of course, we were all rewarded for our efforts with a wonderful Pot Luck Supper.

Decorating the Church on Christmas Eve is always a delightful chore and, despite the cold morning, volunteers appeared with ready hands to place the poinsettias, arrange



the window displays, put up the greenery, set up the Creche, and just make sure the church looks its best and festive for Christmas.

All done, they left the church to return in just a few hours to join in the celebration of the Birth of our Lord.



ACW News....

By Susan Thomas

December News Thanks very much to the ladies who attended our December monthly meeting. We addressed Christmas cards to members of our parish serving overseas in the military, as well as some other service men and women serving in Iraq.

Many thanks also to the **entire parish** for supporting our Christmas family. In addition to the clothes and gifts purchased for each of the six family members, we collected food, cleaning supplies and enough money to purchase a \$300 Reid's gift card.

Finally, thanks to the ladies who helped decorate the church for our Christmas services. This is a favorite activity for many. The joy, peace and satisfaction of working together on Christmas Eve morning is just amazing.

January Dates to Remember The ACW will meet **Tuesday, January 4th** at 2:00 pm in the Parish House. We will have our first Lunch Date on **Tuesday, January 18th** at 11:30 a.m. at Malia's. It is very important that you call Susan Thomas by Thursday, January 13th so that she make appropriate reservations. You can reach Susan at 648-4431 or email her at satsdtlet@aol.com.

Men of All Saints'

By Ken Gordan

The Men of All Saints' will start out the new year with a dinner meeting on January 11th, 6:00 p.m., at the Red Pepper Café. Please let Ken Gordon know if you're planning to attend.

Altar Guild News....

By Onesta Carswell

2010 was a good year for All Saints' Altar Guild. We added 6 new members, 2 of whom had previous experience. This was indeed a blessing!

To get us started, Father Clanton conducted a training session for new and continuing members. We also had lots of hands on training during which we learned from and assisted each other. When Father Clanton retired, he left us in the capable hands of Father Alexander. With his guidance, we have implemented a number of changes and additions to our duties. As we move into the new year, we will continue to explore ways to fulfill our duties in the most effective ways in service to our Lord and to our Priests.

Most everyone knows that the Guild prepares the Altar for all services. Our role is fourfold--physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual. We physically care for the linens, clean the silver and brass, wash the vessels, and set the table. The mental applies to having knowledge of the various items we use in caring for the table and in dealing with our coworkers and our Priests. Emotionally, we are enriched by the service we perform and the satisfaction of serving our Lord in such a personal way. Spiritually, it is an awesome feeling to know that we work closer to the consecrated body of Christ than anyone other than the Priests and Deacons.

While in a perfect world nothing ever goes wrong, in the real world we have the occasional slip up or slip down. As director of the Guild, I have only just stopped feeling terror in my heart when I see that something has gone wrong! (Often at my hand) Now we just move forward and 'fix' anything that needs fixing with the hope of not doing it again.

We can always use additional Guild members. We know that some of our church members are away a lot. This is not a problem as we work around schedules all the time. If you would be interested in

being a part of the Altar Guild, please contact me. I will be happy to give you more information. I think you would find it to be a rewarding and moving experience.

Many thanks to all the ladies of the Altar Guild for their service and dedication.

Members are: **Betty Alexander, Connie Beveridge, Mardena Boyko, Danielle Falk, Diane Gordon, Judi Hammond, Lainey Keller, Beverly Kimmel, Anna Zouck, and Pat Byers and Trina Crocker**, linens.

Lector Chairman Needed....

A chairman is needed to do scheduling and coordination to make sure Lectors are scheduled as appropriate throughout the year. If interested, contact Fr. Alexander.

From the Deacons Bench

By Dn. Christopher Davies

EPHESUS: BIBLICAL HISTORY

According to the Book of Acts (18:19-21), Paul's first visit was merely a stop-over on his way to Antioch, Syria. In Acts' version he returned overland to Ephesus from Antioch and visited churches that he had established in Galatia and Phrygia along the way (18:23; 19:1). Once back in Ephesus, Paul settled down and conducted his ministry here for over two years.

With Ephesus as their base of operation, Paul and his associates spread the Christian Gospel into the adjacent cities and regions of Asia. His choice of Ephesus made sense because it was big, cosmopolitan, multicultural, and a political, economic, and religious center, a meeting place for people, goods, and ideas from all over the Mediterranean. Such diversity of culture, cult, and ethnicity was not benign but spawned culture conflict, simmering hostility and ethnic hatreds.

The story of Paul in Ephesus is told in Acts 19:1-20:1. Acts says that he went first to the synagogue, but Ephesus has yet to yield any synagogue remains.

From there he moved to the hall of Tyrannus for his ministry of preaching and healing. Paul called his hearers to join a new community; one stripped of ethnicity, and built on self sacrifice and mutual helpfulness.

Some scholars also believe that sometime in the fall of 54 CE--soon after the spoiled, 17 year old Nero replaced his assassinated father, Claudius, as Emperor--Paul was arrested and imprisoned in Ephesus. We don't know what the charge was, but this transition period between imperial regimes was a time of political uncertainty and fear of sedition. Paul's imprisonment suggests that his mission had come into direct conflict with Roman imperial power. Paul was rounded up as a potentially dangerous agitator against the Roman order and taken out of circulation lest he infect more malcontents with treasonous ideas" Treason was a capital offense and Paul was resigned to die--see 2 Cor. 1:8-9.

Scholars seem to agree that Paul wrote four of his letters from Ephesus: Galatians, First Corinthians (part of an ongoing correspondence with the Corinthians), Philemon, and Philippians. The latter two, he wrote while in prison in Ephesus. Second Corinthians seems to have been written while Paul was on the road after he left Ephesus.

WHY VISIT EPHEBUS

In the ancient world, Ephesus was a center of travel and commerce. Situated on the Aegean Sea at the mouth of the Cayster River, the city was one of the greatest seaports of the ancient world.

Temple of Artemis

Considered one of the seven wonders of the ancient world, Ephesus' Temple of Artemis was dedicated to the goddess of the hunt. Only the foundation and one column remains of this temple which once measured 425 ft long, 220 ft wide and 60 ft high.

Paul's successful ministry in this city was considered a threat to this very temple (Acts 19:27).

Library of Celsus

The Library of Celsus, originally built in 115-25 A.D., this restored facade is a highlight of the ruins today. This style is believed to be the standard architectural form for Roman libraries. The interior measures 70 by 80 feet and held approximately 15,000 scrolls.

This library was dedicated to Celsus the proconsul of Asia and his sarcophagus was located under the apse.



Commercial Agora

This market area is known as the "Square Agora" because of its dimensions 360 ft square. It arose in the Hellenistic period and was surrounded on all sides by arched shops about 40 ft deep. It is located next to the harbor and was the city's main commercial center. It is quite possible that Paul worked here with Priscilla and Aquila in their tent-making business.

Theater

Originally holding 25,000 people, this theater was built in the Hellenistic period and was renovated by several Roman emperors. Designed for theatrical performances, later alterations allowed gladiatorial contests to be held here.



When Paul was accused of hurting Artemis and her temple, the mob gathered together in this theater (Acts 19:23-41).

Church Architecture: *Inside Our Church Building*

By Fr. Alexander

Frequently, I am asked questions about different aspects of the inside of our building that fall under the broad term: **Church Architecture**.

Not to provide a detailed study, I would like to go over some of the terms that can be applied to All Saints'.

Our building is pretty much in the classic, traditional style for its size.

The building was constructed in 1945 with the **Altar** facing very near due east, off maybe a few degrees, so that the morning sun shines through the stained glass window above the **Altar** toward the back of the church.

The **Altar** area is called the **Sanctuary** and is enclosed by the **Altar rails**.

The part from the rails to the steps is called the **Chancel** and is generally the area for the choir or where clergy sit. It is also where we find the Pulpit and Lectern.

Steps separate the **Chancel** from the **Nave**, or the body of the church, where the congregation sits.

The entryway to the church is called the **Narthex**.

There is another part of the church building where the clergy vest and where the vessels, linens, and other items used for services are kept. This is called the **Sacristy**.

In the **Sacristy** is a sink used to wash the vessels used on the Altar. It is called a **Piscina** and the water from it flows directly to the ground.

While the congregation sits in the **Nave** of the church in **Pews**, the clergy and choir sit in **Sedilla** in the **Chancel**. In our case, as in many cases, the **Sedilla** are just small **Pews** and are very different from the "real" thing which are seats recessed in the **Chancel** area.

Separate from the pews in the Chancel is



a small kneeler, or prayer desk, for clergy and lay readers. It is called a **Prieditiu**.

On the **Altar** itself, actually an integral of our **Altar**, is the **Temple** where the **Reserved Sacrament** is kept. Normally, there is a lock on the **Temple** to keep the **Sacrament** safe.

To the right of the **Altar** is a lamp that burns continually to indicate the presence of **Reserved Sacrament** in the **Temple**. This lamp is called the **Sanctuary Lamp**.

Also, to the right of the **Altar** is the **Creedence Table** where the **cruets** of wine and water are set for use during the service. Along with the wine and water is the bread, or people's **hosts**, in a silver box, to be consecrated, a small towel, called a **Lavabo Towel**, for the priest to wipe his fingers and a small **Lavabo** bowl to catch the water when it is poured over his fingers.

On the wall to the left of the **Altar** is the **Ambry** where the **Holy Oils** are kept.

The **Oils** kept in the **Ambry** have been consecrated by the bishop and are used for anointing the sick as well as those who are baptized or confirmed.



Beneath the **Ambry** is a small table where the collection plates are kept.

When entering the church, in the **Narthex**, you will find the **Baptismal Font**.

Perhaps, you haven't noticed but we have two small holders mounted beside both doors through which the body of the church is entered: one in the **Narthex** and one on the **Sacristy** door. They contain Holy Water to be used by those entering the church as a form of cleansing and are simply called **Holy Water Fonts**.



On the steps of the **Altar** are the **Sanctus Bells** used primarily during the **Consecration**. The bells are rung during the

Sanctus, at the beginning of the **Consecration**, **three times each** at the **Consecration** of the **Bread** and then the **Wine**. They go back to earlier days when the congregation couldn't always see what the priest was doing. The ringing of the bells alerted them to the actions within the **Consecration** so that they could pay proper reverence.



When we refer to the right and left side of the **Altar**, even the body of the church, we use the terms **Gospel Side** for the **left** and **Epistle Side** for the **right**. As you have noticed, the **Gospel** is read from the left side of the **Altar** and the **Epistle** from the right side, though, generally, we take the **Altar Service Book** to the steps of the **Chancel** to read the Gospel except at what is called **Low Mass** or the service without music.

On the **Altar** itself are the **Chalice** and **Paten**. The **Paten** is essentially a small round plate used to hold the **Priest Host**, or large wafer, and to which is added the **People's Host** or small wafer.



The **Chalice** and **Paten** are covered with a **Veil** and **Burse**. The **Burse** contains the **Corporal** and a spare **Purificator**. The **Purificator** is a small square linen cloth used with the **Chalice**.

During the **Consecration**, the **Chalice** and **Paten** are placed on the **Corporal**.

On our **Altar**, we generally have two books: the **Missal** and the **Altar Service Book**.

The **Altar Service Book** contains the basic Communion Service from the **1928 Prayer Book** while the **Missal** contains all that is in the **Altar Service Book** plus all the additional services, prayers, and



instructions that complement the **Prayer Book** and could not have been included else the **Prayer Book** itself would have been enormous!

On the **Altar** we have **candles**. In keeping with most churches within our Diocese, we have **six candles** on the shelf above the **Altar** that are lit for our regular service. We also have **two candles**, one on each side of the **Altar**, that are lit for the **Low Mass** and are removed to the side of the **Sanctuary** for the regular service.

When the bishop visits, there is a small, **single candle** added to the **Altar** which is called the **Bishop's Candle** and is lit only when he is present.

Our church is fairly representative of small Anglican Churches and reflects well our English Church heritage, both architecturally and liturgically.

This has been more of an overview and, perhaps, in due time, we can provide more detailed information.

January Birthdays

- 9 Madeleine Duryea
- 10 Lena Whittaker
- 15 Nina Gregory

January Anniversaries

- 6 Daniel & Miriam Wilcox
 - 13 Bob & Shelby Ruddy
 - 14 Larry & Pat Byers
 - 23 Chuck & Danielle Falk
 - 23 David & Connie Beveridge
 - 25 Jack & Tamara Cannon
-

Saint of the Month:

St. Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna

One of my favorite saints is **St. Polycarp** who was the Bishop of **Smyrna**.

Polycarp embraced Christianity about the year 80 becoming a disciple of St. John.

He was consecrated bishop by **St. John** about the year 96, just before John was banished to Patmos, and given the See of Smyrna which he governed for 70 years until his martyrdom in 166.

It is thought that **Polycarp** is the **Angel** or **Bishop of Smyrna** who was commended above all bishops by **Christ** in the **Book of Revelation**, being the only one without a reproach of all the bishops of Asia.

Polycarp formed many disciples, among them **St. Irenaeus** and **Papias**. He is said to have kissed the chains of **St. Ignatius** as he passed through Smyrna on the way to martyrdom in Rome and who recommended to Polycarp the care of his church of Antioch.

He wrote a letter to the **Philippians** which **St. Irenaeus**, **St. Jerome**, **Eusibius**, and others highly recommended and was later read by St. Jerome in the churches of Asia.

Polycarp even paid a visit to Rome, in 158, and, at the invitation of the pope, **St. Anicetus** who wished to honor Polycarp, celebrated the Eucharist in the pope's own church.

In 166, during the reign of Marcus Aurelius, Polycarp suffered martyrdom being burned at the stake. It was a time when Christians were being persecuted for not conforming to the pagan worship of the times.

Three days before his martyrdom, Polycarp, in a vision saw his pillow on fire, from which he understood that he should be burnt alive.

Betrayed and taken into custody, Polycarp would not relent, standing up to the proconsul until his sentence was pronounced.

Then, when finally taken to the pyre, he said to the executioners who were to nail him to the stake:

"Suffer me to be as I am. He who gives me grace to undergo this fire will enable me to stand still without that precaution."

They consented and as they tied his hands behind his back he made his final prayer:

"O Almighty Lord God, Father of thy beloved and blessed Son Jesus Christ, by whom we have received the knowledge of thee, God of angels, powers, and every

creature, and of all the race of the just that live in thy presence, I bless thee for having been pleased in thy goodness to bring me to this hour, that I may receive a portion in the number of thy martyrs, and partake of the chalice of thy Christ, for the resurrection to eternal life, in the incorruptibility of the holy Spirit. Amongst whom grant me to be received this day as a pleasing sacrifice, such an one as thou thyself hast prepared, that so thou mayest accomplish what thou, O true and faithful God hast foreshown. Wherefore, for all things I praise, bless, and glorify thee, through the eternal high priest Jesus Christ, thy beloved Son, with whom, to Thee and the Holy Ghost be glory now and for ever. Amen."

With that, the pyre was lit by torches and as the flames leapt up they formed an arch around him. Finally, he was pierced by a spear and his body burnt.

Polycarp was well loved and venerated both in life and death and remains one of the honored **Apostolic Fathers** of the Church and the detailed accounts of his martyrdom are fascinating and inspiring.

Church Humor :)

A Misunderstanding

Two church attendees had just come from church and a sermon on Sodom and Gomorrah from Genesis. "You know, Bill, I always thought that Sodom and Gomorrah were man and wife."

His friend replied, "I can believe you. I always thought the Epistles were the wives of the Apostles."

Lot

A father was reading a Bible story to his son. He read, "The man named Lot was warned to take his wife and flee out of the city, but his wife looked back and was turned into a pillar of salt."

His son asked, "What happened to the flea?"

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110 Fairfield Street - Aiken, SC 299801

(803) 648-9991

allsaints@atlanticbbn.net