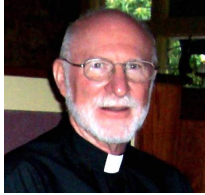


All Saints' Herald

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....



A Living Body:

***As a Parish, We are
Living Examples
Of Christ's Presence***

What a glorious Easter we had at All Saints'! And what a reminder that the Church is a Living Body.

We had a vigorous Lenten Season concluding on Good Friday with a long and well-attended commemoration of our Lord's suffering and death on the Cross.

Then, on Easter Day, we bore witness to Christ's triumph over death and sin by celebrating His Resurrection.

When I entered the Church for the start of our service, I was astounded to see so many people: 99 at best count. The Church was full to overflowing.

That reminds me of God's Grace and Love and the gifts He offers to us, the fullness of God's Bounty overflowing.

Easter reminds us of that and it reminds us that the Church is a Living Body.

Truly, our Parish is a Living Body. It is made up of so many wonderful people who give of themselves as well as from their bounty. It is evident from smiling, happy faces that I see each Sunday, each service.

We are truly blessed at All Saints' and no one person can be singled out for their service to the Parish without thanking everyone for their contributions no matter how small they may seem.

This Living Body will soon welcome our bishop who personifies the Church as a successor to the Apostles. Through Apostolic Succession, he can trace his authority back to the Apostles themselves.

This is something to think about. His authority as a bishop in the Church through this unbroken succession is a living testament to the reality of the Living Presence of Jesus Christ in the Church through the operation of the Holy Spirit.

This authority is conferred physically through the Laying On of Hands and sealed by the operation of the Holy Spirit: the legitimacy of the Sacramental System is thus maintained.

While our bishop is here, he will receive into our jurisdiction those who have already been confirmed by a bishop with Apostolic Succession and will confirm those who wish to become members of this Living Body of Christ.

Each Sunday, in our intercessions, we pray for our bishop, Mark. He is actually the Right Reverend Mark Haverland. He is both an Archbishop and the Bishop Ordinary of our Diocese. Additionally, he is the Metropolitan of the Anglican Catholic Church.

To have our bishop present is always a wonderful occasion and following the service on Sunday the 22nd, we will honor his presence with a "Solemn High Coffee Hour." This has become a tradition in our Parish for special occasions.

I really look forward to the bishop's visit as an opportunity to present to him this Parish as a testament to the Living Presence of Jesus Christ in the Church.

No doubt, when he looks around, when he meets each of you, he will witness the working of the Holy Spirit in our small Parish.

When we come together, it is in thanksgiving for the wonderful and many blessings God has bestowed on us at All Saints', not the least of which is His Grace and Love, and for the promise of eternal life through the Resurrection.

Congratulations to Jo Cunningham....

For those who missed it in Wednesday's **Aiken Standard**, Jo received the very first Meredith Legg Inspiration Award during ceremonies at USCA.

Coming Up in May....

After all the activities of April, the **Merry Month of May** seems unexciting except for our **Bishop's Visitation** on the **22nd**. We anticipate that several members of our Parish will be formally received into the **Diocese** and **ACC** and some will be confirmed.

Of course, we will have the usual **Solemn High Coffee Hour** following the service to visit one-on-one with our **Bishop**.

In preparation for **Reception** and/or **Confirmation**, there will be an Inquirer's Class on Monday evenings at 6:00 beginning on **May 2nd and May 9th**, and again on the 16th, if necessary. Each session should last about an hour.

The annual **Synod of the Diocese** will be in Athens, Ga., this year from **May 4th, 4th, and 6th**. Both **Fr. Alexander** and **Dn. Davies** will be attending along with our two delegates, **Sara Wood** and **Betty Alexander**.

Also, since both clergy will be attending the Synod, there will be **no service** on **Wednesday the 4th**.

Looking ahead....

Summer break is fast approaching but little will change in the Parish schedule, although it is expected that many of you will be away more often than usual.

We will continue with our Anglican **Studies Class** and our **Parish Night Out**.

The **Men of All Saints'** plan to continue their monthly meetings at the **Bowery**.

Hopefully, during the summer, depending on the heat, we can have at least one **Parish Picnic**.

Our service schedule will not change and we will continue to publish the monthly newsletter.

April in Review....

The **Lenten Suppers** and **Programs** were a big hit this year thanks to all who attended and especially those who provided soup, bread, and salad.



The fare was excellent and we have the following to thank: **Onesta Carswell, Michael Coats, Betty Christensen, Jo Cunningham, Diane Gordon, Judi Hammond, Phoebe Marshall, Pat Miller, Gabby & Andy Philipp, Carol Sue Roberts, and Betty Alexander**.

We must note that **Gabby & Andy Philipp** brought the fare on two occasions and provided an interesting color-coordinated presentation for our last meeting including **Bible-candy** (small packets of candy imprinted with Bible verses).



Following the Wednesday service on the 6th, just before we began the Lenten Supper, we were visited by a **baby squirrel** that took a liking to Fr. Alexander and provided some entertainment before being rejoined with his family in a large oak tree.



The weather cooperated on **Palm Sunday** providing a beautiful setting for the **Blessing of the Palms** under the **Lych Gate**.



After receiving the palms, we processed into the church singing with enthusiasm.

ACW

By **Susan Thomas, President**

April has been focused on preparations for Easter. At our April meeting the ladies helped Sara Wood decorate Easter bags and stuff Easter eggs for the annual Children's Place Easter Egg Hunt.



The ACW also sponsored a food drive to provide an Easter dinner for a Children's Place family. The nonperishable food items were supplemented with a spiral sliced ham, fresh sweet potatoes and oranges.



On the Saturday before Easter, the ACW met to decorate the church

for Easter services. Thanks to all the members who participated in these rewarding activities.



We can't forget our monthly luncheon on the 5th at the **Jade of China**. Even though there were only a few of us (**Mardena Ehret, Jo Cunningham, Gabby Philipp, Betty Alexander, and Susan Thomas**), we had a great time.



Activities for May are given below. Remember that the ACW does not meet during the summer as so many of our members are traveling.

Tuesday the 3rd - Monthly meeting at Sara Wood's House at 2:00 pm. Sara will give us a guided tour of Hitchcock Woods, starting right outside her front door! She has several routes to choose from based on how warm the day is and how enthusiastic the ladies are. For those who would love to join us, but aren't interested in the walk, Sara welcomes you to enjoy a glass of tea on her deck while you wait. Please give Sara a call at 649-1423 so she will know how many ladies to expect.

Sunday the 15th - The Second Annual **Undies Sunday!** Yes, it's time again to buy new socks and underwear for men, women, and/or children to donate to the clients of **ACTS**. All sizes are very much appreciated. Collections will begin the Sunday after Easter and end on May 15th, strategically scheduled to be completed before the Bishop's visit the following week.

Tuesday the 17th - Our final lunch of the year before our summer break will be held at the historic **Willcox Inn**. Plan to meet at 11:30. Please call **Trina Crocker** at 648-2286 by May 10th to reserve your spot. After May 10th, you can still check with Trina to see if she's had any cancellations.

Men of All Saints'

By Ken Gordon, Chairman

The Men of All Saints met April 19th at The Westside Bowery for dinner. Eight talkative and hungry guys solved most of today's problems before breaking up about 8:15 p.m.



We will meet again on May 17th - same time, same place. It was decided that we will continue to meet through the summer and stay at the same restaurant. We invite all the men of the parish to join us for a little socializing and repast.

It's easy to participate - you just have to show up at 6 p.m. and bring your appetite! Hope to see more of you on May 17th at 6 p.m. at the Westside Bowery.

Altar Guild News

By Onesta Carswell, Director

On Easter Eve the Altar Guild gathered for our spring workday. The day was sunny and everyone was in good spirits.

While polishing, dusting, washing, drying, and removing candle wax, we enjoyed the fellowship with each other. We talked about Easter Sunday plans and other things. **Betty Alexander** entertained us with the Good Friday bell ringing incident. (see what you missed by not attending the services?)



It is always so uplifting to see our beautiful vessels and other pieces regain their special shine. This time we gave the altar additional attention by dusting and nourishing the wood. Our 'most petite' member **Dan-**

ielle Falk came armed with an expandable duster. She and **Connie Beveridge** dusted, polished, and buffed the altar to renewed beauty.



While we worked, **Sara Wood, Phoebe Marshall, Susan Thomas, and Nancy Whitacre** prepared flower arrangements for the church windows and placed the Easter Lilies for Sunday service, **Father Alexander** was busy taking pictures and providing assistance in transporting items between the church and parish house. He is always available to answer questions and offer advice as needed when we work. I believe we may learn something new every workday.

Having noticed some pesky cobwebs in really high places, Connie offered to bring her extra long duster on Sunday. After services, she quickly took care of them.

We completed our Saturday workday with redressing the altar and admiring the beauty of our church. What an honor and privilege to serve in this capacity!



Many thanks to Altar Guild members **Betty Alexander, Connie Beveridge, Pat Byers, Danielle Falk, Lainey Keller, and Beverly Kimmel**, who worked so diligently to prepare our Lord's church and table for Easter. Each one is a pleasure to work with.

While we have a wonderful group, we welcome additional members. Please give me a call at 648-0649 if you are interested or have questions.

A Little Bit of England

By Jo Cunningham
(as published in the Aiken Standard)

Witnessing how people today disrespect our flag and national anthem at sports events, I wanted my community to know there is a place where respect for same is exercised.

On the corner of Fairfield and Richland avenues sits an Anglican church where I worship. It is a traditional church that has stayed fast to its theology in a changing world.

Every Sunday at All Saints Anglican Church the usher presents the American Flag to the congregation whereupon we sing the fourth verse to the song "America".

The song that begins "My country 'tis of thee...".

The fourth verse goes as follows:

"Our fathers' God to thee,
Author of liberty,
To thee we sing;
Long may our land be bright
With freedom's holy light;
Protect us by thy might,
Great God, our King. Amen"

The flag is replaced and we continue with our service. It is uplifting to have participated in honoring our flag, country, and God in this way. I am elated that this doesn't happen just on the 4th of July, but is done each and every week. In addition to honoring our flag and country we also honor our Anglican heritage. I don't know if



honoring our flag each Sunday is something we do exclusively or if it is done by other Anglican Catholic Churches within our Diocese of the South.

I invite you to walk through the gate

into the churchyard of my Anglican church, sit in the garden area where a bench is



available to you or join us for worship. I know you too will feel pride in our country and also enjoy a little bit of England right here in Aiken, S.C.

From the Deacon's Bench:



**Rogation
Sunday
May 29th**

Rogation Days, in the calendar of the Western Church, four days traditionally set apart for solemn processions to invoke God's mercy. They are Apr. 25, the Major Rogation, coinciding with St. Mark's Day; and the three days preceding Ascension Day, the Minor Rogations.

The processions are Christian adaptations of Roman pagan ones; in rural districts they are regarded as blessing the fields. The prayers include the Litany of the Saints a solemn prayer characterized by varying petitions with set responses. The term is mainly used for Christian forms. Litanies were developed in Christendom for use in processions.

Since medieval times, the three days before **Ascension Day** (called **Holy Thursday** in Great Britain) have been known as **Rogation Days** (from *rogare*, "to pray"). Both the Roman Catholic and Protestant churches set them aside as days of abstinence and prayer, especially for the harvest.

In many churches in the United States **Rogation Sunday**, the fifth Sunday after EASTER, has been known as **Rural Life Sunday** or **Soil Stewardship Sunday**

since 1929—a day when the religious aspects of agricultural life are emphasized. It is also known as **Cantate Sunday** because the Latin Mass for this day begins with the first words of Psalm 98, *Cantate Domino*, "Sing to the Lord."**Cantata Sunday** because the Latin Mass for this day begins with the first words of Psalm 98, *Cantate Domino*, "Sing to the Lord."

The Rogation Days also had a secular meaning at one time in England, where they were called **Gang Days** or **Gange Days** —from the Saxon word *gangan*, meaning "to go."

There was a custom of walking the parish boundaries during the three days before **Holy Thursday (Ascension Day)**, the procession consisting of the priests and prelates of the church and a select number of men from the parish.

Apostolic Succession **Christ's Official Agents** By Fr. Alexander

The Gospel passage for the First Sunday after Easter is from the 20th chapter of St. John and describes the first appearance of Jesus to His disciples and the authority He gave them:

....as my Father hath sent me, even so I send you....he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost: whosoever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whosoever sins ye retain, they are retained.

From the beginning of the Protestant Reformation, this passage from St. John has been a source of misunderstanding even to the point of misrepresenting the role of the Church in the salvation of mankind.

Even though the passage may be well-understood as Jesus giving to the Apostles their commission, indeed, the commission of the Church, the extent of that authority is unclear to many.

We read in St. John's Gospel that Jesus told the Apostles that just as His Father

had sent Him into the world, so He was sending them. From Catholic Christianity's point of view, the standpoint of Christian Orthodoxy, there is no doubt that He was giving them the requisite authority as well.

If we are to comprehend the fullness of the commission and the authority given to the Apostles and, thusly, to the Church through their successors, we must first understand what an Apostle is.

Apostle comes from a Greek word: ***Apostolos***. The closest to its meaning in the English language is agent. But that meaning falls short of the Greek connotation.

Apostolos is derived from ***Apostolein*** or one who is sent. But this one who is sent, this agent, in the Greek connotation has all the power and authority of the person who sends him or who he is representing. He is as if he were that person.

Perhaps the closest in our time is someone who has full power of attorney.

Thus, the Apostles were the commissioned leaders of the Church: they ran its affairs and authorized its successors. They were the official agents of Christ and as His agents, they stood in His stead.

In the Church today, the bishop is the successor to the Apostles and carries the full authority, within the Church, that Christ gave to the Apostles themselves. This is the Apostolic Succession through which the Church's authority flows.

Even as Christ gave the Sacraments to the Church, those Sacraments would be of little effect without His authority to administer them.

Outside of Catholic Christianity (or Orthodoxy), the sacraments of the Church have taken on a different meaning and have for the most part been reduced to symbolic actions. We see this throughout Protestantism which has separated itself from the unbroken line of authority and, thus, from the full power and intent of the Sacraments as given to the Church at its beginning.

Within the portion of the Church that has retained its Apostolic Succession, the power and efficacy of the Sacraments is retained just as when Christ gave the Apostles their commission and authority.

As St. John reports, Jesus breathed on them, reminiscent of the story of creation in Genesis when God breathed life into his creation. He gave them the Holy Spirit though It would not be fully operative until Pentecost.

It was only 1400 years later that what was clearly understood would become muddied by reformers who, in their zeal, would attempt to strip away the authority of the Church in their effort to remove the corruption that they perceived: not that there were no evils requiring attention.

For the Anglican Church, the Church Catholic, there is no doubt as to the intention of Jesus recorded by St. John: the remaining 11 Apostles were being commissioned by our Lord to be His agents, to stand in His stead, empowered to administer the Sacraments of the Church, to preach, teach, baptize, and to maintain moral discipline as well as absolution.

We see clearly in the commissioning of the Apostles the establishment of an authorized ministry.

We see also the extent of their authority, the Church's authority, and that when properly exercised, the discipline of the earthly Church would be ratified in Heaven.

But, what is meant by remitting and retaining sin?

It is Absolution or Penance, one of the seven Sacraments of the Church. And there have been two schools of thought on this.

First, from the Reformers' viewpoint in particular: the power extended to the Church is ecclesiastical discipline and the forgiveness is only a human forgiveness. For example, the Church only has the

power to excommunicate a notorious sinner and to restore a penitent to full communion.

Second, in line with Anglican thinking, or Catholic thinking, or Christian Orthodoxy: the power to remit and to retain sins is given to the Apostolic ministry to bestow forgiveness in the name of God as well as the right to decide whether it was to be given or refused.

This power is solemnly bestowed in ordination and not presumptuously received.

God retains his power by ratifying in heaven this discipline of the earthly Church when rightly exercised.

One of the comforts of the Church is that through its ministry, we can receive the assurance of God's Grace and Love, Absolution being just one expression of this assurance.

Through the outward and visible signs of this often misunderstood Sacrament, the confession of sins and the absolution given by the priest, we can enjoy the inward grace of God's forgiveness of those who are truly penitent and receive strength, even the power to overcome sin in the future.

May Birthdays

- 2 Forrest Roberts
- 6 Miriam Wilcox
- 8 Lee Larison
- 9 Fr. Alexander
- 11 Clanton Austell
- 12 Pat Hardwick
- 14 Linzee Whittaker
- 15 Pat Miller
- 21 Chris Rodrigues
- 27 Abby Montenyohl
- 28 Stephen Boyko
- 31 Jane Vaughters
- 31 Ray Vaughters

May Anniversaries

- 14 Fr. Alexander (ordained priest)
- 21 Michael & Sara Wood

Saint of the Month:
St. Athanasius (297 - 373)
Bishop & Doctor of the Church

Called the **Champion of Orthodoxy**, St. Athanasius is thought to have been born about 297 at Alexandria of Christian parents.

Little is known of his childhood except that he appears to have been well educated and schooled in Greek literature and philosophy, rhetoric, jurisprudence, and Christian doctrine. Having an exceptional knowledge of the Biblical texts, Athanasius, from his own admission, was trained in theology by teachers who had been confessors during the persecution under Maximian.

He had a close relationship with the hermits of the desert, in particular St. Anthony of whom he was a disciple.

It was in the year 318 when he was about 21 that he received the diaconate and was appointed secretary to Bishop Alexander. It was also about this time that he wrote the famous treatise on the **Incarnation**, his first literary work.

When the heretical bishop Arius was deposed, Athanasius composed the encyclical letter announcing the condemnation of Arius.

At the Council of Nicaea in 325 in which the true doctrine of the Church was set forth, Athanasius was greatly influenced by the discussions of the assembly, being present but having no seat and no voice. The remainder of his life was a heroic testimony to the profession of the Nicene Fathers.

Soon after the Council of Nicaea, Bishop Alexander died and Athanasius was elected to succeed him as Bishop of Alexandria.

From that time until his death, his tenure as Bishop of Alexandria was tenuous and several times he was banished through the efforts of the supporters of Arius and the Arian heresy.

Nevertheless, Athanasius continued to be the great defender of Orthodoxy. It was probably in these later years of his life that he wrote the **Life of St. Anthony**.

On May 2, 373, St. Athanasius died in Alexandria and his body was subsequently translated first to Constantinople and finally to Venice.

St. Athanasius remains as one of the greatest men of his age and one of the greatest religious leaders of any age. He defended the faith against overwhelming odds and in the end he was triumphant.

Church Humor :)

Out of the Mouths of Children

A little girl became restless as the preacher's sermon dragged on and on. Finally, she leaned over to her mother and whispered, "Mommy, if we give him the money now, will he let us go?"

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A little girl was sitting on her grandfather's lap as he read her a bedtime story. From time to time, she would take her eyes off the book and reach up to touch his wrinkled cheek. She was alternately stroking her own cheek, then his again.

Finally she spoke up, "Grandpa, did God make you?"

"Yes, sweetheart," he answered, "God made me a long time ago."

"Oh," she paused, "grandpa, did God make me too?"

"Yes, indeed, honey," he said, "God made you just a little while ago."

Feeling their respective faces again, she observed, "God's getting better at it, isn't he?"

All Saints' Herald

Published monthly by

All Saints' Anglican Church

110 Fairfield Street - Aiken, SC 299801

(803) 648-9991

allsaints@atlanticbbn.net

All Saints' Parish Calendar

May 2011

Abt. Ap. B(b). (s) C(e). sor(s)	Abbot Apostle Bishop Confes-	D. K. M. Q. Pr. S.
		Doctor King Martyr Queen Priest Saint

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <i>Easter 1</i> MP & HC 8:30 Bible Study 9:30 HC 10:30 Healing Service 11:40	2 S. Athanasius, B.C.D. H.C. 5:30 pm	3 <i>Invention of the Holy Cross</i> <i>ACW meets 2 pm</i>	4 <i>S. Monica</i> (No 5:30 pm service) Diocesan Synod	5 <i>Conversion of S. Augustine</i> <i>B.C.D.</i> Diocesan Synod	6 S. Mark, Evangelist H.C. 5:30 pm	7 <i>S. Stanislas, B.M.</i>
8 <i>Easter 2</i> MP & HC 8:30 Bible Study 9:30 HC 10:30	9 <i>S. Gregory Nazianzus, B.C.D.</i>	10 Ss. Philip & James, App. <i>Vestry meets 2 pm</i> H.C. 5:30 pm	11 Patronage of S. Joseph H.C. 5:30 pm Parish Night Out	12 <i>Ss. Nereus, Achilleus, Domitilla, & Pancras, Mm.</i>	13 <i>Feria</i>	14 <i>S. Pachomius, Abt.</i>
15 <i>Easter 3</i> MP & HC 8:30 Bible Study 9:30 HC 10:30	16 <i>S. Simon Stock, C.</i>	17 <i>S. Paschal Baylon, C.</i> ACW Luncheon 11:30 Men meet at 6:00 pm	18 Feria H.C. 5:30 pm Anglican Studies	19 <i>S. Dunstan, B.C.</i>	20 <i>S. Bernadin of Siena, C.</i>	21 <i>Feria</i> Vestry meets with Bishop 6:00 pm
22 <i>Easter 4</i> Bishop's Visitation (No Early Service) Bible Study 9:30 HC 10:30	23 <i>Feria</i>	24 <i>S. Vincent of Lerins, C.</i>	25 Feria H.C. 5:30 pm Anglican Studies 6:15	26 <i>S. Augustine of England</i>	27 The Venerable Bede, C.D. H.C. at 5:30 pm	28
29 <i>Easter 5 (Rogation Sunday)</i> MP & HC 8:30 Bible Study 9:30 HC 10:30	30 Rogation Monday H.C. at 5:30 pm	31 <i>Rogation Tuesday</i>				