

Holy Spirit Episcopal Church



Staff

Rev. Chris Coats, Rector
Daphne Grimsley, Music
Director
Barbara Coats, Preschool
Director &
Church Webmaster

Susan Nelson, Christian
Education Director
Sue Lyle, Church
Administrator
Sonny Emerson, Sexton
Claudia McDade, Spindrift
Editor



Vestry

Dick Reid, Senior Warden
Bruce Lyle, Junior Warden
(Meetings: 2nd Sunday,
11:30 am)

Youth Choir

Please schedule Sunday, December 9 at 9:00 am for rehearsal to sing Christmas songs at the 10:00 service on December 9. Also remember dress rehearsal and party Saturday December 8 10:45 to 12:45 at the church. We will practice and decorate the Parish Hall.

--Daphne Grimsley

A parish of the Episcopal
Diocese of the Central Gulf
Coast

616 Ft. Morgan Road
P.O. Box 2346
Gulf Shores, AL 36542

Church office: (251) 968-5988
Emergencies: (251) 223-2424
Thrift Shop: (251) 968-2797
www.holyspiritepiscopalgulfofshores.com
email: holyspiritep@gmail.com

Services

Sunday: 8 am & 10 am
Wednesday: 5:30 pm



Bible Study

During Advent Fr. Chris will discuss conflicting accounts of the birth of Christ.

Meetings are now every Thursday at 11:00 am. Come join us!

High Notes from the Music Ministry

Holy Spirit is fortunate to have four choirs: **Adult, Youth, Handbells and Chimers**, consisting of very talented and dedicated singers and ringers. They are diligently preparing for each Advent and Christmas service in December 2012.

Special Music: Advent and Christmas Services

Sunday, Dec. 2, 10 a.m.
We begin a traditional Advent Celebration with the **Adult Choir** offertory "A Carol for Advent" which includes the beloved melody, "Green-sleeves." At Christmas, we recognize it as "What Child Is This?"

Sunday, Dec. 9, 10 a.m.
This service begins with our **Youth Choir** singing a "Medley of Favorite Carols." The offertory continues this Advent celebration with Terry Akamatsu singing the ever-popular "Gesu Bambino."

Sunday, Dec. 16, 10 a.m.
"A Service of Lessons and Carols"--All who love to sing familiar carols will enjoy singing along with our **Adult and Youth Choristers**. Additionally, several special anthems and our **Chime Choir** will add musical offerings.

Sunday, Dec. 23, 10 a.m.
Bells will ring!!! Be sure to join our **Adult and Handbell Choirs** for this wonderful day. The "Dingalings" have prepared a special offertory, but we will all sing many traditional carols as well.

Monday, Dec. 24, 11 p.m.
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service--This lovely tradition will be augmented by the **Holy Spirit Choristers** with traditional anthems and carols sung with the congregation. **"Meditative Carols for Organ"** will begin at 10:45 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 30, 10 a.m.--
The first Sunday of Christmas will feature traditional carols sung by the congregation and piano arrangements of great Christmas music played by Choirmaster/Organist Daphne Grimsley.

Special Message from your Music Director

It has been my privilege to work with the great people at Holy Spirit again this year. My wish for you is a meaningful Christmas season and a Happy, Healthy, New Year!

-- Daphne

bring these to the parish hall and leave in the Angel Tree box by *November 30*.

For more information check out the website www.cscgs.com.



Episcopal Church Women Meeting Date Changed

Holy Spirit's Episcopal Church Women will hold its December meeting on Friday, November 30 this year. The older preschool students will entertain us with their Christmas program. Daphne Grimsley will also lead us in a sing-a-long of traditional carols. We should all feel the Christmas spirit by the end of the meeting.

Hostesses for the December meeting are Claudia McDade and Judy Jordan who will serve drinks and dessert. Bring a brown bag and join us for an uplifting good time!

Secret Santa

To celebrate the Christmas season this year, Holy Spirit will encourage members to join in Secret Santa fun. For the first two weeks of Advent, we will pass out blank forms asking for your name and your sex, and, if you are a child, for your age. Parishioners will put their forms in a box. At the church's Christmas dinner all who submitted a form will take one out of the Christmas box. Before Christmas, participants will give a gift anonymously to the person chosen. Gifts should be homemade, but the really busy among us may buy a gift of no more than \$10.00. Gifts can be left in a person's pew, car, doorstep, etc. as long as the donor remains anonymous. What a fun way to remind us of God's grace to us!

Holy Spirit Christmas Dinner

On Sunday, December 9, our Holy Spirit family will come together for an Advent celebration. From 5—6 pm we will enjoy a Social Hour in Nabors Hall. Bring your own wine if you like, as well as an appetizer to share.

At 6 pm, we will move into the Parish Hall to enjoy a Pot Luck Dinner. The ECW is providing a ham, smoked by Chan West, and iced tea, so bring a salad, side dish, or dessert. We will draw names for our Secret Santa event and enjoy an evening of good fellowship, cheer, music, and celebration of the coming birth of our Lord.

Trip to St. Paul's, Daphne

On Sunday afternoon, December 9, the Spiritual Growth Committee is sponsoring a trip to see the nativity exhibit at St. Paul's, Daphne. The church borrows almost 200 different nativities for this special event. Look for details in the Sunday Bulletins.



Blood Drive

The Holy Spirit Episcopal Church quarterly blood drive is Sunday, December 9 from 9am to 2pm. Please give if you can and ask a friend or neighbor to donate. Each donation helps save 3 people. What can we do in 40 minutes of lying back on a bed giving a pint of our blood that can save 3 lives?

God Bless,

Shirley Tucker

It's Stewardship Time Again

The literal definition of stewardship is "Holding in trust and managing the estate of another."

Simply put, Christian Stewardship is taking good care of that which God has placed in our lives, including this Church family and its financial needs. Please consider that Stewardship is not our responsibility to the church, but our responsibility AS the church.

Our Church budget is about \$300,000.00 for 2013.

Breakdown:

Fixed costs (utilities, supplies, personnel, maintenance, etc.)	\$255,000
Commitment to the Diocese	20,000
Discretionary/Outreach	<u>25,000</u>
Total	\$300,00

Where has this typically come from?

Pledges/regular giving	\$235,000
Plate offerings	9,000
Other (Thrift Shop)	<u>56,000</u>
Total	\$300,000

As you can see, we have relied heavily on contributions from the Thrift Shop to support the diocese and have some discretionary funding for

parish life, vacation Bible school, Christian education, music events, delegate expenses, etc. By funding these critical needs from the Thrift Shop, we are living "hand to mouth" so to speak.

We are grateful for contributions from the Thrift Shop, especially every time it rains. Repairs to the parking lot had been neglected for many years due to budget restraints, but the Thrift Shop supported our new parking lot/driveways. Also the church's treasurer likes knowing that cash flow from the Thrift Shop provides for a bridge for the lean months of summer.

As we make our stewardship commitments for 2013, we should realize that Thrift Shop funds are wonderful, but if used to pay operating expenses of Holy Spirit, those funds will not be available for outreach in the community. I am suggesting today that we become more self-sufficient, so our church can grow its ministry.

As you contemplate your pledge and giving this year, please consider these facts and give, not until it HURTS, but until it FEELS GOOD.

We are getting your pledge cards in and are hoping to have them all by the second

week of December. If you haven't submitted yours, please get it in by December 14. We expect to have an approved budget shortly thereafter. We are truly blessed here at Holy Spirit with the gifts God has placed in our care. We are all called to be good stewards by giving, not until it hurts, but until it feels good.

God Bless!

--Lenny Burns and
the Finance Committee



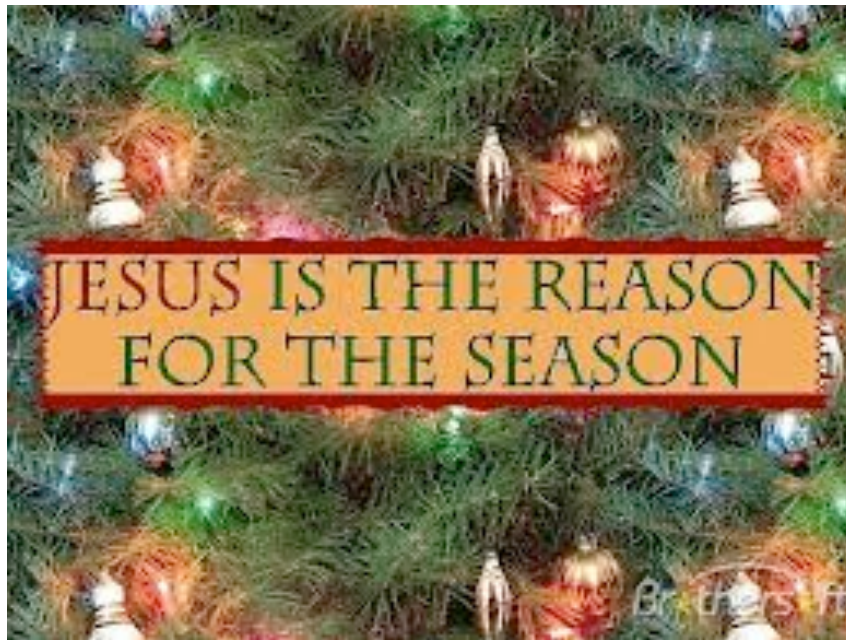
A Personal Stewardship Prayer:

All that I am, all I can be, all that I have, all that is me, accept and

Use Lord, as you would choose Lord, right now today!

Take every passion, every skill, take all my dreams and bend them to your will.

May all I give Lord, for you I'll live Lord; come what may. Amen.



Rector's Ramblings

Dear Friends:

I hope all of you have recovered from the annual Thanksgiving binge and have shopped to your hearts content over the following weekend. Today I understand is called Cyber Monday but I'm not sure my computing is up to the challenge. Here at the Church we've moved into the Season of Advent, which means candles and St. Nic and Children's Choir and bells ringing. Following is a brief synopsis of the four Advent Sundays:

Dec. 2...1st Sunday of Advent: Nativity set placed in Yard

Dec. 9...2nd Sunday of Advent: Youth Choir sings and St. Nic visits. Following the 10am service, the Spiritual Growth Committee will lead a group to see the Nativity display at St Paul's Daphne.

5pm: The Church will host our Christmas party for all in the Parish Hall. While a ham will be served, bring a dish to share.

Dec. 16...3rd Sunday of Advent: Adult Choir sings Lessons and Carols.

Dec. 23...4th Sunday of Advent: Bell Choir plays Christmas music.

Dec. 24...5pm: Christmas Eve Children's service with all children who want to participate in the Christmas Pageant.

Dec. 24...11pm: Christmas Eve service--traditional Midnight Candlelight Mass

Dec. 25...9am: Christmas day service of Blessing of the Toys. Bring your favorite present.

As you can see, our preparation for the coming of the Christ Child will be filled with many times of "Great Joy" just as the angels proclaimed.

Oh Come, Let us Adore Him, Christ the Lord. Oh, and bring a friend!
Oh, and bring a friend...

--Fr. Chris



Get to Know Your Vestry: Jayne Bemis

I am fortunate enough to be a native of Gulf Shores and a member of Holy Spirit Episcopal Church from the beginning. I started my life as an Episcopalian at St. Peter's in Bon Secour. I still have the Bible I received for having perfect attendance for Sunday School. However, when my parents, Donal and Lillian Bemis, were called to help start our church in Gulf Shores, I came along. I felt like the token child of Holy Spirit for many years, but I feel so fortunate to have grown to adulthood in this church family.

Since 2008, I have worked as an elementary school teacher all over Baldwin County. I currently teach 6th grade reading and language at Fairhope Intermediate School. This is a dream come true because writing and reading are two of my favorite

hobbies. Before I became a teacher, I worked as a publications editor, special events manager, and rental administrator. These other positions helped me realize the importance of educating children for the real world, and I try to bring this experience in my lessons.

Although I happily give my work the majority of my time, when I have a few minutes, I enjoy dancing. I have taken tap and jazz dance lessons at Sherian's School of Dance in Foley for the last eight years. I admit that I am rhythmically challenged, but I love the test of trying to learn new steps and combinations.

Since I've been a part of the Holy Spirit family for most of my life, this church and the people I know from this church mean the world to me. My role on the vestry is to be part of the Spiritual Enrichment team, and I am constantly trying to think of ways to help people grow in their relationship with Christ. This commitment has grown since I attended Cursillo in 2010. I feel the blessings of our Lord in my life every day, and I want to share that with others.

Remember Our Seminarians and Our Friends

Please send Christmas wishes and encouragement to:

Ashley and Annie Freeman
251 213 8283
Afreeman7272@gmail.com
605 Rathervue Place
Austin, TX 78705

David and Charlotte Green
335 Tennessee Avenue
Sewanee, TN 37583
greendk0@sewanee.edu
cegreen@sewanee.edu

Eirene August lives in Room 27, Live Oaks Assisted Living, 2300 N. Cedar St. Foley, AL 36535. She welcomes visitors. Her new phone number-- [214-600-4129](tel:214-600-4129).

If you would like to make a contribution to one or both of our seminarians' education fund, you may put it in the offering with its purpose noted in the memo section of your check.





Holy Spirit Thrift Shop

The Thrift Shop continues to thrive, and we continue to give money to a variety of community needs. At the last meeting, the Thrift Shop Board approved a grant of \$1000 for the Christmas Relief Fund.

The Christmas Relief Fund purchases food for families in need in the South Baldwin County area. Children on the 'free meals' program are provided breakfast and lunch at school, but over holidays like Christmas break, many of these children go hungry. The Christmas Relief Fund purchases basic foods and canned goods at deep discounts from area stores and distributes the food to the families. They plan to include a ham or turkey with some of the trimmings – something nice, in addition to the basics, for these families during the holidays. Their goal for 2012 is to feed 75 families! Your Thrift Shop Outreach Ministry will help feed several families over the Christmas break!

Plans will soon be announced for our Five-Year Celebration of the Thrift Shop in January 2013. We want to thank our volunteers, employees, donors and customers for the continuing success of the

Holy Spirit Thrift Shop Outreach mission. Stay tuned!!!

Just a reminder: the Thrift Shop is open five days each week, 10 AM to 4 PM, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, and 10 AM to 1 PM on Saturday. If you would like to volunteer, have donations or would like other information, please contact Alicia at the Thrift Shop: 968-2797, or call Mike Jones at 948-7140.

--Mike Jones

Men's Club: Outdoor Nativity Scene

Holy Spirit has been blessed with an outdoor nativity scene donated by Carol Hanson's brother-in-law. Kudos to her for procuring the donation for us, for Fr. Chris and his crew who went to Louisiana to pick it up, and the ECW that paid for transportation costs.

The Men's Club will erect the scene in Holy Spirit's front yard at 10 am on Monday, December 3. It should take about two hours as it has many figures and a manger. After the work is over, the Men's Club will go to lunch together. Please come assist if you can.



Christian Service Center Christmas Cheer

This is the program of the Christian Service Center, which distributes a box of food and gifts for the children of needy families from the Gulf Shores and Orange Beach areas. The number of families requesting assistance is very high this year. Needed non-perishable items for those food boxes include:

Stuffing mix
Chicken broth
Canned vegetables
Canned fruits
Powdered milk
Cranberry sauce
Yams
Green beans
Peas
Corn
Gravy
Pears, peaches, etc.

Money can be used to purchase perishable foods such as turkey, ham, chicken, and margarine. You may leave donations in the red wagon or bring them to the church office.

Christmas Cheer also tries to provide three gifts for each registered child 16 or younger. Our Angel Tree in the Parish Hall has paper angels--each listing a child's age, sex, and requested gift. Take as many as you would like to support.

There are always families who have not registered who show up at the last minute asking

for help, so generic gifts are always welcome. Please bring these to the parish hall and leave in the Angel Tree box by *November 30*.

For more information check out the website www.cscgs.com.



Winter Woods "We Begin Again" Grades 6th - 8th

December 27th-31st, 2012

"At Beckwith, we believe that at camp everyone belongs. When we share communion at Eucharist, we go up together because we're a family in Jesus Christ and no one is left behind whether we receive the elements or a blessing."

We work diligently with outstanding clergy to plan and implement excellent Christian programs that minister to young people in a way that makes their own personal faiths tangible. The Rev. Tim Backus will serve as our Camp Dean. We will spend time reflecting on what it means for God to come live among us in the form of Christ. Our winter camp session for youth offers faith

based adventure activities combined with Christian programs developed for spiritual formation.

Activities include: field and court games, boche ball, ultimate frisbee, soccer, climbing the rock wall, challenge course experience, hiking, and a Beckwith service project. Night time activities include campfires on the shoreline, star gazing, and building friendships.

**Arrival: December 27th -
2pm - 4pm**

**Departure: December 31st -
9am - 10am**

Questions - Contact Lara Wiggins [251-454-0205](tel:251-454-0205) or campbeckwith@bellsouth.net

Registration information - Contact Anna Bryant at campbeckwith@bellsouth.net

A Letter from Ashley Freeman

Dear Holy Spirit Family,

I pray that you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving; I wish you a happy Advent and an early Merry Christmas from Austin. I am thankful that the seminary, in its many years of wisdom, decided to not have classes for the entire week of Thanksgiving. With the end of the semester approaching and all the assignments I have due, I can use the time off. Although my classes have proven very challenging thus far, they have been going well. Unfortunately for David Green, Sewanee does not take the week off for Thanksgiving. I spoke with David earlier this week, and he is very busy as well. He and Charlotte are doing great and send their love and season's greetings to you as well.

The family seems to be settled in now. Hootie played his first year of football and did extremely well if I must say so myself. I guess being a foot taller and hundred pounds bigger than the rest of the players helps a little. He went with one of his classes at school recently on a five-day camping trip to west Texas where he had a great time. However, Hootie is 13 now, so getting him to talk

with us about the trip is like pulling teeth. He has entered the "why do you always embarrass me Dad" phase. It doesn't take much effort on my part; all I have to do is stand there while he handles the rest. Anyway, he seems to be adjusting to Austin and for that Anne and I are thankful.

Ashton is still in love with our new home. Even though the weather has gotten too cool to swim, he is still excited about the "Episcapool" that the seminary owns and can't wait for it to reopen in the spring. Ashton is doing great in school; he made the A/B honor roll for the first time on his last report card. It warms my heart to see Ashton enjoying school so much.

Mary Carmen is doing great as well. She will be two years old on the 24th of November; we can't believe that she is already two. She is still attending the Day School at St. James, one of the local Episcopal Churches, and she loves it. Now when we drop her off for school, she doesn't want us to stay with her. Last month she told Anne, "You go now, Mommy" when Anne tried to stay and have breakfast with her. I thought it was funny, even if Anne did get her feelings hurt a little. Our little girl is growing up and becoming Ms. Independence.

All in all, the first few months here have been good. It doesn't look like we will be coming home to visit anytime soon. Thankfully, my mom is going to come and visit the first week of December. We miss all of you very much, and we look forward to the next time we get to see you. Thank you for your continued support and prayers. I will continue to keep the Holy Spirit family in my prayers. If any of you are in the Austin area during the coming holiday, please let us know. We would love to see you.

God's Peace,

Ashley Freeman

A Little Humor

Johnny's Mother looked out the window and noticed him "playing church" with their cat. He had the cat sitting quietly, and he was preaching to it. She smiled and went about her work. A while later she heard loud meowing and hissing and ran back to the open window to see Johnny baptizing the cat in a tub of water. She called out, "Johnny, stop that! The cat is afraid of water!" Johnny looked up at her and said, "He should have thought about that before he joined my church."