

St. Francis at the Point Anglican Church



DECEMBER 2021 Newsletter



DECEMBER

Sunday, December 5 - 3:00 pm
Sounds of Christmas Concert

Thursday, December 9 - 4:30 pm
Finance Committee

Saturday, December 11 - 9:30 am
AWG Meeting

Sunday, December 12 - 11:30 am
Vestry Meeting

Saturday, December 18 - 10 am
Children's Christmas Fun Day

Friday, December 24 - 5:00 pm
Christmas Eve Service



VESTRY:

Dick Upchurch – Senior Warden
Gerald Lewis – Junior Warden
Maureen Moreland
Dave Howard
Anne Howard
Gypsie Van Antwerp
Robin Renn – Secretary
Jeanine Wickham – Treasurer

WHAT IS THE INCARNATION?

Some people today might say it is a kind of canned milk. Of course, that is Carnation evaporated milk!

For Christians it is the most fundamental belief that we hold: that the God of the universe became a baby boy and was named Jesus by his parents. The well known evangelical theologian John Stott put it far better than I ever could:

“But there is evidence for the deity of Jesus - good, strong, historical, cumulative evidence; evidence to which an honest person can subscribe without committing intellectual suicide. There are the extravagant claims which Jesus made for himself, so bold and yet so unassuming. Then there is his incomparable character. His strength and gentleness, his uncompromising righteousness and tender compassion, his care for children and his love for outcasts, his self-mastery and self-sacrifice have won the admiration of the world. What is more, his cruel death was not the end of him. It is claimed that he rose again from death, and the circumstantial evidence for his resurrection is most compelling.” Basic Christianity, pg. 8.

Therefore, when we come together on Christmas Eve and really every time we gather in church for worship, we are worshipping the God of the heavens and the earth, the God who created every atom, and the God who took action to save us by coming to earth as a baby. This is the good news that gladdens our hearts. The incarnation brings us to a place where we humbly proclaim: I believe! I accept you and welcome your love, hope, joy and peace into my life through the work of the Holy Spirit.

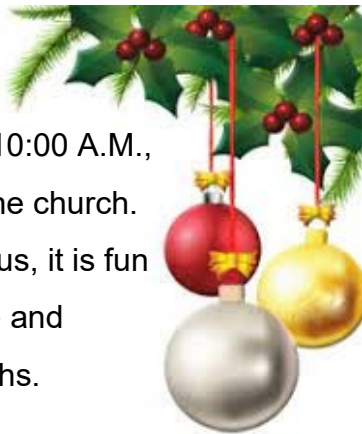


POINSETTIAS

Every year on Christmas Eve, we have a list of the poinsettias that have been donated as memorials or thanksgiving gifts by members of the congregation and/or community. If you wish to make a donation for that purpose, please use the poinsettia envelopes. On the outside of the envelope, please print clearly exactly the information you wish included. Remember, the individual typing the bulletins does not know the names or relationships of those you wish to honor, so clarity is important.

CHRISTMAS DECORATING

On Tuesday, December 7th at 10:00 A.M., we will decorate the church. Please come join us, it is fun putting up the tree and hanging the wreaths.



ST. FRANCIS CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS FUN DAY!

On Saturday, Dec. 18th, from 10am – 1pm, children are invited to St. Francis for a time of fun, play and learning about Christmas. Arts, crafts, pizza and snacks! Wear clothes that might get paint on them. Please contact Wendy Egebrecht (our fantastic Sunday School teacher!)



at 251-979-4583 no later than Dec. 13th to register. Invite your children's friends! There will be procedures for drop-off and pick-up for security reasons. *Church members and/or parents are invited to help. Call Wendy.*

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Our candlelight Christmas Eve Service will be held at 5:00 P.M. The service will include glorious music offerings from our choir director, Benjamin Rollings.

Masks are optional and there will be no social distancing. Please consider this if this is a concern.



The St. Francis Music Society presents a chamber music concert:

The Sounds of Christmas

Sunday, December 5, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.

St. Francis at the Point Anglican Church



Musicians

Rockland Osgood, *tenor*

Rebekah Atkinson, *harp, soprano*

Matthew Atkinson, *violin*

Grace Kim, *violin*

Daniela Pardo, *viola*

Andrea Beltran-Landers, *cello*

Benjamin Rollings, *piano, organ*

Experience the joy and peace of Christ's birth through a festival of Christmas music!

The concert will feature Christmas music favorites from all over the world including *A Christmas Festival* by ANDERSON, *White Christmas* by BERLIN, *Mary's Cradle Song* by REGER, *Variations on Noël Nouvelet* by SAMUEL-ROUSSEAU, as well as selections from BACH's *Christmas Oratorio*, HANDEL's *Messiah*, TCHAIKOVSKY's *The Nutcracker*, and others. There will also be a **sing-along** of traditional Advent and Christmas carols.

Free of charge! Freewill offerings are appreciated.

A pre-concert talk will take place at 2:00 pm in the Parish Hall.

17280 Scenic Highway 98 Fairhope, Alabama 36532
stfrancisatthepoint.org | 251.928.1255



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Dave Howard - 12/01
 Ann Kopf - 12/01
 Foster Ross - 12/08
 Andrew Jackson - 12/10
 David Trimmier - 12/12
 Wanda Lewis - 12/13
 Barbara Calametti - 12/15
 Michele Statler - 12/23
 Stewart Furlong - 12/29
 Anne Howard - 12/29
 Emily Mello - 12/29
 Allison Michaelson - 12/31

ANNIVERSARIES

Tom and Paula Alvarez - 12/11
 Terry and Susan Cook - 12/27
 Donald and Susan Poole - 12/27



If your date is not on these lists or if your information is incorrect, we do apologize.

Please email the church office at stfrancisatthepoint@gmail.com or fill out a communication card with the correct information.



MINISTRY SIGN-UPS

If you signed up for ministry in November, we will be processing the forms and updating the ministry schedules in January. Thank you for your patience!



Donald and Susan Poole

St. Francis welcomes the Pooles! The Pooles moved to Spanish Fort from Baton Rouge after raising their two daughters there. He retired from ExxonMobil and Susan retired from teaching in the public school system. They were both originally from Alabama where they graduated from Auburn. They met while at university and married the same year.

They have two granddaughters, one is 20 years old and one is seven and one great grandson who just turned one year old.

Their main hobby is boating. They have sailed for thirty plus years. They sold their 40 ft. Trawler and are currently enjoying a 16 ft. power boat.

They both are avid readers. Susan does Jazz-ercise almost daily and Don plays guitar but only for enjoyment.

They have two dogs; an Italian Greyhound and Rescue (a boxer mix). They are the Pooles' surrogate children. Just ask them, according to Don.

MORTGAGE REDUCTION PLAN AND REPORT

Our mortgage currently stands at
 \$ 293,943.50 for October

We are asking every member to prayerfully consider giving a small amount every month towards the mortgage. Every dollar you give to reduce the mortgage is worth more than a dollar to the church because we will no longer pay interest every month on that dollar.

total given to date: \$ 10,375.00

ANNUAL MEETING

Our church annual meeting is Sunday, December 5th, after church during the brunch. We will vote on next year's budget, hear reports, and select the new vestry members.



FIRST FRUITS SUNDAY

This month we are taking a respite from collecting items for Ecumenical Ministries food pantry. We will resume donations next month.



VESTRY MEETING

The vestry will meet December 12th immediately after Sunday service. All members are invited to attend.



MEN'S BREAKFAST WILL START UP IN JANUARY

The men's breakfast will be starting back up in January!



FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

Our regular monthly Finance Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, December 9th at 4:30 P.M. in the Parish Hall. All members are welcome to attend.

ANGEL TREE

The small tree on the table in the Narthex is our Angel Tree to help families at the ministry of Women's Care Medical Center. Please take an ornament or two and purchase the item(s) on it. The items are used to reward couples who complete their comprehensive parenting course. Do not wrap the items and bring them to the church by the end of December. Your generosity is greatly appreciated by those families!



FINANCIAL REPORT

The most recent financial report which has been approved by the vestry will also be posted on the bulletin board next to the vestry minutes. Any member who wants to see a more detailed report can ask the Treasurer, Jeanine Wickham, for a copy.

OCTOBER

| | <u>Actual</u> | <u>Budget</u> |
|-----------|---------------|---------------|
| Income: | \$ 21,522 | \$ 19,647 |
| Expenses: | \$19,656 | \$ 22,969 |



AWG MEETING

The monthly meeting of the AWG will be held on Saturday, December 11th at 9:30 A.M. in the Parish Hall. We will review this year's Fall Festival and elect new officer's for next year.

All ladies of the church are invited and encouraged to attend.



**St. Francis at the Point
Anglican Church**

17280 Scenic Hwy. 98
(1 mile South of the Grand Hotel)

***A Heartfelt THANK-YOU
to our
Community Restaurant & Retail
Silent Auction Contributors***

AGAVE Mexican Restaurant

The Cat's Meow

Cheryl's Cafe & Market

The Colony Shop

Dragon Fly Restaurant

El Mexicano Restaurant

The Garage at Point Clear

The Grand Hotel

Green Gates

Jesse's Restaurant

Lakewood Golf Club

Los Tacos Restaurant

McSharry's Irish Pub

Old Thyme Feed

Panini Pete's of Fairhope

Pelc Tire (Fairhope Tire)

Quail Creek Golf Course

Ravenite Pizzeria

Stowe's Jewelers

Sunset Point Restaurant

Thomas Hospital Gift Shop

2021 CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS:

Angel Ride

Ecumenical Ministries

Prodisee Pantry

Samaritans's Purse

Voice of the Martyr's

Women's Care Medical Center