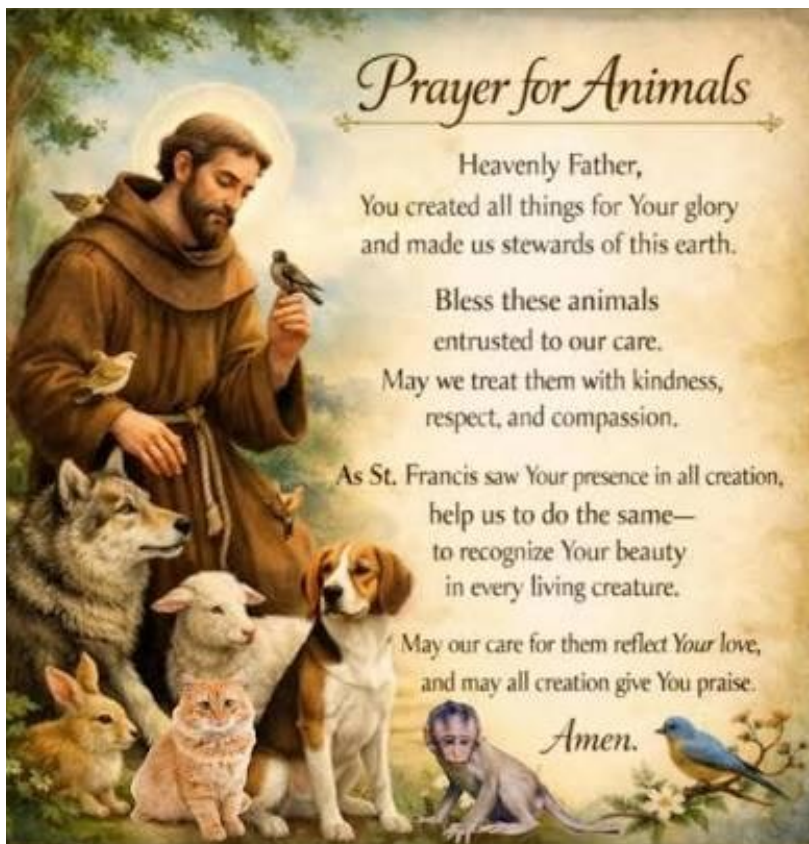




OCTOBER 2026



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY

***The mission of the Church of the Epiphany is to offer a home to all
those who are seeking God's unconditional love.***



From the Vicar

As we approach the 2026 general election, I have two pastoral concerns, both related to the growing political division within our nation and community: anger over the negativity in the political debate and fear of the outcome of the election.

Few times in the history of our nation has the political atmosphere been more polarized than it is today. All sides of the debate are becoming increasingly antagonistic toward their opponents. Often during debates, candidates from both parties demonized their opponents, rather than discuss how they would address the issues that most concerned their constituents.

As the campaigns drag on, political advertisements have become increasingly negative. Cable news has only enflamed this growing division by mostly reporting the negative aspects of one or the other party or candidates representing the views of that party. Worst of all, some candidates or their supporters have accused their opponents of not being Christians, while often advocating beliefs that do not represent the love and understanding that Christ taught and demonstrated during his earthly ministry.

There is also increased animosity expressed by some in social media. In response, there are those who have announced that they have “taken a break” from social media to avoid the conflict.

All of this has added to the fear and anger people are feeling. The anger is generated in three ways. First, it is directed at the politicians, whose rhetoric and advertising are designed to stir up emotions within those who support them and their views. Second, it is aimed at the news outlets that openly express their views on the issues and the candidates that espouse them. Finally, it is aimed at family, friends and neighbors who either subtly or openly challenge opinions of others.

The fear is more difficult to pin down. It remains mostly under the surface, although some have expressed it to their clergy, either directly or through the concerns of those who have heard it. The fear comes in two forms. One is the fear that a particular candidate and/or political party will win and lead the nation on a path to ruin. The other is more damaging to the fiber of a parish community: the fear that the divisions that have been created will be permanent, and relationships that have been sustained for years will be irreparably damaged.

Anger and fear are great dividers and have long been used by those who seek power. In recent years, it is power that many politicians and those who support their aims seek, not the common good.

The readings for All Saints Day, which this year falls on the Sunday before election day, are most appropriate to address these pastoral issues, for they call for a united, rather than a divided, people. Our Baptismal Covenant also emphasizes how we should love and respect one another.

The collect for All Saints Day recognizes that God has “knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord.” As all collects are designed to collect our thoughts and prayers, this collect reminds us that we are all united as children of God.

Let us not forget the troubles that faced those who gathered on the mountainside to hear the words of Jesus. These people lived a hand-to-mouth existence. They were oppressed and downtrodden. They mourned their losses. They were afraid and sought righteousness. They were persecuted when all they wanted was mercy and peace.

People want their concerns heard. They want their family, friends and neighbors to understand their concerns; for the nation and this community.

Jesus did not tell his hearers that they had a right to complain about their condition but instead told them they were blessed. The poor in spirit will find their place in heaven. Those who were meek would inherit the earth. Those who show mercy shall receive mercy. Those who are persecuted for their beliefs will be rewarded for their steadfastness. And those who make peace will be called children of God.

Remember your Baptismal Covenant. When asked, will you “seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourselves” and will you “strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being,” you answer, “I will, with God’s help.”

Consider what Jesus told his followers on the mountainside. In his letter that is the epistle for All Saints Day, John wrote that we are children of God. Remember what was revealed to John of Patmos: that those robed in white in the company of heaven had come through the ordeal and are now sheltered and shepherd by God.

Peace be with you, Father David+



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

October 4 - The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist followed by Potluck Lunch

October 11 - The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist followed by Vestry Meeting

3:00 p.m. Blessing of the Animals

October 18- The Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

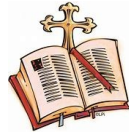
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist followed by Healing Service

October 25 - The Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist followed by Healing Sounds, in Saint Joseph Hall

November 1 - The All Saints Day

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist followed by Potluck Lunch



LECTOR SCHEDULE

October 4 - The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

1st Reading - Sharon Lundy

2nd Reading - Flo Procino

October 11 - The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

1st Reading - Sharon Lundy

2nd Reading -

October 18- The Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

1st Reading - Melanie East

2nd Reading -

October 25 - The Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost

1st Reading - Melanie East

2nd Reading -

September Property & Maintenance Report

Projects

- ◆ The installation of handrails for the handicap ramp and front steps is completed.
- ◆ The work continues on the Labyrinth. Workday October 10.
- ◆ The paint for the new doors on St. Joseph Hall and the garage shed has been acquired and will be painted.
- ◆ The kneelers in the choir pews need repair.
- ◆ Three church pews need the seats reupholstered.
- ◆ The security lights on the church and St. Joseph's Hall are in the works.
- ◆ The new sign for the church for placement on 85 has been completed and now needs to be installed.
- ◆ A insurance claim in is the process of being submitted for the damage to the retaining wall around the A/C units.

If you would like to assist on a project, or know of something else that needs attention, please let me know.

Maurice Phillips, Property Chair

EPIPHANY's BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES



Randy Bauer Oct 3rd
Cathy Clothier Oct 3rd
Sandy Menzies Oct 14th
Mark Lawney Oct 16th
Richard Lawney Oct 22nd
Levi Warren Oct 23rd
Steve Medina Oct 25th
Ginny Bauer Oct 26th
Michael Cortez Oct 29th
Phil Phillips Oct 31st
Arabella Andrews Oct 31st



Hugh and Sarah Kent Oct 19th
David and Cathy Clothier Oct 25th
David and Chun Bryant Oct 26th
Bobby and Joan Stark Oct 26th
Mark and Lily Rosales Oct 29th

God is a Friend of Silence:

A Silent Retreat Journey with St. Francis



"True progress quietly and persistently moves along without notice." — St. Francis of Assisi

Rebuild your inner chapel. This silent retreat offers space to step away from the world, foster an inner stillness, and listen to the voice of God in the silence of your heart.

Sunday, October 11th at 5:00pm through Wednesday, October 14th at 1:00pm

Blue Lake, 8500 Oakwood Ln., Andalusia, AL

\$390.00 includes all meals & private room/private bath

[Register here](#) or Scan QR code



CC
CENTER FOR
SACRED SPACE

CITY OF CRESTVIEW PRESENTS

BREAST CANCER

AWARENESS WALK

OCT.
08

6pm

TWIN HILLS PARK



EPIPHANY'S FAVORITE RECIPES



EPIPHANY'S FAVORITE RECIPES

Yorkshire Pudding *by Sybil King*

Ingredients:

- 1 cup All-Purpose Flour
- 1 cup Milk
- 2 Eggs
- ½ tsp Salt



Directions:

1. Work eggs and milk into the flour. Beat with a fork or whisk.
2. Let stand for 30 minutes.
3. Pre-heat oven to 450 degrees.
4. Use 1 tbsp oil in a 6-muffin tin: heat in oven until very hot.
5. Pour the batter into muffin tin cups.
6. Bake for 20 minutes or until puffed and brown. Good served with roast beef and gravy.

Please remember in your prayers:

Addice Thomas, Addison Hendrix, Amy & Anthony Lehatto,
Barbara Procino, Becky Simmons, Betty Schwartzkopf,
Brenda Faulkner, Buni O'Brien, Charlotte Boutwell, Debbie Evans,
Debbie and Jim Larson, Dennis Jackson, Donna Andrews,
Eddie Stevens, Florie Angelini, Herselie Hendrix, James Brooks,
Jeff Evans, Kerrie Schwartzkopf, Linda Williams, Lynn Smith, Mary
Ellen Dallas, Melanie East, Michele Dennis, Nancy Delierre,
Nikole Webb, Phyllis Alles, Randy Umbach, Richard Mazerat,
Rocky Robinson, Sharon Lundy, Susan Cole, Ward Hendrix,
and Warren Seifert

The Episcopal Church of the Epiphany

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