

*Week of July 30 – August 6, 2017*

**Sunday, July 30th**

8:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II

9:30 am Coffee Hour, parish hall

10:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II

**Sunday, August 6 – Blessing of the Backpacks**

8:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II

9:30 am Coffee Hour, parish hall

10:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II

# Living in the Spirit

*Catch the Spirit at Holy Spirit* from Father Bill Blackerby, Interim Rector

It has been a great summer for the people of The Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit! We had an amazingly wonderful Vacation Bible School led by Julia Jackson that involved children and adults in exploring their faith through C.S. Lewis' marvelous story *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*. A dozen of us took lots of food prepared by many parishioners to Greensboro, Hale County and served lunch to over 100 Sawyerville Day Camp youth and adult staff. To top off our time together, the Holy Spirit contingent went to Pie Lab, worth a trip in itself. In late May, members of the Men's Breakfast cleaned up church property in the woods behind the parish hall. Last month, Carol and Doug Smedley spent a week in Honduras on mission trip serving the children at El Hogar School, taking with them many generous donations for the children from our parishioners. Seven Holy Spirit families bought back to school clothes for seven local students. Lots of church volunteers served over 1,000 lunches to local children at Thompson Middle School for the month of June. Eight of our younger members have spent or will spend time at Camp McDowell. Emma Nash served on staff for Special Session. Abby Cowan, Reagan Nash, Aubrie Kate Atkinson, Bella Brooks, and Tessa Nash have been to camp sessions for their respective grades. Stella Atkinson and her mom, Keri Ann, are headed to Camp later this summer as is Dylan Curry, who will attend Bethany's Kids. Tessa is headed to Camp Lee to serve on staff for Foothills Day Camp, which is sponsored by Grace Episcopal in Anniston. At the Sunday Eucharist, we've heard beautiful solos from choir members while the choir is on summer hiatus. Speaking of Eucharists, the monthly Healing Eucharist has grown from 2 or 3 faithful attendees to 13 in June and 15 this month. Five women of the church are in the discernment process to become members of the parish's Daughters of the King chapter. However, it's not just about the summer. Committees are forming and work is being done to prepare for this year's version of *Taste of the Spirit*, which is going to be a blast. Who says summer is a time when things slow down?

As I look back over this quick, incomplete review of summer life at Holy Spirit, what jumps out is our parish's focus on children and youth, our own and other people's. That is an important sign of a healthy parish church. We have a lot for which be thankful and numerous opportunities now and in the future to nurture our faith and to share it with others. We can proclaim with enthusiasm and conviction, "Catch the Spirit at Holy Spirit!" So invite your friends and neighbors to join us often for worship, fellowship, and service where they too can "Catch the Spirit."

## *Weekly & Monthly Reminders*

Healing Eucharist	Aug 9th	11:00 am	Nave
Men's Prayer Breakfast	Aug 12th	8:00 am	Parish Hall
Vestry Meeting	Aug 13th	11:45 am	Parish Hall
Bunco	Aug 17th	6:30 pm	Parish Hall
Pack for Beans & Rice	Aug 18th	9:00 am	Parish Hall
Beans & Rice	Aug 19th	9:00 am	Narthex

## *Taste of the Spirit - Committee Help Needed*

We have set a new date for TOTS, our annual fundraiser. It will be the evening of **Oct. 28, 2017!** More details to follow, but first we need COMMITTEES! (and don't worry about football, both Alabama and Auburn are off this day!) Sign up at: <http://holyspirit-al.org/volunteer-spot> or in the Narthex

## *Taste of the Spirit- Silent Auction Items Needed*

We need YOUR help! We are taking silent auction items NOW for our biggest fundraiser of the year. Please think of anything you would personally bid on at an auction. We are taking NEW items valued at \$25.00 or more. We are also looking for big ticket items for our LIVE auction portion. Do you perhaps have a condo you are able to share? Or are you connected for tickets to a special event? If you are unsure of a specific item, but want to donate, contact Allyson Agee, [allyagee@bellsouth.net](mailto:allyagee@bellsouth.net) or 205-283-7732 for more information. **ITEMS ARE NEEDED NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 24th.**

Examples:

Salon Services	Restaurant Gift Certificates
Hotel Accommodations	Hand Crafted Items
Entertainment/ Special Events	Photography Services
Anything Unique (example: last year Space Camp)	

## *Church Happenings*

### **Back to School Blessing, Sunday, August 6th**

**NEXT SUNDAY...**All students and education staff are invited to bring their backpacks, briefcases, or tote bags to church for a special blessing to begin the new school year surrounded in prayer.

### **Healing Eucharist, Wednesday, August 9th at 11:00 am**

In need of a mid-week boost? Come join us for a quiet, service of healing August 9th at 11:00 am. Those who wish to stay are welcome to stay for a brown bag lunch immediately following the service.

### **Men's Prayer Breakfast, Saturday, August 12th at 8am**

Join the men of Holy Spirit as they meet once a month on the second Saturday to gather for breakfast, prayer time, and fellowship. **All men are welcome and encouraged to come.** Cooking starts at 7:00 am with breakfast served at 8:00am. Please bring a few dollars to help cover the cost of breakfast.

## *Diocesan Events*

### **Jonathan Daniels' Pilgrimage, Saturday, August 12th, Hayneville**

This year's annual observance of Jonathan Daniels and the Martyrs of Alabama is Saturday, August 12th in Hayneville, AL. The Pilgrimage begins at 11 am in the Hayneville Courthouse Square. Visit [http://dioala.org/digital\\_faith/events/3174268](http://dioala.org/digital_faith/events/3174268) for more information. There is no cost to participate but space is limited. We encourage you to pre-register online at <https://goo.gl/uQ5esQ>.

### **2017 Sept 1-3 Journey into Centering Prayer. Introduction to Centering Prayer Retreat.**

A special time to be away in silence and listening to the teaching on this ancient form of Christian meditation. Registration questions, call 256/734-8302 or [retreats@shmon.org](mailto:retreats@shmon.org). Register by check. \$60.00 to Benedictine Sisters Retreat Center, 916 Convent Rd., NE Cullman, AL 35055. Total cost: \$245.

### **The Labyrinth as a Spiritual Tool workshop, Sept 15-17, 2017**

The Alabama Folk School at Camp McDowell (Instructor: Mary Ellen Calhoun)--This class will cover the rich history of labyrinths. We will discuss guidelines for walking and ways to use labyrinths. There will be ample time to walk Camp McDowell's labyrinth, journal and share your feelings. A hand-held clay finger labyrinth will be made, and we will discuss the care of the labyrinth at Camp McDowell. Register at [www.alfolkschool.com](http://www.alfolkschool.com).

### **Happening #71, November 3rd – 5th, St. Stephen's Birmingham**

Open to youth in grades 10 – 12!! During the three-day weekend, the participants spend time seriously considering the person and teaching of Jesus Christ in a relaxed, fun, informal and loving atmosphere. They are provided with opportunities to share, discuss, learn and live with fellow Christians in an environment of acceptance and understanding. **HAPPENING** is not a new form of spirituality, nor is it just another weekend retreat. It is a personal encounter with the living Christ as expressed in the traditions of the Episcopal Church. Hopefully, those who attend a Happening will join those who have gone before them in their desire to serve the Church, to continue in their commitment to Christ and to look for further opportunities to share with others what they have lived and learned. Contact Tara Portney if you have any questions or visit <http://happeninginal.weebly.com/> for more information and registration.

## *Financial Update*

### **Contributions**

Thank you for your generous support of our parish. Below is a summary of the contributions received during the week ending on Sunday, July 23, 2017.

Pledged .....	\$2,545.00
Unpledged .....	\$ 256.00
Beans and Rice .....	\$ 23.49
Outreach—school supplies and clothes.....	\$ 101.07
Total Contributions.....	\$2,925.56

### **Avg Sunday Attendance**

	Apr	May	Jun
8:30am	16	15	10
10:30am	78	62	68
Total	93	77	78

## Thank You

Check out the bulletin board in the parish hall to see several thank you notes we have received for all of the hard work we've put in this summer. Thank you to everyone who has pitched in and spread the *Spirit* throughout our community. THANK YOU!!

## Please pray for...

**Bishops and Clergy:** Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael Bruce Curry, Presiding Bishop ECUSA; Kee Sloan, Alabama Bishop; Bill Blackerby, Interim Rector; Stan Wright, Priest Affiliate

**Diocesan Prayer Cycle:** Our companion dioceses of Alaska & the Virgin Islands & their bishops Mark & Ambrose; Ministries for displaced person and refugees; Global Episcopal Mission Network

**Ministries and Programs within The Church of the Holy Spirit:** Guidance for new outreach opportunities

**For Nation and Local Community:** Donald Trump, President; Kay Ivey, Governor; Communities of Calera, Alabaster, Helena, Maylene, & Pelham

**For all people everywhere, especially:** those living in Syria and all war-torn countries

**Healing & Guidance for members, relatives and friends of Holy Spirit:** Richard Smith (Victoria Knierim); Jo Cochran (Judy Dykes); Roxie & Stan Wright; Debra Dewees (Glenda Jones); Bud Montgomery, Henry (Carol Smedley); Kim & Luke Sloan, Nila Whetsell, Roy Wolfe, David, Obie, Brian, Bill & Debbie (Katy Brooks); Karen Marshall (Allyson Agee); Dan Poset; Will Graham; Lou Malone (Sharon Poset); Charlotte Callough (M.E. Spencer); Jimmy Lee (Rodney Dilbeck); Betty Marek; Greg, Tyler, Derek, & Josh Hussey; Val Autrey; J.T. Peterson; Barb Diehl (Jim Hamilton); Dawn Mango (Harriet & Bill Meeks); Gladys McKay; Paul Clausmeyer; Ted Smith (Sally Jorgenson); Nan Vodde; Delauney Family (Carrie May); Braden, Doug, Mt. Zion Church family; Harriet & Bill Meeks; Catherine Frison, William Davis, Barbara Banks (Robbie McCoy); Bill Sorensen; Katy Brooks; Kindle Stamps (Mandy Curry)

**For those serving in the armed services:** Hall Graham (Julia Jackson), Mark McKay (Gladys McKay)

**For all who have died,** may light perpetual shine upon them.

**Upcoming Birthdays:** Paula Hughes (8/1), Stan Wright (8/4), Mike Ghareeb (8/5), Janet Palmer (8/9), DJ Leonard (8/9), Tawny Stephens (8/10), Taylor Sabol (8/10), Alison Carmody (8/12)

## Upcoming Anniversaries:

### The Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit

The Rev. Bill Blackerby, Interim Rector ♦ wsblackerby@gmail.com ♦ 205-837-9861

Tara's Office Hours: Tues, Wed, & Thurs – 9:30am to 1:00pm

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Church Directory – [www.holyspirit-al.org/directory](http://www.holyspirit-al.org/directory) password: HSfamily