

## Week of September 25 - October 2, 2016

### Sunday, September 25th

- 8:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II  
9:30 am Christian Formation for all ages, parish hall  
Choir Practice, nave  
10:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II  
11:45 am Daughters of the King, parish hall

### Monday, September 26th

- 6:30 pm Wisdom's Way, parish hall

### Tuesday, September 27th

- 6:00 pm Women's Circle, nave

### Wednesday, September 28th

- 6:30 pm EYC (High School Youth Group), Starbucks - All high school students & friends welcome!  
7:00 pm Choir Practice, nave

### Saturday, October 1st

- 8:00 am Church Work Day  
9:00 am Bark in the Park with Blessing of Animals, Veterans Park

### Sunday, October 2nd

- 8:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II  
9:30 am Christian Formation for all ages, parish hall  
Choir Practice, nave  
10:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II  
11:45 am IWC Planning Team, parish hall (*brown bag lunch*)  
2:30 pm Blessing of the Animals Liturgy, church yard

# Living in the Spirit

## Weekly & Monthly Reminders

Daughters of the King	Sept 25th	11:45 am	Parish Hall
Women's Circle	Sept 27th	6:30 pm	Nave
EYC	Sept 28th	6:30 pm	Starbucks
Choir Practice	Sept 28th	7:00 pm	Nave
Invite•Welcome•Connect	Oct 2nd	11:45 am	Parish Hall
Centering Prayer	Oct 3rd	5:30 pm	Nave
Men's Prayer Breakfast	Oct 8th	8:00 am	Parish Hall
Healing Eucharist	Oct 12th	11:00 am	Nave
Pack for Beans & Rice	Oct 14th	9:00 am	Parish Hall
Beans & Rice	Oct 15th	9:00 am	Narthex
Holy Spirit 101	Oct 16th	11:45 am	Rector's Office
Bunco	Oct 20th	6:30 pm	Parish Hall
Vestry Meeting	Oct 23rd	11:45 am	Parish Hall

## Save the Date

Sat, Oct 1st	Bark in the Park, Veterans Park, 9:00 am-12:00 pm, Holy Spirit hosting pet blessing
Sun, Oct 2nd	Blessing of the Animals, 2:00 pm
Wed, Oct 5th	Celtic Eucharist, 6:30 pm
Wed, Oct 12th	Healing Eucharist & Lunch, 11:00 am
Sun, Oct 16th	Children's Liturgy, 10:30 am service
Wed, Oct 26th	Bethany Village Update with Bishop Kee Sloan, 6:00 pm
Sun, Nov 13th	Confirmation & Bishop's Visit, 10:30 am
Sun, Dec 4th	Annual Parish Meeting, 11:30 am
Sun, Dec 11th	Lessons & Carols, 5:00 pm

## Dear Holy Spirit Family,

Last week there were four new opportunities to deepen our connection to Christ and to one another. I am grateful for the tremendous response to these programs. On Saturday, a group of men gathered to cook, pray, eat, and share stories in the **Men's Prayer Breakfast**. Although I am unqualified to participate in this gathering, I hear the guys had a great time and new friendships were made. All men are invited to join them the second Saturday of every month. Monday night we began the **Wisdom's Way Class**, exploring the Wisdom Literature in the Bible and how it intersects with our lives today. There are many references to Wisdom in the Bible. One of those is Proverbs 3:18 where Wisdom is described in this way: "She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her; those who hold her fast are called happy." Come and mine this treasure trove of scripture with us. All are welcome! Although this is a series, please feel free to join us even if you can only make some of the classes. Tuesday evening the **Women's Circle began the Living Compass Faith and Wellness Series**. The premise of this program is a Christian approach delving into how the Spirit is calling us to greater wellness and wholeness right now. Although this group will not be open to new members until January, if you are interested in the Women's Circle, please let me or my co-facilitator Mary Hodgetts know. (If there is a need to form new circles I am open to that, in order to facilitate sharing and confidentiality there are limited slots. I also would welcome restarting the Holy Spirit ECW if there are women who are excited about making that happen.) On Wednesday, the Feast of the Holy Cross, a group of us ranging in age from 4 months to octogenarians worshiped together in the **Healing Eucharist**. Afterward, we gathered for lunch. The worship was restorative and the lunch was fun. We will offer this worship and bring your own lunch the second Wednesday of every month at 11 am.

Reflecting upon this past week, I am struck by how many different people in our community participated in these varied programs. It is exciting to see a range of ways to learn, pray, serve, and play together. Oftentimes smaller gatherings beyond our Sunday worship offer the best opportunity to get to know one another. If you have any questions about these programs or others you'd like to see us offer, please let me know.

On another note, the **Gifts of the Spirit** campaign has been quite successful with a number of parishioners completing their survey—many of whom are new to Holy Spirit. Thank you! You are welcome to join into any ministry throughout the year. Fear not if you didn't fill out your form, you can at any time. Ministry leaders will be contacting respondents in the next few weeks. Thank you all for making Holy Spirit such a loving and vibrant part of the Body of Christ.

Yours in Christ,  
Mary Bea+

## Church Happenings

### **Foundations of the Faith Sundays from 9/25 to 11/6 at 9:30 am**

Have you wondered why we celebrate the Eucharist each week? What the different colors of the priest and altar's vestments mean? Why we use a Book of Common Prayer? Mary Bea, Alison, and Malcolm will share the teaching for this Adult Forum Series that focuses on the Episcopal/Anglican tradition. This course is required for those seeking to be confirmed or received during the Bishop's visit on 11/13. However, all are welcome to learn and share your experiences.

9/25 & 10/2	Book of Common Prayer with Rev. Mary Bea Sullivan
10/9 & 10/16	Worship & Liturgy with Rev. Alison Carmody
10/23	Sacraments with Rev. Mary Bea Sullivan
10/30	Anglican Theology/Creeds/Scripture with Rev. Mary Bea Sullivan
11/6	Living Out Baptismal Covenant and Episcopal Polity With Revs. Mary Bea Sullivan and Malcolm Marler

### **EYC Kick-off Coffee Weds. 9/28 at 6:30 pm at the Starbucks in Alabaster off Kent Dairy Road Bring your friends.**

Our kick-off meeting will be an opportunity to meet with Erin Washam, EYC vestry liaison. You will have time to catch up after a busy summer. It will also be an opportunity for Erin to share more of our plans and ideas for the year and gather input on interests and logistics for meeting times and activities. Friends are welcome!

### **Church Work Day, Saturday, October 1st at 8:00 am**

Let's spruce up the grounds for the Fall. A workday at the church is scheduled for the morning of October 1<sup>st</sup>, 8:30 am. All hands are welcome and bags of mulch for the playground and beds are needed. Please drop off brown mulch donations this week or bring them with you 10/1. Thank you!

**Wisdom's Way—a practical and spiritual exploration of the Bible's Wisdom Literature, (this week ends at 7:30)**

**Mondays, September 26th – October 24th at 6:30 pm**

Join Mary Bea for this 6-week exploration of Wisdom Literature in the Bible focusing on Proverbs, the Book of Job, Ecclesiastes, and the Wisdom of Solomon. We will reflect upon the writings of these ancient sages and how they inform our spiritual life today. The format will incorporate lecture, group discussion, and spiritual practices that support our growing in wisdom. "Wisdom is radiant and unfading, and she is easily discerned by those who love her, and is found by those who seek her." Wisdom of Solomon 6:12. Drop-ins welcome!

**Holy Spirit Blessing of the Animals, Sunday, October 2nd at 2:30pm – Holy Spirit**

In honor of the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals, we will have a special service followed by blessing of all creatures great and small. Kids are invited to bring their favorite stuffed animals as well. We will also pray for those pets at home and those who have died. There will be human and pet refreshments available. Please bring canned or packaged pet food that will be donated to a local shelter.

**Veteran's Park Bark in the Park Saturday, October 1st, 9am-12 noon, Pet Blessing**

Mother Mary Bea will be offering pet blessings at the Annual Bark in the Park at Veteran's Park. If you would like to help set-up/break down, or staff the Holy Spirit booth with Mary Bea, please contact Allyson Agee at allyagee@bellsouth.net. Also, **if you can donate treats to be given to the animals for this blessing and the one at Holy Spirit, please bring to the church office by 5pm Wednesday September 28th.** Thank you!!

**Centering Prayer, October 3rd at 5:30pm**

If you've been curious about how Centering Prayer might enrich your Spiritual Practice, now is the time to find out. Join us as we meet on the first Monday of each month to encourage each other in this ancient practice. We'll spend about 20 minutes sitting together in peaceful, reverent, healing silence, and we'll share our stories and tips for incorporating this practice into our daily lives. Our first meeting will be Oct. 3 at 5:30 in the Nave.

**Celtic Eucharist, Wednesday, October 5th at 6:30 pm**

This is a candlelight service using sacred music to provide a meditative worship experience. You are invited to this quiet, contemplative evening worship experience, which is steeped in tradition. This service invites you to enter into a place of rest, prayer and reflection. The atmosphere is one of stillness and calm. *Childcare is provided.*

**Cursillo Open House, October 7th at 6:30pm**

If you are interested in going to Cursillo or just learning more about it, please join us! We will have several Cursillistas (people that have already been to Cursillo) at the meeting as well. This is not a "secret society"! There are many wonderful surprises at Cursillo and I truly believe that when the Lord leads you to go, you get exactly what you need from it, and you leave with a lasting impression, a changed heart, lifelong friends and community centered on our Lord and living in the spirit. Bring the kiddos! We will have some youth group members to watch over them. Please bring a snack to share! Beverages will be provided.

**Next Cursillo – Oct 6th -9th.** Contact Kim Sorensen if you'd like to attend, ksorensen@jackhenry.com.

*Thank you...*

- Peg and the choir for outstanding music.
- Julia for organizing and training Christian Education volunteers.
- All who signed up to support our ministries through Gifts of the Spirit.

*Diocesan/Local Offerings*

**District Day 2016, September 25th – TODAY - 2pm-4pm**

District Day is an all EYC event hosted by Dioala Youth Department will be held at Crestline Park, 1115 Dunston Avenue, Birmingham, AL 35213. Contact Mother Mary Bea if interested.

**A Day on Addiction and Recovery, October 15th**

The Diocesan Department of Recovery Ministries is presenting *A Day of Addiction and Recovery* at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church October 15th. The program will feature keynoters Michael O'Keefe and Travis Meadows. There will also be break-out sessions focusing on families, addiction as a disease, young adult issues, and what's out there? The day will close with a Recovery Eucharist. Lunch will be provided.

### Fall Fling for 5th & 6th graders at Camp McDowell, October 14th- 16th

The Diocese is hosting a Fall Fling for 5th & 6th graders at Camp McDowell. Cost is \$125 and scholarships are available. For more information go to [www.campmcdowell.com/retreat/fall-fling](http://www.campmcdowell.com/retreat/fall-fling) or contact Stratt Byers at [Stratt@campmcdowell.com](mailto:Stratt@campmcdowell.com). REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN.

### Getting Ready to Get Ready, Saturday, November 19th

Join the Diocesan Commission on Spirituality and the Daughters of the King for a quiet day of reflection to prepare for the Advent season at St. Mary's on the Highlands from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Cost is \$15 (lunch provided) – register at <http://bit.ly/getreadyday>.

**There are so many wonderful events happening throughout our Diocese. Be sure to visit the diocesan website, [www.dioala.org](http://www.dioala.org), for details. Check out the bulletin board in the parish hall for a few highlights.**

## *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, September 18, 2016.

Pledged.....	\$1,978.51
Unpledged.....	\$ 205.00
Adult Education .....	\$ 43.59
Beans and Rice .....	\$ 40.00
Cookbook purchases.....	\$ 28.00
Parish Life .....	\$ 81.00
Total Contributions.....	\$2,376.10

## *Please pray for...*

**Bishops and Clergy:** Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury; **Michael** Bruce Curry, Presiding Bishop ECUSA; **Keel** Sloan, Alabama Bishop; **Mary Bea** Sullivan, Rector; **Alison** Carmody, Priest Affiliate; **Malcolm** Marler, Priest Affiliate; **Stan** Wright, Priest Affiliate

**Diocesan Prayer Cycle:** Our companion dioceses of Alaska & the Virgin Islands & their bishops Mark & Ambrose; For all ministries to the hungry, especially Community Kitchens (Birmingham), Bread for the World, the Soup Bowl (Anniston), Grace by Day (Birmingham)

**Ministries and Programs within The Church of the Holy Spirit:** Parish Life, Choir, Altar Guild, Invite•Welcome•Connect, Stewardship

**For Nation and Local Community:** Barack Obama, President; Robert Bentley, Governor; Communities of Calera, Alabaster, Helena, Maylene, & Pelham, Nature and people impacted by Helena gas leak

**For all people everywhere especially:** Those impacted by the flooding in Louisiana, unrest in Tulsa and Charlotte, and wars throughout the world.

**Healing & Guidance for members, relatives and friends of Holy Spirit:** **Doris & Richard** Smith (Victoria Knierim); **Carl** Raymond (Allyson Agee); **Jo** Cochran (Judy Dykes); **Roxie & Stan** Wright; **Debra** Dewees (Glenda Jones); **Shirley** Marshall (Allyson Agee); **Francie and Alan** Gardner; **Fred** Aldrich (David Aldrich); **Carl** Bruner; **Susan** Vincens (Janet Palmer); **Olivia** Kilgore; **Brandy** Carmichael (Debra Dickey); **Susie** Burnside (Mandy Curry ); **Bud** Montgomery (Carol Smedley); **Betty & Baylee** Marek; **Barbara** Conyers (Mary Bea Sullivan); **Jim** Hamilton

**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:** Marla Aldrich (9/28), Samuel Bainter (9/30), Betty Marek (10/1), Carrie May (10/4), Roxie Wright (10/7), Pam Bainter (10/7), Kem Muruako (10/8), Lila Golightly (10/8), Daniel Campos (10/9)

**Upcoming Anniversaries:**

### **The Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit ♦ Reverend Mary Bea Sullivan, Rector**

Tara's Office Hours: Tues, Wed, & Thurs – 9:00am to 2:00pm

Rev. Mary Bea's days off are Friday & Saturday (but may be reached for emergency)

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