



THE FOURTH EPISTLE SAINT JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH MOBILE, ALABAMA

The Reverend Thomas Heard, Rector
The Protestant Episcopal Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast
The Right Reverend Philip Duncan, Bishop

Vol. XXI, Issue 4

April 2011

FROM THE RECTOR:

Dear Ones,

The end of March has been challenging. We've lost two long-time members of Saint John's, Shannon Newberry and Alice Cieutat, within five days of each other. Both were strong, capable, loving and giving.

The preface for the Commemoration of the Dead reads:

“For to your faithful people, O Lord, life is changed, not ended; and when our mortal body lies in death, there is prepared for us a dwelling place eternal in the heavens.”

This is a truth that was embraced by both Shannon and Alice. It has been my privilege to have known them, to have served them and to have shared their lives. –Thomas

Shannon Marie (Brabner) Newberry
2 June 1935 – 15 March 2011

Alice Clara (Grothaus) Cieutat
14 April 1921 – 19 March 2011

When I first met Shannon, I knew there was something seriously wrong. It turned out to be cancer, well advanced. At first shocked, Shannon took it in stride and approached her treatment positively and with great confidence. Through the years of her chemotherapy and radiation, Shannon remained positive and never complained. She knew that her attitude would have a great effect on her battle against the disease.

Family was always important to Shannon. She and Ben had been together for 43 years. Family included Saint John's folks as well as all of her relatives. She found such joy in her grandchildren and great grandchildren, wanting to spend as much time as she could with them.

The cancer was strong. It kept coming back, stronger, different, always keeping her doctors on their toes. Throughout it all, she maintained her personal ministry at Saint John's – periodic cards to our Home-bound brothers and sisters. The cancer seemed to have won, but I think it was really Shannon who won. She told me she was ready and looking forward to her new life; she'd had enough of the cancer. She knew there was a place for her, she looked forward to a new adventure.

Shannon was a model for us of how to live. Her self-giving manner and abundant love are hallmarks of her identity. They also identify her as being a follower of Jesus, modeling his behavior for us.

Better known as “Momma”, Alice was a force to be reckoned with. When I found out her ancestry, a lot of things about Momma became really clear. The daughter of parents who immigrated to the US from Germany, she was born in Buffalo Center, Iowa. A strong work and personal ethic were part of her genes.

Alice and husband, George, had a house that was always overrun with people. Everyone that came within that sphere of influence was treated like family – and expected to behave like family. There were even a few that were ‘adopted’ into the family, like Sonja Hauge and Sue Dyess, who were expected to call for help when they needed it.

Alice was a nurse; she retired from Providence Hospital after 25 years. It's hard to imagine the number of lives she influenced over all those years. Then again, she influenced many others by virtue of her loving and giving nature.

Momma told me that she knew she was on her way out; she said she was old, tired, and had done the best she could.

I think ‘the best we can’ is what God really hopes for from us. We can't be perfect, but we can do our best. I think Momma was right. She did the best she could. God loves her and God loves her for that.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE APRIL LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Holy Days

Holy Week comprises all of the Holy Days in April this year. The Feast of Saint Mark does fall on 25 April, but that's in Easter Week and so is not observed. The major days in Holy Week are The Sunday of the Passion (Palm Sunday), Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday. There will be a Said Mass on Monday and Tuesday at 12:10PM and on Wednesday at 10:00AM. The tradition of Holy Week comes to us from the writings of a mid to late 4th century pilgrim to the Holy Land. The *Travels of Egeria* records her experiences in Jerusalem in Holy Week. Beyond its depiction of Holy Week, it is a great read.



Sunday of the Passion or Palm Sunday

Holy Week begins on 17 April with the Liturgy of the Palms in the Garden at 10:00AM and processing into the church for the Liturgy of the Word and the Eucharist. Palm Sunday is an odd mix: I think this happened to accommodate those who

don't darken the door of the church except on Sundays, so we get the Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem and the Passion of Our Lord – Palm Sunday and Good Friday all rolled into one.

Maundy Thursday

The name comes from the Latin "*Mandatum*", meaning command. With our observance of Maundy Thursday on 21 April at 6:00PM, we will commemorate Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples and imitate Our Lord's washing of his disciples' feet. All who wish to participate will have their feet washed and then wash someone else's feet, becoming servants to each other. The Mass will conclude with the transfer of the Holy Sacrament to the Altar of Repose and the stripping of the Sanctuary and washing of the altar. At the end of the mass, the Watch over the Blessed Sacrament begins. This overnight vigil affords quiet time to spend in prayer and meditation.

Good Friday

We will offer the Good Friday liturgy twice, once at 12:00PM and again at 6:00PM. This liturgy features the Passion of Our Lord according to John. In the place of the Prayers of the People, the Solemn Collects are prayed, with the deacon saying the biddings and the celebrant saying the collects. In the Showing of the Cross, the deacon will bring a cross into the Nave. An opportunity to venerate the cross will be offered to all present. Following the veneration, Holy Communion will be prepared from the Sacrament reserved at the altar of repose.



The Great Vigil of Easter

Holy Week reaches its peak with the Great Vigil of Easter at 7:30PM on Saturday, 23 April. The service begins in the garden (weather permitting) where the Pascal Candle is prepared and lighted and we process into the church. The liturgy continues with readings from the Old Testament, taking us from creation through all of our salvation history. In the early church, this was the liturgy where catechumens were baptized, becoming full members of the community. I believe we will have a baptism at our Vigil observance. Following baptism and renewal of our Baptismal Covenant, the proclamation of Easter is made: bells are rung, candles are lit, the lights come up and we celebrate the first Mass of Easter.



SIGN UP FOR EASTER LILIES

Please look for cards by the doors to the church to sign up for Easter lilies. As in past years, Easter lilies may be given in memory or in honor of loved ones, whose names will appear in the Easter service bulletins. Suggested donation is \$20 per plant. The deadline to sign up is Maundy Thursday.

Holy Week

Sunday, 17 April 2011

Palm Sunday

The Sunday of the Passion

Blessing of Palms, Procession and
Solemn Mass at 10:00AM
Sermon by the Rector

Thursday, 21 April 2011

Maundy Thursday

Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper at 6:00PM
Sermon by the Rector

Friday, 22 April 2011

Good Friday

The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ
Said Liturgy at 12:00PM
Sung Liturgy at 6:00PM
Sermon by the Rector
Saturday, 23 April 2011

Holy Saturday

The Great Vigil of Easter at 7:30PM
Sermon by the Rector

Sunday, 24 April 2011

The Sunday of the Resurrection

Solemn Mass at 10:00AM
Sermon by the Rector



OUTREACH NEWS AND NOTES FROM MARCH

The Outreach Committee met on Sunday, March 6 after Mass to assess where we are and to begin to plan where we want to be and what we want to do in the coming year. With a budget of approximately \$7,500, and with energy to get personally involved with outreach activities, the enthusiasm for the coming year is infectious!

We have as our unofficial mission statement "Reaching outside the walls of St. John's to those in need with our tithes, time, and talent". We are looking for opportunities to serve our community and our world, making an impact one person at a time. If you have ideas or know of an agency or group needing volunteers or just a helping hand now and then, please let one of us know. We will plan to meet on the first Sunday of every month in the EfM Room right after church, so bring your ideas to us at our next meeting, even if you can join us only for a few minutes. We are a rather loosely organized group of interested parishioners, vestry members and you. Cheryl Winters-Heard will be our chairperson this year, and other members are Butch Yeager, Connie McLean, James Christiansen, Kathe Gieseler, Janet Buckley, and Rev. Jayne Carson. We have all noticed that while we feel good when we can send a nice check to a needy agency, we can triple our fun and enjoyment if we can get our hands dirty and our hearts involved in doing something with that agency's clients.

Some of the suggestions that we have already received are:

1. to expand our volunteer activities with McKemie Place;
2. to support a local school in need of mentors, readers, tutors or simply an infusion of badly needed school supplies;
3. to identify a local home or residential facility with lonely people who need to be reminded that they are important more often than simply at Christmas,
4. and [...put on your thinking cap and insert your idea here....]

See you on April 3 for our next meeting!

LENTEN SUPPER SERIES

Our Lenten Supper Series continues on Wednesdays, 30 March, 6 April and 13 April. Supper is a light vegetarian repast in keeping with the season. Cost is \$5.00 per person.

Following supper, Fr. Heard is leading us in an exploration of some of the non-canonical Gospels. We've looked at the Gospel of Thomas, and we'll be taking up the Gospel of Mary Magdalene on 30 March, and the Gospel of Philip on 6 April. On 13 April, we'll wrap up what we've seen and think about possibilities.

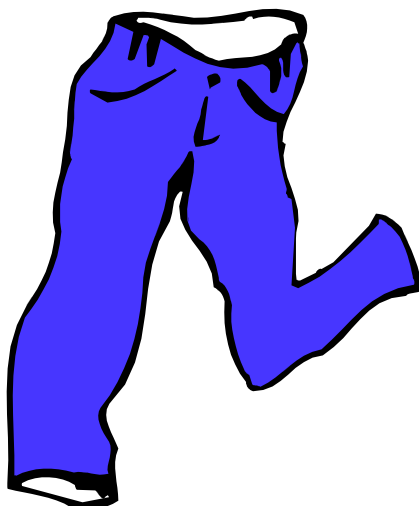
BLUE JEAN SUNDAY

The Vestry has set Sunday, 10 April as "Blue Jean Sunday".

With an eye toward Holy Week, we plan to spend time after Mass doing clean-up in and around the church.

Work areas include the kitchen, the garden, the Great Hall, and anywhere else that needs a little spiffing up!

So just this once, come to church to go to work!



"You go from couch to 5K in nine weeks?" What?!! I asked Jessica Dennis to repeat her statement about the Christian women's group called "Sole 2 Soul".

"It's true," she enthused. "On any Sunday afternoon there are about 200 women walking, jogging, and running in five or six groups throughout our area." Many started out as walkers and eventually became 5K (3.1 mile) runners in a

Christian outreach started by Jubilee Baptist Church in Daphne.

Jessica is among Saint John's small but growing "younger set", wife of Jeff Dennis, whose grandparents were longtime members Lucille and Boyd Dennis. She and Jeff were married at Saint John's in 2007 and are the proud parents of 20-month-old Isabella.

"Our runners are made up of women of all ages, shapes and religions," she explained, "and I've made such good friends there. In February I ran a marathon in New Orleans." (That's 26.2 miles, people!)

Jessica is a 4th grade teacher at Hamilton Elementary in Chickasaw. "I love it," she said of her class of 16 extraordinary "inner-city" kids. She was born in the Philippines and lived many other places. Jessica graduated from U.S.A. and "is thrilled to be living permanently in such a beautiful area."

The Sole 2 Soul adventure started in April of 2010 with three Christian women who were runners who wanted to encourage other women to try it. Their logo is a footprint and the quote from Isaiah: "They shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint or become tired."

The group has among its members a Pre-K teacher, an engineer and a forensic scientist. Upcoming "run/walks" will be held at Tillman's Corner - the U.S.A. track, with a Graduation run to honor Young Leaders of the United Way on May 7.

Saint John's Cheryl Heard is a new member of the group. Cheryl says that she doesn't mind gym exercise, but running was never her thing. "I'm finding that Sole 2 Soul is a reasonable and comfortable way to get into running. I've thoroughly enjoyed it," Cheryl said.

The effort plans to "go national" soon when they join a running group in Illinois. Interested in going from your couch to a 5K? Call Jessica at 599-7319. I'll wave to you as you run by.

-Joan Marie Elam



NURSERY

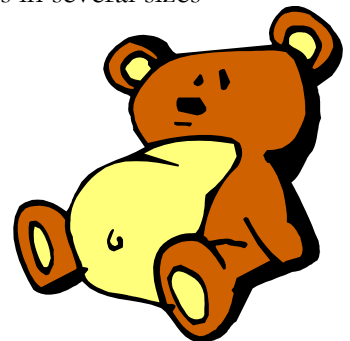
We are very excited to see increasing numbers of infants and children in our services! While our smallest worshippers are always welcome in our midst, sometimes there are meltdowns, and a safe and fun place to take a child presents a very desirable option to parents. For this reason, a group of us is working to clean up and spruce up our nursery space, adding fresh paint to the walls, new toys, and new sleeping and reading areas. We plan to open our newly refurbished Nursery on April 17, Palm Sunday.

As of the writing of this article, a **workday** to clean up and repaint the nursery is scheduled for Saturday, March 26. Volunteers have signed up to help with this. Our fourth Sunday Potluck on March 27 was designated “Nursery Feeding Time”, and in addition to bringing a dish to share, age-appropriate toys or gift certificates were also donated by our generous parishioners. If you still would like to donate, please see the list below of needed items. We are requesting only new toys and books be donated, but gently used baby blankets and pads are welcome.

We can't have a nursery without a pool of trained volunteers, and while we already have a number of willing people, we can always use more! Men and women and teens are welcome to help out. Guidelines from the Episcopal Church require us to have at least two volunteers in the nursery when there are children present, and these volunteers must be trained. A program called **“Safeguarding God's Children”** is also required by The Episcopal Church to be completed prior to working with kids. This is very important, and we strongly support our Church's effort to minimize the potential for any abuse of our youngest members. Rev. Jayne Carson will be conducting this training for all volunteers before April 17. As of this writing, a time has not yet been determined, but this means that there is still time to sign up if you want to work with our children. Please contact the Church office, or see Janet Buckley, Nikki Shaw or Cheryl Winters-Heard if you are interested in this important volunteer activity.

Nursery Items needed:

- Gift certificates to Babies ‘R Us or Toys ‘R Us, Target, Walmart
- Cash donations for recurring expenses. Make checks to St. John's.
- New Board Books for infants - 2 years old
- Picture books and read-to-me books for 2 - 4 year olds
- New stuffed toys suitable for children under age 3
- New baby dolls (NO Barbies PLEASE)
- Infant toys: stackers, large blocks, rolling toys, etc.
- Toddler toys: farm sets, Duplo blocks, large piece wooden puzzles, toy kitchen tools
- Floor pillows
- Corkboard or bulletin board
- Automatic External Defibrillator (AED)
- First Aid Kit
- Child CPR Poster
- DVD Player
- CD Player
- CDs and DVDs suitable for under age 5
- Hand Sanitizer
- Germicidal wipes
- Disinfectant spray
- Bleach
- Disposable gloves
- New or gently used baby blankets, waterproof changing pads
- Baby bottom wipes
- Diaper Cream (like Desitin)
- Disposable diapers in several sizes





Vestry

The regular meeting of the Vestry of Saint John's was held on Sunday, 13 March. The meeting was convened at 11:40AM in the Parlor.

Connie McLean presented the proposed 2011 budget. She observed that the budget contains merit raises for staff and projects a \$50,000 deficit. The budget was unanimously adopted by the vestry.

Butch Yeager reported that the Outreach Committee has elected Cheryl Winters-Heard as its chair for 2011. The committee plans to meet on the first Sunday of each month. The committee is also looking for suggestions for projects.

Janet Buckley described the Lenten Supper Series which began on 16 March. She suggested the vestry consider a parish picnic in lieu of the 4th Sunday Potluck in May.

Butch Yeager reported that Stewardship is working

on a letter to the parish concerning our financial situation. Butch is also collating the data from the Annual Meeting Time & Talent survey.

A discussion centering around the growing number of children in the parish resulted in the Vestry setting Palm Sunday (17 April) as the opening date for a revitalized and volunteer staffed Nursery. In preparation for this, a work day to clean and paint will be set, volunteers need to be recruited, and The Rev. Jayne Carson will conduct *Safeguarding God's Children* training as required by the Canons.

Fr. Heard updated the Vestry on a number of members of the parish in hospital or with increasing health issues. He also reported that he is looking into alternate service providers for our website and email due to realignments with our current provider.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 1:00PM.



**Episcopal
Relief & Development**

Healing a hurting world

Japanese archbishop pledges that church will 'stand with all people' affected by quake

[Episcopal News Service] Archbishop Nathaniel Makoto Uematsu, primate of [Nippon Sei Ko Kai](#) (The Anglican Communion in Japan, NSKK), said "it is the NSKK's desire to stand with all people there and to do whatever we can to support them."

The earthquake -- estimated to be at least 700 times more powerful than the magnitude-7 temblor that hit Haiti in January 2010 -- caused Japan's main island to move about eight feet to the east, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The archbishop said that immediately after the quake, he began receiving "messages of support and concern from churches, mission agencies and people all around the world."

Church officials in the Sendai-based Tohoku diocese, hard-hit by the quake and tsunami, are attempting to determine the extent of the damage to church buildings

and other institutions, and confirm the safety of parishioners, Uematsu said. "In the future, once the extent of the damage to churches and other facilities becomes clear, I anticipate that volunteers from other Anglican dioceses across Japan will travel to Tohoku to help with relief and rehabilitation activities," he said.

Archbishop Uematsu said that the relief and rescue phase will soon end, "but the restoration phase will go on for a long time. As the NSKK, particularly as Tohoku Diocese, we believe that it is during this second phase when God will most use us to do his work," the archbishop said.

Uematsu added that the NSKK recognizes that, in addition of its communion partners, it will need to work with ecumenical partners as well as government, private, non-profit and non-governmental organizations in order to do this relief and restoration work.

To support Episcopal Relief & Development's work in Japan, visit www.er-d.org or call 1.800.334.7626, ext. 5129. Gifts can be mailed to Episcopal Relief & Development, PO Box 7058, Merrifield, VA 22116.



Corinne Duke	04/04
Jessica Dennis	04/05
Sebra Strong	04/08
Mike Johnson	04/13
Betty Taylor	04/14
Mary Lou Varnes	04/14
John Hobbs	04/18
Joyce Lee	04/18
Frances Barbour	04/22



Richard & Doris Cunningham	04/09
William & Corinne Duke	04/23



For healing grace and continued strength, we pray for our members:

Alice Walker, Jerry Fulford, Pat Thomas, Caitlin Brown, Bessie & Bill Southall, Mary Gieseler [deacon]

For our Homebound:

Ray Campbell, Ping Duke, Mae Dunn, Will Elam, Corinne Faust, Gwen Johnson, Nell Kirk, Violet Kosko, Margie Mattoon, Audrey Meador, Angela McGuire, Jane Tate Moore, Betty Plash, Alice Walker, Catherine Warren, Dot & Chick Wohlert

For victims of war and their families, and members of our Armed Forces and their families:

Ellis Eugene Garner, Eric Mattoon, Cheryl Garner

For our Friends and Family:

Tom Dabney, Kit Caffey, Anna Marie Brown, Mark Chandler, Jim Owens, John McCormick, Keith Malick, Myrle Benson, Judi Waldrop, Gloria Berry, Travis McBride, Vernon Faulk, Mickey Benson, Velma Pearson, Betty & Gayle Chenoweth, Steve Weinstein, Mark Stiber, Maddie West

For those who have died:

Shannon Newberry, Alice Cieutat

Contact Us

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Sexton

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Ron Brown

Janet Buckley

James Christiansen

Bill Duke

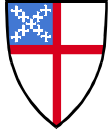
Chris Gass

Connie McLean

Nikki Shaw

Bill Sundie

Howard Yeager



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Come Worship With Us!

Monday—Friday:

8:30AM Morning Prayer

5:30PM Evening Prayer

Sunday:

9:00AM Adult and Youth Christian
Formation

10:00AM Holy Eucharist

Wednesday:

10:00AM Holy Eucharist;
Healing on the 1st
Wednesday of the month.

Other Feasts and Holy Days are
observed throughout the year; please
see our website for the latest schedule.

Parish Office

Monday-Thursday

9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

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Fax: 251-473-1230

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SAINT JOHN'S: THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN MIDTOWN MOBILE
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to be the hands of Our Lord.