Dear Ones,

We are deep into the summer months. The weather has been unseasonably hot and dry, but it seems like we're shifting to something a bit more usual for Lower Alabama and the Gulf Coast.

Within The Episcopal Church, the weather was a little unseasonable as we approached the triennial gathering of bishops, clergy, and laypersons at General Convention. Concluding on the 17th of July, there were some truly significant actions taken by this convention.

A completely re-written Title IV of our Canons was passed by both houses. This section of our canons deals with discipline within the church: “Ecclesiastical Discipline”. Our previous approach was modeled on the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) that, frankly, left much to be desired. One of the primary complaints was that it contained no provisions for care for those that had been wronged or victimized. This is specifically addressed in the new Title IV, setting the Bishop Diocesan as responsible for appropriate pastoral care for individuals or communities that have been wounded. I suspect this kind of pastoral care was not uncommon under the previous Title IV; the difference now is that it is explicitly called out as a required response.

I'm writing about this not because it is the most important thing that happened at convention, but because it is an example of how we (The Episcopal Church) work through things. For several conventions, the topic of the disciplinary canon has been discussed and considerable work expended. For example, in 2006 there was a complete revision proposed. It, too, addressed the pastoral care issue, but went much farther to include lay persons within its scope.

Let me cite a few of the other significant works of the convention:

- Establish Pension Plan for all church employees working ½ time or greater (this has been in process since 1991).
- Establish Denominational Health plan for all church employees working ¾ time or greater.
- Increase support for the Millennium Development Goals from 0.7% to 1.0%.
- Ratify the “Five Marks of Mission” articulated by the Anglican Consultative Council.

There are far too many other amazing things handled by our convention and I am sure I have omitted some really significant ones from my list.

What strikes me about each of these is that each is “the right thing to do”. To me, each one of them bears the hallmarks of Our Lord and what he would have done. Jesus didn’t hang with the social elite, he didn’t hobnob with the captains of industry, he didn’t stay in the best hotels, he didn’t eat at 5-star restaurants. Our Lord was present to people in need, people who were hurting, people who needed a hand.

When I look around our city, our country and our world, I can see places where we can help. I can see where we can be Jesus’ hands in this broken and hurting world. We are called to answer “WWJD?” in ways authentic to each of us, just as General Convention has wrestled in its own sphere with the same question.

There’s something equally important to answering the question: we have to be willing to take the risk of trying to move the answer from words into action. Jesus talked the talk, but he walked the walk, and it was about making lives better, making the world better. That’s what Jesus would do; that’s what we should do.

Thomas
LILLIAN AUGUSTA KARL MAYSON
MAY 6, 1905 – JULY 14, 2009

We celebrated the long, full, robust and active life of Lillian Mayson on July 18. At 104, Lillian was by far our oldest member.

I came to know Lillian pretty well during these past two years and always enjoyed my visits with her. She was passionate about many things: Family, Golf, Saint John’s, Friends. She was awfully proud of her family, every one of them; Lillian loved fiercely.

Known as “Grandma Lil” or sometimes just “Lil”, Lillian gathered the family together for any occasion, but the reason was always the same: to celebrate each other and stay connected. Her grandchildren (all 9 of them) have fond and treasured memories of those times together.

Lillian lived her life in community, including her family at Saint John’s. Her family shows up in our register as early as 1862, just nine years after our founding. She always spoke so lovingly about Dr. Tucker. She was the 1495th baptism and 1139th marriage that he performed. Saint John’s was home.

Lillian had always been active, so her sudden physical inability to “do” made her last years difficult. Even with that, her outlook was bright and her faith never wavered. She knew that her life would be changed, not ended, and she looked forward to her new life with her Lord. Lillian looked forward to a body restored and golf in the Kingdom. Maybe she could get a foursome with Jesus?

JUST ARRIVED

It’s A Girl! We give thanks for the birth of Isabella Grace to Jessica and Jeff Dennis on Thursday, 16 July at 2:55AM, weighing 6 lbs. 12 oz. Everyone is fine and getting accustomed to each other!

We give thanks for the placement of Gavin with Denise and Philip Dunham. He was welcomed with a service of thanksgiving on July 26, followed by a shower in the Great Hall.

For healing grace and continued strength, we pray for our members:
Leah Betts
Stephen Lee
Earl Garner
Shannon Newberry
Ashley Garris
Gloria Lee

For our Homebound:
Alice Cieutat
Mac Dunn
Will Elam
Corinne Faust
Gwen Johnson
Violet Kosko
Vevia Lund
Angela McGuire
Audrey Meador
Jane Tate Moore
Betty Plash
Chick & Dot Wohlert

For our Friends and Family:
Tucker Stuckey
Phebe Lee
Marla B. Lovett
Betty Chenowith
William E. Dunn
Julie Hinton
Helen Baker
Joe Stroeker
Gracie Strocker
JoAnn Alioto
Shirley Mayson
Rodene Nestman
Michelle Walker
Mary Lou Johnston
Jim Owens
Maddie West

For victims of war and their families, and members of our Armed Forces and their families:
Steven Garris
Jeffery Yeager
Ellis Eugene Garner
Eric Mattoon
Cheryl Garner

For the departed:
Lillian Mayson
HIGHLIGHTS OF THE
AUGUST LITURGICAL CALENDAR

The Transfiguration of Our Lord

We will celebrate the Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord Jesus Christ on Thursday, 6 August at 12:15PM. This will be a said mass commemorating Jesus’ physical and spiritual re-manifestation. The Roman calendar didn’t include the Transfiguration until just before the Reformation, and in The Episcopal Church, we didn’t include it until the 1892 Prayer Book. It has, however, been in the Eastern church’s calendar for a very long time. In their theology, the Transfiguration prefigures Jesus’ resurrection and ascension.

Florence Nightingale

Florence Nightingale is known for her contributions to the advancement of education in the field of nursing and its elevation to an esteemed medical profession. Perhaps not as well known is her history as an Anglican mystic. She was known as a frequent conversant with prominent church leaders, taking up topics of theological as well as social importance. We will celebrate her life and work on Wednesday, 12 August at our 10:00AM said mass.

Saint Mary the Virgin

The Feast of Saint Mary the Virgin is known in the Roman church as The Assumption and in the Eastern tradition as The Dormition of the Theotokos. Perhaps the Greek Theotokos gets us to a place where we can truly grasp Mary’s importance. It means “God bearer”, that is the one who was mother to Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The tradition for this day cannot be supported by scripture, but is older than any surviving texts: Mary, for her service to God as Theotokos did not suffer earthly death, but “fell asleep in God” and was taken to heaven. One of our Major Feasts, we will observe Saint Mary the Virgin on Sunday, 16 August, at our 10:00AM mass.

Saint Bartholomew

One of the Twelve, Bartholomew is known only by his inclusion in the list of disciples in the Gospels of Mark, Matthew, and Luke. Some sources credit Bartholomew with the writing of a Gospel that was known to Saint Jerome and the Venerable Bede. Eusebius reports the existence of copy of the Gospel of Matthew in Hebrew that was purportedly given to the church by Bartholomew. We will celebrate Saint Bartholomew on Monday, 24 August, with a said mass at 12:15PM.
OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Habitat for Humanity is requesting volunteers for an InterFaith build in September, October and November. Mobile-area organizations of diverse faiths will come together during these autumn months to build a home in Hillsdale. Construction will begin in September with the goal of moving the family into the completed house the week of Thanksgiving. Faith-based organizations of all sizes and backgrounds have all been invited to participate. We at St. John’s would like to join with other Episcopal Churches including Church of the Redeemer and All Saints on September 11 – 13 to kick-off the build!

There is a sign-up sheet posted, and we’re looking for builders, go-fers, lunch-makers, and individuals to offer devotions to start out each day. Other dates throughout September, October and November are available, so if the 11th – 13th of September is not convenient, please consider any of the other dates listed below. (all dates are Fridays, Saturdays, or Sundays)

**Sept. 11-13**, Sept. 18-20, Sept. 25-27
Oct. 17-18, Oct. 24-25, Oct. 31-Nov. 1, Nov. 7-8

T-shirts commemorating this InterFaith Habitat Build will be available at the site to volunteers for $8 while supplies last.

-Cheryl Winters-Heard

SAM ESCOBIO REACHES OUT – ALL THE WAY TO TENNESSEE

Sam Escobio, the 14-year-old son of Dana and Scott Escobio and a veteran acolyte at Saint John’s, took part in an interesting and meaningful outreach experience for a week in early July.

Sam belongs to the Junior High Youth Group at Dauphin Way Methodist Church. Why? Because he has friends in the group and we have no group in his age category here at Saint John’s.

The event was a mission trip called “Youth Works”, with twenty young people taking part: 16 boys and 4 girls. They went on a church bus to Chattanooga, TN and were hosted by White Oak Methodist Church in Chattanooga. There were other teen participants from Atlanta and throughout Tennessee.

Their first “good work” every day was at the Cherokee Indian Reserve on the Trail of Tears, where they became known as the “Eliminators” – pulling up privet weed, which has overrun the area, choking out the landscape.

Another part of their week-long mission was visiting a Boys and Girls Club in a rough part of town where they met children aged 3 – 8, who were from a shelter for abused and abandoned children. “Three of the children latched onto me and wanted to be my friend and eat with me,” said Sam.

After days of weeding and kid-playing, the Youth Group headed back to White Oak Church for “club worship”, games and scripture reading.

Sam’s most memorable experience came on the last night when the Adult Leader of the group, Nick Melton, washed the feet of the teenagers. Sam said, “It was one of the most spiritual experiences I have ever had and I truly understand how the disciples of Jesus must have felt.”

-Joan Marie Elam
THE STEWARDSHIP PRINCIPLE

Mission Statement
We conduct the annual every member canvass, educate throughout the year to the importance of committing your time, talent, finances, and planned giving.

Recycling
Recycling saves energy and natural resources through conservation. Natural resources are gifts provided courtesy of Mother Nature. By using materials more than once, we conserve natural resources and as stewards of God we have that responsibility and opportunity.

There are many ways we can protect our gift. For example:

1. Purchase products with minimal packaging or which contain recycled content. Packaging represents about 30% of all our waste, yet much of it isn’t needed to protect the product. About ten cents of every dollar pays for packaging in the supermarket.

2. Use a household hazardous waste collection site to dispose of hazardous materials such as pesticides and herbicides.

3. Never burn plastics or other man-made materials or wastes. The smoke is toxic. Call 1-800-828-2214 for the names of local businesses that reuse them.

4. Look for items made with recycled, less toxic, or more energy efficient materials.

There is a recycle business, Mobile Recycling Drop-Off Center, at 1451 Government Street, telephone number 478-4826, that will take the following items: tin/steel cans, phone books, milk/juice cartons, greeting cards, computer paper, clothing for Goodwill, catalogs, cardboard and glass. Call for additional recycle items.

Stewardship teaches us that all we have and all we are is a gift from God. Creation is such a gift and we are better stewards of creation when we protect the earth through our recycling efforts.

-Ben Schmerbauch

From Monday, July 13 through Sunday, July 19, I was able to attend The 59th Annual Sewanee Church Music Conference in Tennessee. Thomas Foster, who was part of the music faculty, was Director of Music at All Saint's Episcopal Church, Beverly Hills, California, for 26 years. Mr. Foster was a contributor to the Episcopal Hymnal 1982. Janette Fishell, who was also part of the music faculty, is Professor of Organ and Chair of the Organ Department at the Jacobs School of Music, Indiana University.

We enjoyed an Organ Recital on Tuesday evening in All Saint's Chapel, Sewanee presented by Dr. Fishell. Our Chaplain was The Reverend Dr. James F. Turrell, who is Associate Professor of Liturgy and Associate Dean of Academic Affairs at the School of Theology at the University of the South. In addition to the daily 7:30 A. M. Mass, we prepared music for Solemn Choral Evensong on Friday as well as the music for the University Service on Sunday, both of which were in All Saint's Chapel, Sewanee. In addition to those of us that attended from states in the Sewannee Province, there were attendees from Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, and Virginia.

I am grateful for having had the opportunity to represent St. John's at the oldest church music conference in The Episcopal Church.

-John Hobbs

The park in front of USA Children’s and Women’s Hospital has been renamed “Geri Moulton Children’s Park” to honor Geri’s “extraordinary contributions toward the creation and ongoing development of the public park.” According to a news release, she helped spearhead the creation of the park, donated sculptures, inspired other donors, and chaired events to honor artists and donors. We are proud of your hard work and accomplishments and congratulate you on this fine honor!
**EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN (ECW)**

**TRASH AND TREASURES RUMMAGE SALE**

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23** **RD AND SATURDAY 24** **TH**

The St. Johns ECW has set the date for the annual *Trash and Treasures Rummage Sale* which will be held at St. John’s Great Hall on Friday October 23rd and Saturday October 24th.

It’s time to start searching through your closets and storage places to find those “treasures” you no longer need: furniture, books, china and glassware, kitchenware, bedding, gently used clothes --- if you don’t need it any more; someone else probably does!

Few reminders:
- Please make sure items are clean
- If it is electric make sure all the parts are included there and it works
- No computer stuff this year (it didn’t sell last year)
- Clothes have to be in good condition (no stains or rips), washed and ironed (or dry cleaned), and on hangers

Bring your items to the church anytime the church is open. If you are going to need help unloading and carrying items in, please call the church first to make sure someone can be available to help you.

The proceeds from the Rummage Sale go to support the projects of the ECW.

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**SUPPER CLUB AT THE YEAGERS’**

Approximately 25 St. John’s members attended the July supper club and house blessing at the lovely new home of Irene and Butch Yeager. The theme was a Hawaiian Luau (where everyone got lei’d!), with Hawaiian chicken accompanied by many fine side dishes. Folks left the party with a parting gift of Hawaiian cookies. A great time was had by all.
Virtua l Race Across the C ountry

The Rt. Rev. Mark Hollingsworth, Bishop of the Diocese of Ohio and seven other cyclists will be riding across the country after the close of General Convention on July 17. Their 8-10 day journey which starts in Anaheim, California and ends at the Episcopal Church Center in New York will raise money for Episcopal Relief & Development's program partnership Netsforlife® which prevents malaria in 17 countries across sub-Saharan Africa.

As they travel across the country, the goal of the Bishop's Bike Ride is to raise at least $100,000 and spread awareness about malaria, which kills nearly 1 million people each year. One of Netsforlife’s® insecticide-treated net can save three people from needless suffering and certain death. The Netsforlife® life-saving program plans to distribute 7 million nets over the next five years.

You can follow the cyclists:
http://www.google.com/maps/ms?ie=UTF8&vps=1&jsv=165c&hl=en&oe=UTF8&msa=0&msid=11637934437543799455.00046c256c1ac3b3e6174

You can make your donation online at www.er-d.org/donate-select.php.
Saint John’s Episcopal Church  
1707 Government Street  
Mobile, Alabama 36604

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Come Worship With Us!  
Monday—Friday:  
8:30AM Morning 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; see our website for the latest schedule.

Parish Office  
Monday—Thursday  
9:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

Telephone: 251-479-5474  
Fax: 251-473-1230  
www.stjohnsmobile.org

Thee Store Episcopal Books  
Mon-Wed & Fri:  
10 a.m.—2 p.m.  
Sundays after church and by appointment  

Telephone: 251-479-5086

SAINT JOHN’S: THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN MIDTOWN MOBILE  
Grounded in shared sacramental life and moving into the world to be the hands of Our Lord.
| 2 9 Pentecost | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 10A HE       | 830A MP | 830A MP | 830A MP | 830A MP | 830A MP | 830A MP |
|             | 1130A Loaves & Fish | 1130A Loaves & Fish | 1130A Loaves & Fish | 1130A Loaves & Fish | 1130A Loaves & Fish | 1130A Loaves & Fish |
| 9 10 Pentecost | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 10A HE       | 830A MP | 830A MP | 830A MP | 830A MP | 830A MP | 830A MP |
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| 16 11 Pentecost | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 10A HE Saint Mary the Virgin | 830A MP | 830A MP | 830A MP | 830A MP | 830A MP | 830A MP |
|             | 830A MP | 830A MP | 830A MP | 830A MP | 830A MP | 830A MP |
| 23 12 Pentecost | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 10A HE       | 830A MP | 830A MP | 830A MP | 830A MP | 830A MP | 830A MP |
|             | 830A MP | 830A MP | 830A MP | 830A MP | 830A MP | 830A MP |
| 30 13 Pentecost | 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 | 35 | 36 |
| 10A HE       | 830A MP | 830A MP | 830A MP | 830A MP | 830A MP | 830A MP |
|             | 830A MP | 830A MP | 830A MP | 830A MP | 830A MP | 830A MP |

MP = Morning Prayer
HE = Holy Eucharist
Rector Vacation 24-28 August

1 10A ECW
8 1P Saturday Afternoon at the Movies
### LECTIONARY AND ROTA FOR AUGUST 2009

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