Dear Ones,

We bring our annual financial commitment campaign to a close on Sunday, 8 November. Please remember to bring your Pledge Card and your Puzzle Piece to church with you. During the Mass, we will bring our gifts of pledges, offerings and oblations to the altar. We do this as a symbol of our gratitude for the bounty that God has given us, our thanks for all that we are and all that we have. Following the Mass, we'll gather for lunch together and try to fit our puzzle pieces together. Just have to wait and see what develops…

Perhaps you noticed that I did not use “Stewardship” anywhere in the preceding paragraph. It was not an oversight or an omission; it was quite deliberate and very much “on purpose.”

Why? Because, stated as simply as I can, Stewardship is not just about the monetary support of our parish and the larger church. That is a component, but by far, not the only one.

If you think about the creation stories in Genesis, God’s bounty and grace are the source of all that exists in the world. It was God’s gift to us, without reservation. Regardless of which story comes to your mind, God set humankind as God’s agents in creation, to care for it, to be its protectors and advocates – in short, its stewards.

A modern definition of a steward is an official who has been appointed by a legally ruling person to act for that person in a country. In medieval times, the steward might also have ruled in his or her own name, being justified by the appointment.

In the Old Testament, Joseph was set as steward over Pharaoh’s holdings. That amounted to everything in Egypt. Joseph managed this vast resource with excellence and equality; Pharaoh benefited and rewarded Joseph.

You see, God did not ask us to be stewards over creation. God set us as stewards of creation; we didn’t choose that role. Our role as stewards of creation is a condition of our human existence, a component of who we are. To turn our back on our stewardship is turning our back on God and all that God has created and given us.

As God’s stewards, we Christians join the other Abrahamic faiths (Judaism and Islam) in being responsible for all aspects of God’s bounty, and that means caring for everything in God’s creation: nature, water, air, land, animals, and each other. The list is endless.

When we look at Jesus’ ministry, we see his concern for the marginalized of society: the sick, the injured, the impaired, the oppressed and the outcasts (I’m sure I’ve missed some). This focus on Jesus’ brothers and sisters is an explicit call to us to extend the stewardship charge from the beginnings of time to include people in our responsibilities.

Stewardship is a lifelong endeavor. It is also a vocation that we share with every other person on the planet. It is never too late to take up the role which God gave us. It takes so little for us to conserve resources, recycle what we can and reduce our consumption. Caring for our neighbors is more difficult, but almost as easy. We can volunteer, we can donate, and we can be supporters.

What God calls us to do is share the abundance that we have through God’s grace. Our stewardship is part of being righteous in God’s eyes and part of our relationship with God and each other.

— Thomas
HIGHLIGHTS OF THE
NOVEMBER LITURGICAL CALENDAR

All Saints’ Day
Adopted by the Roman Catholic Church in the 9th century, the Feast of All Saints’ might have originated in Ireland and spread through the British Isles and to the continent. A commemoration of all who had professed faith in Christ and had given their lives for it and were felt to be in communion with Christians everywhere is found in the writings of Gregory Thaumaturgus from about 270. All Saints’ is a Principal Feast of the church, one of only seven that takes precedence over a Sunday. The 1979 Prayer Book recommends All Saints’ as one of four days that are particularly appropriate for the administration of the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

All Souls’ Day
The day following All Saints’ is known as All Souls’ or All Faithful Departed. This day recalls the body of all faithful Christians who have risen to new life in Christ. It is a day for remembering family and friends and members of a parish who have died in the preceding year. All Souls’ lost favor in the Reformation due to the abuses connected with the practice of saying Masses for the dead. A renewed understanding of All Souls’ led to its acceptance amongst Anglicans.

Martin of Tours
One of the patron saints of France, Martin was born in about 330 in what is now Hungary. As a catechumen and soldier, legend holds that a poor man who asked alms in Christ’s name approached Martin. In response, Martin cut off part of his military cloak and gave it to the man. The following night, Jesus appeared to Martin and said, “A simple catechumen covered me with his cloak.” Martin was ordained in about 350 and established a hermitage at Ligugé. He was elected Bishop of Tours in 372 and accepted on the condition that he could maintain his ascetic life. A diligent missionary, Martin was a defender of the poor and helpless and opponent of the violent repression of heresy. Martin died in 397 and a shrine to him still stands at Tours.

Hilda of Whitby
Hilda’s life falls into two equal parts of 33 years. In the first, she lived a chaste and respected life at the court of the King, her uncle. She decided to enter a convent, but Bishop Aidan recalled her to East Anglia. Some time later, she founded the Abbey at Whitby, where both men and women lived according to her monastic rule. Known for her wisdom, prudence and good sense, Hilda remained advisor to kings and public officials. Hilda died at Whitby in 680, surrounded by her monastic brothers and sisters.

James Otis Sargent Huntington
Huntington was born in Boston in 1854. After graduating from Harvard, he studied theology at Saint Andrew’s Divinity School in Syracuse, NY. During his time there, he ministered to a working class community at Calvary Mission. Huntington was called to religious life. He considered joining the Society of Saint John the Evangelist, but with two other priests established the Order of the Holy Cross on New York’s Lower East Side. Huntington and his companions ministered to the immigrants and young people as social witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The Order grew and relocated to West Park, NY, where Huntington served as superior several times. He was an active preacher, teacher and spiritual counselor until his death in 1935.

Thanksgiving Day
Falling on 26 November this year, Thanksgiving shares the commonality of agricultural festivals with many religions. None of these feasts were included in our Prayer Book until the Continental Congress established the Day of National Thanksgiving. Its roots are found in the observances of the Massachusetts and Virginia colonies.

Saint Andrew
The Feast of Saint Andrew is the first feast in the liturgical year, most often falling after the First Sunday of Advent. Andrew is most commonly remembered as the brother of Simon Peter, but overlooks his special gifts to Jesus’ companions. Andrew was first a disciple of John the Baptist, one of two who left to follow Christ after John pointed out Jesus with the words, “Behold the Lamb of God.” Andrew, the first missionary, sought out his brother and brought him to Jesus. He was the disciple who brought the boy with the fishes and loaves to Jesus for the feeding of the multitude. Eusebius’ writings tell us that Andrew went to Scythia. Legend holds that he was martyred by pagans and crucified on an X-shaped cross. This is seen in the flag of Scotland, honoring its patron saint.
The Adult Education class was fortunate to be able to hear Lyn Manz-Walters of 15 Place on Sunday, October 18. She is a dynamic and entertaining speaker, even if the topic was homelessness. Did you know that the average age of a homeless person in the US is nine years of age? Did you know that 27% of all homeless people are veterans? Did you know that one of the most insurmountable issues surrounding homelessness is building trust? Did you know that 15 Place will not help anyone who doesn’t believe that they deserve more than being homeless? Fifteen Place serves as a clearing-house for many of the needs of the homeless in Mobile. Yes, our parish knows about providing food in the form of lunches. But how well do we really understand the underlying philosophy of 15 Place? It is not simply about giving a hand-out. Rather, the philosophy is to provide the resources for the homeless to move themselves out of homelessness. Fifteen Place supplies a place for a shower, a phone, an address at which prospective employers can contact you, a place to store your clothes and personal possessions with the knowledge that they won’t be stolen, a place where your clothes will be laundered for you, a place where you can contact state agencies for information about education, or training, or job placement services, or childcare, or housing. It is a place where you can ask for help with addiction problems or health issues, and be given guidance and resources to contact. Fifteen Place survives on donations from churches, individuals and businesses all over the Mobile area, and in fact, their entire operating budget could be met by a donation of about $1.00 from every individual in our immediate area.

-Cheryl Winters-Heard

The major annual fund raiser conducted by 15 Place is being held at Christ Church Cathedral at 115 S. Conception Street, Mobile, AL on Friday, November 13 from 6 – 9 pm. The “Bay Runners” band will provide some great boogie and blues music. The soups this year will range from gourmet gumbo to veggtabulous vegetarian. The cost is $40 per person and each attendee gets a beautiful and unique bowl created for Art Soup by a local artist to fill up with a soup created by a local chef. Reservations are not required but are recommended. You can make your reservation on-line (send an email to lwalters@15place.org) or by telephone at 251-432-9692. A silent auction will also be held during Art Soup featuring one of Mobile’s newest and “soon to be famous” artist. This is a wonderfully fun time for a wonderful cause—join us!

Habitat for Humanity Interfaith Build Update

Habitat for Humanity in Mobile County is still working on the Interfaith Build that is currently taking place in the Hillsdale community. Due to weather, they are about two weeks behind but are still anticipating that the Gable family’s home will be dedicated before Thanksgiving. Volunteers are still needed, and since our St. John’s build day was pretty nearly a washout, the following dates are available for those of you still interested in participating:

Sat., Oct. 31st– Need a small group of about 5
Sat., Nov. 7th– Need a small group of about 5
Sun., Nov. 8th– Need a group of about 10

Also, if you can’t work but would like to provide lunch for the volunteers, please let Gretchen Clanton, Faith Relations Coordinator in the office of Habitat for Humanity by calling (251) 476-7171 or emailing her at: gclanton@habitatmobile.org
At its meeting on October 7, the ECW discussed a project to have the kitchen table covered with metal, which was approved. They also announced that the Vestry approved their request for a book nook in the great hall. This will be established after the rummage sale.

Preparations for the rummage sale were discussed. Volunteers were asked to come and work the week of the sale to price items, set up the tables, and place items for sale. Candy and Baked goods will be available for sale. Doors will be open at 6:30 on Friday and Saturday. The Home of Grace has a resale store and they will be at the Church after the sale ends on Saturday to pick up items that were not sold. McKemie Place will also receive some of the items left over.

-Audrey Garner

Thanks to ALL who helped with the ECW Rummage Sale. It was a huge success, with total sales in excess of $2,000!

The R.H. Wilmer Chapter of the Daughters of the King met October 13 in the Great Hall at St. John’s. Donna Schoditsch, President of DOK of Province IV, contacted President Bache regarding visits to the R. H. Wilmer Chapter. Visits were to encourage interaction between DOK chapters.

Fr. Heard, presently on vacation, was not present to give his approval of the candle gifts for the ill/homebound members of St. John’s. Thank you cards were received from Margie Mattoon for the DOK prayer shawl and from the Master’s Fund for the DOK donation. Members approved sending a prayer shawl to another St. John’s member. Those placed on the prayer list include Carrie, Steven and Leah.

-Alice Schablinski

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Change of Address

Max & Martha Grice
601 Belrose Ave.
Daphne, AL 36526

Matt & Margie Mattoon
901 Somerby Dr. #117
Mobile, AL 36695

Jessica Sheffield
Please use Bob & Mary Sheffield's address

Neva Bache
If you are mailing something to Neva, please use her P.O. Box # and not her street address.
Saturday, October 3, was designated “Clean the Grounds Day” and, boy, did we ever! Fourteen willing layweeders descended on the church’s property and started working. It was a wonderful hour and 50 minutes. Yes, I said an hour and 50 minutes, after which we were loading up tools and heading home. Some folks went to the Tiny Diny for breakfast. Then Fr. Heard came to bless our pets at 10:00 a.m. It all went off on schedule. It was a busy, wonderful, satisfying morning and I cannot express my gratitude and thanks enough to all who participated. Those helping with the work day include Bill Sundie, Wanda Hannon, Ron and Marie Brown, Eugene Johnston, Chris Gass, Becky Youngblood, Alice Schablinski, George and Betty Taylor, Pat Pritchard, Allen Picardy, James Christiansen, Fran Barbour, and me, of course.

The only down-side was that Becky lost an old, favorite garden trowel. Please check your tools to see if it was misplaced with your own. Becky would be pleased to find it again. Thank you.

-Joyce Lee

On the Third Sunday of November, November 15th, we will have Solemn Choral Evensong at 5:00 P. M. If you have or have not attended before, please make plans to attend. In any parish Church of any size in England, Evensong is done once a month. While we are in South Alabama and not in England, it is our heritage and duty to preserve this important part of our Anglican Liturgy. I urge you my brothers and sisters in Christ to come and support your choir as this is a choral office.

On the Fifth Sunday of November, November 29th, we will have Advent Lessons and Carols at 5:00 P. M. This service is patterned after The Service of Nine Lessons and Carols which has been sung for years at King’s College Cambridge on Christmas Eve. Join us as we “cast away the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.”

-John Hobbs

Parish Life of Saint John’s put on a terrific Tour of Mobile in October that just about “did us all in.” It was a great day of fellowship, plus it added to our knowledge of local culture. AND...Parish Life covered all expenses for the tour!

Parish Life Chair Pat Pritchard hosted nine of us as we got on and off the Saint John’s van ten times! James Christiansen was our driver, escort, payer of admissions and general Southern gentleman.

For most of us...LaVerne Foster, Becky Youngblood, Alice Schablinski, Pat Pritchard, Betty Taylor, Joan Marie Elam...the British Park in the Church Street Historic District (near the Civic Center) was the highlight of the tour. This was the site of Old Saint John’s from 1853-1956 and the first Protestant Children’s Home still stands there (now a private home). There are several historic plaques about Saint John’s. We also had a wonderful picnic put together by Chairman Pat.

Other favorites were the Mobile City Museum (Joyce Lee and P.L. Pritchard) and the Battle House and RSA Tower (James Christiansen). Phoenix Fire Station Museum was our first stop.

All of us really enjoyed all of it! What a day!

-Joan Marie Elam

Sunday, November 1

Remember to set your Clocks

Fall Back
Parish Life

Supper Club

October supper club was held at the home of Bob and Paul Ross on Saturday the 10th. The hosts provided delicious barbequed chicken as the main course. Great fellowship was enjoyed by over 20 St. John’s parishioners. Everybody left full and happy, bearing a gift of fruit from the Ross’ back yard!

There will be no supper club in November. We can look forward to the annual parish Christmas party in December.

Saturday Afternoon at the Movies

Join us in the great hall for a screening of **All the King’s Men** Saturday, November 14 at 1:00 p.m.

In addition to our fine feature film, we will enjoy sodas and popcorn. Bring a friend and join us on the 14th!

Thee Store is Ready for Advent

Now is the time to visit Thee Store to purchase your Advent calendars. They also have a new selection of children’s books and jewelry that would make delightful gifts for everyone on your holiday list.

Thee Store will be traveling to Christ Church in Pensacola on November 15.

Happy Birthday

Addison Fairley 11/04  Brian Pearce 11/21
Rosalie Pritchard 11/04  Caitlin Bryan 11/22
Violet Kosko 11/07  Christopher Gass 11/22
Cindy Gass 11/11  Sandra Girardeau 11/25
Betty Plash 11/12  Ray Campbell 11/28
Mayson Pritchard 11/12  Mildred Hamby 11/28
Denise Dunham 11/18  Kevin Benson 11/30
Jennifer Tarantole 11/19  Kim Partsch 11/30

Happy Anniversary

Audrey & Earl Garner 11/02
Emily & Eugene Johnston 11/05
Jessica & Jeff Dennis 11/10
Joan Marie & Will Elam 11/16
Gillian & John Hobbs 11/21
Marjorie & Roy Duhon 11/22
For healing grace and continued strength, we pray for our members:

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

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 our Friends and Family:
Anne Brabner, Susan Riley, Jeffery Byrd, Marian Yearby Tucker Stuckey, Phebe Lee, William Dunn, Julie Hinton, Helen Baker, Joe Stroeker, Gracie Stroeker, JoAnn Alioto, Shirley Mayson, Rodene Nestman, Michelle Walker, Mary Lou Johnston, Jim Owens, Maddie West

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**NOMINATIONS FOR VESTRYPERSONS & CONVENTION DELEGATES**

Please contact a member of your nominating committee—Pat Pritchard, Pat Fulford, Butch Yeager, Max Grice and Joyce Lee—or Fr. Thomas if you are interested (or know someone who is interested) in running for vestry or diocesan convention delegate. Elections will be held at a parish meeting on Sunday, December 6 in the Nave after Mass.

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**ELSEWHERE IN OUR DIOCESE**

St. Anne’s Arts and Crafts and Gumbo sale—Trinity Episcopal Church in Mobile, Saturday, November 7 from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. There will be gumbo and chicken chili for sale. Local artists will be selling crafts, jewelry, woodwork, watercolors, and pottery, plus a “sweet” table.

5th Annual Bayou Bash fundraiser at All Saints Church in Mobile on Saturday, November 14 from 6:00-10:00 p.m. Tickets are $25 each, with proceeds benefiting church outreach ministries. Musical entertainment provided by Roman Street.

2nd annual Noah’s Park at Episcopal Church of the Redeemer in Mobile on Saturday, November 14 from 1:00-4:00 p.m. Activities for people and their pets, including pet photos with Santa, pet grooming, educational presentations, gift and bake sale, and much more. Proceeds benefit Redeemer’s animal ministries.
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 Episcopal Church
1707 Government Street
Mobile, Alabama 36604

Nonprofit Organization
U.S.POSTAGE PAID
Mobile, Alabama
Permit No. 607

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Grounded in shared sacramental life and moving into the world to be the hands of Our Lord.