



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. XX, Issue 5

May 2010

FROM THE RECTOR:

The calendar year ended 31 December 2009 was a challenging year for Saint John's. It brought mixed blessings and results. Here are some of the numbers:

Attendance	2009	2008 Difference
Sunday	3883	-11
Average	74.7	-0.1
Total Communions	4717	+146

Services	2009	2008 Difference
Sunday Eucharist	53	+1
Weekday Eucharist	91	+10
Private Communion	82	-7
Sunday Daily Office	9	+4
Weekday Daily Office	276	+51
Baptisms	2	+2
Marriages	1	+1
Burials	6	-3
Other Offices	18	+7

As you can see, we are generally doing more and serving more, with some exceptions.

One of the measures used to gauge churches is the Average Sunday Attendance. It is, simply, the total number of people attending on Sunday divided by the number of Sundays. As you can see, we had 11 fewer for the year, dropping the average by only 0.1.

We served 7 fewer private communions and buried 3 fewer this year than 2008. The increase in Weekday Daily Office is a result of adding Evening Prayer during

Lent and better tracking of Fridays.

Some positive things: More Baptisms. Last year, when Bishop David Reed was with us, we baptized Ainsley McRae Fairley, granddaughter of Cindy & Curtis Gass. Later in the year, Isabella Grace Dennis, daughter of Jessica and Jeff Dennis was baptized on All Saint's Day.

Leslie Jan Dabney and Jeremy Lars Lundberg were married at Saint John's. We also added Leslie's mom, Jan, to our number.

The biggest shift is fewer deaths. Of the 6 burials, only three were active Saint John's parishioners: Nellie Fletcher Doyle, Lillian Augusta (Karl) Mayson, and Earl Ellis Garner. One inactive member, Elizabeth Thayer Germany, came back at the end. One former member, Diane Wiatt Rich, came back to Mobile to rest. Diane had been very active here and moved to Florida. Lastly, Jack Melvin Fraser was buried from Saint John's while I was covering for Trinity's clergy.

Last year we continued with A Blessing of Animals on Saint Francis day, we had a House Blessing at Irene & Butch Yeager's new house. Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament was a new event at Saint John's on Saint Thomas Aquinas' day.

Our finances were positive, as well, with more giving and fewer expenses than anticipated, allowing us to finish the year \$3,915.97 ahead of our budgeted amount. That's the good news. The bad news is that we continue to have a deficit budget.

Our Stewardship program was year-round, bringing Family Day and Stewardship moments throughout the year. Commitment Sunday on November 8 saw us

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trying to assemble our puzzle pieces to complete the picture of Saint John's. More than two-thirds (2/3) of the pieces were not returned by folks we have as active members.

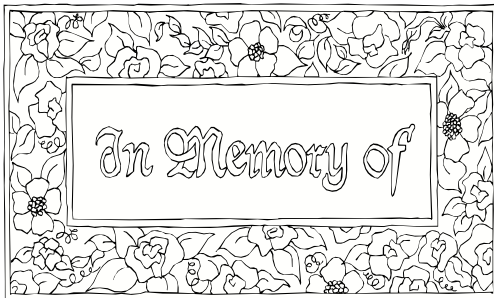
The economy hasn't been very good to many of us and so there was no surprise that our overall pledges for support are down compared to last year. This means that even if we hold our expenses to last year's amounts, we will have a larger deficit than last year.

Your Vestry is troubled by this. We do not have infinite savings to support this kind of budget for too many more years. At the same time, we believe that we must have faith that we can turn around the trend that started many years ago. Our active membership is stable, we are seeing

growth in younger age members and there is an excitement about Saint John's.

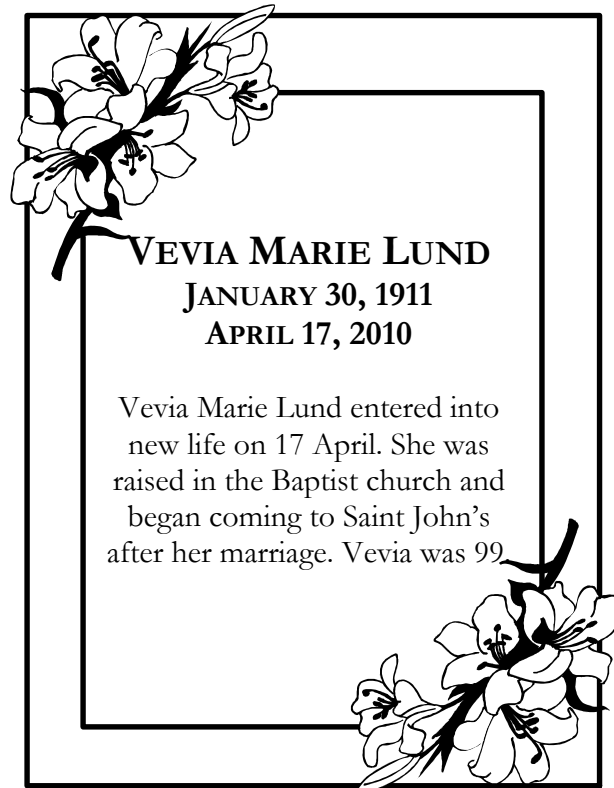
It will take all of us to turn this parish to positive growth and balanced budgets. It will mean that we will have to change. That might mean not sitting in the same place at every service. It might mean bringing someone new to Saint John's. It might mean moving ourselves out of our comfort zone and taking a risk at welcoming new people, new ideas and a new future. Remember, Jesus told Peter that his discipleship would take him places that he didn't want to go. That's because discipleship isn't a personal thing; it's a God thing – and that's much bigger than any of us.

Thomas



STEPHEN JARVIS LEE
1929-2010

Our brother, Steve Lee, died on 13 March. He fought hard until the very end, never giving up hope for another day. A life-long member of Saint John's, one could always count on Steve to let one know where one stood. He could be gruff, and in the next second, tender and compassionate. His eager smile and firm handshake met everyone coming in the doors of Saint John's for many years.



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MAY LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Ascension of Our Lord

Falling forty days after Jesus' resurrection, Ascension Day is always on a Thursday. We will commemorate Our Lord's ascension to his father at a said mass on 13 May at 12:10PM. Jesus' ascension is a key component of the story of his life. The original Greek of many texts and the Nicene Creed set as opposites Jesus' descent from his father in heaven and his subsequent ascension back to his father. This is done by prefixing the verb that means "to ascend" with 'kata'. Jesus' ascension is the final step in confirming his identity as the Son of God.



Dunstan of Canterbury

Dunstan was Archbishop of Canterbury from 960 until his death in 988. Born of a family with noble connections, he became a monk and ascended to be Abbot of Glastonbury Abbey in 943. Dunstan was a strong proponent of the Benedictine monastic revival in the 950s and was named Bishop of Worcester and London in 957. The revival brought two peculiar institutions to the English church: monastic cathedrals and monk bishops.



Pentecost

The conclusion of the Great Fifty Days of Easter will be celebrated on Sunday, 23 May at our 10:00AM mass. We get two different views of the gift of the Holy Spirit, one from Acts and one from John's Gospel. In Acts, it is the fiftieth day and the Holy Spirit descends upon the disciples as tongues of flame and sound of rushing wind. In the Gospel of John, Jesus breathes the Holy Spirit on the disciples on the evening of the day of the resurrection. In both, it is the commissioning of Jesus' disciples to take up the work of spreading the Gospel. It is with the help of the Holy Spirit that we continue Jesus' work today, in our parish, in Mobile and in the world beyond.

Augustine of Canterbury

Augustine led a group of monks from Rome to Kent in 596 at the direction of Pope Gregory the Great. They were to plant a mission among the Anglo-Saxons. The local king, Ethelbert, put up with them, allowing them to use a church built during Roman occupation. This church, the Church of Saint Martin, is the oldest place of Christian Worship in England that is still in use. Around 601, Ethelbert converted to Christianity; his wife, Queen Bertha, had come from France already a Christian. The mission was so successful that Augustine was ordained Archbishop of the English Nations. As Anglicans, we owe a great debt to the mission of Augustine. We will commemorate Augustine's life at our Said Mass on Wednesday, 26 May at 10:00AM.



Visitation

We will celebrate the feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary at 12:10PM on Monday, 31 May. This commemorates the visit of the mother of Our Lord to her cousin Elizabeth as recounted in Luke's Gospel. It is from the Annunciation and the Visitation that the words for *Magnificat* are drawn.

MAY 2010 AT SAINT JOHN'S

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
MP = Morning Prayer HE = Holy Eucharist Rector @ CREDO 4/26-5/3						
2 Easter 5 9A Christian Ed 10A HE	3 830A MP 1130A Loaves & Fish 530P EFM	4 830A MP	5 830A MP 10A HE+Uncion 11A ECV 7P Choir	6 830A MP	7 830A MP	8 8-10A Grounds Work Day
9 Easter 6 820A Breakfast 9A Christian Ed 10A HE	10 830A MP 530P EFM	11 830A MP 12P DoK/EC	12 830A MP 10A HE 7P Choir	13 830A MP 1210P HE Ascension 7P Vestry	14 830A MP	15
16 Easter 7 9A Christian Ed 10A HE 5P Evensong	17 830A MP 530P EFM	18 830A MP	19 830A MP 10A HE Dunstan of Canterbury 7P Choir	20 830A MP	21 830A MP	22
23 Pentecost 9A Christian Ed 10A HE	24 830A MP 530P EFM	25 830A MP 530P Petro Recitals	26 830A MP 10A HE Augustine of Canterbury 7P Choir	27 830A MP	28 830A MP	29
30 Trinity 9A Christian Ed 10A HE	31 830A MP 1210P HE Visitation					

LECTIONARY AND ROTA FOR MAY 2010

Date Service	2 May HE-II	9 May HE-II	13 May HE-II	16 May HE-II	16 May Evensong	23 May HE-II	30 May HE-II
Lectionary Day	C Easter 5	C Easter 6	ABC Ascension Day	C Easter 7	2 Easter 7 Sunday	C Pentecost	C Trinity
Lessons	Acts 11:1-18 Psalm 148 Revelation 21:1-6 John 13:31-35	Acts 6:9-15 Psalm 67 Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5 John 14:23-29	Acts 1:1-11 Psalm 47 Ephesians 1:15-23 Luke 24:44-53	Acts 16:16-34 Psalm 97 Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21 John 17:20-26	Psalm 19, 46 Ezekiel 3:16-27 Luke 10:17-24	Acts 2:1-21 Psalm 104:25-35, 37 Romans 8:14-17 John 14:8-17, (25-27)	Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31 Psalm 8 Romans 5:1-5 John 16:12-15
Greeters	Connie & Bud McLean	Melissa Brown		Joan Marie Elam		Thelma Lomers	Irene & Butch Yeager
Lectors	Ron Waites Kathe Gieseler	Janet Buckley Scott Escobio		Kathe Gieseler Mary Sheffield	Ron Brown	Geri Moulton Ron Brown	Connie Anderson Paula Ross
Intercessor	Paula Ross	Cheryl Winters-Heard		Ron Brown		Mary Sheffield	Janet Buckley
Eucharistic Minister	Mary Sheffield Connie McLean	Eugene Johnston Connie McLean		Geri Moulton Ron Waites		Eugene Johnston Connie Anderson	Butch Yeager Geri Moulton
Eucharistic Visitor	Ron Waites	Eugene Johnston		Paula Ross		Ron Brown	Paula Ross
Altar Guild	Betty & George Taylor	Marie Brown & Loraine Murray		Marie Brown & Loraine Murray		Pat Fulford & Cindy Gass	Pat Fulford & Cindy Gass
Vestry Tellers	Ron Waites Janet Buckley	Ron Brown Bill Duke		Janet Buckley Cindy Gass		James Christiansen Eugene Johnston	Bill Duke Connie McLean



Vestry

The Vestry and Wardens of Saint John's met on Thursday 8 April at 7:00PM.

The ECW made a proposal to the Vestry to conduct a Rummage Sale in the fall. No specific date was set. The Vestry approved the request.

The finances of the parish were reviewed. We appear to be on target.

The Vestry voted to send the Easter offerings to the Church in Jerusalem.

The Rector reported that the carillon should arrive at Saint John's on about 10 May. With some advance work, we might have bells for Pentecost.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25PM

COURTYARD NOTES

The flowers this month have been beautiful. I hope you were able to see for yourselves. Now the yellow irises are out-doing themselves. Thinning them out a bit may be what was needed. I'm thrilled with all the color in that little area. The Easter lilies are coming along, but they never cooperate and show off on Easter Sunday!

Saturday, May 8, there will be a grounds workday from 8:00-10:00 a.m. The Venture Scouts are coming out to help. Can you?

Happy gardening!
Joyce Lee



Don't forget to turn in any directory updates, so your changes will get into the new directory, to be distributed later this month.

Give Mom lovely treats for Mother's Day and help people in need worldwide.

Are you looking for a gift to show your Mom how special she is?

This Mother's Day, honor Mom with a gift that will make a real difference in the lives of mothers everywhere with Bishops Blend gift boxes.

By purchasing delicious treats from Episcopal Relief & Development's Bishops Blend fair trade and organic coffee and tea program, you're helping support Episcopal Relief & Development programs that empower women worldwide.

Our selection includes gifts for both coffee and tea lovers including [Mom's Coffee & Chocolate Gift Box](#) and [Mom's Tea & Chocolate Gift Box](#).

Order Today! <http://puravidacoffee.e-beans.net/coffees/?c=35>

Surprise women you love with a gift from the heart. Let her know how much you care with a special gift that promotes justice and fights poverty!

Every purchase of fair trade, shade grown Bishops Blend coffee protects the environment, guarantees that farmers are paid a living wage and supports Episcopal Relief & Development's work to heal a hurting world.

Be sure to place your order by Monday, May 3rd to ensure timely delivery.

Your purchase will enable women to provide for their families and build a brighter future for themselves, their children and their communities.

You can now include a special message with your gift box order. Don't forget to remind Mom how much you love her!

Thank you for remembering mothers around the world.





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

Alice Schablinski, Margie Mattoon,
Bessie Southall, Bill Southall, Leah Betts,
Shannon Newberry, Ashley Garris

For our Homebound:

Alice Cieutat, Mae Dunn, Will Elam, Corinne Faust, Gwen Johnson, Violet Kosko,
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:

Heather Thompson, Frank Thompson,
Jane Johnson, Sara Scrivener, Mary Lou Johnston,
Nevaeh Hall, Bill Staley, Morgan Kwan,
Vieva Steele, David Yeager, Mark Stiber,
Robbie Hinson, Anne Brabner, Marian Yearby,
Julie Hinton, Helen Baker, Joe Stroecker,
Gracie Stroecker, JoAnn Alioto, Shirley Mayson,
Michelle Walker, Jim Owens, Gloria Lee,
Maddie West



ANNUAL MEETING HELD

The Annual Meeting of the Parish of Saint John's Episcopal Church was held on Sunday, 18 April in concert with a pot luck luncheon following Mass. Reports of the ECW, Men of the Church, Lectors, LEMs, Eucharistic Visitors, Greeters, Evangelism Committee, Outreach Committee, Endowment Fund, Treasurer and Finance Committee and the Rector were distributed to those attending. A copy of the report will be posted on the website –

www.stjohnsmobile.org

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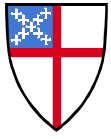
Vestry:

Ron Brown
Janet Buckley
James Christiansen
Bill Duke
Cindy Gass
Eugene Johnston
Connie McLean
Bill Sundie
Ron Waites

Happy Birthday



Tony Seymour	5/03
Carrie Fairley	5/05
Kurt Ollhoft	5/07
Martha Grice	5/08
Cookie Rich	5/09
Ginny Waites	5/10
Paula Ross	5/15
Zachary Anderson	5/16
Carson Hall	5/20
Trey Johnson	5/20
Pat Fulford	5/29



Saint John's Episcopal Church
1707 Government Street
Mobile, Alabama 36604

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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.

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