



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 6

June 2010

FROM THE RECTOR:

Back in October or November last year, I received an invitation to attend a CREDO Conference. It fit as a continuing education opportunity and I had heard from other clergy how great the program is. So, I accepted the invitation and picked a date and location.

CREDO is a program developed by the Church Pension Group to aid clergy (and now lay employees) to make “midcourse corrections” in their vocation. Another aim of the program is to head off burn out and other premature vocation crises.

For each participant, there is a good amount of pre-work to do in areas of Health, Finance, Spirituality, and of course Vocation. Given my background, the Finance section was straightforward and easy. The Health section involved having a physical examination and an on-line interview using the Mayo Clinic website. Spirituality and Vocation interviews were conducted through CREDO website interactions. All of this took a couple of days for me to complete. When I finished, I breathed a huge sigh of relief.

Then came the surprise: I had to enlist 6-10 of my parishioners to answer the same questions that I had. The instructions said to use people that I thought knew me and my ministry well and were representative of the parish. A representative cross section. Now this became difficult. Given the age demographic of Saint John's, finding enough “mature” participants was a little daunting, since they had to complete the survey information on the CREDO website. I chose 10 of you that I believed might have the patience to work through the 91 questions. It would take a couple of hours to complete. I just had to rest in hope. As it turned out, 6 completed the questions with a few partial completions. For those that participated, I need to thank you for your work.

I received a report that showed how I answered each question and an aggregated view from my parishioners. It was and still is very enlightening. In brief, how I feel about how I am ministering to you and the importance of that ministry was ratified in what you see and perceive as its importance. The short answer: we're on the same page. For the overwhelming majority of questions, you and I agree on how I'm doing and how important it is to both of us. That doesn't mean that there aren't areas that I should focus on. Overall, I am very pleased.

As the days to depart for Richmond grew shorter, I noticed a building anxiety about the program. In my corporate vocation, I had done management training workshops that seemed to be more about building morale and unity. I began to dread going. As it worked out, my anxiety was entirely unwarranted. What I found was an 8-day retreat in which I could focus completely on me, figuring out how to take better care of myself and better care for each of you.

When something new appears on the horizon, it is quite natural to be a bit wary of it, to even have some fear of it. One of the lessons for me from CREDO is to put anxiety away and be open to the new; it might just be something that is wonderful.

I think the same is true for our relationship to God and to each other: we have to work hard to be open to the moving of the Holy Spirit in our lives, offering us new opportunities and adventures. None of us knows exactly what God has in store, what amazing and wonderful things wait for us just around the corner. All we have to do is be open to the stirrings of the Spirit in us and be willing to take the risk that God asks of us.

After all, God risked God's self for us; why can't we risk a little for God?

Thomas

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE JUNE LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Martyrs of Lyons

On Wednesday, 2 June, we will commemorate the Martyrs of Lyons at our regular 10AM service. The Martyrs of Lyons are alternately known as Saint Blandina and Her Companions. In 177 in Lyons, France, Christians were suffering horrendous persecution during the reign of Marcus Aurelius (161-180). In Lyons, the persecutions were particularly brutal and always ended in death. Blandina's martyrdom is chronicled by Eusebius where he reports that she was suspended on a stake, as if hanging on a cross. Blandina, a slave, inspired her sister and brother Christians who were fighting. Eusebius writes, "For they looked on her in her conflict, and beheld with their outward eyes, in the form of their sister, him who was crucified for them, that he might persuade those who believe on him, that every one who suffers for the glory of Christ has fellowship always with the living God." This image of Blandina is cited as evidence that the priesthood is open to women.

Columba of Iona

Saint Columba was born in about 521 in Ireland. An argument over a copy of the Psalter that he'd made put him at risk of excommunication, so he chose to be a missionary to Scotland. Arriving with 12 companions in 563, he was granted land on the island of Iona off the Western coast. His abbey became a cultural and diplomatic center. The revival of monasticism he inspired created a resurgence in Christianity after the collapse of the Roman Empire. We will remember Saint Columba at our Said Mass on Wednesday, 9 June at 10AM.

Saint Barnabas

Our first knowledge of Barnabas comes from Acts 4:36-37

Thus Joseph who was surnamed by the apostles Barnabas (which means, Son of encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus, sold a field which belonged to him, and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

His missionary efforts earned him the title of Apostle. Barnabas was from Cyprus, a Jew of the Diaspora. It was Barnabas who brought Paul to the Apostles in Jerusalem, testifying to Paul's experiences. He later settled in Antioch and sent for Paul to assist in leading the church there. We will commemorate Barnabas' life at our Said Mass on Friday, 11 June at 12:10PM.

Joseph Butler

Joseph Butler was Bishop of Durham 1750-1752, only after declining to be the Archbishop of Canterbury. Butler was probably one of the greatest minds in the English Church and his apologetic for orthodox Christianity against Deism set faith on a rational footing. We will remember Joseph Butler at the 10AM Mass on 16 June.

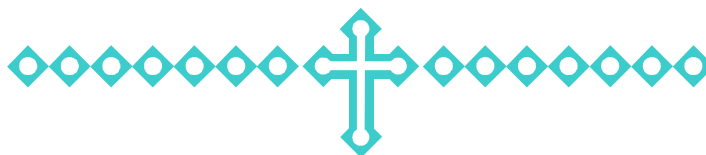
Nativity of Saint John the Baptist

On Thursday, 24 June, we will observe the **Feast of the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist** at 12:10PM.

John the Baptist, one of the "Johns" commemorated in the main window in the chancel, is chronicled in all four of the Gospels. The son of Elizabeth and Zechariah, John was destined to be the herald of Jesus' ministry. John had his own crowd of disciples that followed him, calling people to repentance and baptizing them as a symbol of their new lives. John is remembered in Advent as Prophet and in Epiphany as the baptizer of Our Lord. In the Gospel of John, John the Baptist is the figure who declares Jesus to be "The Lamb of God".

Saint Peter & Saint Paul

On Tuesday, 29 June at 12:10PM, we will observe the Feast of Saint Peter and Saint Paul. While sometimes at odds with each other, their joint leadership of the church is commemorated in remembering their martyrdom at Rome. Tradition holds that Peter was crucified head downward and Paul was beheaded, as befitted a Roman citizen.





Vestry

The regular meeting of the Vestry and Wardens of Saint John's was held on Thursday, 13 May 2010 at 7:00PM in the Great Hall.

The minutes of the 8 April meeting were corrected and approved.

The Outreach Committee is supporting Bud McLean's idea of a Coffee Haus in the Great Hall on Friday, 18 June, beginning at 8PM. Bud & Connie are organizing volunteers to continue with the planning for the event.

Discussion was held concerning the lack of activity/events organized by the Parish Life Committee. Bringing back Supper Club, Movie Day, and other events would be welcome. At this point, a Parish Picnic will have to wait until the fall when it is cooler.

The financial statements were reviewed by the vestry under the leadership of Connie McLean. We appear to be on target for the year.

The Rector reported briefly on his experience at the CREDO Conference and believes that the timing of the conference could not have been better. He has developed a plan for living a more balanced life. One of the things this will mean to Saint John's is that he will be taking his Friday day off.

The next meeting will be 10 June 2010 at 7:00PM. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15PM.

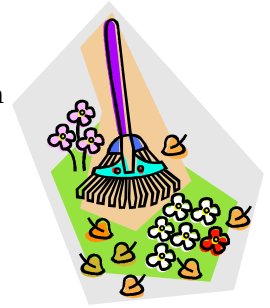


Updated directories are available for all St. John's members. Pick up your copy in the narthex or parish hall.

COURTYARD NOTES



We had a work day on May 8th from 8 to 10 a.m. This is to say a big thank you to all who came to help: Scott Escobio and his Venture Scouts (Anthony, Sebastian, Sam and Trevor), Andrew Lee, George Taylor and me. We hit the ground trimming, raking, bagging trash and weeding for the whole two hours, and accomplished a lot. I wasn't much help this time because I pulled a muscle in my back several days earlier, but all my workers made me proud. It was a good day and I thank you very much!



Happy gardening!
Joyce Lee

THE BELLS OF SAINT JOHN'S

After many years of silence, Saint John's Carillon is back on the air! It seems to be saying "We're here!"

Taking advantage of a sale of demonstration units, we were able to upgrade the carillon, using monies designated for carillon repair and memorial gifts for several past members. Right now, it plays Westminster Chimes and tolls the hours from 7AM until 9PM.

As we get used to our bells, we'll find other occasions to ring out the Good News of Jesus Christ.



JUNE 2010 AT SAINT JOHN'S

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
MP = Morning Prayer HE = Holy Eucharist/Mass		1 830A MP	2 Martyrs of Lyons 830A MP 10A HE+Uction 11A ECW	3 830A MP	4 830A MP	5
6 Pentecost 2 Corpus Christi 9A Christian Ed 10A HE	7 830A MP 1130A Loaves & Fish	8 830A MP 12P Episcopal Community	9 Columba of Iona 830A MP 10A HE	10 830A MP 7P Vestry	11 Saint Barnabas 830A MP 1210P HE	12
13 Pentecost 3 820A Breakfast 9A Christian Ed 10A HE	14 830A MP	15 830A MP	16 Joseph Butler 830A MP 10A HE	17 830A MP	18 830A MP 800P Coffee Haus	19
20 Pentecost 4 9A Christian Ed 10A HE	21 830A MP	22 830A MP	23 830A MP 10A HE	24 Nativity of Saint John the Baptist 830A MP 1210P HE	25 830A MP	26
27 Pentecost 5 9A Christian Ed 10A HE	28 830A MP	29 Saint Peter and Saint Paul 830A MP 1210P HE	30 830A MP 10A HE			

LECTIONARY AND ROTA FOR JUNE 2010

Date Service	6 June HE-II	13 June HE-II	20 June HE-II	27 June HE-II
Lectionary Day	C Pentecost 2 Corpus Christi	C Pentecost 3 Proper 6	C Pentecost 4 Proper 7	C Pentecost 5 Proper 8
Lessons	Deuteronomy 8:2-3 Psalm 116:10-17 Revelation 19:1-2a, 4-9 John 6:47-58	2 Samuel 11:26-12:10, 13-15 Psalm 32 Galatians 2:15-21 Luke 7:36-8:3	Isaiah 65:1-9 Psalm 22:18-27 Galatians 3:23-29 Luke 8:26-39	1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21 Psalm 16 Galatians 5:1, 13-25 Luke 9:51-62
Greeters	Paula & Bob Ross	Martha & Max Grice	Connie & Bob Anderson	Joan Marie Elam
Lectors	Cheryl Winters-Heard Mary Sheffield	Pat Fulford Ron Brown	Eugene Johnston Ron Waites	Paula Ross Scott Escobio
Intercessor	Ron Waites	Janet Buckley	Cheryl Winters-Heard	Bid McLean
Eucharistic Minister	Eugene Johnston Connie Anderson	Connie McLean Geri Moulton	Mary Sheffield Butch Yeager	Geri Moulton Connie McLean
Eucharistic Visitor	Ron Waites	Ron Brown	Eugene Johnston	Paula Ross
Altar Guild	Bootsie & Tina Cieutat	Bootsie & Tina Cieutat	Mary Sheffield & Janet Buckley	Mary Sheffield & Janet Buckley
Vestry Tellers	Cindy Gass Bill Sundie	Eugene Johnston Ron Waites	Connie McLean Ron Brown	Bill Sundie Janet Buckley

St. John's Episcopal Church
Presents



A Benefit Event for
Episcopal Relief and Development



DATE: Friday – June 18, 2010

TIME: 7p.m. 'til 10p.m.

WHERE: St. John's Episcopal Church
1707 Government Street
Mobile, Alabama

WHY: To buy goats, chickens, geese and
micro-loans for Third World villages

COST: A donation of \$5.00 please

Refreshments Include:
Bishop's Blend Coffee...Iced and Hot
Plus Assorted Sweet and Savory Snacks!

Entertainment provided by
Clay Rankin, Ron Brown, Jim Lichenberger,
Budd McLean and other musicians

St. John's Outreach Committee



alabamapossible
from the alabama poverty project
alabamapossible.org

GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD:
Feeding God's Children
A Hunger and Food Security Workshop

Panels on local food ministries, government aid
agencies, community gardens and more

Who should attend? All are welcome...
Especially outreach ministers, social justice leaders,
social workers, teachers, and any people of faith
concerned about addressing our community's
hunger needs.

Tuesday, June 22, 2010
9:00 AM—1:30 PM

Dauphin Way United Methodist Church
Mobile, Alabama

Registration—\$15—begins at 8:30 AM
Includes light breakfast, lunch

Please pre-register online:
AlabamaPossible.org/rsvp



Co-sponsored by:
Episcopal Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast



Saint John's wishes to extend a sincere thank you to the following individuals and groups who made memorial donations honoring Stephen Lee and Vevia Lund:

In memory of Stephen Lee:

Bob & Paula Ross
Eugene & Emily Johnston
Thelma Lomers
James Christiansen

In memory of Vevia Lund:

Leigh Holland
James Christiansen
Carolyn Siley
Hillcrest Crossing Homeowners' Assn.

Prayer List

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:

Vicky Green, Leta Volking, Jane Johnson, Sara Scrivener, Mary Lou Johnston, Nevaeh Hall, 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



David & Kim Partsch	06/06
Willis & Marietta Ford	06/10
Pat & Helen Wetzel	06/13
George & Betty Taylor	06/21
Max & Martha Grice	06/26
Bob & Mary Sheffield	06/28
Neil & Marie McPhail	06/30



Corinne Faust	06/01	Gillian Hobbs	06/11
Sam Escobio	06/02	Lynn Seymour	06/12
Shannon Newberry	06/02	Ron Waites	06/12
Connie Anderson	06/03	Matt Mattoon	06/14
Neva Bache	06/05	Gavin Dunham	06/16
Joan Marie Elam	06/05	Connie McLean	06/16
Angela McGuire	06/06	Violet Moore	06/24
Jerry Fulford	06/07	Pat Thomas	06/26
Emily Johnston	06/10	Mitchell Cowart	06/27

Contact Us

Staff:

The Reverend Thomas Heard
Rector
rector@stjohnsmobile.org

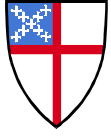
John L. Hobbs, Jr.
Organist/Choirmaster
music@stjohnsmobile.org

Lella Lowe
Financial Secretary
finance@stjohnsmobile.org

Jack Ruppe
Sexton

Vestry:

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



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.

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.