



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 9

September 2010

FROM THE RECTOR:

Dear Ones,

My spies tell me that some recent sermons have upset a number of you. I see two problems with this.

First, I haven't heard about it from anyone directly. If it's really important, wouldn't it make sense to call or stop in and say, "What you said last Sunday (or whenever) really made me uneasy/upset/angry and I need to let you know that"?

The behavior of telling someone else and expecting them to carry the message is called "triangulation." This is bringing a third party into a relationship to deliver messages or act as intermediary between the two people who have some issue between them. It is not helpful. The messenger does not have the originator's point of view or passion about the message, consequently it cannot be delivered with the authority and conviction of the originator.

The stories of Jesus' life and ministry were originally passed as oral stories. As they passed from person to person, they lost detail, added things, and sometimes changed the original intent or message of the story. What we have in the Gospels are attempts by the evangelists to capture the essence of the Jesus experience so everyone gets the intended message.

Second, by using a third party, the originator and I have been robbed of an opportunity for a conversation so that I could have some understanding of why what I had said caused the discomfort. Since I haven't had that opportunity, let me tell you a little of where I'm coming from.

There can be no doubt that each of the evangelists tells the Jesus story from a particular point of view.

One might even say that each had a particular axe to grind: the Gospel of John has a strong anti-Jewish sentiment that is nearly impossible to miss; even Matthew's gospel doesn't get around to declaring the story as meant for all people until the very end.

The Gospel of Luke, however, gives a very different perspective. Luke's telling of the story should leave no doubt in the reader's mind that the Good News of Jesus Christ is intended for all people. Look, for example, at who Jesus is surrounded by in the stories: Pharisees, tax collectors, the possessed, the aged, the infirm, prostitutes, and lepers. For the most part, they comprise the outcast and downtrodden of first century society.

I'm told that my recent offending words are "sexual orientation" or just "orientation." I've also offended when speaking of the martyrdom of Jonathan Myrick Daniels. Just because someone is born with a different color of skin or sexual preference doesn't make them any less a Child of God or less deserving of God's love and care. As followers of Jesus Christ, we are bound by our Baptismal Covenant to work tirelessly for the advance of the Kingdom of God for all. The only choice we have is to turn our backs on God and go our own way. That is not what Jesus taught us. It is not a way that I can go; I have no choice but to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

I hope that it is always heard.

-Thomas

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SEPTEMBER LITURGICAL CALENDAR

David Pendleton Oakerhater, Deacon & Missionary of the Cheyenne

At our Wednesday Said Mass with Holy Unction on 1 September, we will commemorate David Pendleton Oakerhater. David first came to notice as one of the elite core of Cheyenne fighters of the 1860s. He and 27 other leaders were captured and sent to a prison in Florida. One of the Army officers there helped to educate them, taught them English, and had them give art and archery lessons to visitors. Oakerhater was sent north to study for the ministry and at his baptism took "David Pendleton" as his name. He was ordained to the diaconate in 1881 and returned to tribal lands in Oklahoma where he helped to found schools and missions among his people.

Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Situated as close to the Feast of the Assumption as it is, the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary receives less solemnity than it did in earlier times. The earliest evidence of a celebration of the Mother of Our Lord comes from the 6th century. Following the declaration of the Council at Ephesus in 431 that Mary was the *Theotokos*, or God-bearer, devotion to Mary became much more common. The origins of the story of her birth come from the apocryphal *Protoevangelium of James*, written about 150. We will celebrate the birth of Mary at a said mass on Wednesday, 8 September at 10:00AM.

Holy Cross Day

On Tuesday, 14 September at 12:10PM, we will celebrate the Feast of the Holy Cross. Eusebius tells us Emperor Constantine's mother, Helena, discovered the True Cross buried at Golgatha. She was entrusted by the emperor to build suitable housing that would inspire and attract veneration of the relic. Helena's work stands today as the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. This day, we honor the implement of execution that brings us life and salvation.

Saint Matthew

Saint Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist will be commemorated on Tuesday, 21 September at a Said Mass at 12:10PM. Legend holds that Matthew the Tax Collector became a disciple of Jesus and later wrote an account of the life and works of Jesus. We know this today as the Gospel of Matthew.

Philander Chase

Philander Chase served the Episcopal Church as Bishop of Ohio and later as Bishop of Illinois. Chase began his mission work among the Mohawk and Oneida peoples shortly after his diaconal ordination in 1798. He served as rector of Christ Church in Poughkeepsie for six years and then established the first Protestant congregation in Louisiana in 1806. He was elected Bishop of Ohio and established Kenyon College and Bexley Hall Seminary. He resigned to do mission work in Michigan. He was later elected first Bishop of Illinois, where he served until his death in 1852. We will commemorate his life and work at our Said Mass on Wednesday, 22 September at 10:00AM

Saint Michael and All Angels

One of the Major Feasts of the Church, we will celebrate the Feast of Saint Michael and All Angels at a Said Mass on Wednesday, 29 September at 10:00AM. Angels have found a place in contemporary society with many identifying a personal guardian angel. But angel comes from the Greek "*Angelos*" which means "messenger". This day we commemorate all the messengers and agents of God throughout the course of history.

Directory Update

Pease add the following listing to the directory you received in May:

Nikki Shaw
16 McPhillips Ave.
Mobile, AL 36604
(H) 251-433-2274



Vestry

Vestry Summary

The regular meeting of the Vestry was held on 12 August at 7:00PM in the Great Hall.

James Christiansen, Junior Warden, reported that two smoke detectors had to be replaced because of contamination resulting from MAWSS smoke tests of the sewer system. He has received a bid of \$9,630 for repairs to the roof at the bell tower and the roof of the bell tower itself. He will seek other bids.

Ron Waites reported that the Coffee Haus event benefitting ERD raised over \$800. It was very successful and another is tentatively planned for the fall.

Eugene Johnston reported that Parish Life will look into a restarting Saturday Afternoon at the Movies as well as other projects.

Father Heard reported that a letter of transfer has been received for Nikki Shaw. The Parochial Report has finally been finished and is ready to be submitted. The Vestry unanimously approved the report. Kathe Gieseler has come forward as an Aspirant for the Diaconate. The Bishop has approved the formation of a Discernment Committee. Kathe Gieseler was nominated by Howard Yeager to fill a 5-year term on the Endowment board. The Vestry elected her to this position, understanding that she may have to be replaced if she is accepted as a Postulant for Holy Orders.

The Vestry approved Father Heard's re-appointment of Lay Eucharistic Ministers and Visitors. The meeting was adjourned at 8:03PM.

18 YEARS OF EfM AT SAINT JOHN'S

Saint John's is preparing for its 18th consecutive year of EfM classes starting this month. Father Tim Klopfenstein ran the program for two years, Joan-Marie Elam for 13 years and Father Thomas for two years.

Education for Ministry (EfM) is a unique theological education program for laity under the auspices of the School of Theology of the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee. Since EfM's foundation in 1957, the program has assisted students in discovering how to respond to the call to Christian service. The program requires four years to complete, and students enroll for one year at a time. EfM helps people encounter the Christian tradition's breadth and depth and bring it together with their experiences of the world in the process of theological reflection. It's for serious Christian "grown-ups" or those who want to become one.

EfM groups meet across the USA in 89 Episcopal dioceses and 12 parishes that sponsor the program. A group consists of six to twelve participants and a trained mentor who meet weekly for 2 1/2 hours over a nine-month period.

Our Father Thomas is the mentor for Saint John's EfM and Kathe Gieseler is the co-mentor. Speak to Father Thomas about EfM or ask questions of any of these Saint John's graduates: Joan-Marie Elam, Mary Sheffield, Bootsie Cieutat, Leah Betts, Scott Escobio, Eugene Johnston, David Thompson, Ron Waites, Kathe Gieseler and Ron Brown.

There is a tuition fee paid to the University of the South.

-Joan-Marie Elam

SOUTH ALABAMA'S SECOND FOOTBALL SEASON

As the University of South Alabama begins its second football season, St John's Men of the Church will again offer parking spots. The parking lot is less than four blocks from the Ladd-Peebles Stadium. The location makes for easy access to the stadium and a quick getaway after the game. Parking will begin approximately two hours prior to kickoff and will last until all spaces are filled. Parking will cost ten dollars per game.



Season parking passes may be purchased allowing you the opportunity to save a space near the stadium. Season passes are \$60 dollars. Checks must be made out to St John's Episcopal Church. For more information please call the church at 479-5474.

SEPTEMBER 2010 AT SAINT JOHN'S

MP = Morning Prayer HE = Holy Eucharist Breakfast starts on September 12 Sunday School starts September 19 Rector at Clergy Conference 9/12 PM through 9/14 AM						
5 15 Pentecost 10A HE+Baptism	6 LABOR DAY 830A MP -- Office Closed --	7 830A MP	8 Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary 830A MP 10A HE 7P Choir	9 830A MP 7P Vestry	10 830A MP	11
12 16 Pentecost 820A Breakfast 10A HE	13 830A MP	14 Holy Cross Day 830A MP 1210P HE	15 830A MP 10A HE 7P Choir	16 830A MP	17 830A MP	18
19 17 Pentecost 9A Sunday School 10A HE 5P Evensong	20 830A MP	21 Saint Matthew 830A MP 1210P HE	22 Philander Chase 830A MP 10A HE 7P Choir	23 830A MP	24 830A MP	25
26 18 Pentecost 9A Sunday School 10A HE	27 830A MP	28 830A MP	29 Saint Michael and All Angels 830A MP 10A HE 7P Choir	30 830A MP		

LECTIONARY AND ROTA FOR SEPTEMBER 2010

Date Service	5 September HE-II	12 September HE-II	19 September HE-II	19 September Evensong	26 September HE-II
Lectionary Day	Pentecost 15 C Proper 18	Pentecost 16 C Proper 19	Pentecost 17 C Proper 20	Year 2, Proper 20 Sunday, Evensong	Pentecost 18 C Proper 21
Lessons	Deuteronomy 30:15-20 Psalm 1 Philemon 1-21 Luke 14:25-33	Exodus 32:7-14 Psalm 51:1-11 1 Timothy 1:12-17 Luke 15:1-10	Amos 8:4-7 Psalm 113 1 Timothy 2:1-7 Luke 16:1-13	Psalms 8, 84 1 Kings 19:8-21 Matthew 5:21-26	Amos 6:1a, 4-7 Psalm 146 1 Timothy 6:6-19 Luke 16:19-31
Greeters	Martha & Max Grice	Paula & Bob Ross	Connie & Bob Anderson		Joan Marie Elam
Lectors	Eugene Johnston Pat Fulford	Janet Buckley Scott Escobio	Cheryl Winters-Heard Kathe Gieseler	Eugene Johnston	Bud McLean Pat Fulford
Intercessor	Mary Sheffield	Connie Anderson	Janet Buckley		Paula Ross
Eucharistic Minister	Paula Ross Ron Brown	Eugene Johnston Connie Anderson	Ron Waites Butch Yeager		Geri Moulton Connie McLean
Eucharistic Visitor	Eugene Johnston	Paula Ross	Ron Brown		Ron Waites
Altar Guild	Jennifer Tarantole Connie Anderson	Bootsie Cicutat Tina Cicutat Mary Jones	Bootsie Cicutat Tina Cicutat Mary Jones		Mary Sheffield Janet Buckley
Vestry Tellers	Ron Waites Bill Duke	Ron Brown Eugene Johnston	Janet Buckley Connie McLean		James Christiansen Bill Sundie



*My boundaries enclose a pleasant land; indeed, I have a goodly heritage.
Psalm 16:6.*

In July of 1979, I went with Robert B. Sawyer, Jr. to The Sewanee Province Church Music Conference. This was the first of twenty six visits to Monteagle Mountain, Tennessee.

This year marked the 60th Anniversary of the Sewanee Church Music Conference, and, I suppose that because this was a Milestone Anniversary our faculty were 'returns'.

By this I mean that this was the fourth time for The Right Reverend Joe Burnett, 10th Episcopal Bishop of Nebraska. Well, actually two times as +Joe Burnett and two times as The Reverend Dr., Professor of New Testament Studies at St. Luke's Seminary, Sewanee. It was the third time for Malcolm Archer, Director of Chapel Music at Winchester College in England. The first time he came as Organist - Choirmaster of Wells Cathedral and the second time as Director of Music of St. Paul's Cathedral London.

This was the second time for Peter Richard Conte, Choirmaster & Organist of St. Clements Episcopal Church, Philadelphia as well as Grand Court Organist of the world famous Wanamaker Organ in Macy's Philadelphia department store. The Wanamaker Organ with its six manuals and 28,000 pipes is the largest fully functioning instrument in the world.

I would like to THANK those of you who helped "FUND" this trip for me. It really means a lot to me to be able to return to "The Holy Mountain" for this Anniversary Conference. A HOLY PLACE that means more to me than I could ever express. So to The Vestry, The Rector, and to The Good People of St. John's Episcopal Church of Mobile I simply say THANK YOU!

On Friday Evening, November 5, 2010 @ 7:00 P. M. The Organist - Choirmaster & Principal Parish Musician will play an ORGAN RECITAL on The 1898 Kimball Organ of St. John's Episcopal Church in Mobile, Alabama. This Recital is in Celebration of The Third Anniversary of The Installation of The Reverend Thomas Heard as The Sixteenth Rector of St. John's Episcopal Church, Mobile Alabama and to Celebrate The 112th Birthday of The 1898 Kimball Organ of St. John's Episcopal Church Mobile Alabama. So, PLEASE tell all of your Family, Friends, and Neighbors. More details will follow in the October and November newsletters.

-John Hobbs

EVENSONG

With September comes the beginning of Evensong at Saint John's on the third Sunday, running from September through May.

You ask, "What is Evensong and why should I go?" Let's start at the beginning: simply put, Evensong is Evening Prayer in a musical context. In other places in this country, you can find Evensong in multiple parishes every week. Evening Prayer, one of the services of the Daily Office, is said or sung in the late afternoon or early evening each day. Because Sunday is always a Feast of the Resurrection, singing Evening Prayer on Sunday helps to set the day apart. Besides, St. Augustine of Hippo implied that "one who sings prays twice."

The Daily Office, consisting of Morning, Noonday, and Evening Prayer and Compline are Thomas Cranmer's gifts to us of one aspect of monastic life. He conflated the monastic Liturgy of the Hours and brought us a simplified version of liturgies that had been in use for 1200 years. One component of the Daily Office that was retained is the nearly sequential reading of scripture and the corporate recitation of a portion of the Psalter. If you were to read Morning and Evening prayer every day for two years, you would have read nearly the entire Old Testament twice and the New Testament once. The Psalms are recited on a 30-day cycle or according to a scheme presented in the Daily Office Lectionary.

So, back to part 2 of the question: Evensong is a great way to bring the Lord's Day to a close with music and scripture. I find it a great way to start the week. Then, too, there is the rumor that a Guild of Saint Martha arranges a reception for everyone in the Great Hall.

As always, if you want to come but can't drive, call someone who lives near you for a ride, or call the church office.





Will Elam	09/03
Willis Ford	09/05
Ron Brown	09/06
Alice Schablinski	09/09
Barbara Vann	09/12
Lavelle Ollhoft	09/19
Jeremy Anderson	09/20
Neil McPhail	09/20
Thelma Lomers	09/22



Regina & John Molyneux	09/02
Dana & Scott Escobio	09/07
Carrie & Glenn Fairley	09/09
Donna & Ron Waites	09/17
Irene & Butch Yeager	09/29



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

Audrey Garner, Ping Duke, Audrey Meador, Alice Schablinski, Bessie & Bill Southall, Leah Betts, Shannon Newberry

For our Homebound:

Alice Cieutat, Mae Dunn, Will Elam, Corinne Faust, Gwen Johnson, Violet Kosko, Margie Mattoon, Audrey Meador, Angela McGuire, Jane Tate Moore, Betty Plash, Dot & Chick Wohlert

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

Jeffery Yeager, Ellis Eugene Garner, Eric Mattoon, Cheryl Garner

For our Friends and Family:

Betty & Gayle Chenoweth, Steve Weinstein, Mark Stiber, Mary Hoeberechts, Karen Twilley, Maddie West

Contact Us

Staff:

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rector@stjohnsmobile.org

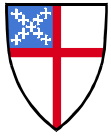
John L. Hobbs, Jr.
Organist/Choirmaster
music@stjohnsmobile.org

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

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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.