



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. XXI, Issue 7

July 2011

FROM THE RECTOR:

Too many times over the last few months, Alabama has figured prominently in the front page of The New York Times. One such appearance was reporting on the tornados in northern Alabama. Most recently, however, the report concerned the passage of the "Beason-Hammon Alabama Taxpayer and Citizen Protection Act" (HB56) by the Alabama Legislature and our governor's promise to sign it. Modeled closely after Arizona's SB1070, we've gone even farther, making ours "the meanest anti-immigration law in the nation."

From where I sit, it doesn't appear to me that Alabama has much of a problem with illegal immigration. I believe most of the non-citizens of Alabama are here legally and contribute mightily to the economy of the state.

Where would the Gulf Coast be in its recovery from recent hurricanes had not many "migrant workers" come to the area to work in the construction trades? Do you understand that the folks that work in Alabama's agriculture industry are doing jobs that employers can't convince a citizen to take? It's precisely because it is back-breaking work that is performed in the heat of the day.

The Bishop of Alabama recently said.

"Jesus said that loving our neighbors as ourselves is at the heart of how God means us to live. I and the Episcopal Church believe that the Hispanic population among us are our neighbors.

The recently adopted bill HB 56 will make it impossible to love and be hospitable to our neighbors as we ought to be. It is a profoundly disappointing decision and a sad moment for our state.

While we work for some functional immigration laws in our nation, let us respect the dignity of every human being, and live the vision of this nation as a place of

hospitality for all."

So our hospitality makes teachers and school administrations verify a student's legal right to education. Doesn't something seem wrong with that?

Every employer (including the church) must verify the right of a person to be employed. Sadly, the database that houses that information has an error rate that is significantly greater than 0.

You and I don't escape unscathed, either. We have to know the status of anyone to whom we might offer a ride; if they're illegal, we become criminally liable.

What's at the root of all this? Are we really so insecure that our spirit of cooperation has evaporated? Have we forgotten that almost all of us come from immigrant families that came to America at some time in the past? I think this bill is another example of an inward, "circle-the-wagons", self-centered, and xenophobic spirit that seems to have captured our nation and, in particular, our state. Our leaders seem to take great pride in their Christianity, but I don't see much righteousness. It seems more like fear and blame.

Writing in the 8th century BCE, the prophet Micah wrote, "He has showed you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" (6:8) Can you find any justice, loving kindness, or humility in this law? Do our legislators have any understanding of the lives if the people they are seem to be victimizing? Can they empathize at all?

I'm pretty sure that, were they on the other side of this law, they'd understand very quickly.

--Thomas

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE JULY LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Sacred Heart

The Sacred Heart of Jesus is one of the most famous religious devotions to Jesus focusing on his physical heart as a symbol of unmitigated love, compassion, and long-suffering. Since earliest times, the church has had a devotion to the Love of God, but not until the eleventh century does the image of the wounded Heart of Jesus appear, arriving first in Benedictine or Cistercian monasteries. By the 16th century, of what is believed to be Franciscan origin, the wounded Heart of Jesus became associated with the wounds of Christ. It was through revelations to a 17th century monastic that visions of Jesus and his wounded heart brought this mystery into wider celebration. Sister Margaret Mary Alacoque reported that Jesus said to her, “Behold the Heart that has so loved men ... instead of gratitude I receive from the greater part (of mankind) only ingratitude ...” We will celebrate this feast at a Said Mass on Friday, 1 July at 12:10PM.

Independence Day

Independence Day is one of the “Other major feasts”, which include apostles, evangelists, Saints Mary the Virgin, Joseph, Mary Magdalene, James of Jerusalem, Stephen, and Michael and All Angels, as well as The Holy Innocents and Thanksgiving Day. Independence Day entered the calendar with the proposed prayer book of 1786. It didn’t make it into the 1789 Prayer Book, due to concerns of appropriateness since most of the clergy of the church had been British loyalists. Independence Day finally entered our calendar with the 1928 Prayer Book. We will observe this feast at 10:00AM on Monday, 4 July with a Said Mass.

John Hus

John Hus (or Jan Huss) was a Czech priest, philosopher, and master at Charles University at Prague. He was a significant leader of the Reformation in Bohemia and taught and talked only in the people’s native language. This offended many other clerics and he was exiled from Prague. His effort to clear himself was futile and he was condemned. Rather than marking the end, Hus’ death as a martyr encouraged the Czech reformation. We will celebrate his life at our Said Mass on Wednesday, 6 July at 10:00AM.

Conrad Weiser

Conrad Weiser worked for peace between the native peoples and the Europeans in Pennsylvania in the 18th century. His knowledge of the Iroquois peoples and language couple with his natural skills as a diplomat made him invaluable to both the native peoples and the “invading” Europeans. We will remember Conrad Weiser at our 10:00AM Mass on Wednesday, 13 July.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Amelia Bloomer, Sojourner Truth, and Harriet Ross Tubman

On Wednesday, 20 July at our 10:00AM Said Mass, we will commemorate the lives of these four women as liberators, prophets and workers for the Kingdom of God. The four women lived at around the same time, the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th centuries. Two were born to well-off families and two as slaves. All of them had a vision for the equal treatment of people regardless of race, gender, or social condition and did much to benefit the status of women and the betterment of the downtrodden.

Saint Mary Magdalene

We will celebrate the feast of Saint Mary Magdalene on Friday, 22 July at a 12:10PM Said Mass. Surnames were not a feature of Palestine in the first century, so it was customary to use genealogical and geographical annotations to differentiate between people of the same name. Saint Mary Magdalene features prominently in the Gospels of Luke and John. In Luke, she was healed by Our Lord who cast out seven demons from her. She became a follower immediately. In John’s Gospel, Mary Magdalene is the “Mary” at the tomb who recognizes the resurrected Jesus and tells the disciples, “I have seen the Lord.” In the Eastern tradition, Mary is held as equal to the apostles.

Saint James the Apostle

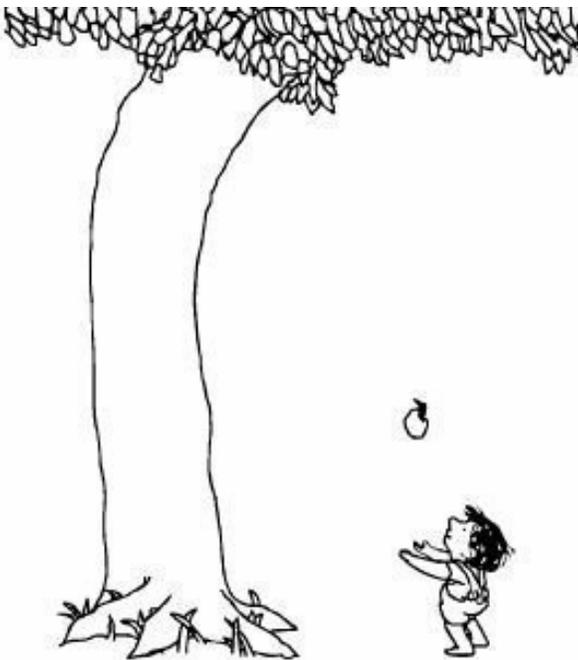
James is sometimes called “the Greater”, to differentiate him from James the brother of our Lord, and the other apostle named James. With his brother John, the sons of Zebedee were also known as the “Sons of Thunder”, due to their dispositions. James is accorded the honor of being the first of the apostles to be martyred for Our Lord. We will celebrate James at a Said Mass on Monday, 25 July at 12:10PM.



ST. JOHN'S GIVING TREE

Our Giving Tree is almost bare, and bags and boxes full of gifts have multiplied and are piled around the tree. This is a visible sign of St. John's commitment to winning hearts among the Afghan people, reaching out to these our neighbors on the other side of the world. On Sunday, July 3, we will begin to pack up the gift items into the "If it fits its ships" USPS boxes. We will then mail them to Capt. Brabner in Afghanistan to distribute to his troops for sharing with the local people with whom they interface. We are grateful to all of you who have contributed to this effort, and thank each one of you for your support! It is not too late to contribute, but at this time, we would most appreciate your financial support in contributing to help with the cost of mailing the boxes. Please make your check payable to St. John's, and note "Outreach" in the identification line. Thank you so much for being the hands of Christ in the world!

-Cheryl Winters-Heard



REFLECTIONS ON MCKEMIE PLACE

Last summer, I had the privilege of completing a 10 week field placement at McKemie Place as a part of my deacon training. After work, I drove to McKemie Place, arriving just before the women came back to the shelter for the evening meal. The women would arrive on the bus from 15 Place after having spent the day out in the community—job hunting, applying for benefits, doing errands, visiting the library, or whatever they found to occupy their time during those long hot summer days. They would come into the shelter with their carry bags weary from the long day. One of us would hold the outer doors open as the women came in, greeting each of them with a kind word or a smile. They filed into the dining hall, found their seats and collapsed in the cool among their friends.

Around 6 pm, dinner would arrive. In would come a group of smiling people – women, men, teens – laden down with food. The visitors began to set up for the meal. Finally, someone was asked to say grace. Then the women came to get their food. The people serving the food would smile and make small talk. "Your hair looks fabulous." Or "Great earrings!" or "Would you like a little more of this?" The women returned to their seats and began to eat.

The staff always went last. I liked to sit out among the women and eat with them as did most of the visitors. After a few weeks, the women began to relax around me and would talk to me more freely and would ask questions. On one evening when we had a particularly delightful home cooked meal with truly luscious desserts, one of the women asked me about the people who brought the meals. "Why do they do this?" she asked. I explained how as Christians, we believe it was important to help each other as Jesus taught us to do. It was not just about the food - after all man does not live by bread alone - it was about showing them they were cared for, even if it were by strangers. I looked around the dining hall and saw women talking and laughing together in fellowship and I realized there were no strangers at those tables.

A ministry of the United Methodist Inner City Mission, McKemie Place is a shelter for homeless, unaccompanied women. St. John's partners with the Church of the Redeemer to supply the meal on the fourth Thursday of

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)



each month. Our Outreach Committee, in the person of Butch Yeager, approached Leroy Hill Coffee Company about donating coffee so that the residents can have morning coffee before they have to leave the shelter. When Christine Green and I went to pick up the first donation, the warehouse manager was so impressed with the program, he added cases

of tea and creamer and sugar!

The Women of the Church also were able to meet a serious need at the shelter. Personal hygiene in the summer is a challenge when you are homeless and outside all day. To help meet the personal care needs of the residents, Marie Brown, president of the Women of the Church, delivered 4 dozen pairs of underwear and 23 bottles of deodorant to the shelter. "This seems like a small thing to us, but to the women in the shelter, it makes a huge difference," Marie remarked.



Is there a need in the community that we can help meet? Looking for opportunities to serve? Do you have an idea about a ministry you would like to start? Contact Outreach Chair Cheryl Winters-Heard at cwinters-heard@att.net or me at deacon@stjohnsmobile.org or leave a message at the church office.

-Jayne Carson



Vestry

The Wardens and Vestry of Saint John's met on 12 June 2011. The meeting was called to order at 11:35AM. Approval of minutes from the previous meeting was deferred until July.

Connie McLean reviewed the financial statements, observing that we are in better shape than we had forecast.

Father Heard presented a draft of a position description for the Organist/Choir Director. The vestry approved the position description with some suggested changes.

Janet Buckley reported that there was excellent turnout for the Parish Picnic and reminded the vestry of the 4th Sunday Potluck on June 26.

Father Heard reported that Erin Reindl and David Clonts were married in the church on 28 May. Sue Dyess has requested to be transferred to Saint John's from Trinity. He stated that the Bylaws Committee has begun its work. On 26 June, we will observe Corpus Christi and baptize the Waites' newest grandson. He offered the opportunity to ask questions concerning the termination of the agreement with John Hobbs.

An item of old business was brought to the table. A letter from the Wardens and Vestry to the parish was reviewed and adjusted. It will be mailed out before the end of the month.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:55PM

Directory Update

Please make the following change to the directory you received in May:

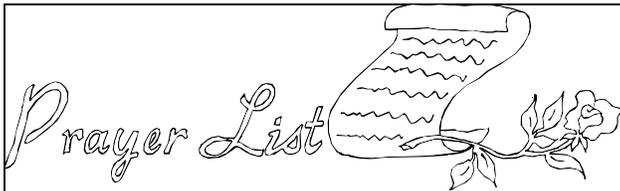
Audrey Meador
Westminster Village, Room 543-A
500 Spanish Fort Blvd.
Spanish Fort, AL 36527

JULY 2011 AT SAINT JOHN'S

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
MP = Morning Prayer HE = Holy Eucharist/Communion						
3 Pentecost 3 10A HE 1130A Outreach	4 Independence Day 830A MP 10A HE 1130A Loaves & Fish	5 830A MP	6 John Hus 830A MP 10A HE+Unction	7 830A MP	1 Sacred Heart 830A MP 1210P HE	2
10 Pentecost 4 10A HE 1130A Vestry	11 830A MP	12 830A MP	13 Conrad Weiser 830A MP 10A HE	14 830A MP	15 830A MP	16
17 Pentecost 5 10A MP	18 830A MP	19 830A MP	20 Stanton, Bloomer, Truth, Tubman 830A MP 10A HE	21 830A MP	22 Saint Mary Magdalene 830A MP 1210P HE	23 1030A-6P Acts of Recovery
24 Pentecost 6 10A HE 1130A 4 th Sunday Potluck	25 Saint James 830A MP 1210P HE	26 830A MP	27 William Reed Huntington 830A MP 10A HE	28 830A MP	29 830A MP	30
31 Pentecost 7 10A HE 130-7P AOII						

LECTIONARY AND ROTA FOR JUNE 2011

Date Service	3 July HE-II	10 July HE-II	17 July MP-II	24 July HE-II	31 July HE-II
Lectionary Day	A Pentecost 3 Proper 9	A Pentecost 4 Proper 10	A Pentecost 5 Proper 11	A Pentecost 6 Proper 12	A Pentecost 7 Proper 13
Lessons	Zechariah 9:9-12 Psalm 145:8-15 Romans 7:15-25a Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30	Isaiah 55:10-13 Psalm 65:1-14 Romans 8:1-11 Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23	Isaiah 44:6-8 Psalm 86:11-17 Romans 8:12-25 Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43	1 Kings 3:5-12 Psalm 119:129-136 Romans 8:26-39 Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52	Isaiah 55:1-5 Psalm 145:8-9, 15-22 Romans 9:1-5 Matthew 14:13-21
Greeters	Joan-Marie Elam	Thelma Loners	Connie & Bob Anderson	Irene & Butch Yeager	Thelma Loners
Lectors	Connie Anderson Denise Dunham	Geri Moulton Bud McLean	Ron Waites Paula Ross	Ron Brown Cheryl Winters-Heard	Dense Dunham Mary Sheffield
Eucharistic Ministers	Eugene Johnston Mary Sheffield	Connie Anderson Ron Brown		Paula Ross Connie Anderson	Geri Moulton Eugene Johnston
Eucharistic Visitor	Ron Waites	Paula Ross		Eugene Johnston	Ron Waites
Altar Guild	Kim Partsch Irene Yeager	Kim Partsch Irene Yeager	Betty & George Taylor	Betty & George Taylor	Marie Brown Lorraine Murray
Vestry Tellers	Butch Yeager Bill Sundie	Bill Duke Janet Buckley	Connie McLean James Christiansen	Bill Sundie Chris Gass	Ron Brown Nikki Shaw
Preacher	Thomas Heard	Thomas Heard	Jayne Carson	Thomas Heard	Thomas Heard



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

Corinne Faust, Alice Schablinski, Cookie Rich, Bob Ross, Ashley Garris, Alice Walker

For our Homebound:

Ray Campbell, Ping Duke, Mae Dunn, Will Elam, Corinne Faust, Gwen Johnson, Nell Kirk, Violet Kosko, Margie Mattoon, Audrey Meador, Angela McGuire, Jane Tate Moore, Betty Plash, Catherine Warren, Dot & Chick Wohlert

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

Ellis Eugene Garner, Eric Mattoon, Cheryl Garner, Michael Brabner

For our Friends and Family:

Colleen McNorton, Katy Allen, Cavin Balaster, Miles Lester, Ronald Raines, Irene Barrow, Emily Steiner, Willis T. (Tom) Ford, Karen Mullen, Mary Fournier, The Jeff Green Family, Shawn Felps, David Jones, Wayne Brignac, Tom Dabney, Kit Caffey, Anna Marie Brown, Jim Owens, John McCormick, Keith Malick, Gloria Berry, Travis McBride, Vernon Faulk, Velma Pearson, Betty & Gayle Chenoweth, Mark Stiber, Maddie West



Matt & Marjorie Mattoon	07/10
Bob & Paula Ross	07/12
Lavelle & Debbie Ollhoft	07/20

Happy Birthday

Gordon Moulton	07/03	Regina Harvey-Molyneux	
Billy Owen	07/07		07/20
Catherine Warren	07/08	Cheryl Winters-Heard	07/21
Max Stiber	07/10	Carolyn Pearce	07/26
Tina Cieutat	07/13	Makayla Yeager	07/28
Isabella Dennis	07/16	Jennifer Yeager	07/31



Thank you to the following people who made memorial donations honoring Shannon Newberry and Pat Thomas:

Pat Thomas	Shannon Newberry
Ron & Donna Waites	Ron & Donna Waites
	Ben Schmerbauch

Contact Us

Staff:

The Reverend Thomas Heard, *rector*
rector@stjohnsmobile.org

The Reverend Jayne Carson, *deacon*
deacon@stjohnsmobile.org

Lella Lowe
Financial Secretary
finance@stjohnsmobile.org

Jack Ruppe
Sexton

Vestry:

Ron Brown

Janet Buckley

James Christiansen

Bill Duke

Chris Gass

Connie McLean

Nikki Shaw

Bill Sundie

Howard Yeager



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



Come Worship With Us!

Monday—Friday:

8:30AM Morning Prayer

5:30PM Evening 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; please
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

Monday

Wednesday

Friday

10 a.m.-2 p.m.

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.