



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

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FROM THE RECTOR:

Dear Ones,

Last Sunday, we read one of the laments of the prophet Jeremiah. The prophet is feeling isolated and pressured by YHWH to continue to speak truths while simultaneously feeling abandoned. Jeremiah believes he has been true to YHWH and cannot understand why he has been abandoned among the remnant in Jerusalem. You almost get a sense that Jeremiah is really angry with God.

I was at a Commission on Ministry meeting recently where one of the aspirants for ordination made it clear that it wasn't OK to be angry with God. You could have knocked me over with a feather!

Not be angry with God? Where could such an idea originate? For those regular readers of The Daily Office, we hardly go for more than a week without some Old Testament or New Testament character getting torqued-off at God. If we do, the 30 day Psalter reading cycle reminds us all too often just how human and fallible we truly are. We get angry, we cry out in despair, we shake our fists at whomever we perceive our antagonist to be — even it that is God.

Anger is one our many emotions and, next to joy, it is often the emotion that is most easily accessed by us. We often think about anger as being a negative emotion and some of us fight to suppress it. We might even say, "It's just not polite to be angry."

It may not be polite, politically correct or socially acceptable to let our anger show, but suppressing it and trying to deny its existence is incredibly dangerous to us. Suppressed anger can turn into rage, but it can also turn into depression. Neither one is a good place to be.

If you re-read Jeremiah's lament, I think you'll find another emotion lurking just beneath the surface: grief. While being angry with God, Jeremiah is also grieving his lost relationship with God, fearing it to be permanent.

Grief, too, is an feeling we too often try to suppress. Be it

because of being embarrassed or fear of appearing to be weak, not facing up to it can leave us emotionally crippled and incapable of getting beyond the loss that we feel.

As a nation, the terrorist attacks on September 11 knocked us off balance. We have responded to our anger by looking for someone to blame and have taken it out on the people of Iraq and Afghanistan and avoided our own responsibility in our brothers and sisters in the world feeling oppressed by us. We have been similarly cavalier with our grief, either become completely lost in it or denying its existence. Neither one can be healed until we forgive.

"Peter came up and said to him, 'Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?' Jesus said to him, 'I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.'" Matthew 18:21-22

I think Jesus is on to something.

-Thomas

EVENSONG 9/11

On Sunday, 11 September 2011, Saint John's Mobile will sing Solemn Evensong at 5:00PM in commemoration of the events of this date in 2001. The rector will preach a brief homily and prayers will be offered for remembrance, forgiveness and healing. A reception will be held in the Great Hall after the service. Please join us as we mark a decade of change and hope for the future.



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SEPTEMBER LITURGICAL CALENDAR

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 Thursday, 8 September at 12:10PM.

Holy Cross Day

On Wednesday, 14 September at 10:00AM, 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 Wednesday, 21 September 2011 at a Said Mass at 10:00AM. 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.

Saint Michael and All Angels

One of the Major Feasts of the Church, the Feast of Saint Michael and All Angels is observed on 29 September. Also known as Michaelmas, this day commemorates not only the Archangel Michael but the entire host of angels. 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. Father Heard will be attending a continuing education conference this day, hence we will not celebrate it this year.



AUDREY BOOTH MEADOR 13 OCTOBER 1929 - 21 AUGUST 2011

Audrey Meador recently moved to the skilled care section of Westminster Village from The Blake at Malbis because of increasing health issues. Even at Westminster, her health continued to deteriorate.

I saw her on Sunday after church, anointed her and said the prayers at time of death and took my leave at about 2:30. Our sister Audrey entered into new life on Sunday, 21 August 2011 at about five o'clock in the afternoon.

Audrey and her twin sister, Marjorie, were natives of Mobile. Audrey married Alva Meador and had six children, all girls. Margie, Jean, Barbara, Shirley, Sandra, and Kay remained close to their parents, and five of them remained in the Mobile area. Their house "over the bay" was home and a refuge, not to mention one of the most beautiful places on earth.

Audrey loved being with family, being by the bay, and Saint John's. Her devotion to the things she loved was always evident. She will be greatly missed by many people. I am privileged to have known her.



Thank you, everyone, for supporting “Pool for School” so enthusiastically! With your help, we were able to give Jessica Dennis and Mary Sheffield supplies for their classrooms. As we told you last month, teachers no longer receive any money for classrooms beyond the most basic items. This means that without outside support, teachers in Alabama are not supplied with computers, printers and printer paper, reading books, markers, folders--in fact, not much beyond pencils, notebooks and chalk. Personally, I cannot imagine life without thumb drives or writable CDs or Post-It notes, but with your help, we were able to supply Jessica’s and Mary’s classrooms with reading books, glue, folders, markers, notebooks, and thumb drives. We were also able to give them each gift certificates for office supply stores to help out throughout the year. If you were not able to help in August, it isn’t too late. Any gift certificates from Staples, Target, Walmart, Office Depot or school supply stores would still be greatly appreciated. There are still lists available in the Great Hall, and anything you purchase may be dropped off in the church office. We will make sure that Mary and Jess receive your generous donations.

-Cheryl Winters-Heard

VENTURE CREW 3 NEWS

The crew was very active this summer and the boys were in charge of several areas at Scout Summer Camp. Anthony Hall was program director of First Aid and Sam Escobio was head dining hall steward. Jennings Halliday led the Rawhide program and Josef Straughn assisted in the Aquatics program. Sam, Jennings and Josef also attended SummitCorps in West Virginia where they worked for a week blazing trails for the new Boy Scout high adventure camp. The Summit will open in 2013 for the National Jamboree and our boys were some of the first scouts in the nation to be able to help get it ready. They were on crews that helped build over 25,000 feet of new trails and rock walls.

This fall the crew has a fishing trip planned for early November so they can finish up on the Fishing requirements to earn their Bronze award in Venturing. The scouts will be lending some muscle in setting up for the annual rummage sale in October, too. They also have a car wash fundraiser set for Saturday, October 1 to help us purchase some needed camping equipment. Anyone that attended our car wash last year knows what a great job the guys did with the cars and we hope you come back and support us again. Bring a friend!

--Scott Escobio

ST. JOHN’S WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

The Women of the Church met on Wed., August 3, 2011 in the great hall, our new president Marie Brown presiding. Fr. Heard opened the meeting with prayer.

Several things were taken care of:

- * Made a donation of \$50.00, in the form of a gift card, to the school pool fund.
- * Have a cake and punch reception for our new organist, Louis Daniel, Aug. 14.
- * Discussed up-coming rummage sale. Another work day is scheduled for Wed., Aug. 24, beginning at 9:00 am. We will break at 10:00 for church then back to work.
- * Rummage sale dates are October 14 – 15, from 7:00 am to 1:00 pm. When the rummage sale is over, trucks are needed to haul the left-over items to several charitable organizations. If you have items to donate, please bring them the week of the sale (Mon., Tues., Wed., or Thurs). Make sure they are in good working order, clean, and if possible, priced. We need everyone’s help, and with everyone’s help, we should have a very successful sale. We also are having baked goods for sale, so crank up your ovens!

The meeting closed with prayer.

CHICK WOHLERT - ANOTHER WILMER HALL ALUMNUS



We previously told the story of Paula Ross' "growing up years" at Wilmer Hall. There is another member of Saint John's who spent his childhood there: Chick (Charles) Wohlert. Chick's health has not been the best of late, but his memories of Wilmer Hall are strong and positive.

Wilmer Hall Children's Home is an Episcopal facility started in 1864 in Tuscaloosa but moved to Mobile soon after being established. Its beautiful campus greets you as you drive west on Old Shell Road halfway up the hill to the east of Spring Hill College.

Chick was 8 years old when his mother died in 1932. His father was unable to care for him and his brother and relatives were having such a hard time during those depression years that only one child could be taken by family members, so Chick was sent to Wilmer Hall.

Chick remembers it was a bitter cold Saturday morning when a Model T came to pick him up. His fears were soon alleviated, though, when he arrived and was given a delicious lunch...with milk. "In fact," Chick says, "We had milk with both breakfast and lunch and the food was good."

"I was jealous that my brother had been able to stay with family at first," Chick says, "but then life turned out to be so good at the Church Home that he became jealous of me. He finally came to live at the Home a year and a half later."

"Our only problem at first was that Mother had not been too strict with us and so discipline was new. But we adapted."

Chick and his brother attended what was then Spring Hill Elementary School and Miss Mary B. Austin was the principal. That school is now named after her. Chick still has one of his report cards!

When it came time for Confirmation, no one knew if Chick had been baptized, so he was christened at Saint Paul's and then confirmed.

"We went to Murphy High School," Chick continues, "and all we had to do was walk out to Old Shell Road and some businessman on his way to work downtown Mobile would pick us up and take us to Murphy." Paula Ross says she's seen photos of Chick during his high school days and he was very handsome.

During high school, Chick became a "counselor" to some of the younger children and took them to the movies and swimming. He delivered for Gibson Drug Store, cut grass and did all kinds of odd jobs. After graduation he went to work for American Optical, paid a small rent and continued to live at Wilmer Hall. He was introduced to Saint John's by friends he made at Murphy saying, "I joined because they had a really fun Young People's League. Marjorie and Audrey Booth were in it, as well as three other sets of twins!"

Chick had a military deferment because of his optician profession, but after two years he joined the U. S. Army and served in the Philippines and occupied Japan as a medical technician using his optical background.

"I considered going back into the optical business when I returned," says Chick, "but the GM&O offered better money as well as benefits." Chick retired at 60 years of age. "I remember my years at Wilmer Hall fondly and still see people I knew there at our reunions."

Chick was scheduled to go on the next Honor Flight for WWII veterans to Washington D.C., but he is afraid his health is not up to it.

There is no telling how Chick Wohlert would have turned out if he had not gone as an 8-year-old to Wilmer Hall Children's Home. But having had a conversation with this bright-eyed, articulate man makes me think he did all right with what life dished up for him.

Chick lives with his wife Dorothy on Old Shell Road Place in Mobile.

--Joan Marie Elam

SEPTEMBER 2011 AT SAINT JOHN'S

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
MP = Morning Prayer HE = Holy Eucharist/Communion SS = Sunday School WOC = Women of the Church Father Heard out 9/29 to 10/1				1	2	3
4 Pentecost 12 10A HE 1130A Outreach	5 830A MP	6 830A MP 6P Winning Solutions	7 830A MP 10A HE + Unction 11A WOC 7P Choir	8 Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary 830A MP 1210P HE	9 830A MP	10
11 Pentecost 13 9A SS 10A HE 1130A Vestry 5P Evensong	12 830A MP	13 830A MP 6P Winning Solutions	14 Holy Cross 830A MP 10A HE 7P Choir	15 830A MP	16 830A MP	17
18 Pentecost 14 10A HE	19 830A MP	20 830A MP 6P Winning Solutions	21 Saint Matthew 830A MP 10A HE 7P Choir	22 830A MP	23 830A MP	24 MMTA Recitals 9-4
25 Pentecost 15 10A HE 1130A Potluck	26 830A MP	27 830A MP 6P Winning Solutions	28 830A MP 7P Choir	29 St. Michael and All Angels 830A MP	30 830A MP	October 1 Venture Crew Car Wash 9AM

LECTIONARY AND ROTA FOR SEPTEMBER 2011

Date Service	4 September HE-II	11 September HE-II	18 September HE-II	25 September HE-II
Lectionary Day	Pentecost 12 A Proper 18	Pentecost 13 A Proper 19	Pentecost 14 A Proper 20	Pentecost 15 A Proper 21
Lessons	Ezekiel 33:7-11 Psalm 119:33-40 Romans 13:8-14 Matthew 18:15-20	Genesis 50:15-21 Psalm 103:(1-7) 8-13 Romans 14:1-12 Matthew 18:21-35	Jonah 3:10-4:11 Psalm 145:1-8 Philippians 1:21-30 Matthew 20:1-16	Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32 Psalm 25:1-8 Philippians 2:1-13 Matthew 21:23-32
Greeters	Connie & Bob Anderson	Joan-Marie Elam	Connie & Bud McLean	Irene & Butch Yeager
Lectors	Cheryl Winters-Heard Kathe Gieseler	Ron Waites Paula Ross	Janet Buckley Ron Brown	Mary Sheffield Pat Fulford
Eucharistic Ministers	Geri Moulton Ron Waites	Mary Sheffield Eugene Johnston	Butch Yeager Geri Moulton	Connie McLean Ron Brown
Eucharistic Visitor	Paula Ross	Ron Brown	Eugene Johnston	Ron Waites
Altar Guild	Mary Sheffield Janet Buckley	Donna Waites Connie Anderson Jennifer Tarantole	Donna Waites Connie Anderson Jennifer Tarantole	Kim Partsch Irene Yeager
Vestry Tellers	Butch Yeager Ron Brown	Bill Duke James Christiansen	Connie McLean Chris Gass	Bill Sundie Nikki Shaw
Preacher	John Phillips	Thomas Heard	Thomas Heard	Thomas Heard
Nursery	Phillip Dunham Jessica Dennis	Loraine Murray Butch Yeager	Connie McLean Connie Anderson	Denise Dunham Jennifer Tarantole



Will Elam	09/03
Tom Ford	09/05
Ron Brown	09/06
Alice Schablinski	09/09
Barbara Vann	09/12
Lavelle Ollhoft	09/19
Hannah Tarantole	09/19
Neil McPhail	09/20
Thelma Lomers	09/22
Richard Cunningham	09/23



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:

Joyce Lee, LaVerne Foster, Alice Schablinski, 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, 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:

Bob Gentry, Paul & Bonnie Dueitt, Pam Sullivan, Cavin Balaster, Ronald Raines, Emily Steiner, Karen Mullen, Mary Fournier, The Jeff Green Family, Shawn Felps, David Jones, Wayne Brignac, Tom Dabney, Anna Marie Brown, Jim Owens, John McCormick, Keith Malick, Gloria Berry, Travis McBride, Vernon Faulk, Velma Pearson, Betty & Gayle Chenoweth, Mark Stiber, Maddie West

For those who have died:

Audrey Meador

Start Your Fall Cleaning....

And start saving for our Rummage Sale on October 12th & 13th

We need helpers that week, and your donations.

St. John's Women of the Church



Contact Us

Staff:

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

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

Louis Daniel
Organist & Choir Director
music@stjohnsmobile.org

Lella Lowe
Financial Secretary
finance@stjohnsmobile.org

Jack Ruppe
Sexton

Vestry:

Ron Brown

Janet Buckley

James Christiansen

Bill Duke

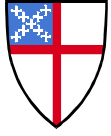
Chris Gass

Connie McLean

Nikki Shaw

Bill Sundie

Howard Yeager



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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

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SAINT JOHN'S: THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN MIDTOWN MOBILE
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to be the hands of Our Lord.