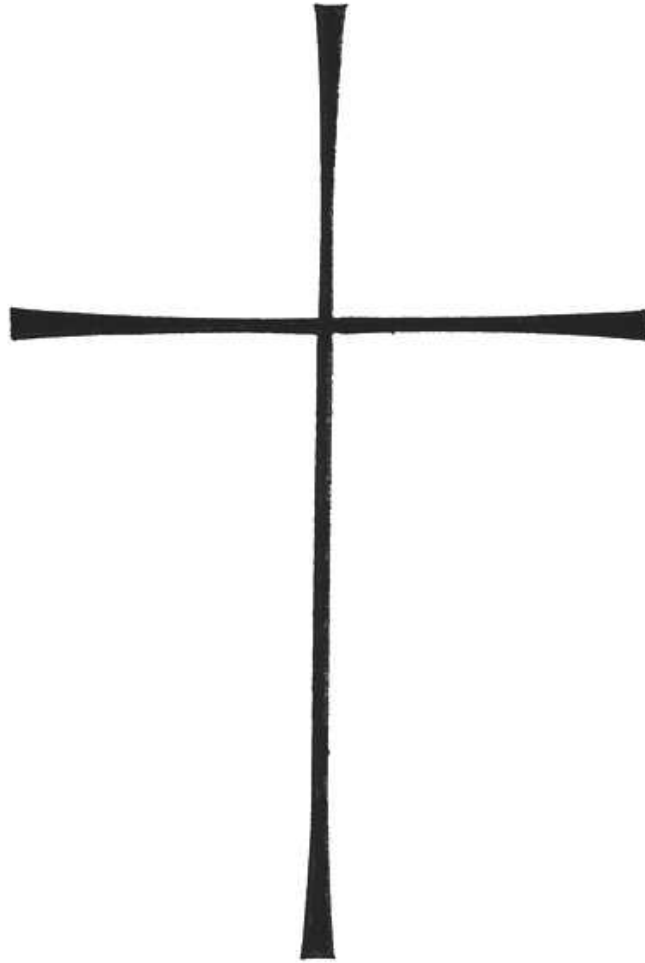


# SAINT JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING



CALENDAR YEAR 2007

10 FEBRUARY 2008

UPDATED: 12 FEBRUARY 2008

1707 GOVERNMENT STREET

MOBILE, ALABAMA 36604

251-479-5474

[www.stjohnsmobile.org](http://www.stjohnsmobile.org)

## AGENDA

1. Appointment of a Clerk for the meeting – Paula M. Ross
2. Reports
  - a. Reports from Organizations in the parish
    - i. Supper Club & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Lunch Bunch – p. 3
    - ii. Daughters of the King – p. 3
    - iii. Episcopal Church Women – p. 3
    - iv. Acolytes – p. 4
    - v. Altar Guild – p. 4
    - vi. Sunday School – p. 5
    - vii. Education for Ministry (EFM) – p. 5
    - viii. Lay Eucharistic Ministers, Lay Eucharistic Visitors, and Readers – p. 6
  - b. Report from the Living Endowment Fund board – p. 6
  - c. Reports from Vestry Officers
    - i. Senior-Junior Warden – p. 7
    - ii. Treasurer – p. 10
  - d. Rector's Report – p. 12
3. Open Question & Answer
4. Adjournment

## **SAINT JOHN'S SUPPER CLUB & 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY LUNCH BUNCH**

Our Supper club has gotten together about eight times this year, being hosted and co-hosted by those that would like to participate in our homes. We have had an average of 15 to 30 folks at these gatherings. Lots of good food, great fellowship, and just getting to know each other in a different setting has been great for St. John's. Everyone is invited. Just look for the announcement, and let the hostess know, and come join in the fellowship.

The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Lunch Bunch meets every 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday, usually going to lunch after the service in a restaurant nearby. There are usually about 12 to 20 of us. This is a good time for those that would normally go home or go to a restaurant and eat alone. Come join us anytime. We really have a good time..good food, and you cannot beat the fellowship.

-- PAULA M. ROSS, COORDINATOR

## **DAUGHTERS OF THE KING**

The R.H. Wilmer Chapter of the Daughters of the King meet t he second Monday of the month at noon. The following are officers: Joyce Lee, president; Loraine Murray, vice-president; Pat Thomas, treasurer; Alice Schablinski.

In addition to the officers, the following are regular members of the chapter: Neva Bache, Frances Bridges, Dana Escobio, Marie Brown, Leah Betts, Murray Benson, Sonja Hauge, Joanne Saucier, Donna Waites.

Our purpose is prayer and service.

--JOYCE LEE

## **EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN**

This has been a very good year for the ECW. It has been exciting, lots of work has been done, and so many have participated in many of our projects. We meet the first Wednesday of the month, in the parish hall, at 11:00 a.m., and this time seems to be good for us. Most of us are retired. There have been lots of things going on, and I would just like to mention a few things that we have done this year:

Hosted nine receptions

Donated 12 Prayer Books to honor our past ECW Presidents

Acquired Bibles for our Sunday School

Cleaned upstairs Sunday School rooms, and made a chapel  
upstairs

Cleaned, organized and literally moved from one end of the  
parish hall to the other for our Women's room.

Purchased a new refrigerator for the kitchen  
Had two rummage sales (made over \$2,800)  
Had one bake-less sale (made over \$900)  
Gave monetary gifts to several outreach organizations  
Furnished food to several members of our congregation  
.....plus endless other things that we felt needed to be done,  
And that our budget would allow.

Our purpose is to get to know each other better, to help each other when in need, and to help Father Thomas and St. John's in any way that we can. We have had a good year – we have worked hard – we have enjoyed ourselves – and we look forward to another year.

Thank you, men and women, for all that you have done to make this a great year.

-- PAULA M. ROSS, ECW PRESIDENT

## **ACOLYTES**

This has been quite an active year for the few, but proud, acolytes of St. Johns. After adjusting to several interim priests during the year, we welcomed Father Thomas Heard to our sanctuary. Under his leadership, we have learned a new style of worship and service that has been a welcome and exciting change to the service liturgy. As always, our primary mission is to support the priest in the execution of the Eucharist and other liturgical services. Alana, Sam and Megan have served this church very well over the past year and I am very grateful for their patience with the changes and their willingness to serve this parish. I think all will agree that our liturgy is more enhanced with the addition of crucifers, torch bearers, and attendants.

Since we are so few, it goes without saying we could use more help. Both children and adults can serve and Ron Brown and David Thompson have served several times as adult acolytes. We do need more, and not just on Sunday service. The weekday and special services would all be enhanced with the addition of an acolyte. If interested, please contact Father Heard or myself.

-- GEORGE F. RALPH

## **ALTAR GUILD**

We have had a very fruitful year with the addition of 9 new members, which by the way includes two men. Everyone has stepped up to the challenge and we are moving forward. There are new and better methods of performing our tasks and we look forward to even more changes.

I would like to introduce you to these fine people who came to the Church's rescue when we most needed them: Connie & Bob Anderson, Marie Brown and Lorraine Murray, Betty & George Taylor, Cindy Gass & Audrey Garner, and Kim Partsch who got stuck with me for her partner.

Serving on the Altar Guild is a very important part of our worship service and we all take pride in what we do.

--SONJA HAUGE

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

This past and current Sunday School for children and young adults has been a challenge. It has not been a problem of material support as there has been abundant help and assistance there. The several of Women of the Church stepped forward last year and not only cleaned up the upstairs school rooms, but new supplies and bibles were purchased. There are extra funds available to purchase more materials if needed. For this, I am very grateful.

No, our core problem is participation. We have an active group learning about the role of the church in Christian work and worship, and another group that meets intermittently studying the Bible and Episcopal Church worship. Attendance varies widely and it has been a struggle to keep everyone up to date. Scott Escobio and I are the primary teachers and we are both not able to attend every Sunday. What is needed are more teachers to help with the classes and parental support to get the children to church on a regular basis.

After this school season has finished, I think the parish needs to take a hard look at the Sunday School program and see if it wishes it to continue and if so, in what form. I will be the first to admit I am not doing a very good job leading the program as it is an area I have little experience. Perhaps a new leader and new direction will invigorate the program.

-- GEORGE F. RALPH

## **EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY**

The Education for Ministry extension course was created by the University of the South Theology Department at Sewanee, Tennessee. It is a college level study of the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures, Christian Church History and Contemporary Theologies. The classes are held once a week at Saint John's in the EFM room from 5:30-8:00PM, September through May.

An average of three to four hours of study each week is needed to do EFM justice. The mentor does not teach the material; she facilitates and encourages discussion, differences and dialogue. She also leads Theological Reflections the second half of each session to put what the students read into practice.

As of May 2008, 36 students will have taken part or all of EFM at Saint John's. Also, as of that date, there have been 25 students who completed the course. Twelve of the 25 have been members of Saint John's when they graduated.

I have mentored the Saint John's EFM study since 1994 and will complete 13 years as of May 2008. This will be my last year as mentor.

Nothing I have done as "church work" has given me such satisfaction and inspiration. I have enjoyed every minute of it and am grateful that the Lord opened up this path for me.

--JOAN-MARIE ELAM

## **LAY EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS, LAY EUCHARISTIC VISITORS AND READERS**

Our group is small, but totally committed to doing our best. We all feel very honored to be able to serve. Our responsibility is taken very seriously. We are available to read, chalice and take home communion to members of our congregation when called upon. We feel, and hope, that we contribute to our worship service.

There have been some changes this year. We have added some readers. We also have increased our number of Lay Eucharistic Visitors who bring communion to the homes of shut-ins or parishioners whose health will not allow them to come to church. These Lay Eucharistic Visitors have been trained and are dedicated to making available the sacraments that have been blessed at Christ's altar. Many of our shut-ins are now receiving communion at least every six weeks. We are excited about this, and take this very seriously also.

If this is a ministry that you are interested in, please talk with Father Heard.

-- PAULA M. ROSS, COORDINATOR

## **SAINT JOHN'S LIVING ENDOWMENT FUND**

Good Morning: Many of you have not heard from me with news from our fund since my rotation off the board in July 2005. I have good news or bad news depending on your perspective, your Vestry has re-elected me to the Board and the Board members have elected me as their chair. The other board members are Sonja Hauge, Connie McLain, David Thompson and newly elected to the Board, Bill Duke. Your Priest and Senior Warden are also ex-officio members.

For all of us, let me review a brief history of the fund which was initialized with a resolution and funding from your Vestry in July 2004. The original contribution of \$180,000.00, described as "all of the funds of record that were given to St. John's over the past years that were intended to be retained and their earnings used to sustain St. Johns" was and is presently invested with the Episcopal Church Foundation funds which is managed by State Street Global Advisors who are charitable assets managers. Income from our Endowment is divided 80% paid to St. John's and 20% reinvested into the Endowment until the fund maximizes at \$5,000,000.00 at which time 100% of the income will be paid to St. John's. The 80% presently being paid to St. Johns was initially intended to be used as "outreach" within our community and the world.

In addition to the initial funding from the Vestry and the 20% re-investment from the fund, contributions have been made from members of our Parish in memorandum of individuals. These contributions total \$1,875.00.

The fund has produced approximately \$15,000 since the initial funding and I can report to you that the fund balance as of 12/31/2007 is \$219,644.39. Some of the \$15,000 has been spent on "OUTREACH", as originally intended and some funds have been spent maintaining our parish stability through some very difficult times. I believe that we have turned the corner. Please note that your Vestry has adopted a budget that projects over \$6,500 to be spent on Outreach during the calendar year 2008.

In closing, let me relate a conversation that I had this past week with a business partner that I'll call "Bob" (not his real name), I say: "I'm getting a little jammed up, I have to find some time to write a report on our endowment fund for the annual parish meeting coming up on Sunday". Bob inquires: "what is your endowment fund". I responded as to how our endowment began and how we, your Vestry and Board, envisioned spending the income on "Outreach" with our notion that "Outreach" was the long term solution to our diminishing Parish numbers. I also added: " if you are feeling benevolent, we have a provision that for gifts of \$25,000 or more, we'll let you name the special gift fund thereby ensuring your immortality forever". Bob responds: "if you are serious, what is Outreach?" I am totally unprepared, but I try to explain that outreach is monies spent on people and projects outside of our parish but in service of our community and the world, people less fortunate without judgment as to the reasons for their neediness. Projects like Ronald McDonald House, Home of Grace for Women, Woodcock School, and the like. "Bob" inquires as to some numbers, how much does it take to run a parish, how much do you spend on outreach. I answer with our approximate numbers and "Bob" thinks they are a little small for our numbers and then I explain our contribution to the Diocese and he seems satisfied with our propionate spending. It gets a little quite and then "Bob" asks, "Why do you do this outreach, do you think that this is 'Christian Living?'" and I respond with: "**I believe that it is!**"

-- HOWARD YEAGER, CHAIRPERSON

## **SENIOR-JUNIOR WARDEN ANNUAL REPORT**

The year 2007 was vital in the history of St John's. In addition to hiring the 16<sup>th</sup> rector, a new Organist/Choir Director and Financial Secretary, St. Johns' saw growth in attendance and increased activity by its membership.

In January, we hired a new Organist/Choir Director, John Hobbs, who came to us from St. Paul's, Foley. John brought with him the love of his profession as organist, the knowledge of liturgical music, as well as a grounded and broad knowledge of the Episcopal Church, including the history of Episcopal churches in Mobile and Baldwin Counties.

We continued our search for a new rector through the winter and spring months, with Father Ellis Wilkins leading services and performing duties for St. John's as interim rector. Father Wilkins ended his interim ship with us in February. A gala reception was held in the Great Hall where we presented him and his wife Virginia gifts of our appreciation for his fifteen months of service with us, and thanks for leading us during this time in our church life.

We called Father David Powers to perform services for us and he extended his stay by being our second interim rector from April thru June 30<sup>th</sup>. During his interim ship, the altar was moved to a freestanding position, and other changes were made enhancing our worship service.

Exterior light fixtures were refitted with new energy fluorescent lamps. Window blinds were replaced in the Nursery. The old office copier in the choir room was repaired for use by the choir director. A leaking water pump in the heating/cooling system was repaired. The church office was improved by moving the large storage cabinet to a side wall, converting the interior to adjustable shelves, swapped out the metal desk for a wood desk. The solid wood entrance door into the

Rectors office was converted to a half-glass door. The interior plaster wall was painted. The sink faucet in the Sacristy was replaced.

The Vestry approved a walk-thru by the Mobile Fire Marshall to inspect our facilities and make recommendations if needed. The result was to clear all stairwells and remove excess materials that were determined to be a fire hazard. Numerous people worked to complete this task and clean and reorganize out facilities.

The ECW moved from a single room adjacent to Thee Store to the end of downstairs hallway into a double room, vacating the single room for Thee Store use. The large cabinet was moved to the new room, and was painted by the junior warden and helpers. The rolling metal shelves were moved into this room for storage use. The old Rummage room was converted for chair and table storage.

Members of St. John's mourned the passing of Wendy Klopfenstein, the Organist/Choir Director for 18 years. A memorial service was held for her at Christ Church Cathedral in April, commemorating her long service to the Episcopal Church and to the local artistic community.

The Episcopal Church Women (ECW) conducted a Rummage Sale on Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup>. The event went well and all unsold items were donated to local charitable organizations.

St. John's held a special service on May 17<sup>th</sup> for the Celebration of the Ascension of Jesus Christ. Father Powers and John Hobbs invited over thirty local clergy, as well as additional members to the choir. The service was a huge success, being well attended by those invited and church members.

The portrait of Dr. Tucker and Fr. Klopfenstein were swapped, and a portrait of Wendy donated by the ECW was placed in the great hall. The swivel spotlights were repositioned and new ones installed to illuminate the portraits. Framed photos of the rector and all vestry members were hung in the parish hallway.

In June, the Vestry gave approval to hire Mrs. Lella Lowe as financial secretary. She is the bookkeeper and a communicant of Church of the Redeemer. She immediately went to work creating and organizing the computer files and finances. Once these tasks were completed and statements sent out for the first half of the year, she set about gathered information for an outside audit conducted in October. The auditor returned a favorable report.

The annual visit by the Right Reverend Philip M. Duncan, Bishop Central Gulf Coast Diocese, was on June 10<sup>th</sup>. His visit with the Vestry and Search Committee was both fruitful and informative.

New light fixtures were donated and installed on the brick sign in front of the church, making it more visible and easier to read. The lights illuminating the front of the church were also replaced and there is more work to be done on this project to better illuminate our church entrance and sign.

The Search Committee met with a prospective applicant for Rector, and soon after, the committee presented to the vestry the name of Father Thomas K. Heard as their recommendation

for our next Rector. The Vestry approved his hiring, and Father Thomas accepted the call to be the sixteenth Rector.

Father Heard conducted his first service as Rector of St. John's on August 5<sup>th</sup>. A reception to greet him and his wife Cheryl followed in the great hall. Those attending expressed their enthusiasm to him and his wife about his new ministry with us.

During the summer and fall months, Father Thomas worked with the Vestry leading meetings, organizing and establishing new committees to review and conduct the church's business and functions, conducted educational classes for adults, and performed services on Sundays, Wednesday mornings, Major Feasts and other Holy Days.

In October, repairs to the courtyard wall of the Parish House that was sinking were made and future irrigation and communication conduits were installed under the covered walkway sidewalk being replaced between the buildings. The water heater blew out and was replaced. The furnace pump developed a leak and had to be replaced, as well. The noisy fan motor on the great hall air handler was repaired with new bearings. Incandescent lamps throughout the parish hall were replaced with new energy fluorescent lamps. New restroom signs were installed in the parish house hallway.

A Celebration of New Ministry for Father Thomas Heard as rector of St. John's was held on Monday, November 5<sup>th</sup>. The Right Reverend Philip M. Duncan presided over the service, and The Very Reverend Ronald Clingenpeel, Dean of Christ Church Cathedral in St. Louis, was the preacher, and spoke of his long friendship with the Heard's. Over 125 attended the service, including priests from throughout the Diocese and local ministers, rabbis, and pastors from Mobile and Baldwin counties. The choir was enhanced by members from other local Episcopal churches. An elegant reception by the ECW followed the service in the great hall to honor Father Thomas for his ministry with us.

The Bishop's Christmas Luncheon for Retired Priests, Spouses and Widows was held at St. John's on December 14<sup>th</sup>, with 30-plus in attendance. The ECW went all out for this event, making it a memorable event for those attending.

Choir members and others came to park cars for the annual GMAC Bowl fundraiser. The turnout was poor due to the city diverting traffic to other locations. Monies collected were donated to the general fund.

St. John's has been very blessed this past year with the addition of a Rector and Organist/Choir Director, with members participating in the revitalization of our community, church programs, and enhancing our mission to serve and work for the spread of God's kingdom. The actions of all those who have volunteered to work and given time individually and on committees to build and strengthen our worship, church community and fellowship are greatly appreciated by all members of St. John's.

May St. John's continue to receive the blessing of Our Lord in all that we say and do in His name, and may his perpetual light continue to shine down on us.

--JAMES CHRISTIANSEN, SENIOR WARDEN & PAT PRITCHARD, JUNIOR WARDEN

# TREASURER'S REPORT – CINDY GASS

*St. John's Episcopal Church*  
**Income and Expense Statement (UNAUDITED)**  
 January 2007 - December 2007

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	Current Period	Year to Date Budget	YTD Budget Difference
<b>INCOME</b>			
CONTRIBUTION INCOME			
PLATE & PLEDGE	\$141,123.51	\$134,444.00	\$6,679.51
OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS - UNR	7,328.87	3,870.00	3,458.87
DONOR RESTRICTED	24,160.26	0.00	24,160.26
Subtotal Contribution Income	172,610.64	138,314.00	34,296.64
INTEREST INCOME	13,451.32	7,200.00	6,251.32
MISCELLANEOUS INCOME	9,340.15	10,000.00	-659.85
RELEASE FROM RESTRICTIONS			
TEMP RESTRICTED RELEASE	-31,250.01	0.00	-31,250.01
RELEASED FROM RESTRICTION	31,250.01	3,920.00	27,330.01
Subtotal Release From Restrictions	0.00	3,920.00	-3,920.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>195,402.11</b>	<b>159,434.00</b>	<b>35,968.11</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
FIXED EXPENSES			
PASTORAL STAFF	\$44,470.39	\$44,853.20	-\$382.81
SUPPORT STAFF	48,401.25	49,333.00	-931.75
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE	27,668.36	29,619.00	-1,952.64
BUILDING & GROUNDS	27,742.56	28,293.00	-550.44
VEHICLES	861.84	800.00	61.84
FURNITURE & FIXTURES	76.69	1,000.00	-923.31
Subtotal Fixed Expenses	149,219.09	153,898.20	-4,679.11
DEPARTMENTS/COMMITTEES			
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	284.58	750.00	-465.42
MUSIC	3,721.05	1,300.00	2,421.05
STEWARDSHIP	10,595.92	12,100.00	-1,504.08
RECREATION	479.20	500.00	-20.80
MINISTRY EXPENSE	2,733.84	2,500.00	233.84
Subtotal Departments/committees	17,814.59	17,150.00	664.59
OTHER EXPENSES			
CONVENTIONS & SEMINARS	840.80	733.00	107.80
RECTOR SEARCH	9,643.11	9,684.00	-40.89
DESIGNATED FUND EXPENDITURE	25,121.63	0.00	25,121.63
Subtotal Other Expenses	35,605.54	10,417.00	25,188.54
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>202,639.22</b>	<b>181,465.20</b>	<b>21,174.02</b>
<b>EXCESS INCOME/EXPENSES</b>	<b>-\$7,237.11</b>	<b>-\$22,031.20</b>	<b>\$14,794.09</b>

St. John's Episcopal Church  
Balance Sheet (UNAUDITED)  
December 2007 - Abbreviated

02/04/2008 10:55 AM

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	Current Year
<b>ASSETS</b>	
BANK ACCOUNTS	
CHECKING ACCOUNTS	\$86,065.37
SAVINGS ACCOUNTS	2,918.19
Subtotal Bank Accounts	68,983.56
INVESTMENTS	367,521.84
OTHER ASSETS	13,350.30
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$449,855.70</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>	
CURRENT LIABILITIES	
PAYROLL	\$3,350.06
PASS THRU CONTRIBUTIONS	10.00
Subtotal Current Liabilities	3,360.06
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>3,360.06</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	
UNRESTRICTED	\$97,880.97
DONOR RESTRICTED	
TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	132,220.93
PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED	216,393.74
Subtotal Donor Restricted	348,614.87
TOTAL EQUITY	<u>446,495.64</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	<u><u>\$449,855.70</u></u>

## **RECTOR'S REPORT – THE REVEREND THOMAS HEARD**

I look at the calendar and have a hard time believing that I have been in Mobile for six months already! I guess it must be true: we've had the Season after Pentecost, Advent, Christmas, Epiphany and now it is Lent. Oh, let's not forget *Mardi Gras*! All the same, it's hard to believe that it's been this long.

Perhaps I need to take that apart for you: from the very first day, you have extended a welcome worthy of Saint Luke to Cheryl and me and it doesn't seem like it will stop any time soon. The ECW, Vestry, Search Committee and many individuals have worked really hard to help ease the transition to Mobile from New York and Saint Louis. All through our time together, we've been busy getting to know each other, discovering what we're about, but most importantly, we have been worshipping together and working together. It is that common life that bonds us to one another, the common life we are called to as sisters and brothers in Our Lord.

I believe that it is the regular and intentional practice of prayer and worship that strengthens the bonds between us and all Christians and all people. I believe that it is our practice of reading scripture, of praying the Psalms, and of common worship that opens more and more to the moving and working of the Holy Spirit, that instructs us and informs us how to be the hands of Christ in the world.

You see, my arrival at Saint John's is about change. It is about changing the patterns that have held Saint John's prisoner to its self. Some of the change is easy to recognize. The church calendar now has Morning Prayer on Monday through Friday. We observe the saints days appointed by the prayer book. Our Sunday liturgies are conducted with reverence and decorum, but they're also not the same week after week and are supposed to be fun.

We have a new website that is frequently updated, and shows the calendar of coming events at Saint John's. The rota for those who help out with the liturgy is posted there as are the lectionary readings. I have posted many of my sermons there as well. All of this is part of an effort to increase our mutual communication, but also to reach out to the Mobile community and draw new members from it.

Your vestry has taken significant steps in the budget for 2008 to move Saint John's toward being a parish where the Gospel is alive in part in the budget. This is a first step – a step that will have to be followed-up next year. In addition, the vestry has organized the parish into standing committees to handle the affairs of the church with continuity and vision. This is a place where each of you may be needed to put your energy, brain power and love of Saint John's to work.

Finally, we are at a turning point for Saint John's. We have energy, involvement, passion, and love for Saint John's. Those alone will not keep the doors open or the lights on without an infusion of new blood in our community. I dream of seeing the nave filled to overflowing, to have to add a second or third service. That would be a great problem to have.

But it isn't really about the numbers. It is about our spreading the Gospel of Our Lord to people around us, sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ and his message of salvation with the people of Mobile and the world.