



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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November 2011

FROM THE RECTOR:

Dear Ones,

I write this from our hotel room in Steamboat Springs, Colorado. We overnighted in Denver and attended worship at Saint Andrew's before driving on to Steamboat. Saint Andrew's is the second parish founded in Denver and took up the Anglo-Catholic tradition in the 1950s. Twenty of the men of Saint Andrew's were on retreat and we were treated to the women of the choir with some incredible singing of the Psalm and Offertory. The Rector gave a sermon founded in the lections and calling us to wrestle with the theme of what it means to "love our neighbor."

The reading from Leviticus omitted several verses that you heard at Saint John's. I elected to include these precisely because of the included directions about how the people of Israel should harvest their wheat and grapes. Did you notice that the margins of the wheat were to be left unharvested and some of the grapes to be left on the vine? This direction was provided so that Israel would intentionally leave produce in the fields for "the poor and the sojourner" among them. There follows a re-cap of some of the Commandments, dealing with relationship with members of the community.

There is a theme at the very beginning of the Old Testament reading that seldom gets treatment: "You shall be holy; because I the Lord your God am holy."

We are called to holiness through our actions; everything that we do is a reflection of our creator, our God. How we act in our everyday life speaks to who we are as Children of God and followers of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus' life and ministry was characterized by his self-emptying giving and inclusion of those who had been cast aside by 1st century society. The poor, tax collectors, the infirm, the possessed, lepers and prostitutes: people who were simply trying to eke out an existence by whatever means they were able. People who were simply dealing with the hand that life had dealt to them.

What Jesus did was to give of himself from the abundance of grace that God had showered upon him.

By our baptism, we are called to do the same. In every day and in every way, it is our obligation, as citizens of the Kingdom of God, to do precisely the same.

What does that mean to each and every one of us? It means, simply, that we give from the abundance that God has given us to further the coming of the Kingdom of God, in any way that we are able.

It is my hope that each of us is called to think about our giving to the work of the Church as a tithe. I want us to think about this as giving from our "first fruits" rather than from what we have "left over." We may be tempted to view Israel's leaving the margins of their fields and some grapes left on the vine as leftovers; I invite you to think about it from the opposite perspective. While Israel necessarily needed to harvest their crops, what they did was give to the poor and sojourners from their first fruits, not from the leftovers.

We have been so greatly gifted by God, and our own work, with a great abundance. I think it is our responsibility and obligation to be like the people of Israel and give from our first fruits rather than from what we have left over.

I think it is because God calls us "to be holy; as I the Lord your God am holy" that we must respond from our abundance, rather than from what we find at the margins of our fields.

Being holy is part of who we are as followers of the Christ, as believers in the God of creation. We are to be stewards of the bounty that God has granted us, and to contribute to and work for the fullness of the fully realized Kingdom of God.

-- Thomas

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NOVEMBER LITURGICAL CALENDAR

All Saints' Day – 1 November

Adopted by the Roman Catholic Church in the 9th century, the Feast of All Saints' might have originated in Ireland and spread through the British Isles and to the continent. A commemoration of all who had professed faith in Christ and had given their lives for it and were felt to be in communion with Christians everywhere is found in the writings of Gregory Thaumaturgus from about 270. All Saints' is a Principal Feast of the church, one of only seven that takes precedence over a Sunday. The 1979 Prayer Book recommends All Saints' as one of four days that are particularly appropriate for the administration of the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

All Souls' Day – 2 November

The day following All Saints' is known as All Souls' or All Faithful Departed. This day recalls the body of all faithful Christians who have risen to new life in Christ. It is a day for remembering family and friends and members of a parish who have died in the preceding year. All Souls' lost favor in the Reformation due to the abuses connected with the practice of saying Masses for the dead. A renewed understanding of All Souls' led to its acceptance amongst Anglicans.

Margaret of Scotland – 16 November

At about the time of The Great Schism, Margaret, Queen of Scotland, was working to change what she considered to be lazy and old-fashioned practices. She restored the observance of Lent on Ash Wednesday (not the following Monday) and reinstated the Roman rite in Latin (not in "that barbarous dialect"). Margaret was English by birth, but came to Scotland as the bride of King Malcolm. She also applied her energies to establishing schools, orphanages, and hospitals. She died in 1093 and is buried in Dumfermline Abbey.

Clement of Rome – 23 November

Early tradition holds that Clement was a disciple of the Apostles and third Bishop of Rome. He is believed to be the author of a letter in about 96 from Rome to the church in Corinth. This letter is known as "First Clement" and is included in "The Apostolic Fathers" collection. Clement's primary concern was about order and succession. He carefully gives us the origin of bishops and deacons: "[The Apostles] appointed their first converts, after testing them by the Spirit, to be the bishops and deacons of future believers."

Thanksgiving Day

Falling on 25 November this year, Thanksgiving shares the commonality of agricultural festivals with many religions. None of these feasts were included in our Prayer Book until the Continental Congress established the Day of National Thanksgiving. Its roots are found in the observances of the Massachusetts and Virginia colonies.

Saint Andrew – 30 November

The Feast of Saint Andrew is the first feast in the liturgical year, most often falling after the First Sunday of Advent. Andrew is most commonly remembered as the brother of Simon Peter, but this overlooks his special gifts to Jesus' companions. Andrew was first a disciple of John the Baptist, one of two who left to follow Christ after John pointed out Jesus with the words, "Behold the Lamb of God." Andrew, the first missionary, sought out his brother and brought him to Jesus. He was the disciple who brought the boy with the fishes and loaves to Jesus for the feeding of the multitude. Eusebius' writings tell us that Andrew went to Scythia. Legend holds that he was martyred by pagans and crucified on an X-shaped cross. This is seen in the flag of Scotland, honoring its patron saint.



CORINNE N. "PING" DUKE

4 April 1934 – 23 September 2011

Our sister, Ping Duke, entered into new life on Friday, 23 September 2011. For the past couple of years, Ping struggled with Alzheimer's disease and some physical issues. I always liked talking with her; she loved to travel and loved to talk about the places that she and Bill had been. She could make you feel like you had been on the trip with them. Maybe the only thing she loved as much as Bill and daughter, Deborah, was swimming in the Gulf off Dauphin Island. It was hard on everyone to see her health decline. About six months ago, her physical condition deteriorated such that she required full-time nursing care. Bill, Deborah and I were with her when she left us. We scattered her ashes in the Gulf; she can swim wherever she wants to now. A life-long Episcopalian has gone home to her Lord.



Vestry

VESTRY SUMMARY

The regular meeting of the Vestry was convened on 9 October 2011 at 11:30AM. Connie McLean was excused from being present due to her duties with Bay Fest 2011.

Butch Yeager reported that Outreach has not formally met recently, but projects continue. Janet Buckley added that a Bay Area Food Bank work day is being planned.

Fr. Heard reported that Stewardship will use bulletin inserts titled *Feasting on Abundance* for the weeks preceding Commitment Sunday on 20 November.

Butch Yeager reported that the Endowment board has not yet met to elect new officers.

Fr. Heard reported that Sam Escobio is beginning his detail planning for his Eagle Scout Service Project. This project will include the installation of an irrigation system in the garden, general clean-up as well as re-sodding as necessary.

Fr. Heard also reported that the 1700 Church Street property now has unencumbered title and that Randy Delchamps is pursuing demolition permit approval. He asked the vestry for approval to proceed with the acquisition and demolition on the condition that the appropriate approvals and permits have been received from the city. The motion passed.

Fr. Heard reported that the Bylaws Committee will have working copies for the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30PM.



Outreach

LOAVES & FISH TEAM NEEDS NEW BLOOD

Saint John's outreach project of serving lunch once a month at Loaves & Fish is into its 21st year! And Tina Cieutat, Chairman, has been on the team all that time. Let's give the girl a break...she needs help.

By the time you drive downtown, park right next to the 15 Place building, serve lunch to approximately 125 hungry people and drive back home...you have given a couple hours of the Lord's work.

Tina says she has recruited family members lately but would appreciate other Saint John's folks getting involved. "I enjoy it myself and I feel very comfortable doing it. The meal is already prepared by the time we get there and it goes very efficiently," Tina says. "I feel safe doing it and the people we serve are so friendly and thankful."

The umbrella group 15 Place gives people an address they can use for mail, shower facilities and laundry equipment to use. There are no living spaces.

Father Heard has joined the team from time to time, and he commends it as a safe, effective way to get familiar with the homeless situation in Mobile.

Do you have a couple of hours a month you could give? Call Tina at 438-1302 or speak with her after Sunday services. You'll have to be open to one of Tina's big hugs, but that's not so bad either.

Joan-Marie Elam

NOMINATIONS FOR VESTRY & CONVENTION DELEGATES

Please contact a member of your nominating committee—[Bill Duke](#), [Connie McLean](#), and [Bill Sundie](#)—or Fr. Thomas if you are interested (or know someone who is interested) in running for vestry or diocesan convention delegate. Elections will be held at a parish meeting on Sunday, December 4 in the Nave after Mass.



FOOD DRIVE AND VOLUNTEERING AT THE FOOD BANK



As part of our continuing ministry with the Bay Area Food Bank; we are scheduled to **volunteer** at the Food Bank on **Saturday December 3rd** (8:30 to Noon). Our volunteer work will involve sorting and categorizing food donations and/or other

tasks the staff needs done.

The food barrels are up in the Great Hall: we are hoping to break our Lenten drive donation record of 400 pounds of food. So whether you donate one can, two cans, or a case of cans, it is all going to a good cause.

There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. The Bay Area Food Bank is located at 5248 Mobile South Street in Theodore. We will organize a car pool from the church or you can meet us out there.

After our volunteer experience we will go back to Janet's house and have lunch on the Bay.



FOURTH SUNDAY POT LUCKS

Starting out as a Parish Life project and then taken over by the ECW (after all, they were doing the work!!) these events have become an anticipated part of our St. John's calendar.



We'll be taking a break from our fourth Sunday meals for the next two months: the fourth Sunday in November falls on Thanksgiving weekend and one more meal event is probably not what anyone really wants that weekend!

In December, the fourth Sunday is Christmas day: again, not a time that many will be willing or able to bring a pot luck dish to church with them. The **Parish Christmas Party on December 18th** will be our meal together for December.

These meals have been a chance for many of us to sit and share conversation with others; get to know our newer members; spend time with those we only see on Sundays; and, of course, share good food.

We'll pick up again in January...what are you bringing?



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS OCTOBER 8, 2011 SAINT JOHN'S COURTYARD





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

Audrey Meador

Delayne Banks
Mrs. Tom Banks
Mr. & Mrs. Lynn Griffin
Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Bethune
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Norton
Mr. & Mrs. Buddy Braswell
Olivia Vacalis Oliver
Althea Fort Vacalis

Bill Southall

Bob & Paula Ross
Eugene & Emily Johnston
Ben Schmerbauch
Matt & Marjorie Mattoon
Lionel & Ruby Noonan
Neva Bache
Joyce Lee
Curtis & Cindy Gass
Will and Joan Marie Elam
Milton J. Bolling
LaVerne Foster
Matred & Stephen Foster
William & Maria Carpenter
Butch & Irene Yeager
Bud & Connie McLean
Jim & Camilla Ryan
Betty Blakeney & Nick Blakeney
Order of Juno
Audrey Garner
James Christiansen
Thelma Lomers
Bob & Connie Anderson
Mr. M. D. David, Jr. & Dr. L. E. Davis
Corinne Faust
L. R. & Martha Epperson

Ping Duke

Eugene & Emily Johnston
Bud & Connie McLean
Bill Duke

See how far your dollar can go when you donate during the Matching Gift Challenge!

Donations already go a long way with Episcopal Relief & Development – both figuratively (92% of every dollar donated goes to sustain vital programs) and literally (sometimes to communities half-way around the world).

But now, **through November 30**, you can make your gift go even further by donating during Episcopal Relief & Development's Matching Gift Challenge. Donations to all funds – online, by phone or by mail – will be matched dollar-for-dollar up to **\$500,000**, thanks to a group of extraordinarily generous donors.

The matching contribution for each gift will be designated for the Global Needs fund, which sustains our work toward alleviating hunger, promoting health, creating economic opportunities and overcoming disaster.

To have your gift matched, simply make a donation between now and November 30. Making a gift to the Global Needs fund will ensure that your contribution will be used in the area of greatest need, though donations to any fund – including through the Gifts for Life catalog – will be matched.

Donations may be made online at <https://www.er-d.org/> or mail your donation to: P.O. Box 7058, Merrifield, VA 22116-7058

There is a copy of ERD's 2011-2012 *Gifts for Life* catalog in the church office. The catalog includes a variety of gifts that will help fight the effects of poverty and disease in communities around the globe, and for each gift purchased members of your church community will receive a gift card to personalize and send to friends and loved ones.



Look for high-impact gifts throughout the catalog to help not just individuals, but entire communities, to grow and flourish.

Elsewhere in the Diocese

Church of the Good Shepherd Annual Fall Festival Nov. 5

You are invited to be our special guest at The Church of the Good Shepherd's Annual Fall Festival, November 5 at 605 Donald Street Mobile, Alabama from 11am until 5pm. For entertainment we are planning a Talent Show featuring some of Mobile's best young step teams, praise teams, and line dances. For food, there will be Barbecued Ribs, Fried Fish, Polish Sausage, Hot Dogs, Candied Apples, Cotton Candy, Drinks, and baked goods. For the children, there will be games, face painting, a bouncie, a cake walk and other activities. We are looking forward to sharing this fun day with you. Call 452-9596 for more information.



SHOPPING

PHOTOS WITH SANTA
(PETS AND/OR KIDS WELCOME)

SUGAR PLUM SHOPPE
(KIDS SHOP FOR GIFTS FOR \$1 - FREE GIFT WRAPPING!)

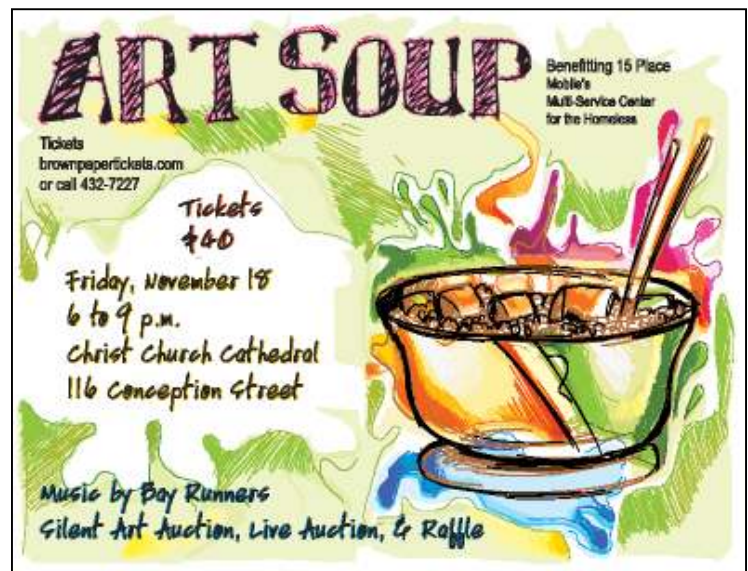
CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA!
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2011
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Episcopal Church of the Redeemer
7125 Hitt Road, Mobile, AL (corner of Cody & Hitt)
251-639-1948 www.redeemerchristmasextravaganza.eventbrite.com

St. Paul's Thrift Shop 8th annual Holiday Shoppe Nov. 18-20

Kick off your holiday shopping at St. Paul's Thrift Shop's 8th Annual Holiday Shoppe! New and "gently used" treasures will be presented for sale, including Antiques/Collectibles, Religious items, Jewelry, Furniture, Ladies-Men-Children's Boutiques, Art Gallery, Seaside, Home and Holiday Décor, and many more surprises. Baked goods and other delicious homemade items will also be available. Great time to purchase your Thanksgiving desserts and goodies!

An exciting preview Gala will be held on Friday, November 18th from 6 to 8pm at the Life Center-St. Paul's, Daphne. Tickets are \$15.00 Advance/\$20 at the Door and go on sale starting Sunday, October 2nd at St. Paul's between church services or you may call 626-6102 for more information.



ART SOUP

Benefiting 15 Piece Mobile's Multi-Service Center for the Homeless

Tickets
brownpapertickets.com
or call 432-7227

Tickets
\$40

Friday, November 18
6 to 9 p.m.
Christ Church Cathedral
116 Conception Street

Music by Boy Runners
Silent Art Auction, Live Auction, & Raffle



Bayou Bash

ALL SAINTS EPISCOPAL CHURCH
PRESENTS THE 7TH ANNUAL

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12TH 6:00-10:00 P.M.

Food, music, and fun. Entertainment by Built Live & Silent Auctions!
Tickets: \$30. For more information, call 438-2492.

ALL PROCEEDS TO DIRECTLY BENEFIT: 3FN Family Promise | All Saints Refugee Families Fund | McKenna Place | 5 Place | 13Ridge | Alabama Arts | South Alabama Care | Education for Orphaned Ministry



Addison Fairley	11/04	Jennifer Tarantole	11/19
Rosalie Pritchard	11/04	Brian Pearce	11/21
Violet Kosko	11/07	Caitlin Bryan	11/22
Arthur Youngblood	11/09	Christopher Gass	11/22
Cindy Gass	11/11	Nikki Shaw	11/22
Betty Plash	11/12	Ray Campbell	11/28
Mayson Pritchard	11/12	Mildred Hamby	11/28
Denise Dunham	11/18	Kim Partsch	11/30



Emily & Eugene Johnston	11/05
Jessica & Jeff Dennis	11/10
Joan Marie & Will Elam	11/16
Marjorie & Roy Duhon	11/22
Pat & Jerry Fulford	11/23



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, Mae Dunn, Will Elam, Corinne Faust, Lois Hamby, Gwen Johnson, Nell Kirk, Violet Kosko, Margie Mattoon, Angela McGuire, Jane Tate Moore, Betty Plash, Mary Lou Varnes, 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:

Ben Frederick, Joy Russ, Andrea Murray, Paul & Bonnie Dueitt, Pam Sullivan, Cavin Balaster, Ronald Raines, Emily Steiner, Karen Mullen, Mary Fournier, David Jones, Anna Marie Brown, Jim Owens, John McCormick, Keith Malick, Gloria Berry, Travis McBride, Vernon Faulk, Velma Pearson, Betty & Gayle Chenoweth, Mark Stiber, Maddie West

Contact Us

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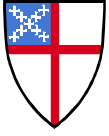
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Connie McLean

Nikki Shaw

Bill Sundie

Howard Yeager



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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; please
see our website for the latest schedule.

Parish Office

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9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

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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.