



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. XXII, Issue 3

March 2012

## FROM THE RECTOR:

Dear Ones,

As most of you have experienced, it has been a bit chilly in the church of late. It has reminded me of being in the great churches of England and Europe: they don't have any heat or air conditioning except what God provides!

To the good side of the ledger, this experience has saved us a bundle in natural gas usage; to the negative side, we have a significant expense to repair the problem.

We need to replace a pump that was installed with the building in 1956. The motor that operates the pump has been rebuilt before. Our pump is so special that its replacement has to be built for us. We should be seeing it around the beginning of March.

I hope you're beginning to get the idea that this is a significant expense. I don't know too many folks that can absorb an unplanned expense of \$2,700 without stumbling a little bit. On top of that, we've had \$1,800 of roof repair work done recently. We're soliciting bids to replace the ceilings that have been damaged because of the water leaks.

Someone wise said, "When it rains, it pours." (Whoever said that must've lived along the Gulf Coast.) Sometimes it seems like things conspire together to make life more difficult than it really needs to be. While we are having what seems like an unusual run on physical plant problems, we really haven't had many over the last 5 years.

Over the years with you, I've noticed an interesting phenomenon: When an unusual expense crops up, some one or ones comes forward to make special contributions to go toward covering the expense.

In the case of our pump, a donor came forward and presented a check for the full amount of the new pump and its installation.

Wow! I was bowled over by the generosity and coming forward to help us out. The donor and I have agreed that there will be no little brass plaque on it.

Over that past few years, we've had several "silent underwriters" for projects around the church. Recently, as the Vestry has just finished the budget for 2012, I've begun to think about what this means specifically for Saint John's and for the church as a whole.

Saint John's continues to operate with a deficit budget. This is made possible because we have reserve funds that have covered our cost overruns. The Vestry has been very careful and our actual performance has been better than we've projected, which means the reserves will last a bit longer.

What is not immediately obvious is that because we aren't able to completely cover the costs of operation, we haven't even considered doing something that isn't "absolutely necessary". Among these are our utilities, our diocesan contribution and our parish outreach budget. We've been reduced to approaching our common life from a position of scarcity, knowing that there's not enough to go around.

That seems like anathema to me. When we reflect on the abundance that God has showered on us through the centuries, it only follows that we should be promoting that abundance on God's behalf. After all, it isn't "ours" in the first place; it always belongs to God.

-- Thomas

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MARCH LITURGICAL CALENDAR

### Perpetua and her Companions

A young widow, mother and slave owner, Vibia Perpetua and two other catechumens were preparing for baptism in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century. The Roman emperor decreed that all people should make sacrifice to him; failure to do so was treated as treason. Perpetua and her companions were arrested and tried in a public hearing where she continued to declare, "I am a Christian." They were sent to the arena to be mauled by animals. They survived and were ultimately slain by the sword, although Perpetua had to guide the sword that caused her death. We will commemorate the witness of Perpetua and her Companions at our Wednesday Said Mass on 7 March at 10:00AM

### Saint Joseph

We will remember Joseph at a Said Mass at 12:10PM on Monday, 19 March. Joseph was a pious Jew. He is counted as a descendent of King David and a carpenter by vocation. Joseph is considered to be the patron saint of working men and women. What we know of him is that he trusted in God, even when what God asked was to be a challenge to his daily life.

### Thomas Ken, Bishop of Bath and Wells

Thomas Ken was born in 1637. His close relationship to the English royals began with his chaplain duties to Princess Mary of Orange. He spoke out publicly concerning her mistreatment by her husband. After returning to England to be chaplain to Charles II in 1683, he rebuked his king for his behavior. When James II took the throne in 1688 and attempted to undermine the authority of the Church of England, Ken was one of seven "non-juring" bishops who were imprisoned for refusing to read the king's Declaration of Indulgence. Thomas Ken is best known, however, for his writings. The hymn "All praise to thee, my God, this night" is found in our hymnal and concludes with his doxology, "Praise God from whom all blessings flow." We will commemorate Thomas Ken at our Wednesday Said Mass on 21 March at 10:00AM

### The Annunciation of Our Lord Jesus Christ

The Feast of the Annunciation of Our Lord Jesus Christ to the Blessed Virgin Mary will be celebrated on 26 March at 12:10PM. This celebration commemorates the visit of the angel Gabriel to Our Lady and her assent to God's request to be *Theotokos*, or God-bearer. Her answer, like that of Abraham, was "Let it be to me according to your word."

## Parish Life

### LENTEN SERIES

We will gather at 6:00PM on Wednesdays in Lent for a simple supper and short program. This year, we will conclude our meal together with a simple Eucharist in the Great Hall. Our program speakers will be:

- |      |   |
|------|---|
| 2/29 | Lyn Manz-Walters,<br>Loaves & Fish Ministries |
| 3/7  | Marilyn King,<br>Catholic Social Services     |
| 3/14 | Lisa Brown,<br>Winners/Winning<br>Solutions   |
| 3/21 | Joan Williams,<br>Penelope House              |
| 3/28 | Vicki Towers,<br>McKemie Place                |

### EASTER LILIES

Look for cards to sign up for Easter Lilies on Rose Sunday, which is the 4th Sunday in Lent, March 18.





## WINNING SOLUTIONS

Did you know...

650,000 prisoners are released back into society each year, of those two-thirds will return within three years of their release. In Mobile County, approximately 3,000 are released yearly, only to find very limited job and housing opportunities for those of ex-offender status. These limits placed on those of ex-offender status usually result in frustration, depression, loss of hope, and possible return into a life of crime and, eventually, return to prison.

Meet Winning Solutions....

Who is Winning Solutions? Winning Solutions is a new force in town, driving for change in our criminal justice system. What do they do? Winning Solutions helps ex-offenders, who want to redeem themselves in society, get a foothold by assisting in the areas of need, such as education and job development. Winning Solutions is a subsidiary of WINNERS Inc. in Irvington, a program that assists both female ex-offenders and female recovering addicts. However, Winning Solutions Ex-Offender Support Group, is open to both genders and their families, is at no cost,

and meets every Tuesday, here at St. John's Episcopal Church at 6pm. Some of the topics discussed are: companies that support and encourage positive progress of reformed offenders, job readiness, resume writing, current job vacancies in our area. The Winning Solutions Ex-Offender Support Group, is a positive, motivating force within the community, and an avenue of hope for those seeking help in re-entering society and the workforce, and getting a second chance at having a blessed, prosperous life. This operation is led by Lisa Brown, who is also executive director of WINNERS Inc., a women's transitional program in Irvington, Alabama, and a member of the newly established "Project H.O.P.E.," where she serves as housing subcommittee co-chair. The group welcomes visitors, and is currently seeking corporate mentors to speak and offer motivational tidbits to its members. The groups also welcomes and appreciates volunteer and sponsor support. For more information on Winning Solutions Ex-Offender Support Group and WINNERS Inc., contact them at 251-824-1585 or on the web at [www.winningbacklife.webs.com](http://www.winningbacklife.webs.com).

-Tamara T. Martin/AmeriCorps VISTA

## EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT



I have started working on the courtyard for my Eagle Project. For those who do not know what my Eagle Project is, I am replacing the bare patches in the courtyard with sod, installing an irrigation system, and putting in a small fountain as a water feature. I have found a particular design the vestry has founded to be well matched for the courtyard. The fountain costs \$570. If there is any housework that I could do or any donations would be greatly appreciated. You can make donations to the church directly, or contact me at 251.508.9968 (cell phone), or [sescobio1@yahoo.com](mailto:sescobio1@yahoo.com) (e-mail). Any support would be much appreciated. Thank you.

-Sam Escobio



## Vestry



### VESTRY SUMMARY

The regular meeting of the Vestry was held at 11:40 on 12 February. The minutes of the 12 December meeting were approved as submitted.

- Sam Escobio presented his plan for the renovation of and installation of an irrigation system for the courtyard garden. The vestry voted to use monies from the Garden Fund and seek contributions via an article in the newsletter.
- Cindy Gass presented a 2012 Budget. The budget reflects only minor expenditure increases in utilities and insurance. The budget was adopted.
- James Christiansen reported that roof repairs over the parlor have been completed at a cost of \$1780. He is seeking estimates to replace the ceiling in the parlor, the chapel, and the baptistery.
- Butch Yeager reported that the Endowment Board has met and elected Connie McLean as chair for the coming year.
- Fr. Heard reported that the 1700 Church St. property is still pending.
- In response to his request, the Vestry voted that Sunday, 25 March will be the date for the Annual Meeting of the Parish. This coincides with the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Potluck

The meeting was adjourned at 12:40PM.

Saint John's wishes to extend a sincere thank you to those who made memorial donations honoring Sebra L. Strong:

Chick & Dot Wohlert	Elizabeth Ladd
Bob & Connie Anderson	Estate of Sebra Strong
Joyce Lee	John Walton & Patsy Turner
M&B, Inc.	William & Sharon Burton
Eugene & Emily Johnston	L.A. T Sportswear
Bud & Connie McLean	Privett K Class
George & Leslie Mims	Jane C. Yance
Pelham Ladd & Family	Ron & Donna Waites
Charles & Julia Moore	



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

Paula Ross, Christopher Shine, Caitlyn Bryan, 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:**

Eric Mattoon, Cheryl Garner, Michael Brabner

#### **For our Friends and Family:**

LaBraughn Doorman, John Cranston, Herbert Trehern, Gabe Pippin, Mike, Katina & John Vallas, Tom Dabney, Steve & Muriel Donald, William & Barbara Dorsey, Erich Albrecht, Steven Garner, Joy Russ, Andrea Murray, Anna Marie Brown, Betty & Gayle Chenoweth, Mark Stiber, Maddie West, James Henry LeBatard [DEACON]



“The Episcopal Church in Haiti and CEDDISEC have helped many people to rise up and take steps forward toward healing and restored hope.”

Père Frantz (Fanfan) Cole

January 12, 2010, marked a new page in the history of the Haitian people. While two years have already passed, the consequences of this terrible earthquake are still present. Here in Haiti we are reminded each day of its effects, as we step outside our front doors and continue to see the destruction and debris.

Unfortunately, reconstruction is moving slowly; many people are still living in tents; and many more remain unemployed. Port-au-Prince is not the same Port-au-Prince that we knew in the past — so many buildings, homes, businesses and jobs have been destroyed.

It is very challenging for us to forget that moment — 4:53 p.m. It is a moment that is constantly in our minds.

Yet, as we participated in recent commemoration ceremonies, we were also constantly reminded that we are not alone. Through the action and collaboration of both Haitians and our international brothers and sisters, the Episcopal Church in Haiti and CEDDISEC have helped many people to rise up and take steps forward toward healing and restored hope.

CEDDISEC (Centre Diocésain de Développement Intégré et de Secours) — the relief and development arm of the Episcopal Church in Haiti — with the support of partners like Episcopal Relief & Development, has worked hard this past year to help people take both spiritual and physical steps toward healing and reconstruction. For example, through CEDDISEC’s Shelter Program, 1,240 individuals (265 families) left behind a precarious camp or living environment and moved into new homes. Further, over 1,000 individuals have been gainfully employed in the construction of these new homes.

## TWO YEARS LATER, MOVING TOWARD HOPE (HAITI)

Amelicia Elizee is one of these individuals. Since the quake, she had been living in a tent, which she had to pack up and move every few months as private and public spaces were forcefully cleared. In July, she shed tears of joy as she became a new homeowner in the urban center of Carrefour.

Similarly, Mme. Jean Heclair, formerly a trader and renter in Carrefour, found herself homeless and displaced. With four others, she lived in a tent she erected on family land in her hometown of Trouin, a rural community of Léogâne Commune. Today she, too, is a new homeowner, and also is rebuilding her business as a femme Sara (traditional Haitian rural-urban trader).

On the second-year anniversary of the 2010 earthquake, many people expressed their gratitude for the Church’s and CEDDISEC’s assistance. Many shared testimonies of the new sense of security their homes provide. And many shared a wish and prayer that this New Year brings additional opportunities for more people to move into new homes, be employed, feel proud, and feel hopeful about what the future holds.

For more information and a slide show about CEDDISEC’s Shelter Program, supported by Episcopal Relief & Development, visit <http://www.er-d.org/HaitiShelter>.

**Père Frantz (Fanfan) Cole is the Director of CEDDISEC, the relief and development arm of the Episcopal Church in Haiti and Episcopal Relief & Development’s key implementing partner in the Haiti Recovery Program. Père Fanfan is also the Priest in Charge of Ascension de Thor Parish in Carrefour, an urban center southwest of Port-au-Prince, near the quake’s epicenter.**

*This article was taken from the Episcopal Relief & Development Blog*



# Lent



Looking for a Lenten Devotion? The Bishop of Mississippi has offered a program to his diocese that takes a reader through the four Gospels over the weeks of Lent. Look through the table below for your reading assignments!

<b>Mark</b>	<b>Matthew</b>	<b>Luke</b>	<b>John</b>
<i>February 22</i> <i>(Ash Wednesday)</i> Mark 1	<i>March 2</i> Matthew 1,2	<i>March 16</i> Luke 1,2	<i>March 28</i> John 1
<i>February 23</i> Mark 2,3	<i>March 3</i> Matthew 3,4	<i>March 17</i> Luke 3,4	<i>March 29</i> John 2,3
<i>February 24</i> Mark 4,5	<i>March 4</i> Matthew 5,6	<i>March 18</i> Luke 5,6	<i>March 30</i> John 4,5
<i>February 25</i> Mark 6,7	<i>March 5</i> Matthew 7,8	<i>March 19</i> Luke 7,8	<i>March 31</i> John 6,7
<i>February 26</i> Mark 8,9	<i>March 6</i> Matthew 9,10	<i>March 20</i> Luke 9,10	<i>April 1 (Palm Sunday)</i> <i>John 8,9</i>
<i>February 27</i> Mark 10,11	<i>March 7</i> Matthew 11,12	<i>March 21</i> Luke 11,12	<i>April 2</i> John 10, 11
<i>February 28</i> Mark 12,13	<i>March 8</i> Matthew 13,14	<i>March 22</i> Luke 13,14	<i>April 3</i> John 12,13
<i>February 29</i> Mark 14,15	<i>March 9</i> Matthew 15,16	<i>March 23</i> Luke 15,16	<i>April 4</i> John 14,15
<i>March 1</i> Mark 16	<i>March 10</i> Matthew 17,18	<i>March 24</i> Luke 17,18	<i>April 5 (Maundy Thursday)</i> John 16,17
	<i>March 11</i> Matthew 19,20	<i>March 25</i> Luke 19,20	<i>April 6 (Good Friday)</i> John 18,19
	<i>March 12</i> Matthew 21,22	<i>March 26</i> Luke 21,22	<i>April 7 (Holy Saturday)</i> John 20
	<i>March 13</i> Matthew 23,24	<i>March 27</i> Luke 23,24	<i>April 8 (Easter Day)</i> John 21
	<i>March 14</i> Matthew 25,26		
	<i>March 15</i> Matthew 27,28		

## Elsewhere in the Diocese

### FRIDAY FISH FRIES IN LENT



Episcopal Church of the Redeemer will be hosting a fish fry every Friday in Lent. Join them in the Parish Hall for a plate of locally caught, fresh-off-the-boat fried fish, grits, coleslaw and hush puppies. Dinners will be \$7.50 each (\$5 kids under 12). They will be serving every Friday, from 5:30– 7:00 p.m., February 24 through March 30. Redeemer is located at 7125 Hitt Road (corner Cody and Hitt).



George Taylor	03/02
Bessie Southall	03/05
Howard Yeager	03/10
Marian Boykin	03/12
Bud McLean	03/18
Courtney Bryan	03/19
Jean Brown	03/20
Charles Wohlert	03/24
Sandra Wilson	03/27

### LENTEN RETREAT AT BECKWITH

March 23-25, 2012

Focusing on the Suffering Savior in the  
Passion of Christ

Rev. Thack Dyson, spiritual director  
Paul Anderson, musician

Registration forms may be obtained in the church office or by visiting the diocesan website: [www.diocgc.org](http://www.diocgc.org).

### ECW SPRING DAY AWAY

April 21, 2012

The ECW of the diocese has planned its annual “Spring Day Away” for April 21, 2012 at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Daphne, Alabama. The gathering will feature Sister Schubert, famous for Sister Schubert’s rolls, and author of the cookbook, “Cast Your Bread Upon the Waters.”

Schedule for the day:

9:00 – 10:00 Registration and coffee  
10:00 -10:15 Welcome  
10:15 – 12:00 Sister Schubert will speak  
12:00 – 1:00 Lunch  
1:00 – 1:45 Book signing  
2:00 Holy Communion

Registration fee is \$10. Check in the church office for registration forms.

### Contact Us

#### Staff:

The Reverend Thomas Heard, *rector*  
[rector@stjohnsmobile.org](mailto:rector@stjohnsmobile.org)

The Reverend Jayne Carson, *deacon*  
[deacon@stjohnsmobile.org](mailto:deacon@stjohnsmobile.org)

Louis Daniel  
Organist & Choir Director  
[music@stjohnsmobile.org](mailto:music@stjohnsmobile.org)

Lella Lowe  
Financial Secretary  
[finance@stjohnsmobile.org](mailto:finance@stjohnsmobile.org)

Jack Ruppe  
Sexton

#### Vestry:

Ron Brown

Janet Buckley

James Christiansen

Bootsie Cieutat

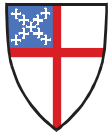
Jan Dabney

Chris Gass

Cindy Gass

Nikki Shaw

Butch Yeager



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### **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 1<sup>st</sup>  
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](http://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.