FROM THE RECTOR:

Dear Ones,

Can you believe it? It’s almost Pentecost!

Each year, we hear the story from Luke/Acts of the giving of the Holy Spirit to the disciples and the wonder of them speaking in languages that were not their own. (I don’t think this is the same as ‘speaking in tongues’.) It is a wonderful story. On Pentecost, some parishes will read this story multiple times, each time in a different language. I know of a couple that use several readers simultaneously reading in different languages. It creates quite a cacophony of sound, probably not unlike what was heard in the story.

The Acts story occurs fifty days later. Since the first Passover Sabbath concluded on the Day of Resurrection, it also happened to coincide with the Jewish Festival of Shavuot, or the Festival of Weeks. This commemorates the giving of the five books of Torah to Moses for all Israel at Mount Sinai. In the disciples’ time, Shavuot was also called Pentecost by the Hellenist Jews. This explains why there were so many “foreigners” in Jerusalem, and why such a diverse list of languages and peoples shows up in the Acts 2:1-21 reading.

In these last few weeks of Eastertide the Gospel readings have taken us through the Fourth Evangelist’s presentation of Jesus’ Farewell Discourse.

Just in case you don’t remember or (like me) get what’s in which gospel confused, in the Gospel of John, Jesus enters the room where the disciples are gathered, gives them his peace and then breathes the Holy Spirit on them. This happens on the day of the resurrection.

Now, I can be a little dense, sometimes, even more so than usual. This appears to be one of the latter. It has only just occurred to me that this Gospel reading sequence is carefully setting up the parallel course of the gift of the Holy Spirit.

In Acts, there is a sound of rushing wind followed by “Divided tongues, as of fire” appearing among the disciples, resting on each. It is a compelling image. That the Spirit gave each disciple the ability to speak another language adds to the picture. It is clearly a God-filled moment that many people witness. Luke seems to be demonstrating the awesome power of the Holy Spirit. I think it had to be an incredible event, full of mystery and wonder. Don’t forget those ‘tongues of flame’ — I know a magician or two that would love to have those in their act. Of course we see a representation of them when we see a bishop’s mitre; its shape is supposed to remind us of what the disciples saw.

The parallel event in John’s gospel is, by contrast, a very private and intimate one: just Jesus and the disciples. Theologically, I think John is saying that since Jesus is the Son of God, that what he breathes, therefore, is the breath of God. It is, then, the Ruach of God, that same breath that breathed life into first human, the same that re-enlivened the dry bones in Ezekiel’s valley, the same that spoke to the prophets, and still speaks now.

It doesn’t seem like these two perspectives on the Holy Spirit could be farther apart in depiction, yet they are nearly identical in their far-reaching effects on the world. That both Luke and John include spirit-giving stories in their respective works, I think, tells us how important this gift of the Holy Spirit is. I think that it is so vital, that we must daily strive to be conscious of its warming of our hearts, ever listening for its voice in our ears, ever yearning for its presence in our minds, that we can be the effective instruments of peace, justice, and equality that our God intends for us to be as we bring the Kingdom into full being.

– Thomas
**Saint Barnabas**

We will commemorate Saint Barnabas the Apostle on Monday, 11 June at 12:10PM. Our first knowledge of Barnabas comes from Acts 4:36-37:

*Thus Joseph who was surnamed by the apostles Barnabas (which means Son of encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus, sold a field which belonged to him, and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.*

His missionary efforts earned him the title of Apostle. Barnabas was from Cyprus, a Jew of the Diaspora. It was Barnabas that brought Paul to the Apostles in Jerusalem, testifying to Paul's experiences. He later settled in Antioch and sent for Paul to assist in leading the church there.

**G.K. Chesterton**

Born in 1874, Gilbert Keith Chesterton, perhaps better known as “G.K.”, was a writer, best known for his apologetic work concerning Christianity. “Apologetic” in this case means giving explanation. He is also known for his works in literary criticism, satire, fantasy and fiction. Chesterton was one of the intellectual greats of his time, having profound effects on C.S. Lewis, Dorothy Sayers, and Ernest Hemingway. Having been fascinated by spiritualism and the occult, it might seem surprising that his faith journey took him toward Jesus. It was, perhaps, his willingness to live in the dichotomy of faith, mystery, and paradox in a time of increasing skeptical views of religion that finally led him to profess the Roman Catholic faith in 1922. Chesterton will be commemorated at our Wednesday, 13 June Said Mass at 10:00AM

**The Nativity of Saint John the Baptist**

On Monday, 25 June, we will observe the Feast of the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist at 12:10PM. John the Baptist, one of the “Johns” commemorated in the main window in the chancel, is chronicled in all four of the Gospels. The son of Elizabeth and Zechariah, John was destined to be the herald of Jesus’ ministry. John had his own crowd of disciples that followed him, calling people to repentance and baptizing them as a symbol of their new lives. John is remembered in Advent as Prophet and in Epiphany as the baptizer of Our Lord. In the Gospel of John, John the Baptist is the figure who declares Jesus to be “The Lamb of God”

**Saint Peter and Saint Paul**

On Friday, 29 June at 12:10PM, we will observe the Feast of Saint Peter and Saint Paul. While sometimes at odds with each other, their joint leadership of the church is commemorated in remembering their martyrdom at Rome. Tradition holds that Peter was crucified head downward and Paul was beheaded, as befitted a Roman citizen. This day is also Fr. Heard’s anniversary of ordination to the priesthood.

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

- Dot Wohlert, Paula Ross, Christopher Shine, Joyce Lee, LaVerne Foster, Alice Schablinski, Ashley Garris,

**For our Homebound:**

- Ray Campbell, Mac 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, Alice Walker, 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:**

- Mike Snell, Larry Kent, Mary Lamey, Markie Prior, Kim Brown, Warren Bishop, Tom Ford, Jim Cieutat, Robby Shelton, Michael Stewart, John & Pat Cranston, Dot & Herbert Treherm, Gabe Pippin, 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

**For those who have died:**

- Greg Grice. Prayers for Max & Martha Grice
Outreach

By now you all have seen our “Giving Tree” in the Great Hall, and from the bags and boxes lying around it, you have all risen to the challenge of helping McKemie Place with their ongoing needs. Last month’s theme was “BOGO” for “Buy One Get One (free)”, and was to help McKemie stock up on paper goods, disposable items like toothpaste, shampoo, personal hygiene products and cleaning supplies. Your generosity to the homeless women of McKemie Place is overwhelming, and so very much appreciated! These items will be brought down to McKemie Place in early June. BUT, please feel free to continue to take advantage of all of the “BOGO” sales that you see, and set aside one of the items for McKemie Place— their needs never end.

In June, we will begin our “Undie Sundays” campaign for the women of McKemie Place. As we heard during our Lenten Series, the women arrive at McKemie from the streets, enjoy a meal together, and are able to take a shower before going to bed. However, can you imagine having to put on your dirty underwear after a nice shower? In the summertime?? So if this bothers you as much as it bothers me, the opportunity to participate in Undie Sundays will appeal to you. We can bring in NEW underwear for the women in all sizes and all colors to let these neighbors of ours enjoy what we take for granted, namely, the ability to put on clean underwear after a shower. Our Giving Tree will remain up throughout the summer as a reminder of the ongoing needs of McKemie Place, and we look forward to seeing all of the nice new undies underneath the tree.

-Cheryl Winters-Heard

Vestry

The regular meeting of the Vestry and Wardens of Saint John’s was held on 13 May 2012. Father Heard called the meeting to order at 11:35AM.

The proposed agenda was adopted and the minutes of the 11 March meeting were approved as distributed.

- Cindy Gass reviewed the current financials with the Vestry. Due to some pledge catch-up payments, we are about where we expected to be.
- Butch Yeager reported that Sunday School for the younger set will start in the fall. Carrie Fairley has stepped forward to lead this effort.
- Janet Buckley reported that we will have a reception on Pentecost rather than the 4th Sunday Potluck due to the baptisms that day.
- James Christiansen reported that Sam Escobio’s Eagle Scout project is progressing. Hopefully the Garden will be back in shape by Pentecost.
- Fr. Heard presented the Church Insurance Group’s report on their safety inspection of our property.
- Fr. Heard reported that a significant pledge has been received that had been outstanding.

The Vestry voted to retain the same policy limits concerning Employee Bonding.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:25PM.

United Thank Offering

Thank you to everyone who participated in the recent collection for United Thank Offering. Saint John’s has received over $700 to support mission and ministry throughout the Episcopal Church and in invited Provinces of the Anglican Communion in the developing world. If you haven’t turned in your “thankfulness” offerings, it’s not too late. We will be collecting UTO donations through Sunday, June 3. You may place your check or box in the alms basin or give it to Irene Yeager or Donna Waites.
**HOW DID THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH GET TO ALABAMA?????**

Though the Anglican Church arrived in America in 1607 when the Church of England folks settled in Jamestown, just when did it come to our area?

In the 1760s, during the British reign of West Florida (a huge territory that included a large part of northern Florida, lower parts of Alabama and Mississippi and the Southeastern portion of Louisiana) the Royal Governor promoted the establishment of the Church of England in his domain.

In 1764, the Reverend Samuel Hart of Charlestown was licensed to minister to Mobile. Conditions in the territory were difficult. There was no church and Mr. Hart ministered chiefly to the soldiers who manned the fort. There was a great deal of sickness, and a large number of funerals were held. Mr. Hart became discouraged and stayed only a year.

In 1767, the Reverend William Gordon was sent to Mobile. He lived in rented quarters and received no stipend from his flock because they were too poor.

In 1780, Mobile was captured and passed into the hands of the Spanish. No religious services except the Roman Catholic were permitted.

In 1813, with the conquest of Mobile by the USA, a few settlers conducted Anglican services. Visiting clergy came infrequently and yet from this small group grew the first Protestant Episcopal Church in Alabama. There soon were found other Anglican groups in Montgomery, Huntsville, Florence, Tuscumbia and Demopolis. Visiting clergy tried to minister to this large area.

Because there was no church building in Mobile, some of the traveling preachers were allowed to deliver messages in the town tavern with the bar as the pulpit or in the “courts” house or in the Spanish Theatre, which stood in what is now Bienville Square.

In 1825, Christ Church was organized in Mobile but as no Episcopal priest was available, the Reverend Murdock Murphy, a Presbyterian, officiated until December, 1827.

The church was a small, wooden structure on the corner of St. Emanuel and Church Streets (where Christ Church Cathedral stands today). The three laymen credited with founding the church were Henry Stickney, Edward Hall and George Cleveland. The official name of this first church was the Independent Protestant Church. It welcomed all Protestants but used the Anglican ritual.

As the Methodists and Presbyterians grew in number, they left the Independent Protestant Church and formed their own congregations and the church became Christ Church of the Alabama Episcopal diocese in 1830.

Stay tuned for the founding of our very own Saint John’s of Mobile.

-Joan-Marie Elam

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**GLORIA DEI CHORALE SUMMER CONCERT**

Gloria Dei Chorale will present its summer concert at St. John’s Episcopal Church, 1707 Government Street, on Sunday, June 24 at 3:00 PM. The program will include some of our favorite pieces and will be followed by an ice cream social in the Great Hall at the church. All donations received at our Christmas and Spring concerts go to different local charities; past recipients have included 15 Place, Victory Health Partners, Our Sisters’ Closet, and St. Mary’s Home, just to name a few. Our summer concert is our major fundraiser for the next season’s operating expenses, so that we can continue to reach out to the community through our music. Please plan to join us on the 24th for some beautiful music followed by a cool sundae, and help support our efforts—we can’t do it without you!

-Marian Boykin
NetsforLife® Inspiration Fund Matching Gift Challenge Reaches Goal

Beginning in Lent and continuing through May 25, Episcopal Relief & Development gave donors the opportunity to make their dollars go even further toward fighting malaria in Africa. During this period, any donation made to the NetsforLife® Inspiration Fund was matched dollar-for-dollar up to $430,000, thanks to a group of generous Episcopal Relief & Development donors. This means nearly $1 million was raised to fight malaria in sub-Saharan Africa, through the NetsforLife® program partnership.

St John’s through the Outreach Committee made a very kind donation of $1000 to help Episcopal Relief & Development. “It is through the generosity of many parishes like St John’s, Mobile, that we have made the match.” said Dr. Rob W. Radtke, President of Episcopal Relief & Development.

At the 2009 General Convention, the Episcopal Church made the NetsforLife® Inspiration Fund the centerpiece of its prophetic response to the United Nations’ Millennium Development Goals. The NetsforLife® Inspiration Fund is a church-wide, grassroots effort to educate, engage and unite Episcopalians to fight against malaria in the 2010-12 triennium. All Episcopalians are invited to learn more about this disease and how to prevent it, and contribute towards this important undertaking. The goal is to raise $5 million by December 2012.

“The NetsforLife® Inspiration Fund Matching Gift Challenge is an invitation for you to play a meaningful role in our global fight against malaria, and help us get to the finish line,” said Joy Shigaki, Director of the NetsforLife® Inspiration Fund and Church Campaigns for Episcopal Relief & Development. “This special springtime matching campaign highlights the importance and widespread impact of the NetsforLife® program partnership, and calls every Episcopalian to do their part in helping us stop malaria.”

NetsforLife® has been a leader in malaria prevention by distributing over 8.5 million nets and reaching over 37 million people in 17 countries in sub-Saharan Africa since 2006. The program combats malaria by educating community members about proper net use and maintenance, training community agents to deliver life-saving nets, and providing ongoing monitoring and evaluation of malaria prevention practices. Nearly 74,000 Malaria Control Agents have been trained and these nets have saved the lives of over 100,000 children under five and reduced the overall malaria-related death rate by 45% in communities where NetsforLife® is active.

For more information go to Inspiration Fund -- homepage or call toll free 855-312-4325.

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH AND THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH JOIN TO ERADICATE MALARIA

The relief and development agencies of two mainline Protestant denominations are forming a new strategic partnership to prevent and control malaria in sub-Saharan Africa. By uniting in common mission, Episcopal Relief & Development’s award-winning NetsforLife® program partnership and the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) will be able to reach 21 countries in sub-Saharan Africa where malaria is endemic.

“The goal of this partnership is to decrease sickness and death due to malaria, build local organizations’ capacity to mobilize their communities against this disease, and strengthen connections across faith denominations, sectors and countries in order to share knowledge and develop best practices,” said Rob Radtke, President of Episcopal Relief & Development. “The strength of our NetsforLife® program and UMCOR is that we both work with churches and other grassroots institutions to fill gaps in health service coverage – mostly in rural areas – and develop solutions that fit the context and challenges of each locality.”
**BECKWITH SUMMER CAMP 2012**

**CELEBRATING THEIR 40TH ANNIVERSARY!**

Sessions are filling quickly, so contact them today to register:
251-928-7844 or www.campbeckwith.org

Sr. High Camp (9th-12th): June 7-12
Session 2 (5th & 6th): June 14-19
Session 3 (8th & 9th): June 22-27
Session 4 (3rd & 4th): June 30-July 3
Session 6 (7th & 8th): July 11-16
Session 7 (4th & 5th): July 19-23
Session 8 (6th & 7th): July 26-30
Session 9 (2nd & 3rd): August 1-3

Lara Wiggins—Camp Director
Anna Bryant—Camp Registrar

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**Elsewhere in the Diocese**

**MObILE AREA VACATION BIBLE SCHOOLS**

**All Saints Episcopal**
July 23—27
Kindergarten through 5th Grade
9AM-Noon

**Christ Church Cathedral**
June 5—7
Through 5th Grade
9AM-Noon

**St. Luke’s Episcopal**
June 11—15
9AM-Noon

**St. Paul’s Episcopal**
July 23—27
4 years through 5th Grade
9AM—1 PM

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**Would you know how to save them in an emergency?**

**Pet CPR & Emergency Measures Class**

Saturday, June 23, 2012
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
(A light lunch will be served.)

Episcopal Church of the Redeemer
7125 Hitt Rd. (corner of Cody & Hitt)
Mobile, AL

This class is free, but you must register no later than June 15 to attend!
Seating is limited so register now!

Call 251-639-1948 or register online at www.redeemerpetcprclass.eventbrite.com

Sponsored by Animal ER of Mobile & the St. Francis Guild.
Memorial Donations

Saint John’s wishes to extend a sincere thank you to those who made memorial donations honoring Violet Moore:

Joe & Peggy Sheffield
Bessie Southall

Corinne Faust 06/01
Sam Escobio 06/02
Connie Anderson 06/03
Neva Bache 06/05
Joan-Marie Elam 06/05
Angela McGuire 06/06
Jerry Fulford 06/07

David & Kim Partsch 06/06
Tom & Marietta Ford 06/10
David & Mary Jones 06/12
Art & Becky Youngblood 06/20
George & Betty Taylor 06/21
Max & Martha Grice 06/26
Bob & Mary Sheffield 06/28
Neil & Marie McPhail 06/30

Emily Johnston 06/10
Lynn Seymour 06/12
Ron Waites 06/12
Matt Mattoon 06/14
Gavin Dunham 06/16
Connie McLean 06/16

Contact Us

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Jack Ruppe
Sexton

Vestry:
Ron Brown
Janet Buckley
James Christiansen
Bootsie Cieutat
Jan Dabney
Chris Gass
Cindy Gass
Nikki Shaw
Butch Yeager

Laura Elizabeth Brown and Jonathan Keelan Barbour were married at the home of Fran and Mike Barbour on Saturday, 5 May 2012. Laura and Jon make their home in Mobile and we will see them on occasion.

Megan Dodson Sheffield and James Zachary Williams were married on Saturday, 26 May 2012 in a garden ceremony at the home of Geri and Gordon Moulton. Megan and Zach will make their home in Winder, GA.
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
Monday-Thursday
9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Telephone: 251-479-5474
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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.