



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 8

August 2012

FROM THE RECTOR:

Dear Ones,

The polity of The Episcopal Church, the way in which we govern ourselves, and the structure of our local, state, and federal governments share some common elements and philosophies. They are representative forms of governance; that is, we elect individuals to represent us in deliberative bodies that make our rules and provide for the common good. Our General Convention works a lot like the Congress: a bi-cameral body where each house must agree on any legislation. I will say that the House of Bishops and the House of Deputies seem to work a lot better than the Senate and the House of Representatives these days.

First, let me say that this is not about anything happening at Saint John's. It is about what I see in local, state, national, and global planes.

First, I've noticed that there is a tremendous sense of apathy and/or helplessness pervading society. I suspect the latter to be the case: there is dislike for current situations, but we feel like we can't do anything about it. I'll call this 'resignation'.

I think 'resignation' pervades what happens in national, state, and local politics and can even be seen in our personal relationships. We won't say anything to a friend about changes in behavior we've noticed for fear of damaging the relationship. It seems like being too 'resigned' opens the door to being discounted or even becoming doormats. It doesn't help our self-differentiation; probably hurts it quite a bit.

Second, I've noticed a marked decrease in the tolerance for differing viewpoints. It used to be that we could have heated debate, both public and private, come to a decision and be willing to live with the results. Same with elections of our representatives and president.

I don't know anyone who is always in line with a party platform, voting record, or policy direction. The way things used to be, we might not have been entirely happy about what was decided, but because we believed in the

system we would abide by the decisions that were made. What I see today bears no resemblance to past behaviors.

Now, I'll be the first one to admit to speaking out about what I perceive to be injustice and oppression, but I'm still willing to work within the system to accomplish correction of the deficiencies. I'm being part of and working within the system. It may be broken; it may not be working as its designers had intended, but it is our system. The ultra-polarized rhetoric that flies back and forth only seems to make things worse. I fear that one of these days some group is going to refuse to be part of the system anymore -- they'll "take their ball and go home."

We had something like that at General Convention this year, and it breaks my heart. The bishop and 3/4 of the deputies from one diocese left the convention before it was concluded. They took their ball and went home. It didn't solve anything.

Within The Episcopal Church, a member of the Anglican Communion and an offspring of the English Reformation that birthed the Church of England, we've always had the ability to live (and blossom) in the tension of not seeing eye-to-eye. It comes out of being willing to accommodate points of view that are not universally shared, and find and celebrate the common ground that we do share. The "middle way" or *via media* has brought us through difficult patches since the 16th century. My greatest fear is that the growing intolerance I see threatens not only our church but the world as we know it.

Make no mistake, Jesus was a radical. Some might even call him an extremist. Jesus did turn a lot of things upside down, but there was always love in his heart for everyone. Maybe that's what's missing with us: love for our neighbors, love for ourselves, and love for God.

Seems like I've heard that somewhere before....

-Thomas

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE AUGUST LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Joseph of Arimethea

We will commemorate Joseph of Arimethaea on Wednesday, 1 August at a 10:00AM Said Mass. Joseph figures in the burial of Jesus in the Gospels. John speaks of him as a secret disciple and friend of Nicodemus. A tradition developed in the 13th century that Joseph had come to England with Holy Grail. We remember him not for the legends but for being bold enough to face the authorities while the rest of Jesus' disciples were in hiding.

Transfiguration

We will celebrate the Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord Jesus Christ on Monday, 6 August at 12:10PM. This will be a Said Mass commemorating Jesus' physical and spiritual re-manifestation. The Roman calendar didn't include the Transfiguration until just before the Reformation, and in The Episcopal Church, we didn't include it until the 1892 Prayer Book. It has, however, been in the Eastern church's calendar for a very long time. In their theology, the Transfiguration prefigures Jesus' resurrection and ascension.

Dominic

We will commemorate the life and ministry of Dominic at our 10:00AM Said Mass on Wednesday, 8 August. Dominic, born around 1170 in Spain, became the founder of the Order of Preachers. They were known as the Blackfriars because of the black scapular worn over their white habits. The Dominicans place a high value on intellectual pursuits: learning, teaching, and preaching. They also embrace a vow of absolute poverty. Many colleges and universities owe their founding to the Dominicans. Among the great thinkers and writers of the order is Thomas Aquinas.

Saint Mary the Virgin



The Feast of Saint Mary the Virgin is known in the Roman church as The Assumption and in the Eastern tradition as The Dormition of the *Theotokos*. Perhaps the Greek *Theotokos* gets us to a place where we can truly grasp Mary's importance. It means "God bearer", that is the one who was mother to Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The tradition for this day cannot be supported by scripture, but is older than any surviving

texts: Mary, for her service to God as *Theotokos* did not suffer earthly death, but "fell asleep in God" and was taken to heaven. One of the Major Feasts of the Church, we will commemorate Saint Mary the Virgin on Wednesday, 15 August, at a Said Mass at 10:00AM.

Saint Bartholomew

One of the Twelve, Bartholomew is known only by his inclusion in the list of disciples in the Gospels of Mark, Matthew, and Luke. Some sources credit Bartholomew with the writing of a Gospel that was known to Saint Jerome and the Venerable Bede. Eusebius reports the existence of a copy of the Gospel of Matthew in Hebrew that was purportedly given to the church by Bartholomew. We will celebrate Saint Bartholomew on Friday, 24 August, with a Said Mass at 12:10PM.

WILLIAM MORGAN ELAM 3 SEPTEMBER 1926 – 5 JULY 2012

Our brother, Will, joined the Communion of Saints after a six-year battle with Alzheimer's Disease. Though the disease took him away from us years ago, we gathered to say farewell on Saturday, 21 July. Will had an engineer's precision and desire for perfection. It showed in his projects and his garden. He had a long career in the oil industry, but started out as a textile engineer. That's because the enrollment line at Georgia Tech for Textile Engineering only had six people in it. I will always remember his eager face as I was proclaiming the Gospel. Joan-Marie told me that he knew that I did that so that he could hear it.

-Thomas



Vestry

The regular meeting of the Vestry and Wardens of Saint John's was called to order at 11:30AM in the parlor on 8 July 2012. The minutes of the June meeting were approved as distributed.

- Cindy Gass reviewed the financial reports for the month.
- Janet Buckley reminded everyone that the fourth Sunday in July will be our Parish Picnic. The ECW and Men of the Church will be providing the main course
- James Christiansen reported that we will need to do maintenance on the chillers; they haven't been cleaned in recent time.
- The Eagle Project subcommittee met with Sam Escobio to go over what is required for the project to be considered complete.

Fr. Heard reported that the Assistive Listening system for the church donated by Audrey Meador's family is installed and operational. He also reported that he is working on getting Saint John's recognized as a non-profit organization.

The Vestry decided to forego a meeting in August; the next meeting will be September 9.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55AM with prayer.



Outreach

Our Outreach activities this summer have focused on the homeless women who are served by McKemie Place. In June, we collected cleaning and personal hygiene supplies for them with rollicking success. We were able to send cleaning supplies to the women in the Winners program as well since you all were so generous in your giving! Since this need is on-going (but wouldn't it be nice if you could clean your house and have it stay that way forever??), please think about "BOGO (Buy One Get One) for cleaning and personal care products when you shop, and bring the extra items in to the church. We will ensure that they go to our needy recipients.

Our focus in July was to provide new underwear, and to no one's surprise, we outdid ourselves once again with an outpouring of needed undies. These items will be delivered to McKemie Place by the time this newsletter reaches your mailbox, and once again, a huge thank you to everyone who contributed to this! St. John's is a very generous parish, indeed.

Our focus in August for the women of McKemie Place will be tote bags, suitcases, carryalls, and small zipper cases. Since these women have no permanent place to store anything, they carry everything they own with them. We, with our colossal handbags, briefcases and yes, closets, cannot even imagine trying to fit our prized possessions into a plastic grocery sack, or a trash bag. While providing the women with suitcases and tote bags does not address their homeless state--other agencies are working with them on this-- it does make their lives a little easier. So, check your closets and attics for those gently used suitcases, (the wheelie kind would be really great), duffel bags, and backpacks, and bring them into the Great Hall. Smaller totes or zippered cosmetic bags are also nice to supply them for using for personal items.

So, thank you in advance for what we know will be another successful in-gathering for our neighbors at McKemie Place!



Congratulations to Bridget and Jason Connell on the birth of their son, Cameron Boyd Connell. Jason is son of Debbie Olhofs and grandson of Boyd Dennis.

St. Johns is also working with Catholic Social Services in collecting school supplies for neighborhood children in need. Your donation of money or school supplies is greatly appreciated, and these items can be dropped off at the church as well. We would like to get these items in sooner rather than later because summer's end is rapidly approaching, and the kids will need them very soon.

-Cheryl Winters-Heard

Parish Life

BLUE JEAN SUNDAY:

AUGUST 12



It's time for many hands to help do some chores around the church. For the most part it will be inside work: Junior Warden James

Christiansen needs some willing hand to help take down ceiling tiles in the parlor and at the back of the church; the kneelers in the pews need a cleaning; the pews need dusting; the tables in the Great Hall could use a good cleaning; toys in the nursery need washing. There may be some outside tasks too, depending on the weather.

Wear your comfy cleaning clothes and be ready to help out! We'll start right after the service and, with many hands, should be finished in a couple of hours. Snacks and beverages will be served.

We want to make the church sparkle!!

-Janet Buckley

PARISH PICNIC

Our inside-outside-at-the church parish picnic was held on Sunday, July 22 and all agree was a great success: Lots of yummy food; good fellowship; and a time to sit and relax without having to rush off to other activities. Special thanks are owed to James Christiansen who loaned his grill for the occasion and Chris Gass who took on the job of cooking all the hot dogs and hamburgers. Thanks Chef Gass!



Enquirer's Class

An Enquirer's Class will begin on Sunday, September 9 and will meet for four Sunday afternoon sessions from 12:30 until 2:00PM, beginning with a light lunch. The meeting dates will be mutually determined by the group at its first meeting.

An Enquirer's Class is an introduction to The Episcopal Church in a historical, theological, and practical way, giving the participants an understanding of who we are and what we believe and to deepen their understanding and faith. At the end of the class, participants will be able to make an informed decision about joining the church or not. Three rites available to participants who choose to join: Confirmation, Reception, and Reaffirmation. A person baptized in the name of the Trinity would be confirmed by the bishop. A person who had been confirmed in the Roman Catholic Church would be received by the bishop. A person who had been confirmed in the Episcopal Church would be reaffirmed by the bishop.

If you think you might be interested, please speak with Fr. Heard.



FROM THE CHOIR DIRECTOR'S BENCH:

The sound of voices raised in song is, perhaps, the earliest expression of worship to God through the art and gift of music. All of us enjoy the choir's role in worship, even if, at times, we may take its importance and presence for granted. That said, **"Have you ever considered how you could serve the church in this capacity as well?"**

Perhaps you've sung in choirs in times past in school or church, or even a community chorus. Maybe you have never joined a choir, but enjoy singing and would like to try it. Regardless, I strongly encourage you to come and give yourself the opportunity to enjoy the fun, fellowship and accomplishment, as you share your gifts and talents with us.

The regular rehearsal schedule will resume Wednesday, August 22, at 7:00 p.m. We also continue to have a brief run-through of the music on Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m., prior to the service. A robe in your size awaits. We look forward to seeing you at rehearsal.

-Louis Daniel

SIX-WEEK PRAYER/STUDY GROUP TO START AUGUST 8

The “hit or Miss Prayer/Study Group” will start a six-week session on Wednesday, August 8 through September 12 at 10:30 a.m., following the Wednesday morning Eucharist. No book to buy. We will use handouts at each session. Subjects covered: Overcoming Hindrances to Prayer, Wrong Motives, the Scriptures in Your Prayer Life, Lack of Persistence, and Participation in God’s Plan for You. Contact Joan-Marie Elam (476-3951) if you would like to join.

ST. JOHN’S SPOTLIGHT ON...CONNIE & BUD MCLEAN

Someone suggested that we do a feature story on a “very interesting couple who attend Saint John’s.” I learned that “very interesting” hardly describes them and my ears are still ringing from the fact-collecting interview.

The couple? Connie and Bud McLean. Connie is the attractive, smiling lady who has been on the Vestry so many times she can’t count them. Bud is the chatty, pony-tailed lay reader and sometime usher.

Their romance started at Saint John’s downtown when they met in Sunday School at age eleven. Bud came with a friend and fell for Connie immediately, but they did not connect until their 20th Murphy High School reunion! They married in 1983.

Connie is a Mobile girl. Her parents were married at “old Saint John’s” in 1938. They were Monroe and Gertrude Dixon. The whole family was involved at Saint John’s and her father was particularly important when the parish moved to its present location. For one thing, he and the Junior Warden installed all the pews and kneelers in the new church. The restoration of the Bell and Tower was given by the family in memory of the Dixons.

Connie attended Woodcock, Barton Academy, Murphy High and Huffstetler Business School and was hired by Merchants National Bank in the Trust Department. Those were the days of posting machines, ledgers three feet long and typing statements. She learned the Bank Trust business inside out, but when she became secretary to the head of the Trust Department her ambition took off and she inhaled knowledge of trust law, administration and attended many Trust Schools.

When she retired 48 years later she was Vice President and Trust Officer of Regions Morgan Keegan Trust and had an office on the 28th floor of the RSA Tower in downtown with spectacular views.

She was only 25 though when the wide, wide world began to beckon her, and she went to Europe for the first time

for nine weeks, jeopardizing her job which made her father crazy. She now counts her European travels at eleven trips and she’s not finished yet!

Bud’s life so far? Sit down, it’s going to take a while:

He enlisted in the U.S. Air Forces at 17 and for 39 years, 11 months and 7 days. He was involved in the Arab/Israeli war, NATO at the Arctic Circle, medical research on the USS Lexington, medical evacuations on a UH1 helicopter, been through the Panama Canal, was an Air Guard Medic/ENT and delivered a baby in the air on his own birthday. He’s traveled to England, Scotland, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Russia and Switzerland. He retired and returned to Mobile and married Connie in 1983.

Bud’s first job out of service was with the Mobile Press Register where he was City Manager. Biggest accomplishment there was his creation of the “Newspaper in Education” program. Someone about that time said, “You ought to be a teacher.” So, of course, he did. He has a BA, BS, MS, and M.Ed. He did his internship at both Blount and the Strickland Youth Center. But his proudest accomplishment was working with the Baccalaureate program at Murphy High with the exceptional students and now “has kids all over the world” who he keeps up with and cherishes.

Here are a few other things he’s been involved with.....plays great guitar, founded the 4 Strong Winds Coffee House for young and old musicians, owned a Putt-Putt Golf Course, and worked in movies with Glenn Ford, Christopher Plummer, Phyllis Diller and Lawanda Page among others.

Connie and Bud are a bright light at Saint John’s – always “up”, friendly and caring.

You want to know the rest of the story? Just ask them.....and sit down.

-Joan-Marie Elam



REFLECTIONS ON MY NETWORK EXPERIENCE

Most recently, the 2012 Network Meeting was held in Dallas, Texas. After three years, I have friends I greet with great joy. Along with other Coordinators that serve in their dioceses and provinces, I was part of the planning of this meeting. The Provincial Coordinators make up the Network's Council of Advice, which provides input to Episcopal Relief & Development and back to the dioceses. I am blessed to work with these people throughout the year, along with Episcopal Relief & Development staff.

In addition to planning, a few of us also presented workshops. Barb Hagen (Diocese of Montana) and I discussed how to mentor new Coordinators. Nick Moga (Southwestern Virginia) and Eugene Johnston (Central Gulf Coast) also presented Network 101, Parish Representative Training and an update from the Council of Advice. My favorite part was the sessions in which I worked with other Coordinators, planning their upcoming programmatic year. It was a privilege to hear their stories from the past year of how they spread the organization's message.

Working with other Coordinators, I also get to hear their frustrations and concerns. Yet commitment is the constant theme I hear as they share their desires to try something new, do a little more. I am humbled by their dedication, creativity and willingness to plan for another year of service. We are all part of the Network because we believe that Episcopal Relief & Development is making a tremendous difference across the United States and the globe.

As I look back over my time as a Diocesan and Provincial Coordinator, I am thrilled and amazed at what I have learned, how many people I have met in my diocese and province, and the opportunities to work and serve that have arisen. Hopefully, my efforts have made a difference to others. The Network Meeting in Belize provided me the opportunity to develop relationships with the local diocese, and this past year I returned on my own to offer another teacher workshop. I also participated in a study tour to Nicaragua to see firsthand the work Episcopal Relief & Development supports there. Our team learned how people are overcoming poverty through women's micro business loans, patio garden projects (these are VERY large gardens), a school, a radio station and more!

I never expected that the call from Bishop Miller would open a door to see the work of God throughout the world, meet friends near and far, and the opportunity for another year to give, pray, learn and act. For more information on the Network, go to www.er-d.org/Network/. Find your Provincial or Diocesan Coordinator and contact her or him to see how you can become a part of this communion of living saints!

Melanie Stewart is the organization's Network Diocesan Coordinator for the Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee and the Coordinator for Province V.



Network members enjoy fellowship at the 2012 Meeting, including St. John's own Eugene Johnston, second from right. Courtesy of Mike Smith for Episcopal Relief & Development.



Curtis & Cindy Gass 08/19



Mac Pearce	08/01	Bill Sundie	08/22
Andrew Lee	08/03	Bootsie Cieutat	08/26
Kathe Gieseler	08/07	David Rich	08/27
James Christiansen	08/11	Mazie Cleveland	08/29
Eugene Johnston	08/21	David Jones	08/29



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

Bootsie Cieutat, Cookie Rich, Matt Mattoon, Paula Ross, Christopher Shine, Joyce Lee, LaVerne Foster, Alice Schablinski, Ashley Garris, Jayne Carson [*deacon*]

For our Homebound:

Ray Campbell, Mae Dunn, Corinne Faust, Lois Hamby, Gwen Johnson, Nell Kirk, Violet Kosko, Margie Mattoon, Angela McGuire, Jane Moore, Betty Plash, Mary Lou Varnes, Alice Walker, Catherine Warren, Dot Wohlert

For victims of war and their families, and members of our Armed Forces and their families:

Eric Mattoon, Cheryl Garner, Michael Brabner, Joshua Wetzel

For our Friends and Family:

Emily Steiner, Larry Kent, Markie Prior, Warren Bishop, Tom Ford, Jim Cieutat, Robby Shelton, Michael Stewart, John & Pat Cranton, Dot & Herbert Trehern, Gabe Pippin, 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:

Will Elam, Tom Dabney

VOTER REGISTRATION FORMS AVAILABLE AT ST. JOHN'S

If your name or address has changed or you will turn 18 by November 6, then you need to fill out a voter registration card! Pick up a card, fill it out and mail it in at least ten days before the next election. Forms are in the Great Hall.

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

Bootsie Cieutat

Jan Dabney

Chris Gass

Cindy Gass

Nikki Shaw

Butch Yeager



Saint John's Episcopal Church
1707 Government Street
Mobile, Alabama 36604

Nonprofit Organization
U.S.POSTAGE PAID
Mobile, Alabama
Permit No. 607

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

Monday-Thursday

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

Telephone: 251-479-5474

Fax: 251-473-1230

www.stjohnsmobile.org

Thee Store Episcopal Books

Monday

Wednesday

Thursday

9 a.m.-1 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.