



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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September 2012

FROM THE RECTOR:

Dear Ones,

It is difficult to believe that more than half the year has passed by already! It seems to me that we were just starting Holy Week a couple of weeks ago, but instead, we're almost to the middle of the Season after Pentecost. One of our number opined the other day that this is a reversal of what we experienced as children: the days flew by, but it took forever for Christmas to arrive. Now, the days pass more slowly, but it's a new year before we know it.

Change is a part of our growing up and growing older. It is part of life and I, for one, think things would be pretty boring and dull if we didn't have change in our lives. True, it can make us anxious, uneasy, and fearful because we don't ever really know what lies around the corner. At the same time, it is change that brings us new things, ideas, and experiences.

We've certainly had our own set of new experiences over the last five years together. Some of these have been really exciting. Even though some are repeats of earlier times, they somehow seem like innovation.

In March of 2011, it became apparent to your Vestry that something needed to be done for the growing number of small children and babies attending Saint John's. That sparked a work project to refresh the Nursery rooms, train volunteers to be the caregivers on a rotating basis, and re-equip the Nursery for a new generation of children. A small cadre of folks worked together to scrub the rooms down, re-paint the walls, update the curtains, acquire new toys, and arrange for snacks – all to provide a place for our youngest members for part of Sunday morning!

After a four-and-a-half year hiatus, we re-opened the Nursery for children up through 5 years old on Palm Sunday, 17 April 2011. If I recall correctly, we had seven children in the Nursery that first Sunday.

This year, we have reached another crossroad: it's time to start a Sunday School class for the oldest of our youngest members. In similar fashion to the Nursery, another small group of volunteers have taken on the task of preparing a room where the class can meet. It means we're using the upstairs again – ending another hiatus. Carrie Fairley and Irene Yeager will be the leaders for this class. The children will be introduced to the significant stories of the Bible, learning what many of us didn't learn when we were children. I think this is a really important milestone for the children as they will be exposed to the history of salvation that threads through the Old and New Testaments. Beginning with creation, the calling of Abraham, the incessant voices of the prophets, through the captivities in Egypt and Babylon, and finally in Jesus, they will learn of God's work on our behalf to mark us as beloved and cherished, supported and fed, protected and sustained, to be able to be God's hands in this world to move the kingdom into full view.

I think this is also an important milestone for Saint John's. Coupled with an Enquirer's Class that includes some folks that are very new to us, I think we can see incontrovertible proof of a change of direction.

While we arrested decline a few years ago, we've simply been holding our own, not really growing or shrinking. I think we're on the cusp of something really exciting for Saint John's. It might seem like a bed of roses, but we need to remember that roses have thorns! This will challenge us to cope with change in different ways. Just keep remembering that change is part of life, part of what allows us, as Christians, to be God's agents of change in the world.

- Thomas

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SEPTEMBER LITURGICAL CALENDAR

John Henry Hobart

Bishop of New York from 1816 to 1830, John Henry Hobart was the driving force behind the revitalization of The Episcopal Church following the American Revolution. Hobart was an evangelist and mission planter in the state of New York. He was consecrated Assistant Bishop of New York in 1811 and succeeded Benjamin Moore as diocesan bishop and rector of Trinity Church, Wall Street. We'll commemorate his ministry at our Said Mass on Wednesday, 12 September at 10:00AM.

Holy Cross Day

On Friday, 14 September at 12:10PM, we will celebrate the Feast of the Holy Cross. Eusebius tells us Emperor Constantine's mother, Helena, discovered the True Cross buried at Golgotha. She was entrusted by the emperor to build suitable housing that would inspire and attract veneration of the relic. Helena's work stands today as the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. This day, we honor the implement of execution that brings us life and salvation.

Theodore of Tarsus

On Wednesday, 19 September at 10AM, we will remember Theodore of Tarsus, Archbishop of Canterbury. Theodore was consecrated as Archbishop in 668 and served until his death at the age of 88 in 690. His archepiscopate was characterized by establishing schools, conducting regular visitations, defining diocesan boundaries and laying the foundations for the English parochial system. The Venerable Bede says that Theodore was the first archbishop whom all the English obeyed. He is buried near Augustine in the ruins of the Abbey Church of Saint Peter and Saint Paul at Canterbury.

Saint Matthew

Saint Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist will be commemorated on Friday, 21 September at a Said Mass at 12:10PM. Legend holds that Matthew the Tax Collector became a disciple of Jesus and later wrote an account of the life and works of Jesus. We know this today as the Gospel of Matthew.

Lancelot Andrewes

We will commemorate the life and ministry of Lancelot Andrewes on Wednesday, 26 September at 10:00AM. Andrewes was a Greek and Hebrew scholar and was one of the translators of the Authorized Version (King James) of the Bible. A devout man, he was a favorite preacher of King James I and was influential in the education of priest and poet George Herbert.

Saint Michael and All Angels

One of the Major Feasts of the Church, the Feast of Saint Michael and All Angels is observed on 29 September. Also known as Michaelmas, this day commemorates not only the Archangel Michael but the entire host of angels. Angels have found a place in contemporary society with many identifying a personal guardian angel. But "angel" comes from the Greek ἄγγελος (Angelos) which means "messenger". This day we commemorate all the messengers and agents of God throughout the course of history.



THOMAS S. DABNEY 14 MARCH 1948 – 25 JULY 2012

Thomas S. Dabney, husband of Jan Dabney and father of Leslie Lundberg, died on 25 July 2012. Tom had struggled with his health for over a year. It was a hard thing for those who knew him because he was always so active. A sail maker with a far-reaching reputation, Tom always strived to have the best possible sail for both boat and sailor. I think he probably knew half of Mobile and a good portion of those showed up at the visitation. The chapel at Pine Crest Cemetery was filled to overflowing for his service. Tom's ashes were scattered in Mobile Bay, a place that he truly loved to be.

-Thomas

HISTORY OF SAINT JOHN'S CHURCH IN MOBILE – THE BEGINNING

Christ Church, the first Episcopal Church in Mobile, was founded in 1830. Then Trinity was organized in 1845 (State and St. Anthony Streets). Farseeing and dedicated parishioners of both these churches decided to establish a third Episcopal parish in the “southwestern part of town” (now called the Church Street Historic Area). This church was to be Mobile’s first Episcopal “free church for the benefit of the poor man and the stranger”, meaning no pew rental and supported entirely by “free offerings”. The location chosen was the southeast corner of Dearborn and Monroe Streets – a block that is now called British Park. The name chosen was Saint John’s Episcopal Church.

Architect David Cumming, Jr. designed a “rural Gothic” cruciform-type building, frame lumber, with stained glass windows and spire to be built at a cost of \$6,550 (land, building and furnishings). The Rector called was the Reverend Joseph Ingraham. A rectory was built in 1855 in the same block as the church.

The Reverend Ingraham served from 1854 through 1856 with a \$1,200 annual salary. At the height of his tenure there were 159 Sunday School students, 19 teachers, 72 communicants and about 100 parishioners. Soon the church building had to be enlarged by widening the nave 14 feet on each side.

Saint John’s served this area of Mobile from 1853 through 1956. There were eleven rectors, each staying an average of four years, except for the Reverend Gardiner C. Tucker, who was rector of Saint John’s for 56 years! A contemporary of Dr. Tucker’s said of him: “Because of Dr. Tucker’s wide contacts in and outside church circles, he probably reached more people as a minister than any other one in our time.” He walked, rode a bicycle and drove through the area, serving as a priest in the Church of God and friend of all mankind.

The next big event for Saint John’s Episcopal Church in Mobile was the move “out West where all the action was.” Stay tuned.

-Joan-Marie Elam



Through the Inspiration Fund, parishioners, clergy, students and seminarians can continue to work to address the Millennium Development Goals. The Episcopal Church initially dedicated itself to supporting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) at the 2003 General Convention, and put its commitment into action in 2006 by endorsing the MDG Inspiration Fund, which raised over \$3.2 million in three years. The 2009 General Convention pledged 0.7% of its budget to support the *NetsforLife*® Inspiration Fund, a grassroots effort to educate, engage, and unite Episcopalians to support the MDGs through the fight against malaria. Our goal is to build awareness about this disease, how it can be prevented, and raise \$5 million by December 2012.

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\$120 = 10 nets and training (10 families)

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VENTURE CREW 3 NEWS

Congratulations to Josef Straugn who earned his Eagle rank in July. His project was adding a sprinkler system, some shrubs and benches to a section of Dauphinway United Methodist Church. He worked very hard and the honor is well deserved. We might have some other Eagles on the way too. Sam Escobio and Jennings Halliday have turned in their paperwork and are waiting on their boards of review. Anthony Hall and Trevor Thiel finished their projects in August and will have their paperwork turned in this month. Sebastian Weaver has just started his and Daven Ervin is in the early planning stages of his project. Great accomplishments by all of the boys.

We also enjoyed an evening of rock climbing on the rock wall at USA's Rec Center. It was quite a challenge, but everyone jumped right on and had a blast. This was a dry run for our scouts to experience a weekend of rock climbing in North Alabama in November. They are very excited to try their new skills on real rocks in a couple of months. The crew is also planning a conservation project after the first of the year. They should all have their applications in next month for Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico next summer. They've been planning this for almost a year and are ready to finally attend this high adventure camp.

The crew would also like to give their heartfelt thanks to the generous people that donated to the crew on behalf of Will Elam. The kind spirit of Mr. Will's family and friends is greatly appreciated and the scouts are looking for a project at the church to give back some of that scout spirit to their church family. Thanks again for the support and keep the boys in your prayers as they travel and make their way through senior year of high school.

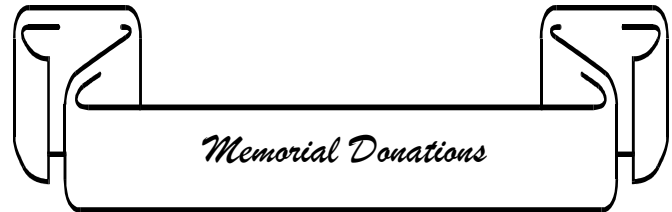
-Scott Escobio

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.



Thank you to the following people who have made recent donations in memory of the following:

Laura Mae Anderson

Mrs. Bessie Southall

Sebra L. Strong

Mr. & Mrs. Monroe Turner

Will Elam

Eugene & Emily Johnston

Pat Thomas

Family of Pat Thomas

Tom Dabney

Joyce Lee

Butch & Irene Yeager

Bud & Connie McLean

Bessie Southall

Eugene & Emily Johnston

Georgia Lynn Gates

Mobile Housing Board

SEPTEMBER 2012 AT SAINT JOHN'S

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
HE = Holy Eucharist MP = Morning Prayer SS = Sunday School						1
2 Pentecost 14 9A SS 10A HE	3 830A MP 11:30A Loaves & Fish 7P <i>Gloria Dei</i>	4 830A MP 6P Winning Solutions	5 830A MP 10A HE + Unction 1045A Prayer/Study 7P Choir	6 830A MP	7 830A MP	8
9 Pentecost 15 830A Breakfast 9A SS 10A HE 11:30A Vestry 1230P Enquirer's Class	10 830A MP 7P <i>Gloria Dei</i>	11 830A MP 6P Winning Solutions	12 John Henry Hobart 830A MP 10A HE 1045A Prayer/Study 7P Choir	13 830A MP	14 Holy Cross 830A MP 1210P HE	15
16 Pentecost 16 10A HE 1130A ECW	17 830A MP 7P <i>Gloria Dei</i>	18 830A MP 6P Winning Solutions	19 Theodore of Tarsus 830A MP 10A HE 7P Choir	20 830A MP	21 Saint Matthew 830A MP 1210P HE	22
23 Pentecost 17 9A SS 10A HE 11:30A 4th Sunday Potluck	24 830A MP 7P <i>Gloria Dei</i>	25 830A MP 6P Winning Solutions	26 Lancelot Andrewes 830A MP 10A HE 7P Choir	27 830A MP	28	29 St. Michael & All Angels 9A-5P MMTA
30 Pentecost 18 9A SS 10A HE						

LECTIONARY AND ROTA FOR SEPTEMBER 2012

Date Service	2 September HE II, EP-B	9 September HE II, EP-B	16 September HE II, EP-B	23 September HE II, EP-B	30 September
Lectinary Day	Pentecost 14 B Proper 17	Pentecost 15 B Proper 18	Pentecost 16 B Proper 19	Pentecost 17 B Proper 20	Pentecost 18 B Proper 21
Color	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Lessons	Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9 Psalm 15 James 1:17-27 Mark 7:1-8,14,15,21-23	Isaiah 35:4-7a Psalm 146 James 2:1-10(11-13),14-17 Mark 7:24-37	Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 116:1-8 James 3:1-12 Mark 8:27-38	Jeremiah 11:18-20 Psalm 54 James 3:13-4:3,7-8a Mark 9:30-37	Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29 Psalm 19:7-14 James 5:13-20 Mark 9:38-50
Greeters	Paula & Bob Ross	Connie McLean	Joan-Marie Elam	Irene & Butch Yeager	Connie & Bob Anderson
Lectors	Bud McLean Mary Sheffield	Paula Ross Kathe Gieseler	Eugene Johnston Cheryl Winters-Heard	Ron Waites Pat Fulford	Ron Brown Connie Anderson
Eucharistic Ministers	Ron Waites Connie Anderson	Mary Sheffield Ron Brown	Geri Moulton Connie McLean	Connie Anderson Eugene Johnston	Paula Ross Ron Waites
Eucharistic Visitor	Ron Brown	Paula Ross	Eugene Johnston	Ron Waites	Ron Brown
Altar Guild	Kim Partsch Irene Yeager	Betty & George Taylor	Betty & George Taylor	Marie Brown Lorraine Murray	Marie Brown Lorraine Murray
Vestry Teller	Cindy Gass Chris Gass	Ron Brown Butch Yeager	Janet Buckley Bootsie Cieutat	James Christiansen Jan Dabney	Chris Gass Cindy Gass
Nursery	Connie Anderson Karen Twilley	Nikki Shaw Marie Brown	Connie McLean Butch Yeager	Andrew Lee Cheryl Winters-Heard	Pat Fulford Karen Twilley



Regina & John Molyneux	09/02
Dana & Scott Escobio	09/07
Carrie & Glenn Fairley	09/09
Donna & Ron Waites	09/17
Irene & Butch Yeager	09/29



Tom Ford	09/05	Lavelle Ollhoft	09/19
Ron Brown	09/06	Hannah Tarantole	09/19
Alice Schablinski	09/09	Neil McPhail	09/20
Barbara Vann	09/12	Thelma Lomers	09/22
Becky Youngblood	09/13		



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

Joyce Lee, Mary Jones, Lynn Seymour, Bootsie Cieutat, Cookie Rich, Matt Mattoon, Christopher Shine, LaVerne Foster, 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 & Chick 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:

Carolyn Ford, Barbara Harris, Donnie Chestang, Joan Dymeck, 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, Andrea Murray, Anna Marie Brown, Betty & Gayle Chenoweth, Mark Stiber, Maddie West

Contact Us

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Jack Ruppe
 Sexton

Vestry:

Ron Brown

Janet Buckley

James Christiansen

Bootsie Cieutat

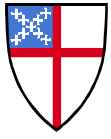
Jan Dabney

Chris Gass

Cindy Gass

Nikki Shaw

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