



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 10

October 2012

FROM THE RECTOR:

Dear Ones,

In the Adult Sunday School, we are looking at other denominations and religions. We've started with Mormonism, its history and beliefs; it seemed somewhat timely. We will tackle Islam, Judaism and others in the coming weeks. I hope to have some outside help for Islam and Judaism in particular.

I think that it's important for us to know something about our brothers and sisters who share the Abrahamic faith. In general, where Christians are right now, Islam and Judaism are strangers to us. As I said last Sunday, YHWH's commandment to care for the stranger and alien in our midst is stated many more times than the Great Commandment.

There is much more common history between Christians and Jews than with Muslims. But even at that, we have common tenets among all three that manifest themselves quite differently. I think it a little sad that we haven't kept some of these in our practice, for there is much to learn.

Take, for example, Sukkot, the festival of booths, or festival of tabernacles. This is one of the three feasts in the Jewish calendar that required pilgrimages to the Temple in Jerusalem. Of course, the Temple is gone now, but pilgrimages are still made to the Western Wall each year.

Sukkot started as an agricultural holiday, a festival of ingathering of the harvest lasting seven days. Sukkot is the plural of Sukkah, which means booth or tabernacle. Observing families construct a walled structure covered with plant material. These fragile structures are a tactile reminder of the sorts of dwellings that the Israelites lived in during their 40-year trek through the wilderness from Egypt to Canaan. Families will take their meals in their Sukkah and some members may sleep there as well. According to the prophecy of Zechariah, when the Messiah comes, Sukkot will be a universal festival among all nations, coming together in Jerusalem.

Well, we don't have a practice exactly like that, but we do have Rogation Days. While we haven't observed them at Saint John's in recent times, I know of at least one parish in Mobile that does. There are two sets: Major which occurs on the Feast of Saint Mark, and Minor, the Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday immediately before Ascension Day.

The name comes from *Rogare*, meaning to ask. It appears to have been co-opted from a Roman festival that involved ritual sacrifice and prayer for healthy and bountiful crops. The practice now is one of blessing crops and in some cases, marking the boundaries of the parish. This "beating the bounds" was a procession led by the clergy that walked the perimeter of the parish, praying for its protection and prosperity in the coming year. As you might guess, this last has fallen away, since we no longer define specific boundaries for a parish. What has taken its place is "beating the bounds" of the specific parish church. Practical, I think. It would take a long time to walk the boundaries of Mobile!

There are many symbolic numbers in Judaism and Christianity. The first that comes to mind is 40. Years in the wilderness. Days and nights of the Flood. Elijah's trek to Mt. Horeb. Jesus' temptation in the wilderness.

I think we have much more in common than we would first think. If Christians, Muslims, and Jews could celebrate that which binds us together, that which we share, then perhaps we could find ways to talk about the problems that we face. If we had relationship with each other, cared for each other as God has commanded us, then the protests and violence, mob actions and deaths around the world springing from the recent YouTube video might not have happened. Celebrating our commonalities seems to me to be far more productive than attacking our differences.

-- Thomas

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE OCTOBER LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Vida Dutton Scudder

Vida Dutton Scudder will be remembered on Wednesday, 10 October at a 10:00AM Said Mass. Scudder was a tireless worker for women, educator and witness for peace. She was a teacher at Wellesley College and founder of the Women's Trade Union League and the Episcopal Church Socialist League. Her Socialist inclinations repeatedly got her in trouble with the powers and principalities. In spite of all she suffered, she never gave up hoping for the Kingdom of God.

Saint Ignatius of Antioch

We will remember Ignatius, bishop of Antioch and Martyr at our Wednesday Said Mass on 17 October, at 10:00AM. Ignatius is accounted second bishop of Antioch and was martyred in a Roman arena in 115. Ignatius believed the Church to be God's order for the world and wrote and taught about the Church's ordering. Of his more famous writings is, "Where the bishop is present, there let the congregation gather, just as where Jesus Christ is, there is the Catholic Church.

Saint Luke

We will celebrate the life and ministry of Saint Luke the Evangelist at a Said Mass on Thursday, 18 October, at 12:10PM. Luke, the self-identified author of the Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles, brings his own perspective on the person and ministry of Jesus and Jesus' continuing effect on the world. Luke's account of the spread of the early church and the ministry of Saint Paul help us to craft a picture of the world in the first century. His portrayal of the radical hospitality and inclusion that Jesus manifested still stands today as a standard by which we can judge our ministries.

Saint James of Jerusalem

We will remember Saint James of Jerusalem, the brother of Our Lord, at a Said Mass on Tuesday, 23 October at 12:10PM. Sometimes called "James the Just", James supported the inclusion of Gentiles in the church. According to a second-century chronicler, James provoked the ire of some factions in Jerusalem because of his success at bringing new converts into the church. Taking James to the pinnacle of the Temple, they commanded him to recant his faith and Jesus. When he refused, James was thrown from the roof and then cudged to death.

Saints Simon & Jude

Saints Simon and Jude, Apostles will be remembered at a Said Mass on Monday, 29 October at 12:10PM. Sadly, our knowledge of these two original apostles is quite lacking. Simon is referred to as "a Zealot" and Saint John mentions Jude in his account of the Last Supper. Tradition associates both with the region of Persia, now Iran. Some accounts call them martyrs, some say that both died peaceful deaths in Edessa or Beirut. The Epistle of Jude brings us a unique doxology:

"Now to him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you without blemish before the presence of his glory with rejoicing, ²⁵ to the only God, our Savior through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and for ever. Amen.



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Please join us at Saint John's on Saturday, October 6 at 10:00AM in the courtyard for a blessing of all of our furry, feathered and finned friends. All types of animals are welcome, but please respect others and leash or restrain your pets.



Vestry

The regular meeting of the Vestry was convened at 11:30AM on September 9. All members were present except for Bootsie Cieutat who is still recovering from her broken ankle.

The minutes of the July meeting were approved as distributed.

Cindy Gass presented the report of our auditor, Kim Enikeieff. Ms Enikeieff found no discrepancies in the accounting. The Vestry approved the report unanimously. Cindy reviewed the reports for August and highlighted the Balance Sheet in particular. She noted that the restricted funds need to be investigated. The Vestry appointed Cindy, Fr. Heard, and Lella Lowe to look into the funds and make recommendations to the Vestry at the October meeting.

Butch Yeager reported that the children's Sunday School class met for the first time today.

Janet Buckley reported that the 4th Sunday Potluck is to have a "Tailgate" theme and encouraged the wearing of team colors.

Fr. Heard reported that Saint John's is now listed as a non-profit organization. This will allow the parish to benefit from reduced rates on some services. He also reported that the Kearley family has contacted him concerning some windows that were originally in the old Saint John's church. They have been returned to the church and he will contact local stained glass experts for evaluation and appraisal. Lastly, Fr. Heard went over the Bishop's Guidelines for the blessing of same gender couples in our diocese.

VENTURE CREW 3 NEWS

We have two new Eagle Scouts. Sam Escobio and Jennings Halliday earned their Eagle ranks on September 18th. Congratulations to them for all of the hard work it took to achieve this goal. We might have two more by the end of October; Anthony Hall and Trevor Thiel are waiting on the boards of review. Good luck to both of them.

The boys will be going to Cherokee Rock Village in November for a weekend of rock climbing. Lauren Rose from South Alabama will be our guide and she will instruct the scouts on the proper gear to use, knots and climbing technique. It should be very informative and a lot of fun.

The crew has decided to be the cooks for the November breakfast at St John's. Not only will it give the boys an opportunity to do a good turn and to be of service to the church, it gives the church family a chance to get reacquainted with these young men.

-Scott Escobio



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

Joyce Lee, Mary Jones, Lynn Seymour, Bootsie Cieutat, Matt Mattoon, Christopher Shine, LaVerne Foster, Ashley Garris

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, Joshua Wetzel

For our Friends and Family:

Barbara Harris, Joan Dymeck, Emily Steiner, Larry Kent, Markie Prior, Warren Bishop, Tom Ford, Jim Cieutat, Robby Shelton, 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



EPISCOPAL RELIEF & DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS RESPOND TO ISAAC IN HAITI AND LOUISIANA

Episcopal Relief & Development is assisting local partners in the southeastern United States and the Caribbean as they respond to damage and other challenges caused by Hurricane Isaac. Isaac swept over Haiti and the Dominican Republic as a tropical storm on August 24 and 25 before gathering strength and hitting the US Gulf Coast as a hurricane on August 28. At least 41 people died as a result of the storm, including five in the Dominican Republic, 21 in Haiti and seven in the United States. Damage is estimated at approximately \$2 billion.

In Haiti, heavy rains and strong winds caused severe damage to schools, churches and homes. People living in provisional homes and tent camps established after the 2010 earthquake were among the most vulnerable. The storm also destroyed cash crops such as bananas, avocados, mangoes and sugar cane, which many Haitians rely on for income.

In the United States, heavy rain and flooding impacted communities along the Gulf Coast. The impact was especially severe in Louisiana, where local families and businesses are still recovering from hurricanes Katrina and Gustav and the 2010 oil spill. According to Deacon Elaine Clements, the Diocesan Disaster Coordinator for the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana, Hurricane Isaac stalled over the southern part of the state and dropped as much as 20 inches of rain in some areas. Flooded rivers and creeks prompted emergency evacuations, and power outages were widespread throughout the region.

In response, the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana and its outreach arm, Episcopal Community Services of Louisiana (ECS), are working with Episcopal Relief & Development to provide food vouchers, gas cards, school supplies, medical care and other assistance to families who were affected by the storm. The existing relationships parishes have with food banks and other community organizations are enabling staff to quickly mobilize local resources to serve the most vulnerable members of impacted communities.

In particular, St. Anna's Episcopal Church in New Orleans has a mobile medical van that currently serves various locations in Orleans, St. Bernard and Jefferson Parishes, and can be deployed to the towns of LaPlace and Jean Lafitte. Relying on long-standing relationships with Tulane University Hospital and area medical providers, this mobile unit will be able to provide care to those in need.

"The Diocese of Louisiana, unfortunately, has become very experienced with assessing and responding to community needs following disasters over the years," said Katie Mears, Episcopal Relief & Development's Program Manager for US Disaster Preparedness and Response. "The ministries that take place in congregations around the diocese are able to assess needs among vulnerable people, and we are glad that Episcopal Relief & Development and Episcopal Community Services of Louisiana are there to help meet some of those identified needs."

To support Episcopal Relief & Development's response efforts in Haiti and Louisiana, please make a contribution to the **Hurricane Fund** or **US Disaster Response Fund**. Visit www.er-d.org or call 855-312-4325. Gifts can be mailed to Episcopal Relief & Development, PO Box 7058, Merrifield, VA 22116-7058.



OCTOBER 2012 AT SAINT JOHN'S

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 830A MP 1130A Loaves & Fish 7P <i>Gloria Dei</i>	2 830A MP 6P Winning Solutions	3 830A MP 10A HE + Unction 7P Choir	4 830A MP	5 830A MP	6 10A Blessing of the Animals
7 Pentecost 19 9A SS 10A HE	8 830A MP 7P <i>Gloria Dei</i>	9 830A MP 6P Winning Solutions	10 Vida Dutton Scudder 830A MP 10A HE 7P Choir	11 830A MP	12 830A MP	13
14 Pentecost 20 830A Breakfast 9A SS 10A HE 1130A Vestry	15 830A MP 7P <i>Gloria Dei</i>	16 830A MP 6P Winning Solutions	17 Ignatius of Antioch 830A MP 10A HE 7P Choir	18 Saint Luke 830A MP 1210P HE	19 830A MP	20
21 Pentecost 21 10A HE 1130A ECW	22 830A MP 7P <i>Gloria Dei</i>	23 St. James of Jerusalem 830A MP 1210P HE 6P Winning Solutions	24 830A MP 10A HE 7P Choir	25 830A MP	26 830A MP	27
28 Pentecost 22 9A SS 10A HE 1130A 4 th Sunday Potluck	29 Sts. Simon & Jude 830A MP 1210P HE 7P <i>Gloria Dei</i>	30 830A MP 6P Winning Solutions	31 830A MP 10A HE 7P Choir	HE = Holy Eucharist MP = Morning Prayer SS = Sunday School Fr. Heard at SCP Conference 10/10-10/13		

LECTIONARY AND ROTA FOR OCTOBER 2012

Date Service	7 October HE II, EP-B	14 October HE II, EP-B	21 October HE II, EP-B	28 October HE II, EP-B
Lectionary Day	Pentecost 19 B Proper 22	Pentecost 20 B Proper 23	Pentecost 21 B Proper 24	Pentecost 22 B Proper 25
Color	Green	Green	Green	Green
Lessons	Genesis 2:18-24 Psalm 8 Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12 Mark 10:2-16	Amos 5:6-7[8-9], 10-15 Psalm 90:12-17 Hebrews 4:12-16 Mark 10:17-31	Isaiah 53:4-12 Psalm 91:9-16 Hebrews 5:1-10 Mark 10:35-45	Jeremiah 31:7-9 Psalm 126 Hebrews 7:23-28 Mark 10:46-52
Greeters	Melissa Brown	Connie McLean	Thelma Lomers	Joan-Marie Elam
Lectors	Eugene Johnston Janet Buckley	Scott Escobio Connie Anderson	Geri Moulton Bud McLean	Mary Sheffield Kathe Gieseler
Eucharistic Ministers	Butch Yeager Geri Moulton	Ron Brown Mary Sheffield	Connie McLean Eugene Johnston	Paula Ross Ron Waites
Eucharistic Visitor	Paula Ross	Eugene Johnston	Ron Waites	Ron Brown
Altar Guild	Pat Fulford Cindy Gass	Pat Fulford Cindy Gass	Donna Waites Fran Barbour	Donna Waites Fran Barbour
Westry Teller	Nikki Shaw Ron Brown	Butch Yeager Janet Buckley	Bootsie Cieutat James Christiansen	Jane Dabney Chris Gass
Nursery	Jennifer Tarantole Connie Anderson	Denise Dunham Karen Twilley	Nikki Shaw Andrew Lee	Cindy Gass Connie McLean



Alice Walker	10/03
Ashleigh Sheffield	10/04
Meagan Partsch	10/08
Alana Escobio	10/10
Bob Anderson	10/11
Kay Meador	10/11
Marjorie Duhon	10/13
Marjorie Mattoon	10/13
Shirley Hall	10/14
LaVerne Foster	10/15
Marietta Ford	10/30
Audrey Garner	10/30
Gwen Johnson	10/31

Directory Update

Please make the following update to your St. John's parish directory:

George and Betty Taylor
1409 Pollard Rd., Apt. 303
Daphne, AL 36526
(251) 626-7755



Ron & Marie Brown	10/07
Chris and Melissa Gass	10/08
Bud & Connie McLean	10/22

Elsewhere in the Diocese

On **Oct. 5th – 7th**, the **ECW Commission** is sponsoring its annual **Fall Conference** at **Beckwith Camp and Retreat Center**. The speaker will be The Rev. Dr. A. Katherine Grieb. They have joined with Women of Vision, the Diocesan Altar Guild, and the Parish Networking Group to make this an exceptional opportunity and retreat. Registration forms and additional information are available on our bulletin board.

There will be a **CPR class for pets** at Redeemer, Mobile on **Saturday, October 13** from 10 a.m.—2 p.m. There is no charge to attend, but you must pre-register by calling 639-1948.

St. Paul's, Daphne is co-sponsoring a ½ day public forum on the topic of suicide on **Saturday, October 20th** from 8:45 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church Life Center in Daphne, Alabama. The topic is ***The Impact of Suicide on the Community***. The presentations are geared for teens and adults. Nursing and Social Worker CEU's will be provided. There will be no charge to attend. Call 626-2421 for more information.

On **Nov. 16th – 18th**, Camp Beckwith is hosting **At Rest with Christ in Creation: A Weekend Retreat for Men** – a time for rest, for silent exploration of nature, and for community with other men seeking union with God. Retreat facilitators are Dr. Bob Donnell and Fr. Marshall Craver of St. Paul's, Mobile. There is a brochure with additional information on the bulletin board.

Contact Us

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Ron Brown

Janet Buckley

James Christiansen

Bootsie Cieutat

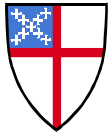
Jan Dabney

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 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

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to be the hands of Our Lord.