FROM THE RECTOR:

Dear Ones,

Each year, on the fourth Thursday of November, the United States observes a day of National Thanksgiving. We are not the only country to have a thanksgiving holiday or festival and some are related to harvest time. Others are typically related to events of national significance.

Although primarily a secular holiday, it does have some interesting religious roots. In Reformation England, Thanksgiving developed as a reaction to the large number of days of obligation in the Roman Catholic Church: 52 Sundays plus 95 holy days. All of these were mandatory attendance, requiring time away from work and additional expense. In the 1536 reforms, the number of holy days was reduced to 27. Interestingly, the Puritan element in England wanted to eliminate all of the holy days, and they included Christmas and Easter in their list!

Periodically, England would declare days of National Thanksgiving. In 1588, the defeat of the Spanish Armada was celebrated. In 1606, the failure of the Gunpowder Plot was the reason for celebration which has now turned into Guy Fawkes Day.

You would think that those countries that have thanksgiving holidays or festivals oriented toward harvest times would fall at the end of their growing season. Canada’s Thanksgiving Day falls in October, owing primarily to the earlier harvest in their climate. Ours is obviously related to harvest. One that stands out as different is Norfolk Island, a part of the Commonwealth of Australia. Here the holiday falls on the last Wednesday of November, a date that approaches midsummer there. Its origin comes from the U.S.: Whaling ships brought it to this island; the date is as the U.S. used to be before World War II.

In the church, I think we come by harvest celebrations quite naturally. There are three such festivals in our Jewish roots: Passover was probably related to new flocks; Pentecost tied to the wheat harvest; Tabernacles tied to new wine. Each of these relates to specific times in the year and thanksgiving for new additions to the flock, a good wheat harvest, and a good vintage seem appropriate.

We owe our celebration to the Plymouth Colony: in 1621 they feasted for three days to celebrate their safe arrival in the New World and a successful harvest. Not everyone relishes Thanksgiving Day, however. A growing number of voices say that we need also to be reminded of the conquest and subjugation of the land and native peoples that occurred as western Europeans colonized North America.

It seems somehow appropriate that Thanksgiving Day falls toward the end of the church year. As we draw one year to a close and look toward the new year, I think we should give thanks for the blessings of the year; at the same time, we should also be penitent for our failure to completely live into who we are called to be as the Body of Christ.

There is much for each of us to give thanks to God; I won’t even start a list for fear of leaving out something significant. Week after week, we gather to celebrate the mysteries of our relationship with God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit and are forgiven for our shortcomings. Perhaps we ought to take a bit of Thanksgiving Day to not only give thanks for God’s grace but for strength for our work in helping to bring the Kingdom of God into full view.

-- Thomas
HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NOVEMBER LITURGICAL CALENDAR

All Saints’ Day – 1 November
Adopted by the Roman Catholic Church in the 9th century, the Feast of All Saints’ might have originated in Ireland and spread through the British Isles and to the continent. A commemoration of all who had professed faith in Christ and had given their lives for it and were felt to be in communion with Christians everywhere is found in the writings of Gregory Thaumaturgus from about 270. All Saints’ is a Principal Feast of the church, one of only seven that take precedence over a Sunday. The 1979 Prayer Book recommends All Saints’ as one of four days that are particularly appropriate for the administration of the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. We will observe All Saints’ on Sunday, 4 November at 10AM with baptisms!

All Faithful Departed – 2 November
The day following All Saints’ is known as All Souls’ or All Faithful Departed. This day recalls the body of all faithful Christians who have risen to new life in Christ. It is a day for remembering family and friends and members of a parish who have died in the preceding year. All Souls’ lost favor in the Reformation due to the abuses connected with the practice of saying Masses for the dead. A renewed understanding of All Souls’ led to its acceptance amongst Anglicans.

Willibrord of Utrecht – 7 November
Much of what we know of Willibrord’s life comes to us through the Venerable Bede’s An Ecclesiastical History of the English People. Born in Northumbria in about 658, he was brought up and educated in a monastery at Ripon. Along with 12 others, Willibrord set out for Holland in 690 to be a missionary. With the help of the Frankish royalty, he established his base of operations at Utrecht and was later named bishop. He founded a monastery near Trier and continued to attempt to convert the pagan Frisians. His work is credited with making Boniface’s later efforts successful.

Samuel Seabury – 14 November
After we’d kicked out the British in the Revolutionary War, there was a void in the Episcopal Church: we had no bishops. Without bishops, we could have no new deacons or priests. Many had already fled to Canada. The problem was compounded because, in order to be ordained by an English bishop, a loyalty oath to the monarch was required. As a result, Seabury turned to non-juring bishops in the Episcopal Church of Scotland. He was ordained bishop on 14 November 1784 in Aberdeen. He was recognized as the Bishop of Connecticut on 3 August 1785. Seabury worked hard to persuade the American church to adopt Scotland’s form for our celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

Kamehameha and Emma – 28 November
King and Queen of Hawaii in 1855, Kamehameha and Emma changed the people’s attitude toward the royals in the wake of a smallpox epidemic that was especially brutal on the native peoples. With notebooks and seeking donations from rich and poor, they collected funds to build what is now the Queen’s Hospital. In 1860, they requested that the Bishop of Oxford send missionaries to Hawaii to establish the church. The death of a son in 1863 took a huge toll on Kamehameha; he died only a year later. Emma, offered the role of ruler, declined and committed her life to good works for her people. St. Andrew’s Cathedral was not finished until after Emma’s death and is name in memory of her husband, the king. Emma is still referred to as “our beloved Queen.”

Thanksgiving Day
Falling on 22 November this year, Thanksgiving shares the commonality of agricultural festivals with many religions. None of these feasts were included in our Prayer Book until the Continental Congress established the Day of National Thanksgiving. Its roots are found in the observances of the Massachusetts and Virginia colonies. We will observe Thanksgiving at a 10 AM Mass on Thursday, 22 November.

Saint Andrew – 30 November
The Feast of Saint Andrew is the first feast in the liturgical year, most often falling after the First Sunday of Advent. Andrew is most commonly remembered as the brother of Simon Peter, but this overlooks his special gifts to Jesus’ companions. Andrew was first a disciple of John the Baptist, one of two who left to follow Christ after John pointed out Jesus with the words, “Behold the Lamb of God.” Andrew, the first missionary, sought out his brother and brought him to Jesus. He was the disciple who brought the boy with the fishes and loaves to Jesus for the feeding of the multitude. Eusebius’ writings tell us that Andrew went to Scythia. Legend holds that he was martyred by pagans and crucified on an X-shaped cross. This is seen in the flag of Scotland, honoring its patron saint. We will commemorate Saint Andrew at a Said Mass on Friday, 30 November at 10AM.
The regular meeting of the Vestry of Saint John’s was held on 14 October 2012. The meeting was called to order at 11:35AM. Bootsie Cieutat is still recovering and her absence was excused. The minutes of the September meeting were approved as distributed.

- Cindy Gass reviewed our financial performance, noting that it is not as bad as we had anticipated.
- Ron Brown has investigated one TV station’s advertising offerings.
- There was no Outreach Committee report; the committee is meeting on 21 October.
- Janet Buckley reported that the theme for the October 4th Sunday Potluck is Harvest. She also stated that she has been researching how to clean the old windows and will bring in the appropriate supplies.
- Fr. Heard reported that the Financial Commitment campaign will close on 18 November, the Sunday before Thanksgiving. He also reported that there will be baptisms on 4 November.
- Fr. Heard appointed the outgoing Vestry members (Ron Brown, Janet Buckley, and James Christiansen) as the nominating committee and asked them select a couple of folks from the congregation to assist.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20PM.

**NOMINATIONS FOR VESTRY & CONVENTION DELEGATES**

Please contact a member of your nominating committee—Ron Brown, Janet Buckley or James Christiansen—or Fr. Thomas if you are interested (or know someone who is interested) in running for vestry or diocesan convention delegate. Elections will be held at a parish meeting on Sunday, December 16 in the Nave after Mass.

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Our sister, Alice Benton Walker, entered into new life on Friday, 28 September 2012. Over the past few months, Alice had a few small strokes; one about two weeks before she died was much more serious. At her death, she was five days short of her 89th birthday.

Alice had moved to Newnan, GA a few years ago after some other medical issues. During my time at Saint John’s and prior to her move, if the church was open, Alice was here. Her husband of 65 years preceded her by a few years.

- Rest eternal grant to her, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon her.

**ALICE BENTON WALKER**

For healing grace and continued strength, we pray for our members:
Bessie Southall, Gordon Moulton, Joyce Lee, Mary Jones, Lynn Seymour, Bootsie Cieutat, Matt Mattoon, Christopher Shine, Ashley Garris

For our Homebound:
Ray Campbell, Mac Dunn, Corinne Faust, Lois Hamby, Gwen Johnson, Nell Kirk, Violet Kosko, Margie Mattoon, Angela McGuire, Jane 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, Joshua Wetzel

For our Friends and Family:
Joan Dymock, 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
Fourth Sunday Pot Lucks

We’ll be taking a break from our fourth Sunday meals for the next two months: the fourth Sunday in November falls on Thanksgiving weekend and one more meal event is probably not what anyone really wants that weekend!

In December, the fourth Sunday is Christmas weekend: again, not a time that many will be willing or able to bring a pot luck dish to church with them. The Parish Christmas Party on December 30th will be our meal together for December. Yes, it's AFTER Christmas day but still in the Christmas season – remember the twelve days of Christmas??

These meals have been a chance for many of us to sit and share conversation with others; get to know our newer members; spend time with those we only see on Sundays; and, of course, share good food.

We’ll pick up again in January…what are you bringing?

- Janet Buckley

TEAM SPIRIT POTLUCK LUNCH
23 SEPTEMBER 2012

Saint John’s parishioners enjoy the September potluck lunch. Clockwise from top left: Donna Waites, Tina Cieutat, Irene Yeager & Bob Ross, Marie Brown, Butch Yeager. (Photos by Nikki Shaw)
Saint John’s children’s Sunday School Class (clockwise from bottom left): Ainsley Fairley, Vivian Gass, Karen Twilley holding Curtis Gass, Carrie Fairley, Addison Fairley. (Photo by Irene Yeager)

**Blessing of the Animals**

Parishioners and pets enjoyed the Blessing of the Animals service in Saint John’s courtyard on October 6. Counterclockwise from top left: Fr. Thomas with Pat Fulford and Dazzle, Fr. Thomas with Dusty Fulford, Cheryl Winters-Heard with Henry Sue, Mary Jones with Maggie. (Photos by Nikki Shaw)
St. John's Episcopal Churchwomen
October 21, 2012

The October meeting of St. John's ECW was called to order by the President, Marie Brown at 11:30 a.m. Paula Ross said the opening prayer. Laverne Foster gave a Thought for the Day. There were only seven in attendance, but it was a good and lively group.

Paula Ross gave the Treasurer's Report, in the absence of Bootsie Cieutat, our Treasurer. There were no Minutes taken at our September meeting.

Marie stated the group had received permission to go forward with plans for another rummage sale. The tentative date for the sale is April 5-6, but Marie will confirm that date with the church calendar. The date of the rummage sale will be shared with other congregations to increase publicity.

The 4th Sunday Pot Luck luncheons were discussed, and it was decided that we should not have these in November and December. Hope was expressed that we would have our usual Christmas celebration luncheon, and the ECW would be glad to help with that.

Marie represented our ECW at the diocesan Women's Fall Conference at Beckwith and she gave a very good and interesting report on this conference, encouraging all women to attend future conferences.

Reports were given on food deliveries to parishioners and prayers were requested for the sick. Members were encouraged to send cards.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

-Paula M. Ross
Acting Secretary

Financials

Episcopal Relief & Development strives for good stewardship, using your financial gifts to support locally led programs that have a demonstrated impact on poverty.

In 2011, Episcopal Relief & Development spent 86% on programs versus 6% on administration and 8% on fundraising. Because of the support we receive from the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society in the form of contributed services, in addition to income from own investments, at least 90% of every donor dollar goes directly to programs.

As an organization, we maintain the highest standards for internal accountability. We are also involved in multi-agency efforts to improve practices and reporting in the relief and development community.

Episcopal Relief & Development is an independent nonprofit organization and your contributions are tax deductible under U.S. tax regulations. The agency is exempt from federal income taxes under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Episcopal Relief & Development is an international relief and development agency and a compassionate response to human suffering on behalf of The Episcopal Church of the United States. Our work to heal a hurting world is guided by the principles of compassion, dignity and generosity.

We take our mandate from the words of Jesus, found in Matthew 25: 37-40, that call us to feed the hungry, care for the sick and welcome the stranger.

Donations may be made online at www.er-d.org, or can be mailed to:

Episcopal Relief & Development
P.O. Box 7058
Merrifield, VA 22116-7058
A warm “Thank you” to all of you wonderful St. John’s parishioners who have contributed so much over the summer to our neighbors at McKemie Place! The homeless women there have been overjoyed by our donations of underwear, personal care and cleaning supplies, and the suitcases and totebags.

Our next collection will also be for the women of McKemie Place, and will start the first week in November. We’re calling it “SOCK IT TO ME!” and, to no one’s great surprise, we will be collecting socks for the women. We ask for NEW socks, including socks that are suitable to wear with slacks for work, since while these women may be homeless, they often have jobs that just don’t pay enough to afford rent. Warm socks will be appreciated for the coming cool weather too. Collection bins with signs will be in the Great Hall for your donations.

We are delighted to announce that Kathe Gieseler has agreed to be our new Outreach chairperson. We welcome her thoughtful energy, and offer our continued ideas and contributions! I have thoroughly enjoyed chairing the committee for a number of years, and thank you all for your commitment to “being the hands of Christ in the world”.

In the remaining months of 2012, we will be supporting Episcopal Relief and Development with significant financial donations as part of their upcoming donor “matching” and holiday campaigns. We are determining which needy organization will be the recipient of our annual Giving Tree. We will be volunteering at the Food Bank on Saturday, January 8. Additional information about this opportunity is in the article below.

If you would like to get involved with the Outreach Committee, come to our next meeting on Sunday, November 4, after Mass in the EfM room, and check us out. We can always use your ideas, your energy, and your hands. Contact any member for more information: Janet Buckley, James Christiansen, Connie McLean, Kathe Gieseler, Mary Sheffield, Butch Yeager, and Jayne Carson.

We are also asking you to think about getting involved in specific ways, including the opportunity to help out once a month serving lunch at 15 Place. We have dedicated and dependable volunteers that have been doing this for many years, and would like to augment their ranks by having some additional folks that can be called on to help every so often, particularly with Bootsie Cieutat’s recent injury. Due to space constraints, only a handful (4-6) of volunteers are needed for a couple of hours once a month, but we can develop a schedule if you are interested in helping regularly.

-Cheryl Winters-Heard

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FOOD DRIVE AND VOLUNTEERING AT THE FOOD BANK

As part of our continuing ministry with the Bay Area Food Bank; we are scheduled to volunteer at the Food Bank on Saturday January 8th (8:00 to Noon). Our volunteer work will involve sorting and categorizing food donations and/or other tasks the staff needs done.

The food barrels are up in the Great Hall: we are hoping to break our Lenten drive donation record of 400 pounds of food. So whether you donate one can, two cans, or a case of cans, it is all going to a good cause.

There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. The Bay Area Food Bank is located at 5248 Mobile South Street in Theodore. We will organize a car pool from the church or you can meet us out there.

After our volunteer experience we will go back to Janet’s house and have lunch on the Bay.

-Janet Buckley
**THE MYSTERY OF THE STAINED GLASS**

Saint John’s received a gift recently of 12 aged, antique stained glass windows. The Kearley family found them under their parent’s home and they were always thought to be from “old Saint John’s”. Father Thomas and Butch Yeager picked up the windows and they are now leaning up against a wall in the Parish Hall.

There is now great speculation and many questions about where they hung on the original Saint John’s and even if they were part of the 1853 church building. Could they have been the windows from the Chapter House?

They are not “story windows”. There are no Bible scenes or saintly figures. There are 12 in all, 6 have pointed tops and 6 are squared off.

They are dirty and not in the best shape from being under a house for 54 years. They seem to be primarily dark blue and white with some red accents. There are no memorials listed.

We have a few pictures of the original Saint John’s but none that show close-ups of the windows. We are searching for people who remember or photos that will tell us the true story. Call the church office if you can help – 479-5474.

-Joan-Marie Elam

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**Elsewhere in the Diocese**

**ALL SAINTS EPISCOPAL CHURCH PRESENTS THE 8TH ANNUAL BAYOU BASH**

*SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2012 | 6:00-10:00 PM*

Food, Music and Fun
Silent and Live Auctions
Entertainment by Bust

**TICKETS: $30**
For more information, call 435-2482

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**ART SOUP**

Benefiting 15 Place Mobile
Multi-Service Center in Mobile

**Tickets $10**

Friday, November 16
6 to 9 p.m.
310 Dauphin Street

Music by Bay Runners
Silent Art Auction, Live Auction, & Raffle

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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.
### November 2012 at Saint John’s

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| 4 All Saints’ Sunday      | 5      | 6       | 7         | 8        | 9      |          |
| 9A SS                    | 830A MP | 830A MP | Willibrord of Utrecht | 830A MP | 830A MP |
| 10A HE                   | 7P Gloria Dei | 6P Winning Solutions | 10A HE + Unction | 7P Choir |          |

| 11 Pentecost 24          | 12     | 13      | 14        | 15       | 16     |          |
| 830A Breakfast           | 830A MP | 830A MP | Samuel Seabury | 830A MP | 830A MP |
| 9A SS                    | 7P Gloria Dei | 6P Winning Solutions | 10A HE | 7P Choir |          |

| 18 Pentecost 25 - Commitment Sunday | 19     | 20      | 21        | 22        | 23     |          |
| - ECW                     | 830A MP | 830A MP | 830A MP   | Thanksgiving Day | 830A MP |
| 10A HE                   | 7P Gloria Dei | 6P Winning Solutions | 10A HE | 10A HE |          |

| 25 Christ the King       | 26     | 27      | 28        | 29        | 30     |          |
| 9A SS                    | 830A MP | 830A MP | Kamehameha and Emma | 830A MP | Saint Andrew |
| 10A HE                   | 7P Gloria Dei | 6P Winning Solutions | 10A HE | 1210P HE |          |
| 1130A 4th Sunday Potluck |        |         |           |          |        |          |

- Continuing Ed - Pensacola

- General Theological Seminary Alumni Week - NYC

- Commitment Sunday

- 4th Sunday Potluck
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**Lessons**

- Ecclesiasticus 44:1-10, 13-14
- Psalm 149
- Revelation 7:2-4, 9-17
- Matthew 24:14-16
- Mark 13:1-3
- John 18:33-37

**Gospels**

- Matthew 24:14-16
- Mark 13:1-3
- John 18:33-37

**Eucharistic Ministers**

- Mary Sheffield
- Ron Brown
- Connie McLean
- Geri Moulton
- Bud McLean
- Butch Yeager

**Lectors**

- Paula Ross
- Eugene Johnston
- Denise Dunham
- Paula Ross

**Greeters**

- Irene & Butch Yeager
- Connie & Bob Anderson
- Connie McLean
- Thelma Lomers

**Vestry Teller**

- Cindy Gass
- Nikki Shaw
- Ron Brown
- Bootsie Cieutat

**Nursery**

- Pat Fulford
- Andrew Lee
- Denise Dunham
- Jennifer Tarantole
- Andrew Lee

**Altar Guild**

- Connie Anderson
- Jennifer Tarantole
- Jennifer Tarantole
- Andrew Lee

**Eucharistic Visitor**

- Paula Ross
- Eugene Johnston
- Ron Brown
- Ron Brown
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

Birthday Greetings

Addison Fairley 11/04 Denise Dunham 11/18
Rosalie Pritchard 11/04 Jennifer Tarantole 11/19
Violet Kosko 11/07 Caitlin Bryan 11/22
Louis Daniel 11/09 Christopher Gass 11/22
Arthur Youngblood 11/09 Nikki Shaw 11/22
Cindy Gass 11/11 Ray Campbell 11/28
Betty Plash 11/12 Mildred Hamby 11/28
Mayson Pritchard 11/12 Kim Partsch 11/30

Emily & Eugene Johnston 11/05
Jessica & Jeff Dennis 11/10
Ashleigh & Jerrod Sheffield 11/19
Marjorie & Roy Duhon 11/22
Pat & Jerry Fulford 11/23

Please remember to turn your clocks BACK one hour at 2 a.m. on Sunday, November 4, marking the end of Daylight Savings Time. You don’t want to miss the All Saints’ service with Baptisms!

Memorial Donations

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

Fran & Mike Barbour
James Christiansen
John Christiansen
Cindy & George Walker

Photos Needed for Newsletter!

Haven’t you enjoyed having so many pictures in the St. John’s newsletter? If you carry a camera to church events, please send photos to llowe@stjohnsmobile.org.
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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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.