FROM THE RECTOR:

Dear Ones,

I would be remiss if I did not comment on the events of the past week or so. It seems that someone had a birthday on the 15th of February. My daughter thought it so significant that she reached out to all of you and many others to send birthday cards. I think the tally stands at 80 or so, and I’m not sure that all are in yet. I am very touched by your cards and the many personal notes written therein. I’ve never seen such a broad spectrum of cards, either, ranging from staid and serious to entirely off-the-wall. Many made me laugh and a few brought a tear to my eye. I cannot thank you enough for your thoughtfulness and care.

Then, there was the surprise birthday party after Mass on the 17th. It was kept secret until Sunday, just before Mass. If I hadn’t gone looking for someone to bid the Prayers of the People, I might not have found out! Many of you asked if it was a surprise. I said that I’d known you all long enough that I was suspicious, but it was a surprise. It was a wonderful party! I had a great time and want you to know how much I appreciated it.

Something else happened on Sunday, 17 February:

There were 71 people in church!

That hasn’t happened since December 9th, the Second Sunday in Advent. That particular day, we dedicated the side lights in memory of Audrey Meador. Before that it was All Saints’ Sunday when we baptized Cameron Boyd Ollhoff. In the middle of October we had another spike, for reasons that I do not know. Our all-time low for the year was on 10 June when we had truly horrid weather – torrential rains and lots of wind. 27 May was a high point – Pentecost and the baptisms of Grayson Basley Dennis and Calvin Foster Dunham. Our high for the year was Easter Day with 123 in attendance.

Here’s what it looks like in a graph:

The looming question is: “What’s going on?” Let’s step back and look at the 6-year picture:

So this isn’t anything new. There are a few more people that are unable to come to church. That may account for the entire decline in Average Sunday Attendance, but when we look at the Sundays of the year, it bounces all over the place! It makes me wonder what is keeping folks away.

Was it something I said? Is church just not important anymore? If you have answers, I would love to hear them. I’d also love to see the place filled up like Easter every Sunday!

-Thomas
James Theodore Holly
We will commemorate the life and witness of James Theodore Holly on Wednesday, 13 March at our 10:00AM Said Mass. Holly was Bishop of Haiti and of the Dominican Republic. Holly was born in 1829, a free African American. He began his ministry as rector of St. Luke’s, New Haven, CT. In 1861, he resigned to lead a group planning to settle in Haiti. Many of the group died in the first year. In 1874, Holly was consecrated Bishop of Haiti, the first black to be raised to the episcopacy. He had charge of the Diocese of the Dominican Republic as well as Haiti beginning in 1897. He died in 1911 and is buried on the grounds of St. Vincent’s School for Handicapped Children in Port-au-Prince.

Saint Joseph
We will remember Joseph at a Said Mass at 12:10PM on Tuesday, 19 March. Joseph was a pious Jew. He is considered to be the patron saint of working men and women. What we know of him is that he trusted in God, even when what God asked was to be a challenge to his daily life.

Thomas Ken
Thomas Ken was born in 1637. His close relationship to the English royals began with his chaplain duties to Princess Mary of Orange. He spoke out publicly concerning her mistreatment by her husband. After returning to England to be chaplain to Charles II in 1683, he rebuked his king for his behavior. When James II took the throne in 1688 and attempted to undermine the authority of the Church of England, Ken was one of seven “non-juring” bishops who were imprisoned for refusing to read the king’s Declaration of Indulgence. Thomas Ken is best known, however, for his writings. The hymn “All praise to thee, my God, this night” is found in our hymnal and concludes with his doxology, “Praise God from whom all blessings flow.” We will commemorate Thomas Ken at our Wednesday Said Mass on 20 March at 10:00AM.

Holy Week
The major days in Holy Week are The Sunday of the Passion (Palm Sunday), Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday. There will be a Said Mass on Monday and Tuesday at 12:10PM and on Wednesday at 10:00AM. The tradition of Holy Week comes to us from the writings of a mid to late 4th century pilgrim to the Holy Land. The Travels of Egeria records her experiences in Jerusalem in Holy Week. Beyond its depiction of Holy Week, it is a great read.

Sunday of the Passion or Palm Sunday
Holy Week begins on 24 March with the Liturgy of the Palms in the Garden at 10:00AM and processing into the church for the Liturgy of the Word and the Eucharist. Palm Sunday is an odd mix: I think this happened to accommodate those who don’t darken the door of the church except on Sundays, so we get the Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem and the Passion of Our Lord – Palm Sunday and Good Friday all rolled into one.

Maundy Thursday
The name comes from the Latin “Mandatum”, meaning command. With our observance of Maundy Thursday on 28 March at 6:00PM, we will commemorate Jesus’ Last Supper with his disciples and imitate Our Lord’s washing of his disciples’ feet. All who wish to participate will have their feet washed and then wash someone else’s feet, becoming servants to each other. The Mass will conclude with the transfer of the Holy Sacrament to the Altar of Repose and the stripping of the Sanctuary and washing of the altar. At the end of the mass, the Watch over the Blessed Sacrament begins. This overnight vigil affords quiet time to spend in prayer and meditation.

Good Friday
We will offer the Good Friday liturgy twice, once at 12:00PM and again at 6:00PM. This liturgy features the Passion of Our Lord according to John. In the place of the Prayers of the People, the Solemn Collects are prayed, with the deacon saying the biddings and the celebrant saying the collects. In the Showing of the Cross, the deacon will bring a cross into the Nave. An opportunity to venerate the cross will be offered to all present. Following the veneration, Holy Communion will be prepared from the Sacrament reserved at the altar of repose.

The Great Vigil of Easter
Holy Week reaches its peak with the Great Vigil of Easter at 7:30PM on Saturday, 30 March. The service begins in the garden (weather permitting) where the Pascal Candle is prepared and lighted and we process (Continued on page 3)
The regular meeting of the Vestry was called to order at 11:30AM on 10 February 2013. David Jones and Jan Dabney were excused. The minutes of the January meeting were approved as distributed.

Cindy Gass reviewed our financial performance for January and the pledges received to date. She presented the proposed 2013 budget and it was discussed. The proposed budget was unanimously approved by the vestry.

We continue to have spotty attendance in Children’s Sunday School. Attendance in the Adult Sunday School is consistent but weak.

The vestry decided to discontinue the weekly advertisement in the Mobile Press Register.

The Outreach Committee reported that they will continue to support McKemie Place by providing part of supper once a month. They will also be participating in a community wide project to supply reading books for underprivileged children.

Chris Gass reported that there are several soffit panels that are coming loose.

Fr. Heard reminded the vestry of the Lenten Supper & Program series beginning Wednesday night. He also reported that we will be using Eucharistic Prayer C for all of Lent.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 12:15PM.

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In Memoriam

WILLIS THOMAS FORD

Our brother, Tom Ford, died Tuesday evening, 5 February. Tom and Marietta have been at Saint John’s since shortly after their marriage in 1950. Though raised a Baptist, Tom enjoyed being at Saint John’s. I visited with Tom and Marietta in December. Tom knew he was dying and asked if I would bury him. I, of course, said that I would. Marietta confided in me that Tom had wanted to become an Episcopalian, but his illness had kept him from doing anything about it. His career in the heavy construction equipment business spanned more than 50 years. He was well respected by all who knew him.

ELIZABETH FLASH

Our sister, Betty, entered into new life on 30 January. Betty’s husband, Charlie, died in 1982 so after 30 years apart, they are together again. Betty was always interested in religion. She was always earnest in her questions and attentive to the answers. When she lived at University Oaks, she’d go to the Baptist, Methodist, and Roman Catholic services held in the chapel. She also had a love of dancing – I bet she’s dancing right now. I think it unfortunate that the family chose not to bury her from the church; she loved it so much.

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pledge summary

As this newsletter goes to print, we have received commitments from 52 pledge units. Our total for 2013 stands at $144,320. For 2012 we received 59 pledges totaling $144,204

If you plan to pledge to the 2013 operating budget, please turn in a pledge card as soon as possible. Extra cards are available in the church office.
Sunday, 24 March 2013
Palm Sunday
The Sunday of the Passion
Blessing of Palms, Procession and Solemn Mass at 10:00AM
Sermon by the Rector

Thursday, 28 March 2013
Maundy Thursday
Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper at 6:00PM
Sermon by the Rector

Friday, 29 March 2013
Good Friday
The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ
Said Liturgy at 12:00PM
Sung Liturgy at 6:00PM
Sermon by the Rector

Saturday, 30 March 2013
Holy Saturday
The Great Vigil of Easter at 7:30PM
Sermon by the Rector

Sunday, 31 March 2013
The Sunday of the Resurrection
Solemn Mass at 10:00AM
Sermon by the Rector
Easter Egg Hunt for the Children after Mass

A VERY SPECIAL CELEBRATION
HAPPY BIRTHDAY FR. THOMAS!
Sunday, February 17, 2013
Photos by Nikki Shaw

Bob Ross & Ben Schmerbauch

Fr. Thomas cuts his cake

Audrey Garner & Thelma Lomers

Mary Sheffield & Janet Buckley
Most of us at Saint John’s know Neva Bache’s son, Vince. And most of us know that he is a monk; we’ve seen him in his habit. But how many of us were aware that Vince belongs to an EPISCOPAL community of men and women, who are Vowed Brothers and Oblates, lay and ordained? Inquiring minds want to know, right? Here is the story:

The Community of Saint Joseph is a Religious Community that seeks to live a contemporary Anglican way of life modeled by Saint Benedict. There are celibate Vowed Brothers (Vince is one of these) and there are single and married men and women who are Oblates. They all live in their own homes throughout the southeast and primarily serve their own parishes. There are others connected in prayer and support who are known as Associates.

Brother Vince founded the community in 2001, the first of its kind in the Southern US. How did a tall, handsome Episcopalian like Vince end up as a celibate monk? Vince says he was drawn to living in a religious community as a young adult. He even flirted with Roman Catholicism when he thought that was the only way to do it. But through spiritual direction, prayer and study he found out there was an Episcopal route he could go. This took two-and-a-half years, but with the help of his spiritual director, his Bishop and the Holy Spirit, he started the Community of Saint Joseph in Natchez, which primarily seeks to serve God and the Church by its members living lives of dedication and service through the Benedictine Way and serving in parishes.

The Vowed Brothers are single, celibate men who take Vows of Stability, Conversion of Life, and Obedience. They recite the Daily Office from the Book of Common Prayer and contribute from their earnings (in the world) to their community and their parishes. Vince is Organist and Music Director at Trinity Episcopal in Natchez.

The Oblates can be male or female, single, married, lay, or ordained. Oblates make promises (as opposed to vows) to live by the Rule of Saint Benedict and the Customary. Oblates are equal partners in the Community but are not required to wear the Oblate Habit which differs slightly from the Brother’s habit in not having a hood on the scapular (part of the habit that goes over the head and hangs down front and back over the robe.)

Vince spent part of his middle and high school years in Mobile and majored in Piano Performance at the University of South Alabama. He worked at Gayfer’s Department Store for ten years.

It won’t surprise you that Neva’s first reaction to her son’s vocation was shock and apprehension.

“Maybe an Episcopal priest, but a MONK?????”

Gradually, as she observed Vince’s devotion and real contentment with his new way of life, she began to accept it and now feels proud of what he has accomplished.

“He is still personable with a great sense of humor and very talented musically,” she says with a mother’s pride.

We are proud to have Vince visit us at Saint John’s when he is in town.

Want to know more about the Community of Saint Joseph, send a prayer request, or receive information on their homemade soaps? Check out their website at www.csjms.org.

- Joan-Marie Elam
## March 2013 at Saint John’s

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<th>Sunday</th>
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| HE = Holy Eucharist  
MP = Morning Prayer  
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| 3 Lent 3  
9A SS  
10A HE | 4  
830A MP  
7P Gloria Dei | 5  
830A MP  
6P Winning Solutions | 6  
830A MP  
10A HE+Unction  
530P Stations  
6P Lenten Series  
7P Choir | 7  
830A MP | 1  
830A MP | 2  
830A MP |
| 10 Lent 4  
Daylight Savings Time  
830A Breakfast  
9A SS  
10A HE  
1130A Vestry | 11  
830A MP  
7P Gloria Dei | 12  
830A MP  
6P Winning Solutions | 13 James Theodore  
Holly  
830A MP  
10A HE  
530P Stations  
6P Lenten Series  
7P Choir | 14  
830A MP | 8  
830A MP | 9  
830A MP |
| 17 Lent 5  
9A SS  
10A HE  
1130A ECW | 18  
830A MP  
7P Gloria Dei | 19 Saint Joseph  
830A MP  
1210P HE  
6P Winning Solutions | 20 Thomas Ken  
830A MP  
10A HE  
530P Stations  
6P Lenten Series  
7P Choir | 21  
830A MP  
Newsletter Deadline | 15  
830A MP | 16  
830A MP |
| 24 Palm Sunday  
9A SS  
10A HE  
1130A 4th Sunday Potluck | 25  
830A MP  
1210P HE  
7P Gloria Dei | 26  
830A MP  
1210P HE  
6P Winning Solutions | 27  
830A MP  
10A HE  
530P Stations  
6P Lenten Series  
7P Choir | 28 Maundy Thursday  
830A MP  
12P Good Friday  
6P Good Friday | 29 Good Friday  
830A MP  
12P Good Friday  
6P Good Friday | 30 Holy Saturday  
730P Great Vigil of Easter |
| 31 Easter Day  
10A HE | | | | | | |
<table>
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Four of our young men, Sam Escobio, Jennings Halliday, Anthony Hall and Josef Straughn, were awarded their Eagle rank in a Court of Honor on February 24.

It is the highest rank attainable in Scouting and to achieve it a Scout must learn first aid and outdoor skills, earn 21 merit badges and complete a community service project.

Sam's Eagle project was installing a sprinkler system and birdbath and replacing sod in the courtyard of St. John's Episcopal Church.

Anthony built and installed benches on the campus of his school, Mobile Christian.

Jennings renovated and landscaped the gravesite of the Rev. Abram Joseph Ryan at the Catholic Cemetery of the Archdiocese of Mobile.

Josef installed a sprinkler system and benches and landscaped the entrance to the Society of St. Stephens at Dauphin Way UMC.

The four projects raised over $5600 and had 463 man hours logged.

The Court of Honor was performed as an Order of the Arrow ceremony. The OA is Scouting’s service corps and is primarily in charge of maintenance of the Council’s Camp Maubila and Camp Pinetreat. Six scouts dressed in Native American regalia told the crowd of the journey the four scouts made to earn this high honor.

Oaths were recited, charges were given and the four men were inducted into the National Eagle Scout Association.

On this special occasion, we'd like to congratulate all four Crew members for reaching a goal that only 2% of scouts achieve. Great job guys.

-Scott Escobio
Saint James would be proud of the youth at St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church in Pennington, New Jersey. After hearing about the needs of people in poverty around the world, the teens decided to take concrete steps to respond – showing themselves to “doers of the word, and not merely hearers” (James 1:22).

According to the Rev. Emily Griffin, Associate Rector at St. Matthew’s, this year’s confirmation class focused on the Millennium Development Goals. As their outreach project, the students chose to work toward Goal #1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger. “Specifically,” Pastor Emily said, “they decided to raise funds to purchase drought-resistant seeds and agricultural training through Episcopal Relief & Development’s Gifts for Life catalog.”

The teens launched a campaign to share their knowledge with the congregation and collect offerings to help buy the seeds. They made announcements in church and distributed Hope Chests, asking parishioners to fill the mite boxes with spare change and bills and return them in a month.

Additionally, the youth created a special presentation for the other church school students. Using M&M candies, two of the teens demonstrated the disparity between people who are rich and poor. First they filled a glass vase almost to the top with candy, illustrating the resources of those in developed countries. Placing a second vase next to it, they poured in just four M&Ms — symbolizing the little available to the one billion people in extreme poverty worldwide.

Explaining why they were choosing to meet needs with seeds and training, the teens said, “It’s good to give people food when they are hungry but then they only get to eat for maybe one meal or one day. But if you can teach people how to grow their own food, they can eat every day! That is what we want to do!”

Several weeks later, on Episcopal Relief & Development Sunday, the youth collected the Hope Chests and were delighted to learn they had raised more than $1,660 — enough to purchase 830 trays of drought-resistant seeds to help communities grow more food.

“They had no idea what their efforts would produce,” Pastor Emily wrote in a letter to the organization. “Thank you for giving us (and them) the opportunity to give. It was a blessing to me as their priest to let them know how our church is relevant to people in need and that we are indeed working in tangible ways to heal a hurting world.”

Teri Lawver, a St. Matthew’s parishioner and member of Episcopal Relief & Development’s Board of Directors, noted that “just as impactful” as the teens’ effort and its results was that “every Sunday Schooler at the parish was remarkably articulate about what they were collecting money for – and you could see how pleased they all were when the results were announced. What a wonderful example of how Episcopal Relief & Development is engaging churches in its mission.”

-Submitted by Eugene Johnston

**ECW Rummage Sale**
**April 5 and 6th, 2013**

Start assembling your donations and be prepared to help with the big event!
Advertise—tell your family, friends and neighbors about the sale.
Volunteer—a sign up sheet will be on the bulletin board soon.
For healing grace and continued strength, we pray for our members:
Mary Lou Varnes, Sandra Wilson,
Cheryl Winters-Heard, Bud McLean,
Bessie Southall, Gordon Moulton,
Joyce Lee, Mary Jones, Lynn Seymour,
Matt Mattoon

For our Homebound:
Ray Campbell, Mae Dunn, Corinne Faust,
Lois Hamby, Nell Kirk, Violet Kosko,
Margie Mattoon, Jane Moore,
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

For our Friends and Family:
Ray Michel, Preston Stevens,
Frank Morgret, Carol Hubbard,
Irene Barrow, Wendell Jeffcoat,
Danny Melton, Emily Steiner, Larry Kent,
Warren Bishop, Jim Cieutat,
Robby Shelton, John & Pat Cranton,
Gabe Pippin, Steven Garner,
Dot & Herbert Treheron, Steve & Muriel Donald, William & Barbara Dorsey,
Andrea Murray, Anna Marie Brown,
Betty Chenoweth, Mark Stiber,
Maddie West, James Henry LeBatard [deacon]
EASTER LILIES

Look for cards to sign up for Easter Lilies on Rose Sunday, which is the 4th Sunday in Lent, March 10.

Contact Us

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rector@stjohnsmobile.org

The Reverend Jayne Carson, deacon
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Organist & Choir Director
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Jack Ruppe
Sexton

Vestry:
Bootsie Cieutat
Jan Dabney
Chris Gass, junior warden
Cindy Gass, treasurer
David Jones
Wilmer Mayson
Connie McLean
Nikki Shaw, clerk
Butch Yeager, senior warden

Memorial Donations

Saint John’s wishes to extend a sincere thank you to those who made donations honoring the following:

In Memory of Betty Plash
   Bob & Connie Anderson
   Eugene & Emily Johnston
   Linda Reynolds
   Smith, Dukes & Buckalew

In Memory of Gale Chenoweth
   John Christiansen

In Memory of Tom Ford
   Jesse & Venecia Davis
   Cornel Sarosdy
   Jane Cosgrove
   Riese Club
   Evelyn Grubbs

In Honor of Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Moulton
   Mr. & Mrs. Donald Langham
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.