



# 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. XXIII, Issue 4

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## FROM THE RECTOR:

Dear Ones,

Since the shootings at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, CT, there has been much media, social, political, and religious attention focused on gun control. I can't count the number of voices calling for stricter regulations and tighter controls. There are at least an equal number who want to maintain the *status quo*. The rhetoric has been deafening.

What strikes me as odd is that we didn't have similarly boisterous outcries following Columbine, Gabrielle Giffords, or the Aurora Theatre shootings. Perhaps that's because there were so many children who were innocent victims. I suppose the reasons are unimportant, but I think the conversation is very important. I'm afraid the conversation won't be addressing the real problem. I think Porky Pine, speaking to Pogo Possum captured it perfectly:

"We have met the enemy and he is us."

Relax, I'm not going to talk about gun control, background checks or equipment bans. I am going to talk about what I believe is really behind these kinds of events.

French literature professor and literary critic René Girard made a profound discovery. While looking for what made a truly great novel, he observed that conflict relationships always seemed to include a third-party. This most often is an object, a thing, and it is the source of the conflict. He suggests that all of our desires, what we want, are derived from someone else. We "borrow" them. He called this "mimetic desire". Mimesis, from which the word 'mime' is derived, is imitation, mimicry, or representation. This leads to mimetic rivalry: one party has something (Girard calls it the 'mediator') that the other desires. It manifests itself in many ways. Perhaps the easiest to see is 'the desire to have what someone else has.' Advertising seems to be oriented toward convincing us that we really want to possess the newest product.

From here, it is a short jump to violence as a method of acquiring the mediator. If you think about novels you've read, you can probably already identify some examples of this.

The last concept he identified is the 'scapegoat mechanism'. This, he holds, is foundational to sacrifice and human culture itself. He sees religion as the development of a mechanism to combat mimetic rivalry.

A few examples from the Bible:

- Cain kills Abel because God preferred Abel's offering over that of Cain.
- Jacob tricks Isaac into giving him Esau's birthright. Rachel helped out in this one, so we have conspiracy.
- Joseph is cast into a pit by his brothers because he is Jacob's favorite son.
- The Apostles blame the Jews for Jesus' crucifixion (Acts). This one is complicated: Mimetic rivalry is behind Jesus' trial; the Apostles are scapegoating the Jews; in a theological view, Jesus is the scapegoat for humanity.

There are many, many more examples throughout the Bible.

What it's really all about is our failure to live into the Kingdom of God, to live into our full stature as Children of God. We keep forgetting or ignoring Jesus' commandment to us: "Love one another as I have loved you." Pretty simple, isn't it? It's only what God has been after us to do since the beginning. I wonder why it is that we can't seem to do it.

—Thomas

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE APRIL LITURGICAL CALENDAR

### **The Annunciation of Our Lord Jesus Christ**

The Feast of the Annunciation of Our Lord Jesus Christ to the Blessed Virgin Mary will be celebrated on 8 April at 12:10PM. This celebration commemorates the visit of the angel Gabriel to Our Lady and her assent to God's request to be *Theotokos*, or God-bearer. Her answer, like that of Abraham, was "Let it be to me according to your word." This feast has been transferred from March 25<sup>th</sup>. The rubrics require that Holy Week and Easter Week be unaltered and 8 April is the first open day.

### **William Law**

This quiet schoolmaster in Putney, England wrote a book in 1728 that had immediate impacts and we still feel its repercussions today. Titled, "*A Serious Call to a Devout and Holy Life*", Law's work was an influence on John Wesley and George Whitefield, laying the foundations of the Great Awakening in the U.S. and the Evangelical Movement in England. Law was a priest, but because of his refusal to swear allegiance to the House of Hanover, he was deprived of his parish and turned to teaching. He was instrumental in organizing schools and homes for the poor and was a staunch defender of scripture and sacraments against the Deists. We will commemorate William Law on Wednesday, 10 April at our 10:00AM Said Mass.

### **Saint Mark the Evangelist**

We will commemorate the life and work of Saint Mark the Evangelist on Thursday, 25 April at 12:10PM. Mark, as the author of the Gospel bearing his name, is not precisely identified. Various traditions have him filling roles ranging from being one of Jesus' disciples to being the cousin of Barnabas in Paul's letters. The Church of Alexandria claims that Mark was its first bishop and a martyr, killed while on a missionary journey. It is Mark's Gospel that gives us the shortest account of Jesus ministry, but we must be careful not to equate short with simple. Mark's Gospel leaves us with many questions, but gives us many clues to the answers.



## Vestry

The March meeting of the Vestry was called to order at 11:30AM on 10 March 2013. Fr. Heard asked Connie McLean to serve as Clerk Pro Tempore in the absence of Nikki Shaw.

The minutes of the February meeting were approved as distributed.

- Cindy Gass reviewed the financials for February.
- Several vestry members reported being questioned about the decision to discontinue the Mobile Press Register advertisement.
- Outreach has committed to providing books for a Mobile Community Action program for one month.
- Chris Gass reported that a work day needs to be scheduled in the near future.

Fr. Heard reported that the bishop would be with us for The Great Vigil of Easter on 30 March. This is in addition to his visitation, which is scheduled for 24 April.

The Vestry adjourned with prayer at 12:10PM.

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## EPISCOPAL VISITATION

Bishop Duncan will be with us on Wednesday, 24 April for his canonical visitation to the parish. We will sing Evensong at 5:30PM and then retire to the Great Hall for a reception and chance to chat with him. The canons of the church require the diocesan bishop to visit each parish in his or her See every three years.

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## CONFIRMATION & RECEPTION

We were privileged to have Bishop Duncan with us for the Great Vigil of Easter. It was not an "official" visit; he just wanted to be at Saint John's. One of the sacraments reserved to a bishop is the rite of Confirmation and Reception. During the vigil, Bishop Duncan received Jim Hayward into our communion and confirmed Lee Dorsey. Congratulations to both!

## ECW RUMMAGE SALE APRIL 5 AND 6<sup>TH</sup>, 2013

The St John's **ECW Rummage Sale** will be held on **Friday April 5<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, April 6 from 7 AM to 1 PM each day.**

Bring your "trash and treasure" items to the church any day before the sale starts. You can bring them anytime the church is open.

A few reminders:

- Please make sure items are clean.
- If it is electric, make sure all the parts are included and it works.
- No computer stuff this year (it didn't sell in the past).
- We're taking clothes this year but they have to be in good condition (no stains or rips), washed and ironed (or dry cleaned), and on a hanger.

Volunteer to spend a few hours helping to sort and price the items. You don't have to be an ECW member: all are welcome, gentlemen too!!

Tell your friends and neighbors about the sale (and all the other good things we do at St. John's) and invite them to come.

Volunteer to work at the sale, we need people to help keep the room organized and the tables looking neat; answer questions from our "customers" and to clean up afterwards.

Call Paula Ross or Marie Brown for more information.



It's time for a church directory update. So that we may get the best information to you, please make sure that we have all the latest in address, e-mail and telephone changes turned in to the church office by Sunday, May 12. New parish directories will be available by the end of May.

## LENTEN SUPPERS

The Lenten Supper series of five meals and discussion became a part of the weekly schedule of many in the St John's community.

We brought canned goods for the food pantry to the point of over-flowing the barrels.

We shared a meal; meatless and simple (although the desserts were always quite yummy and maybe not so simple...).

We stretched our minds by watching a series of recorded lectures/discussions about the prophets and the relevance of their message today.

We held our own discussion about today's social issues and who might be considered today's prophets.

We realized that despite our different world views we have commonality in our beliefs in the teachings of the Church and we have respect for each other as individuals through this shared experience.

-Janet Buckley

## ECW SPRING DAY AWAY

### April 13, 2013

The ECW of the diocese has planned its annual "Spring Day Away" for April 13 at St. Simon's Episcopal Church in Ft. Walton Beach, Florida. The gathering will feature The Rev. Barbara Crafton, Episcopal priest, spiritual director and author. She heads The Geranium Farm, an institute for the promotion of spiritual growth.

Schedule for the day:

9:00 – 9:30 Registration and coffee

9:30 -10:00 Welcome

10:00 – 11:30 Speaker and Q&A Session

11:30 – 12:30 Lunch

12:30 – 1:00 Book signing

1:00 Closing Eucharist

Registration fee is \$10. There is a registration form on the church bulletin board.

# APRIL 2013 AT SAINT JOHN'S

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 830A MP 1210P HE 7P Gloria Dei	2 830A MP 1210P HE 6P Winning Solutions	3 830A MP 10A HE+Unction 7P Choir	4 830A MP 1210P HE	5 7A-2P Rummage Sale 830A MP 1210P HE	6 7A-2P Rummage Sale
7 <b>Easter 2</b> 9A SS 14A HE	8 <b>Annunciation</b> 830A MP 1210P HE 7P Gloria Dei	9 830A MP 6P Winning Solutions	10 <b>William Law</b> 830A MP 10A HE 7P Choir	11 830A MP	12 830A MP	13
14 <b>Easter 3</b> 830A Breakfast 9A SS 10A HE 1130A Vestry	15 830A MP 7P Gloria Dei	16 830A MP 6P Winning Solutions	17 830A MP 10A HE 7P Choir	18 830A MP	19 830A MP	20
21 <b>Easter 4</b> 9A SS 10A HE 1130A ECW	22 830A MP 7P Gloria Dei <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>	23 830A MP 1210P HE 6P Winning Solutions	24 <b>Bishop's Visitation</b> 830A MP 10A HE 530P Evensong 7P Choir	25 <b>Saint Mark</b> 830A MP 1210P HE	26 830A MP	27
28 <b>Easter 5</b> 9A SS 10A HE 1130A 4th Sunday Potluck	29 830A MP 7P Gloria Dei	30 830A MP 6P Winning Solutions	HE = Holy Eucharist MP = Morning Prayer SS = Sunday School			

# LECTIONARY AND ROTA FOR APRIL 2013

Date Service	7 April HE-II, EP-B	14 April HE-II, EP-B	21 April HE-II, EP-B	24 April Evenson	28 April HE-II, EP-B
Lectionary Day	Easter 2  C Easter 2	Easter 3  C Easter 3	Easter 4  C Easter 4	Easter 4  1 Easter 4, Wednesday	Easter 5  C Easter 5
Color	White	White	White	White	White
Lessons	Acts 5:27-32 Psalm 118:14-29 Revelation 1:4-8 John 20:19-31	Acts 9:1-6(7-20) Psalm 30 Revelation 5:11-14 John 21:1-19	Acts 9:36-43 Psalm 23 Revelation 10:22-30 John 10:22-30	Psalm 119:1-32 Exodus 28:1-4, 30-38 Matthew 7:15-29	Acts 11:1-18 Psalm 148 Revelation 21:1-6 John 13:31-35
Greeters	Connie McLean	Joan-Marie Elam	Paula & Bob Ross		Irene & Burch Yeager
Lectors	Connie Anderson Bud McLean	Scott Escobio Pat Fulford	Ron Brown Cheryl Winters-Heard	Burch Yeager	Mary Sheffield Connie Anderson
Eucharistic Ministers	Ron Waites Geri Moulton	Eugene Johnston Connie Anderson	Connie McLean Mary Sheffield		Burch Yeager Paula Ross
Eucharistic Visitor	Ron Brown	Paula Ross	Eugene Johnston		Ron Waites
Altar Guild	Kim Partsch Irene Yeager	Kim Partsch Irene Yeager	Lorraine Murray Marie Brown		Lorraine Murray Marie Brown
Vestry Teller	Ian Dabney David Jones	Cindy Gass Wilmer Mayson	David Jones Connie McLean		Wilmer Mayson Chris Gass
Nursery	Cindy Gass Butch Yeager	Karen Twilley Jennifer Tarantole	Denise Dunham Jennifer Tarantole		Marie Brown Pat Fulford



## NETSFORLIFE® INSPIRATION FUND EXCEEDS GOAL TO FIGHT MALARIA

The [NetsforLife® Inspiration Fund](#) has successfully exceeded its \$5 million goal due to the incredible generosity of supporters across the Episcopal Church and beyond. Over the 2010-12 triennium, thousands of individuals joined congregations, dioceses, schools and organizations in this church-wide, grassroots effort to unite Episcopalians in the fight against malaria. Since 2006, Episcopal Relief & Development's NetsforLife® program partnership has distributed over 11 million mosquito nets and reduced malaria-related deaths by 45% in participating sub-Saharan African communities.

“To have raised \$5 million, from a grassroots level, by church communities working together is significant,” said Laura Ellen Muglia, co-chair of the national NetsforLife® Inspiration Fund Campaign Advisory Committee. “Even more impactful is knowing that the mosquito nets distributed will mean children, mothers, fathers, grandparents, cousins, whole communities, will have a life without malaria, a new life of many possibilities, a life of hope.”

Working in partnership with churches and faith-based groups, NetsforLife® has been a leader in malaria prevention by distributing over 11 million nets, training 82,000 community malaria agents and reaching more than 30 million people in remote areas across the African continent. NetsforLife® combats malaria by educating community members about proper net use and maintenance, training community agents to deliver life-saving nets and providing ongoing monitoring and evaluation of malaria prevention practices. Of the 17 countries where NetsforLife® is active, five – Angola, Ghana, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Zambia – have adopted aspects of the program's methodology as part of their national malaria policy, and many others have solicited input for country-wide strategic planning.

At the 2009 General Convention, the Episcopal Church made the NetsforLife® Inspiration Fund the centerpiece of its prophetic response to the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and pledged 0.7% of its budget to this campaign. All Episcopalians were invited to learn more about this disease and how to prevent it, and contribute towards this important undertaking. Led by a Campaign Advisory Committee with four co-chairs and members from across the Church, the campaign exceeded its fundraising goal of \$5 million in early 2013.

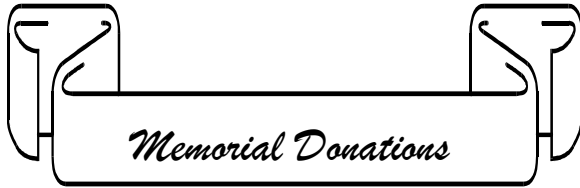
“It was exhilarating to see Episcopal churches and dioceses come together to significantly improve the lives of millions of people in sub-Saharan Africa through the work of NetsforLife® and this campaign,” stated Barbara Case Senchak, co-chair of the national NetsforLife® Inspiration Fund Campaign Advisory Committee. “All of our communities were strengthened because of it. This truly is the best of Christianity in a global effort.”

Although the campaign is complete, the work of NetsforLife® will continue. The gains made in malaria control are indeed still fragile and will require on-going investment. In 2013, the goal is to distribute more than 3 million nets.

“The passion, creativity, and enthusiasm across the Church for this campaign has been nothing short of extraordinary,” stated Joy Shigaki, Director of the NetsforLife® Inspiration Fund. “From organizing basketball tournaments, runs, cookie sales and educational forums on malaria, this campaign has been a life-giving and transformative effort to witness.”

-Submitted by Eugene Johnston





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

**Tom Ford**

Pam Mannix	Alice Mitchell
Geraldine Pierce	Slad & Skeeter Rhodes
Jordan Pile Driving	Dave & Dora Schwartz
Nancy Hamner	James W. Skelton
Bill & Alice Schaffer	Equipment Appraisers Assn.

**Pattie Knowles Dorsey**

Lee Dorsey

**Pat Thomas**

Michael & Karen Keel



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

Mary Lou Varnes, Sandra Wilson, Bud McLean, 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:**

Eugene Johnston, Regina Fielder, Brandy Greer, Scott Minto, 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 Trehern, William & Barbara Dorsey, Andrea Murray, Anna Marie Brown, Betty Chenoweth, Mark Stiber, Maddie West, James Henry LeBatard [deacon]



Jessica Dennis	04/05
Mike Johnson	04/13
Betty Taylor	04/14
Mary Lou Varnes	04/14
Joyce Lee	04/18
Frances Barbour	04/22

**Contact Us**

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**Vestry:**

Bootsie Cieutat

Jan Dabney

Chris Gass, *junior warden*

Cindy Gass, *treasurer*

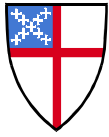
David Jones

Wilmer Mayson

Connie McLean

Nikki Shaw, *clerk*

Butch Yeager, *senior warden*



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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 1<sup>st</sup>  
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](http://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.