



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 5

May 2013

FROM THE RECTOR:

In the Adult Sunday School, we've been talking about the same topic since last month's newsletter. We started off talking about what we perceived to be the causes of the crime committed and poor choices made by people.

Starting with the premise that this is the most affluent country in the world, we felt that our education system is failing. I think it was a key moment when it was observed that the system was failing not only the students, but society as a whole.

We found how easy it is to blame the system, the children's parents, and the difficulties of the economy. It is far more difficult to accept that each of us, as part of the community, also share in the blame for the failures of the system.

We tried to do some root cause analysis, high-level as it was, to try to identify a few issues that might be ones that could be taken on and a substantive difference made. I'm not sure how successful others feel that we were; for my part, I think we barely skimmed the surface. I'll share what we talked about.

It was said that our prison system isn't rehabilitating its residents. Take, for example, someone who commits a burglary. When we send him to prison, he doesn't learn things that offer him a different future when he's released from prison. Instead, he learns better skills, makes new friends that will support future criminal enterprises. In short, we teach him to be a better criminal.

We have the highest per-capita prison population of any country in the world, 756 per 100,000 (King's College London International Centre for Prison Studies). It was agreed around the class that we're not always sensible about who it is that goes to prison and who gets probation. Most seemed to think that being part of society (with strong rules) seemed a better course than being locked up. It forced working in the community, afforded making restitution, and promoted

being a contributing member of society. But it doesn't always work.

We talked about when the problems started. Most said teen years, but that the patterns were set long before primary education started. We saw the problem as basic interpersonal skills involving responsibility, cause-effect understanding, and communication. If there is no sense of responsibility to community or family, then there's no concern how we're perceived. It's kind of like reading Psalm 82:6, "I say that you are gods," as meaning that we have no responsibility to anyone but ourselves. On the other hand, if there is responsibility and accountability, then we know that we're part of something bigger. We feel like we're important to it, that we contribute to it, and that we all share in its successes.

We ended up taking the position that the pre-elementary school years seem to define what the future might look like: the better start, the better the future. If someone goes off the tracks, then the best thing we can do is alter their model of life. Generally, we seemed to agree that it would mean education of one sort or another. Perhaps a high school diploma or a GED, perhaps a skill or trade - whichever would position the person for the best chance of success.

At the end of the day, though, it still means that if a failure to thrive occurs, then we all share in it. Our commitment needs to be for all of our brothers and sisters, not just the ones we like. We cannot allow ourselves to see "others", but rather, see our sisters and brothers that, for whatever reason, are in need of assistance to cope with daily life and feel good about themselves. That's what "loving one another" is all about.

—Thomas

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MAY LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Saint Philip and Saint James, Apostles

The feast commemorating the lives and ministries of Philip and James is appointed to be 1 May. Our knowledge of these two apostles comes primarily from the gospels of John and Mark. James and his brother, John, were sons of Zebedee. We know Philip was from Bethsaida. Jesus encountered Philip in Galilee and called him to be a disciple. It was Philip who told Nathaniel, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." We will celebrate these two apostles at a Said Mass at 10:00AM.

Julian of Norwich

The Lady Julian was born about 1342, and when she was thirty years old, she became gravely ill and was expected to die. Then, on the seventh day, the medical crisis passed, and she had a series of fifteen visions, or "showings," in which she was led to contemplate the Passion of Christ. These brought her great peace and joy. She became an anchoress, living in a small hut near to the church in Norwich, where she devoted the rest of her life to prayer and contemplation of the meaning of her visions. The results of her meditations she wrote in a book called *Revelations of Divine Love*. We will commemorate Dame Julian at our Said Mass on Wednesday, 8 May at 10:00AM.

Ascension Day

The Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord Jesus Christ will be celebrated on Thursday, 9 May at 12:10PM. According to Luke and Acts, Jesus was lifted up to heaven 40 days after his resurrection. This return to be with God is even more significant in the Gospel of John, but happens on the day of the resurrection. We will celebrate the Ascension on Thursday, 9 May at a Said Mass at 12:10PM.



First Book of Common Prayer

The first Book of Common Prayer made its debut on Pentecost Sunday of 1549. Primarily the work of Archbishop of Canterbury, Thomas Cranmer, it drew on the Sarum Rite, Gallican rites, liturgies from the Eastern Church and the new Lutheran order. One of the key features was that it was entirely in English - The people could now understand what was said and could participate in their native language. That doesn't mean it was universally accepted: Wales, Ireland and parts of England had their own languages. This deficiency has since been corrected, at least in The Episcopal Church. We will commemorate the first Common Prayer at our Wednesday Said Mass on 22 May.

The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

This commemorates the visit of the mother of Our Lord to her cousin Elizabeth as recounted in Luke's Gospel. It is from the Annunciation and the Visitation that the words for *Magnificat* are drawn. We will celebrate this feast at a Said Mass at 12:10PM on Friday, 31 May.



PHOTOS NEEDED FOR THE NEWSLETTER!

Don't you enjoy having pictures in the St. John's newsletters? If you carry a camera to church events, please send photos to llowe@stjohnsmobile.org.





An ECW meeting was held on April 22, 2013 with nine in attendance. President Marie Brown opened the meeting with a prayer and “thought for the day.” There were no minutes from the previous meeting and no treasurer’s report.

The reception for the Bishop was discussed. The group agreed to sponsor altar flowers 2-3 Sundays per year when no one signs up for a particular Sunday. It was mentioned that several shut-ins had been visited, and those visits were enjoyed by all.

Allocation of funds from the Rummage Sale was discussed. The ECW will donate \$100 to Episcopal Relief and Development. They also agreed to investigate paying to repair the ceiling in the parlor and the back of the church, have the brass polished on the hand rails at the marble steps, and keep the courtyard looking good.

Additional items discussed include changing the name of the Treasurer to Financial Liaison (no decision reached) and distribution of U.T.O. boxes on April 28. Also, members of the Altar Guild are looking for Biz, Ivory Snow or Snowy Bleach. Please contact a guild member if you know where any of these products can be purchased.

Following mention of various members who needed cards and prayers, the meeting was adjourned.

Joyce Lee
Acting Secretary



United Thank Offering
Sharing Blessings with Thanksgiving and Love

The United Thank Offering is our opportunity to give to others in thanksgiving for our many blessings. Please use this “Blue Box” daily and each time you think of some way you have been blessed, drop in a nickel, dime, quarter or whatever. On Mother’s Day, please return your box, and our United Thank Offering chairpersons will collect them during the offertory. We are all so blessed. Let’s show our thanksgiving and help others.

The Diocesan United Thank Offering has been in existence since 1889 and has striven to “expand the mission and ministry of the church.” St. John’s has for many years been a leader in this diocese in United Thank Offering contributions. The funds are sent to the diocesan office, which in turn forwards them to the United Thank Offering office in New York. For the past several years, this diocese has been truly blessed with several grants from our United Thank Offering contributions.

Be sure to “use your blue box” in thanksgiving, and bring it back to the church on Mother’s Day, May 12. Thank you and God bless.

Irene Yeager and Donna Waites
U.T.O Coordinators



THE FOOD BARRELS

Wondering what happened to the food barrels? The food is now stored in our “food pantry” and available for our neighbors who knock on the door of the church asking for assistance. We have reusable bags (a generous donation) that can be filled with canned goods and other non-perishables and given to those in need. The food barrels will be back because there is always need in our community. So don’t forget to pick up a few extra canned goods or other non-perishables when you go grocery shopping. We’ll have the barrels back in the great hall and in the back of the church for you to be able to “deposit” your contributions.

Janet Buckley

MAY 2013 AT SAINT JOHN'S

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>HE = Holy Eucharist MP = Morning Prayer SS = Sunday School</p>			<p>1 Saint Philip & Saint James 830A MP 10A HE+Uction 7P Choir</p>	<p>2 830A MP 1210P HE</p>	<p>3 830A MP 1210P HE</p>	<p>4 9-11A Gloria Dei</p>
<p>5 Easter 6 9A SS 10A HE</p>	<p>6 830A MP 7P Gloria Dei</p>	<p>7 830A MP 6P Winning Solutions</p>	<p>8 Julian of Norwich 830A MP 10A HE 7P Choir</p>	<p>9 Ascension Day 830A MP 1210P HE 1245P Retiree Luncheon</p>	<p>10 830A MP</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12 Easter 7 830A Breakfast 9A SS 10A HE 1130A Vestry</p>	<p>13 830A MP 7P Gloria Dei</p>	<p>14 830A MP 6P Winning Solutions</p>	<p>15 830A MP 10A HE 7P Choir</p>	<p>16 830A MP</p>	<p>17 830A MP 3-5P Fleming Rehearsal</p>	<p>18 730P Gloria Dei Louis Daniel's Requiem</p>
<p>19 Pentecost 9A SS 10A HE 1130A ECW</p>	<p>20 830A MP Newsletter Deadline</p>	<p>21 830A MP 6P Winning Solutions</p>	<p>22 First Book of Common Prayer 830A MP 10A HE 7P Choir</p>	<p>23 830A MP 6-10P Fleming Recital</p>	<p>24 830A MP</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26 Trinity 9A SS 10A HE 1130A 4th Sunday Potluck</p>	<p>27 830A MP 7P Gloria Dei</p>	<p>28 830A MP 6P Winning Solutions</p>	<p>29 830A MP 10A HE 7P Choir</p>	<p>30 830A MP 4-10P Petro Recital</p>	<p>31 Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary 830A MP 1210P HE</p>	

LECTIONARY AND ROTA FOR MAY 2013

Date Service	5 May HE-II, EP-B	12 May HE-II, EP-B	19 May HE-II, EP-B	26 May HE-II, EP-B
Lectionary Day	Easter 6 C Easter 6 RCL	Easter 7 C Easter 7 RCL	Pentecost C Pentecost RCL	Trinity C Trinity RCL
Color	White	White	Red	White
Lessons	Acts 16:9-15 Psalm 67 Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5 John 14:23-29 or John 5:1-9	Acts 16:16-34 Psalm 97 Rev. 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21 John 17:20-26	Acts 2:1-21 Psalm 104:25-35, 37 Romans 8:14-17 John 14:8-17 (, 25-27)	Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31 Psalm 8 Romans 5:1-5 John 16:12-15
Greeters	Connie & Bob Anderson	Thelma Lomers	Connie McLean	Joan-Marie Elam
Lectors	Ron Waites Kathe Gieseler	Janet Buckley Scott Escobio	Bud McLean Mary Sheffield	Cheryl Winters-Heard Geri Moulton
Eucharistic Ministers	Geri Moulton Eugene Johnston	Ron Brown Mary Sheffield	Connie Anderson Connie McLean	Paula Ross Eugene Johnston
Eucharistic Visitor	Ron Brown	Paula Ross	Eugene Johnston	Ron Waites
Altar Guild	Pat Fulford Cindy Gass	Pat Fulford Cindy Gass	Donna Waites Fran Barbour	Donna Waites Fran Barbour
Vestry Teller	Connie McLean Nikki Shaw	Chris Gass Bootsie Cieutat	Nikki Shaw Jan Dabney	Butch Yeager Cindy Gass
Nursery	Andrew Lee Connie Anderson	Connie McLean Karen Twilley	Nikki Shaw Cindy Gass	Denise Dunham Marie Brown



Vestry

The regular meeting of the Vestry and Wardens of Saint John's Church was called to order at 11:30AM on 14 April 2013 in the Parlor. The agenda was approved as amended.

Administration: Cindy Gass reviewed the current financial statements.

Outreach: Butch Yeager reported that the committee has committed to continuing to provide for McKemie Place with Church of the Redeemer one night per month. We are also participating in a project that will provide books to underprivileged children.

Physical Plant: Chris Gass reported that a work day will be scheduled in the next couple of weeks. Fr. Heard added that compressor #1 in the chiller had to be recharged with freon.

Stewardship: Fr. Heard reported that quarterly statements have been mailed and also emailed where possible. If requested, we will not mail quarterly statements. Year-end statements will be mailed.

Rector's Report: Fr. Heard presented the annual Parochial Report. It was noted that the deacon was not included in the staff listing. The Vestry approved the Parochial Report with the noted correction.

The Vestry approved a gift in kind for a parishioner.

Saint John's will host the clergy retirees, spouses and widows at a luncheon on 9 May.

The Vestry approved application for credit cards to serve the parish. They are to be issued in the names of Connie McLean and James Christiansen with \$5000 credit limits.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned with prayer at 12:15PM.

GLORIA DEI CHORALE

AND CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

LOUIS F. DANIEL, DIRECTOR

PRESENT THE PREMIERE PERFORMANCE OF
LOUIS F. DANIEL'S

REQUIEM

WITH

MEGAN KING, SOPRANO
MARSHALL RICHARDS, TENOR
GRAHAM ANDURI, BARITONE

SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2013

7:30 PM

THE CATHEDRAL BASILICA
OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
2 SOUTH CLAIBORNE STREET
MOBILE, ALABAMA

ALL DONATIONS AT THE DOOR WILL BENEFIT
DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

GLORIA DEI CHORALE SPRING CONCERT 2013: REQUIEM

Gloria Dei Chorale and Chamber Orchestra, under the direction of Louis F. Daniel, will present their Spring Concert on Saturday, May 18, 2013—Armed Forces Day—at 7:30 PM at the Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, 2 South Claiborne, Mobile, AL. This concert will be the premiere performance of Daniel's *Requiem*, which he wrote in memory of his father, Floyd F. Daniel, Jr. Mr. Daniel, a decorated WWII veteran, passed away in 1994. Guest soloists are Megan King, soprano; Marshall Richards, tenor; and Graham Anduri, baritone. There is a \$10 suggested donation at the door, which will go to Disabled American Veterans. For more information, contact Marian Boykin at 251-533-9810 or visit the group's website: www.gloriadeichorale.org.



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.



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

Loraine Murray, Sandra Wilson, 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:

Kylie Hart, Regina Fielder, Brandy Greer, Scott Minto, Ray Michel, Preston Stevens, Frank Morgret, Carol Hubbard, 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]



Tony Seymour	5/03
Carrie Fairley	5/05
Martha Grice	5/08
Cookie Rich	5/09
Tanner Dunham	5/10
Mike Barbour	5/11
Paula Ross	5/15
Trey Johnson	5/20
Pat Fulford	5/29

Contact Us

Staff:

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The Reverend Jayne Carson, *deacon*
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Louis Daniel
 Organist & Choir Director
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Lella Lowe
 Financial Secretary
finance@stjohnsmobile.org

Jack Ruppe
 Sexton

Vestry:

Bootsie Cieutat

Jan Dabney

Chris Gass, *junior warden*

Cindy Gass, *treasurer*

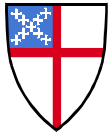
David Jones

Wilmer Mayson

Connie McLean

Nikki Shaw, *clerk*

Butch Yeager, *senior warden*



Saint John's Episcopal Church
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Mobile, Alabama 36604

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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

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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.