FROM THE RETORC:

Dear Ones,

As Trinity Sunday dawned, I started my morning ritual of reading the news of the church and of the world. One of those sources is Episcopal Café (www.episcopalcafe.com), which is usually a good place for interesting and thought-provoking topics. There’s often some good humor there, too, so it’s not entirely serious.

Anyway, under the heading of “We’re 26th, We’re 26th,” was a brief article reporting that the United Nations released a report on “Child-Well Being in Rich Countries.” You can find the report at: www.unicefirc.org/publications/pdf/rc11_eng.pdf

The U.N. report comes on the heels of a Pew Research Global Attitudes project report which found that more than 24% of Americans had trouble putting food on the table, even though they live in the world’s richest economy. The report also noted that “this reported level of deprivation is closer to that in Indonesia or Greece rather than Britain or Canada.” www.pewglobal.org/2013/05/23/advanced-economies-report-lowest-deprivation/

Of the 29 countries surveyed, the United States was ranked 26th. It is a solid 26th place but could possibly have been lower if some other countries had not been excluded because of lack of data for some of the tracked indicators: Australia, Israel, Japan, New Zealand to name a few.

“Deprivation” is one of the categories, subdividing into monetary and material. More than 23% of children (0-17) live in homes with incomes less than 50% of the median income. The child poverty gap, family incomes below the poverty line, is 36% for the U.S. We catch a break on Material Deprivation due to lack of comparable data.

Health and Safety came next: More than 6 deaths for infants under 12 months per 1000 births. More than 8% of babies born in the U.S. weigh less than 2500g (5.5lb) at birth; but we are at about 97% immunization coverage for measles, polio and DPT3. Our preschool enrollment rate is in the bottom third, as is participation in education from age 15-19, and we have more than 8% of 15-19 year olds not in education, employment or training.

Behaviors and Risks is mixed. We are in the lower third for overweight by BMI, births by teenagers, but come out in the top third in daily fruit intake, exercise, low smoking and low alcohol use.

There’s much more in the study and the Pew Research report is equally revealing. If you’re interested, please find it and read it. It is very enlightening. It is also pretty horrifying.

In the early 2000s, the U.S. was 20th in the U.N. report standings. By the late 2000s, we had fallen to 21st. Now in the early 2010s, we have a firm hold on 26th.

On Trinity Sunday, I talked about all of the arguments that had gone on since the days of the early church over the doctrine of the Trinity. The net result of it was deciding who was in and who was out, who was orthodox and who was heretical. These are human characterizations and I don’t think “in v. out” was ever God’s big concern and certainly not Jesus’ primary motivator. Quite the contrary, God as known to us and experienced by us has been about inclusion and caretaking. I think we’ve missed the point if we’re not concerned enough with the welfare of the children in our country that we’re not working hard at bettering it. Jesus said, “Love one another.” No conditions, no exclusions.

— Thomas
## Highlights of the June Liturgical Calendar

### Boniface of Mainz

Born Winfred in 675, the man we remember as Boniface was educated at Exeter and made his life profession as a monk and was ordained priest. His first missionary journey was to Frisia in 716. He sought the Pope's permission for another visit in 719, and Gregory the Second gave him the name “Boniface.” Boniface spent the rest of his life planting, organizing, growing and reforming churches, monasteries, and diocese. He was ordained bishop in 722 and was given the see of Mainz in 743. On a missionary trip to Frisia in 754, he and his companions were murdered by a band of pagans. We will commemorate Boniface’s life and work at our Said Mass on Wednesday, 5 June at 10:00AM.

### Enmegabowh

John Joseph Enmegabowh was raised in the traditions of his Ottawa Indian father and Christian mother. He came to the U.S. in 1832 as a Methodist missionary. With James Lloyd Breck, he founded the Saint Columba’s Mission in 1852. Enmegabowh is recognized as the first Native American priest in the Episcopal Church. He was ordained deacon by Jackson Kemper in 1859 and priest by Henry Whipple in 1867. His name means “The One who Stands Before his People,” and he served them until his death in 1902. We will commemorate his life at our Said Mass on Wednesday, 12 June at 10:00AM.

### Saint Barnabas

We will commemorate Saint Barnabas the Apostle on Tuesday, 11 June at 12:10PM. Our first knowledge of Barnabas comes from Acts 4:36-37:

> Thus Joseph who was surnamed by the apostles Barnabas (which means, Son of encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus, sold a field which belonged to him, and brought the money and laid it at the apostles’ feet.

His missionary efforts earned him the title of Apostle. Barnabas was from Cyprus, a Jew of the Diaspora. It was Barnabas that brought Paul to the Apostles in Jerusalem, testifying to Paul’s experiences. He later settled in Antioch and sent for Paul to assist in leading the church there.

### The Nativity of Saint John the Baptist

On Monday, 24 June, we will observe the Feast of the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist at 12:10PM. John the Baptist, one of the “Johns” commemorated in the main window in the chancel is chronicled in all four of the Gospels. The son of Elizabeth and Zechariah, John was destined to be the herald of Jesus’ ministry. John had his own crowd of disciples that followed him, calling people to repentance and baptizing them as a symbol of their new lives. John is remembered in Advent as Prophet and in Epiphany as the baptizer of Our Lord. In the Gospel of John, John the Baptist is the figure who declares Jesus to be “The Lamb of God”.

### Saint Peter and Saint Paul

On Saturday, 29 June at 12:10PM, we will observe the Feast of Saint Peter and Saint Paul. While sometimes at odds with each other, their joint leadership of the church is commemorated in remembering their martyrdom at Rome. Tradition holds that Peter was crucified head downward and Paul was beheaded, as befitted a Roman citizen. This day is also Fr. Heard's anniversary of ordination to the priesthood.

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### Vestry

The regular meeting of the Vestry and Wardens of Saint John’s Church was called to order at 11:35AM on 12 May 2013 in the Parlor. Cindy Gass reviewed the balance sheet for the month of April. Chris Gass reported that there have been some concerns regarding the stove in the kitchen; Fr Heard will get estimates for repairing it. Fr Heard reported that the Bishop is re-assigning Deacon Jayne Carson to St. Luke’s of Mobile as of 1 June. Fr Heard reported that the credit card application had been approved by the bank, and the cards have been received. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned with prayer at 12:15PM.
Nine members of St. John’s ECW met on Sunday, May 19, with the president, Marie Brown, presiding. The following business was conducted:

- Minutes from the April meeting were reviewed.
- Marie announced that $462 had been collected to-date for the United Thank Offering.
- The group decided to make a donation to the Masonic Lodge in Grand Bay in recognition of their 100th anniversary and because of all of the charitable works they have done over the years.
- Marie advised that the church picnic would be held in August.
- Donna Waites talked about the need for lotions, shampoos, and other personal items for the residents of Murray House (for both men and women). It was decided by the group that they would try to collect these articles for Murray House.
- There was discussion about the kitchen stove needing repair. Marie will investigate further.
- The ECW decided to give a gift to Jayne Carson on May 26, her last Sunday at St. John’s.

The group has elected to take the summer off. The next time St. John’s ECW will meet will be the 3rd Sunday in September.

-Paula Ross

**Retired Clergy Luncheon**

On Ascension Day, Thursday, May 9, St. John’s hosted a luncheon for retired clergy of this area. The Guild of Saint Martha presented a beautiful meal and enjoyed visiting with our guests.

At right, Bootsie & Tina Cieutat, with Connie McLean, Donna Waites, Thelma Lomers, Mary Jones, and Audrey Garner. *(Photos by: Irene Yeager)*

Retired clergy and spouses enjoy their lunch.
GORDON MOULTON RETIRES AS PRESIDENT OF USA

The University of South Alabama came to be in West Mobile in 1963 when Fred Whiddon became its founding president and “turned a worthless pine thicket into an empire of higher education that included 10,000 students, three hospitals and a school of medicine.”

Doctor Whiddon did not go willingly in 1998 when his Board of Trustees thought he should, but out of that chaos came his successor, Gordon Moulton, who has since catapulted USA to an enrollment of 15,000, making it a boon to Mobile’s economy, employing more than 5,600 people and adding $2 million to the area economy.

Fred Whiddon himself had hired 26-year-old Moulton when USA was three years old. Growing up on a farm in southwest Georgia, Gordon attended Georgia Tech as a co-op student, where he received a hard-earned degree in Industrial Management. Then, with a full scholarship for graduate school at Emory in Atlanta, Gordon received a Masters in Business Administration.

The Mobile Press Register says “Moulton had a huge intellect, vast reserves of energy and a young bride named Geri” when he arrived at USA in 1963.

While the recent retirement announcement of Gordon Moulton surprised most of Mobile, here at Saint John’s, we had a more personal interest. We worship with the Moultons, Geri is a Eucharistic Minister several times a month, AND Gordon was our Senior Warden in 1971.

He was quoted as saying at Saint John’s Annual Meeting in January, 1972, “I am grateful there have been no serious crises during 1971 and though the repair of the altar window and some of the other windows was expensive, it was an immediate need.” He thanked those attending the annual meeting and felt that Saint John’s membership was a “great group”. Both Paula Ross and Marjorie Mattoon remember Gordon’s leadership style as “quietly getting the job done.” Geri and Gordon were also adult sponsors of the EYC during that time and remember taking the altar railing apart to refinish it, “having a devil of a time getting it back together!”

Gordon was named the Mobilian of the Year in 2002, and he and Geri’s service was forever commemorated in 2009 with the naming by USA’s Board of Trustees of the new Landmark Gordon and Geri Moulton Bell Tower and Alumni Plaza in the center of campus.

In addition to more than 46 years of service, the Moultons have supported USA with more than $7 million in gifts toward numerous institutional priorities, including that USA Mitchell Cancer Center, Geri Moulton Children’s Park at USA Children’s and Women’s Hospital, student scholarships, faculty support, USA’s creative program, athletics and many others.

Mobile Mayor Sam Jones credited Gordon Moulton with the University’s growth. “He transformed the University into one of the nation’s finest educational institutions, a community partner that sets the tone of excellence, and he has created an economic development engine at the University that provides countless jobs and resources for citizens throughout Mobile and the region.”

Mobile is proud of Gordon Moulton’s 46 years of dedicated service to USA, and we here at Saint John’s are especially so.

Joan-Marie Elam
2013 ST. JOHN’S GRADUATES

Sam Escobio

We are proud to announce that Sam Escobio graduated from Murphy High School as part of the class of 2013. He was a member of the Murphy marching band and jazz band and earned his Eagle Scout rank as a member of Troop 227 and Venture Crew 3. He plans to enter the nursing program at Faulkner this fall to work toward his RN license. After that, he will go into a graduate level program to become a certified registered nurse anesthetist.

Carrie Fairley

Upon graduating from high school in 1999, Carrie Gass enrolled at USA to pursue a degree in accounting. She left college after two years to go to work, and married Glenn Fairley in 2006. After having Addison and Ainsley, Carrie returned to USA to get her degree in education. She hopes to get a job at St. Luke's where the girls attend school.

VENTURE CREW 3 UPDATE

The boys have been busy this spring with graduation activities and getting ready for post high school life. Josef Straughn will be attending Auburn and Anthony Hall will be at South Alabama to pursue criminal justice degrees. Sam Escobio and Jennings Halliday will be at Faulkner in the Nursing and Wildlife Management programs respectively. Sebastian Weaver has decided to serve his country and join the Navy. Our youngest member, Davin Ervin, will be looking forward to his senior year at Davidson High.

The crew is also planning a canoe trip in Florida this summer before they head off to new adventures. Sam will be on staff at the BSA National Jamboree at the Summit in West Virginia in July as an OA Trek Guide. We are very proud of all the accomplishments earned by these young men.

-Scott Escobio

Memorial Donations

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

Alice Cieutat
Alberta & Tina Cieutat

Ellie Mae Jones
David & Mary Jones

Eugene Johnston, Sr.
Joyce Lee
Alberta & Tina Cieutat
Joan-Marie Elam
Arnie Nelson & Fred Floyd
St. John’s ECW

Shannon Brabner Newberry
Ben Schmerbauch

Tom Ford
Roy & Dorothy Blount

Congratulations Graduates!
Six months after Hurricane Sandy, Dioceses Continue to Aid Community Recovery

Six months after Hurricane Sandy made landfall in the northeastern United States, washing over coastal barrier islands and causing an estimated $50 billion in wind and flood damage, the Episcopal dioceses of Easton, New Jersey, Newark, New York and Long Island are continuing to aid impacted communities and facilitate recovery efforts.

Episcopal Relief & Development is currently supporting the work of disaster recovery coordinators in the dioceses of Easton, New Jersey and New York, and has helped establish a regional hub for volunteer coordination that will connect mission teams with projects in all impacted dioceses. These coordinators are working with Episcopal congregations, ecumenical and community-based groups and a range of government agencies to assess needs and organize response activities.

“The Episcopal response to Hurricane Sandy has been huge and heartfelt,” said Katie Mears, Episcopal Relief & Development’s Director of US Disaster Preparedness and Response. “Congregations in the impacted areas mobilized immediately to provide essential relief to people and families in need, and now we are working with dioceses to further equip them to drive recovery and continue reaching out to vulnerable people in their communities.”

Episcopal Relief & Development’s US Disaster Program contacted dioceses in Hurricane Sandy’s path in late October 2012, when weather predictions indicated that the storm’s impact would be heavy and widespread. By then, the organization had already reached out to partners in the Caribbean, where the hurricane had blasted through Haiti, Jamaica and Cuba, killing dozens and causing severe damage. Dioceses and congregations in the US were encouraged to review their disaster preparedness plans and identify ways that they could expand existing ministries to address anticipated post-disaster needs.

Following the storm, Episcopal Relief & Development remained in contact with key diocesan staff to gather information about where damage had occurred and what the most pressing needs were. Many Episcopal congregations launched into action, expanding their feeding ministries, providing basic supplies and gas cards, and hosting community agencies that connected people to services and federal disaster funds. Many parishes also held events such as movie nights and community meals, providing respite from the stress of dealing with the disaster and creating space for people to talk about what they were going through and receive pastoral care.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, congregations in the Northeast and across the country renewed interest in disaster preparedness, creating or reviewing preparedness plans and reaching out to other churches and community-based organizations to make contact and build relationships. Episcopal Relief & Development’s US Disaster Program offers resources for preparedness planning, which can be downloaded for free from the organization’s website. The program has also published tips and how-tos for disaster response ministries, and offers support through the Partners in Response team and Diocesan Disaster Coordinators. More information is available at www.episcopalrelief.org/USDisasterProgram.

-Submitted by Eugene Johnson

Spring Hill College announces its annual Summer Institute of Christian Spirituality, designed especially for busy adults seeking to deepen their faith and to explore the rich depths of Christ-centered spirituality. This summer's courses include the topics of universal salvation, Therese of Lisieux, spirituality of communion, and the socio-political vision of the Second Vatican Council. Courses are one week each and meet for two hours each day. The institute takes place from June 2-14. Other special features include a prayer and poetry workshop on June 1 and an Ignatian retreat (available with options for either five or eight days). Classes can be taken for credit or as an "easy listener" (the latter option comes at very low cost). Spring Hill College offers several degrees and certificates: the Master of Theological Studies, Master of Pastoral Studies, MA in Theology, as well as a Certificate in Spiritual Direction/Spiritual Companioning. For more information visit www.sbc.edu/sics or call Connie Terry at (251) 380-4458 or toll free at (877) 857-6742.
2013 church directories are now available in the Great Hall.

For healing grace and continued strength, we pray for our members:
Mary Lou Varnes, Sandra Wilson, Bud McLean, Bessie Southall, Gordon Moulton, Joyce Lee, Mary Jones, Lynn Seymour, Matt Mattoon

For our Homebound:
Ray Campbell, Doris Cunningham, Mae Dunn, Corinne Faust, Lois Hamby, Nell Kirk, Violet Kosko, Margie Mattoon, Jane Moore, 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:
Dug Frederick, Mark-Alan Smith, Angela White, Ashley Garris, Rick Sundie, Irene Barrow, 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]

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Chris Gass, junior warden
Cindy Gass, treasurer
David Jones
Wilmer Mayson
Connie McLean
Nikki Shaw, clerk
Butch Yeager, senior warden
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.

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Monday-Thursday
9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

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