



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

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FROM THE RECTOR:

Fr. Thack Dyson, rector of Saint Paul's – Daphne recently had an Independence Day Meditation in the newly reconstituted *Coastline*.

Pardon a little *non-sequitur* here. Two points:

First, *The Coastline* is emailed out to subscribers every two weeks. A PDF is also available through the diocesan website. I will try to remember to print a copy for the bulletin board when a new issue arrives.

Second, I will be sending a complete roster of Saint John's with addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses for the diocesan database in the next few weeks. If we don't have your email address and you don't get *The Coastline*, this would be a really easy way to become a subscriber. You'll also get the notices of activities from Saint John's if we have your email address!

Fr. Dyson's meditation for the 4th of July strikes a chord with me, as I'm sure it will for each of you. We are fortunate to live in a country that is self-directed. Thack is absolutely right that our greatest strength is our ability to be introspective and accountable.

In his second to last paragraph, Fr. Dyson quotes the prophet Micah:

He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

That got me to thinking. And recalling. And thinking some more. I remembered the story of the Pharisees and/or Scribes and/or Herodians trying to trap Jesus with their question about paying taxes and Jesus' response to them:

"Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.

This reminds me that we, as Christians, inhabit two worlds. We are, simultaneously, inhabitants of The United States of America and inhabitants of the Kingdom of God. Put another way, it is the Kingdom of this World and the Kingdom of Heaven.

To me, what Jesus is telling us is that because of our dual citizenship, we have obligations to both realms, and they are necessarily separate and distinct. I think that works just fine until we find the two realms to be in conflict with each other.

In 1998, theologians Stanley Hauerwas and William H. Willimon published a book titled Resident Aliens: Life in the Christian Colony. It is a classic that perhaps we should study in Sunday School. In it, they reject the idea that America or any nation is a Christian nation. They cast themselves as resident aliens, with obligations to where they live, but with true loyalty and devotion to where they belong. It is a critique of how the church has behaved with regard to politics, and neither the liberal nor conservative sides come out smelling like a rose.

Our promises made at baptism call us to a standard of life that is very different from what we see around us every day. The eight points of our Baptismal Covenant (BCP p. 304) are unequivocal and define a standard of loving, of living into our calling as disciples of Jesus, the messiah, the anointed one of God. To live into the righteousness of God, I think we cannot have divided loyalties; we must be clear about whom it is that we serve.

God calls us to new life through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and our adherence to the law of love demonstrated for us in Jesus. It is, certainly, where I want to live. It is to be a resident alien, no matter where I live.

--Thomas

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE JULY LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Independence Day

Independence Day is one of the “Other major feasts”, which include apostles, evangelists, Saints Mary the Virgin, Joseph, Mary Magdalene, James of Jerusalem, Stephen, and Michael and All Angels, as well as The Holy Innocents and Thanksgiving Day.

Independence Day entered the calendar with the proposed prayer book of 1786. It didn’t make it into the 1789 Prayer Book, due to concerns of appropriateness since most of the clergy of the church had been British loyalists. Independence Day finally entered our calendar with the 1928 Prayer Book. We will observe Independence Day at our 12:10PM Said Mass on Thursday, 4 July.

William White

William White was the first Bishop of Pennsylvania and Presiding Bishop of the organizing General Convention of The Episcopal Church in 1789. Interestingly, White was the principal architect of the Constitution of the church, very proud of the new United States, and yet opposed the inclusion of Independence Day in the calendar of the church. This is thought to have been because the majority of the clergy had been loyal to the crown. William White will be commemorated at our Wednesday Said Mass on 17 July at 10:00AM.

Saint Mary Magdalene

We will celebrate the feast of Saint Mary Magdalene on Monday, 22 July at a 12:10PM Said Mass. Surnames were not a feature of Palestine in the first century, so it was customary to use genealogical and geographical annotations to differentiate between people of the same name. Saint Mary Magdalene features prominently in the Gospels of Luke and John. In Luke, she was healed by Our Lord who cast out seven demons from her. She became a follower immediately. In John’s Gospel, Mary Magdalene is the “Mary” at the tomb who recognizes the resurrected Jesus and tells the disciples, “I have seen the Lord.” In the Eastern tradition, Mary is held as equal to the apostles.

Thomas à Kempis

Thomas à Kempis lived from about 1380 to 1471. He was an Augustinian monk, ordained priest in 1415 and became sub-prior of the abbey in 1425. The Order of the Brethren of the Common Life cultivated a practical biblical piety, stressing the inner life and practical virtues. The abbey was seen by many as precursors of the Reformation. Thomas is known especially for his book *The Imitation of Christ*, which has been translated into more languages than any other book except the Bible. We will commemorate Thomas à Kempis at our Said Mass on 24 July at 10:00AM.

Saint James the Apostle

James is sometimes called “the Greater”, to differentiate him from James the brother of our Lord, and the other apostle named James. With his brother John, the sons of Zebedee were also known as the “Sons of Thunder”, due to their dispositions. James is accorded the honor of being the first of the apostles to be martyred for Our Lord. We will celebrate James at a Said Mass on Thursday, 25 July at 12:10PM.

Ignatius of Loyola

We will commemorate the life and work of Ignatius of Loyola on Wednesday, 31 July at our 10:00AM Said Mass. Ignatius grew up in a Basque family of nobility. The first 26 years of his life were marked by worldliness and self-gratification. He was wounded in the Battle of Pamplona in 1521 and during his recovery he found himself being called to be a “soldier for Christ.” He is best known as the founder of the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits). His *Spiritual Exercises* are still widely used today.

YOUR INPUT IS REQUESTED:

The “We Dream of a Diocese” committee has asked that all members of the diocese visit the following link <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/KB3F7WH> to complete a survey on how the diocese can best serve our churches. Contact Fr. Heard if you would like to participate and are unable to access the survey online. Submission deadline is July 2.

In Memoriam

PATRICIA LYNN POLLARD SEYMOUR

Our sister, Lynn, died on 18 June 2013. Lynn struggled greatly with her health, eventually being forced to retire from the Mobile County License Commissioner's office. An exceptionally creative and active person, she always had a soft spot for Saint John's. Husband Tony and daughter Ashleigh Sheffield (Jarrod) will miss her deeply.



Vestry

The regular meeting of the Vestry was held on Sunday, 9 June at 11:30AM.

The minutes of the 12 May meeting were approved.

Cindy Gass reviewed the financial statements. It was noted that the budget amounts for the copier lease and usage items are reversed. As we continue to operate at a deficit, the Vestry voted to extract the earnings from the T. Rowe Price account to apply to repairs and maintenance and to fund the balance of the deficit from Undesignated Gifts and Memorials.

Chris Gass announced that a workday has been scheduled for 22 June at 8:00AM to perform yard clean-up.

Fr. Heard reported that he will be attending The Episcopal Network for Stewardship conference by webcast on July 12 & 13, and invited any interested vestry members to join in. He also reported that a new program for training required by the Canons is being rolled out. Fr. Heard reported that he has had three conversations with the pastor of the Open Table Communion concerning use of Saint John's for their meeting space.



BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS!!

If you are wondering about the boxes that are piled up in the Parish Hall—the 186 boxes contain 2,440 books! The St. John's Outreach Committee is providing them to the Head Start children in Mobile and Washington counties.

Head Start is a federally funded comprehensive school readiness program that serves low income three and four year old children. The purpose of the program is to get the children ready for kindergarten. There are 1,463 Head Start children in Mobile and Washington Counties. These books will be provided to the children to take home and keep.

The books come from First Book, the National Book Bank which receives the books from publishers and then distributes them to organizations that will provide them to low income children and their families. Although the Book Bank gets the books at no cost from the publishers, organizations have to pay shipping and handling to receive the books. St John's Outreach Committee paid for the books to get to Mobile to be distributed to the Head Start children.

How can you help? We will be having a "sticker party" during fellowship time to put a "...from St John's..." sticker on all the books: stay tuned for more information about the date.



**Mobile
Community
Action Head
Start Director,
Janet Buckley
is very happy
to receive the
books for
distribution
to the Head
Start children**

JULY 2013 AT SAINT JOHN'S

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 830A MP 7P Gloria Dei	2 830A MP	3 830A MP 10A HE+Healing	4 Independence Day 830A MP 1210P HE	5 830A MP	6
7 Pentecost 7 10A HE	8 830A MP 7P Gloria Dei	9 830A MP 6P Winning Solutions	10 830A MP 10A HE	11 830A MP	12 830A MP	13 9-12 Gloria Dei
14 Pentecost 8 10A HE 1130A Vestry 3P Gloria Dei	15 830A MP	16 830A MP	17 William White 830A MP 10A HE	18 830A MP	19 830A MP	20
21 Pentecost 9 10A HE	22 Saint Mary Magdalene 830A MP 1210P HE	23 830A MP 6P Winning Solutions	24 Thomas à Kempis 830A MP 10A HE	25 Saint James 830A MP 1210P HE	26 830A MP	27
28 Pentecost 10 10A HE	29 830A MP	30 830A MP	31 Ignatius of Loyola 830A MP 10A HE	HE = Holy Eucharist MP = Morning Prayer SS = Sunday School		

LECTIONARY AND ROTA FOR JULY 2013

Date Service	7 July HE-II, EP-B	14 July HE-II, EP-B	21 July HE-II, EP-B	28 July HE-II, EP-B
Lectionary Day	Pentecost 7 C Proper 9 RCL GC	Pentecost 8 C Proper 10 RCL GC	Pentecost 9 C Proper 11 RCL GC	Pentecost 10 C Proper 12 RCL GC
Color	Green	Green	Green	Green
Lessons	Isaiah 66:10-12 Psalm 66:1-8 Galatians 6:(1-6), 7-16 Luke 10:1-11, 16-20	Deuteronomy 30:9-14 Psalm 25:1-9 Colossians 1:1-14 Luke 10:25-37	Genesis 18:1-10a Psalm 15 Colossians 1:15-28 Luke 10:38-42	Genesis 18:20-32 Psalm 138 Colossians 2:6-15, (16-19) Luke 11:1-13
Greeters	Irene & Butch Yeager	Connie & Bob Anderson	Connie & Bud McLean	Joan-Marie Elam
Lectors	Mary Sheffield Eugene Johnston	Scott Escobio Connie Anderson	Janet Buckley Ron Brown	Ron Waites Paula Ross
Eucharistic Ministers	Connie Anderson Butch Yeager	Ron Brown Mary Sheffield	Paula Ross Geri Moulton	Eugene Johnston Butch Yeager
Eucharistic Visitor	Paula Ross	Eugene Johnston	Ron Waites	Ron Brown
Altar Guild	Marie Brown Lorraine Murray	Pat Fulford Cindy Gass	Pat Fulford Cindy Gass	Donna Waites Fran Barbour
Vestry Teller	Connie McLean Butch Yeager	Chris Gass Jan Dabney	Nikki Shaw Cindy Gass	Butch Yeager David Jones
Nursery	Andrew Lee Connie McLean	Cheryl Winters-Heard Butch Yeager	Jessica Dennis Denise Dunham	Karen Twilley Nikki Shaw

GLORIA DEI CHORALE SUMMER SUNDAY SUNDAE CONCERT

Gloria Dei Chorale, under the direction of Louis F. Daniel, will present its summer concert at St. John's Episcopal Church on Sunday, July 14 at 3:00 PM. The program will include some of our favorite pieces and will be followed by an ice cream social in the Great Hall at the church. Our summer concert is our major fundraiser for the next season's operating expenses, so that we can continue to reach out to the community through our music. All donations received at our Christmas and Spring concerts go to different local charities; past recipients have included 15 Place, Victory Health Partners, Our Sisters' Closet, Disabled American Veterans, and St. Mary's Home, just to name a few. Please plan to join us on the 14th for some beautiful music followed by a cool sundae, and help support our efforts—we can't do it without *you*, our "Choir of Angels!"

With Heartfelt Thanks



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

Myrle Benson

Joyce Lee
Joan-Marie Elam
Bud & Connie McLean
Butch & Irene Yeager
James Christiansen

Tom Ford

Marietta Ford

Eugene Johnston, Sr.

James Christiansen
Jan Dabney

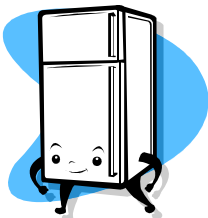
Lynn Seymour

Joyce Lee
Joan-Marie Elam
Bud & Connie McLean

ST. JOHN'S HELPS WITH 2013 BIKE & BUILD

In late May, a group of 30 young folks, biking across the United States to build awareness about affordable housing, spent three nights in Mobile working with Habitat for Humanity. They needed help with local transportation for their large group and St. John's came to the rescue with the loan of the church van for that time. Thanks to St. John's for your gracious help with this worthwhile project!

Visit the Bike & Build website for more information about the program: bikeandbuild.org/. The group that visited Mobile was doing the Southern U.S. leg—over 1,700 miles on bicycles!



Donations totaling \$1,570 were received to offset the \$1,980 cost of our new refrigerator. Thanks to all who were so generous!



Matt & Marjorie Mattoon	07/10
Bob & Paula Ross	07/12
Lavelle & Debbie Ollhoft	07/20



Gordon Moulton	07/03	Regina Harvey-Molyneux	
Billy Owen	07/07		07/20
Catherine Warren	07/08	Cheryl Winters-Heard	07/21
Max Stiber	07/10	Carolyn Pearce	07/26
Tina Cieutat	07/13	Makayla Yeager	07/28
Isabella Dennis	07/16	Jennifer Yeager	07/31



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

Lois Hamby, Mary Lou Varnes, Sandra Wilson, Bud McLean, Bessie Southall, Gordon Moulton, Joyce Lee, Mary Jones, Matt Mattoon

For our Homebound:

Ray Campbell, Doris Cunningham, Mae Dunn, Corinne Faust, Nell Kirk, Violet Kosko, Margie Mattoon, Jane Moore, Catherine Warren, Dot & Chick Wohler

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:

Kellie Gentry, John Wierenga, Mark-Alan Smith, Angela White, Ashley Garris, Rick Sundie, Irene Barrow, Regina Fielder, Brandy Greer, Scott Minto, Ray Michel, Preston Stevens, 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], Frank Morgret [pastor]

For those who have Died:

Lynn Seymour

Contact Us

Staff:

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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*

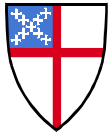
David Jones

Wilmer Mayson

Connie McLean

Nikki Shaw, *clerk*

Butch Yeager, *senior warden*



Saint John's Episcopal Church
1707 Government Street
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.