FROM THE RETOR:

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.
Outreach

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.

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.

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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.
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**Notes:**
- HE = Holy Eucharist
- MP = Morning Prayer
- SS = Sunday School

**Assignments:**
- Independence Day
- William White
- Ignatius of Loyola
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**Lectureary And Rota For July 2013**
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

Memorial Donations

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!
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 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:
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 Tre hern, 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
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Saint John’s Episcopal Church
1707 Government Street
Mobile, Alabama 36604

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

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