



# 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 8

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## FROM THE RECTOR:

Dear Ones,

As summer draws to a close and thoughts of returning to school are in the minds of many people, similar thoughts about the ending of summer time happen all around us.

Saint John's is no exception. As the academic year begins again, so too does our regular program. As always, there are abundant opportunities to become involved in many aspect of our common life.

I confess to being remiss in not organizing the Vestry. It has, however, been partially a deliberate decision. You know the advertisement that used to run: "This is not your father's Oldsmobile"? (Remembering is the best we can do since GM killed the product line.) Well, "This is not your father's Saint John's."

We are not the same parish that we were in 1853, 1885, 1953, or 1985. Never mind that the sacred furnishings in the church came from the old church. Never mind that our communion vessels date from the earliest years of the parish. Never mind that we have memories of the old church and chapter house. From one perspective, we might be better off if none of that existed.

In many ways, our history conspires against us to follow the path that God intends. We think fondly of the good old days. In truth, they were much harder days than we have today and in some cases, there wasn't much good about them. Yet we seem to almost revere them, as if that was the golden age. Perhaps it was, and perhaps not.

The Church changed dramatically when Constantine the First raised Christianity to be the state religion. The 3-year catechumenate vanished overnight. No longer was there any fear of being discovered to be a Christian.

The Church that had existed in secret was now part of the apparatus of the state. It became one's civic duty to be a member of the Church. With this came a terrible loss to the church: the new members didn't feel nearly as connected to the Gospel of Jesus Christ as they had before. I think we lost a lot of passion for the what the church had previously stood for.

We don't have nearly as many members as we did in "the Good Old Days". We don't have standing room only at mass on Sunday. We don't have limitless resources to spend on our program.

What we do have is a core group of people dedicated to Saint John's and message of the Gospel. We're not as young and spry as we used to be, but we seem to understand that the mission of the church is not about what we do for ourselves, but for what we do for those outside our walls.

So, getting back to my confession. I haven't held a Vestry Retreat this year because our past retreats have been focused around organization. I'm hoping that our organizing will happen at a bit more grass roots level. We have a core group of folks that comprise our Outreach Committee. The membership hasn't changed much and they're pretty self-sufficient. Those folks are there because they feel called to this work. Each one of us has at least one call to serve the church. Choir, Altar Guild, Vestry, Saint Martha's Guild, Office Volunteer, Newsletter Crew, just to name a few. There are opportunities to live into our various callings; we simply need to recognize the Spirit moving in us, and allow it to launch us into action.

Look for it. Be open to it. Go with it. You'll be surprised where it can take you.

—Thomas

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE AUGUST LITURGICAL CALENDAR

### The Feast of the Transfiguration

We will celebrate the Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord Jesus Christ on Tuesday, 6 August at 12:10PM. This will be a Said Mass commemorating Jesus' physical and spiritual re-manifestation. The Roman calendar didn't include the Transfiguration until just before the Reformation, and in The Episcopal Church, we didn't include it until the 1892 Prayer Book. It has, however, been in the Eastern Church's calendar for a very long time. In their theology, the Transfiguration prefigures Jesus' resurrection and ascension.

### John Mason Neale

Some of your favorite hymns, both tunes and texts, have John Mason Neale's fingerprints on them. He provided over 30 translations of texts in our Hymnal 1982, as well as a number of hymn tunes. Besides these contributions to the Christian life, Neale was also a humanitarian, founding the Sisterhood of Saint Margaret to benefit women and girls who were suffering. Neale was born in 1818 and ordered priest in 1842. He died at the age of 46 on the Feast of the Transfiguration. Surely his work has left a lasting mark on our worship. We will commemorate John Mason Neale at our Said Mass on Wednesday, 7 August at 10:00AM.

### Jonathan Myrick Daniels

If you don't know about **Jonathan Myrick Daniels**, you really need to attend the commemoration of his martyrdom on Wednesday, 14 August at 10:00AM. Daniels was a seminarian at the Episcopal Theological School in Cambridge, MA. In response to a television appeal to support a voting rights campaign made by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Daniels petitioned the seminary to take a leave so that he could work for the campaign. In Selma, Daniels and companions were arrested for picketing. Unexpectedly released, they walked to a nearby store. On reaching the top step, the door suddenly opened. Daniels interposed himself and took the shotgun blast intended for one of his companions. Daniels is a 20<sup>th</sup> century American, martyred for his belief that God calls all of us to unity and brotherhood.

### Saint Mary the Virgin

The Feast of Saint Mary the Virgin is known in the Roman church as The Assumption and in the Eastern tradition as The Dormition of the *Theotokos*. Perhaps the Greek *Theotokos* gets us to a place where we can truly grasp Mary's importance. It means "God bearer", that is the one who was mother to Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The tradition for this day cannot be supported by scripture, but is older than any surviving texts: Mary, for her service to God as *Theotokos* did not suffer earthly death, but "fell asleep in God" and was taken to heaven. One of the Major Feasts of the Church, we will commemorate Saint Mary the Virgin on Thursday, 15 August, at a Said Mass at 12:10PM.

### Saint Bartholomew

One of the Twelve, Bartholomew is known only by his inclusion in the list of disciples in the Gospels of Mark, Matthew, and Luke. Some sources credit Bartholomew with the writing of a Gospel that was known to Saint Jerome and the Venerable Bede. Eusebius reports the existence of a copy of the Gospel of Matthew in Hebrew that was purportedly given to the church by Bartholomew. We will celebrate Saint Bartholomew on Saturday, 24 August, with a Said Mass at 12:10PM.

### Augustine of Hippo

Perhaps the greatest theologian of Western Christianity, Augustine was born in North Africa in about 354. He tracked various popular philosophies of the time, eventually surrendering to Christianity in 386. His life before becoming a Christian was a source of scandal for him and is likely part of the influence leading him to write *Confessions* around 400. His greatest work, *The City of God*, was written because of the sack of Rome in 410. Augustine wrote, "Two cities have been formed by two loves: the earthly by love of self, even to the contempt of God; the heavenly by the love of God, even to the contempt of self. The earthly city glories in itself, the heavenly city glories in the Lord." His words still ring true today. We will commemorate his life and witness at our Wednesday Said Mass on 28 August at 10:00AM.

## DOROTHY ANN MARSHALL WOHLERT

31 May 1927— 8 July 2013

Dorothy Ann, perhaps best known as “Dot” entered into new life on Monday, 8 July. Dot had been failing for some time and under hospice care at home. Dot was a life-long Episcopalian, having been baptized at Grace Chapel, Mobile before coming to Saint John’s. I suspect she was also confirmed at Grace Chapel. Husband, Chick, was confirmed at Saint John’s in January 1949. Dot and Chick were married here in October 1950 by Dr. Edgar Lee Pennington. Dot was a faithful member of this parish for more than 50 years.

### In Memoriam



### Vestry

The regular meeting of the Vestry was called to order at 11:35AM on Sunday, 14 July 2013. Bootsie Cieutat and David Jones were excused. The minutes of the June meeting were approved as written.

Outreach has acquired 2040 books to be distributed to children in the Head Start program in Mobile and Washington counties. The books will be marked as having been donated by Saint John’s.

The Parish Picnic will be held on 18 August after Mass at the church.

Chris Gass announced that an outside workday will be held on 3 August at 8:00AM to address the parking lot and the rental house exterior.

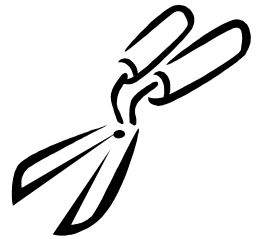
Fr. Heard reported that he was unable to attend the stewardship conference due to other obligations, but will review the materials with an eye toward planning our campaign. He also reported that approval for demolition of 1700 Church Street has finally been obtained. The work should begin in the coming weeks.

The Vestry decided not to meet in August, therefore the next meeting will be on Sunday, 8 September 2013.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 12:30PM.

## WORK DAY SATURDAY, AUGUST 3

We will have an Outside Workday on Saturday, 3 August, beginning at 8:00AM. We plan on addressing the ever-encroaching growth in the parking lot, the bushes on the west side of the church and the bushes around the rental house. There will be ample opportunity for everyone to participate. If you have questions, please contact Junior Warden Chris Gass.



## PARISH PICNIC SUNDAY, AUGUST 18



Once again, we’re not out at the park or at the beach, this year: the annual **parish picnic** will be at Saint John’s after Sunday service on the 18th of August.

Weather be willing: we’ll use the courtyard and the patio, bring the tables and chairs outside, fire up the grill, eat, fellowship, and maybe have some games. Or maybe inside avoiding the heat and the bugs...anyway, wear your picnic clothes!

The Men of the Church will be grilling hot dogs and hamburgers. There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board – so it’s time to volunteer to bring the rest of the picnic goodies.

## PRAYER LIST

Appearing in our newsletter, in each Sunday's bulletin, and named during the Prayers of the People are our sister and brother parishioners, our home-bound parishioners, men and women serving in the military and family and friends who are in need or desire our prayers. We share the burden of continuing prayers for these folks when we're not at church.

I can keep up with our parishioners and our military, but I have a hard time with the "family and friends" part of the prayer list. In many cases, I can't remember why someone is on that list or who asked to have them listed. As a result, I have to count on you all to let me know when a name needs to come off the list.

Other parishes have this same problem. Some of those address it by "cleaning the list" at the beginning of every month. Folks have to re-submit names to put them back on the list. I think that's a little draconian, so I make this plea: If you've put someone on the prayer list and it's time for them to come off, let me know. —TKH

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## SILBERMAN SUNDAY SCHOOL

We are very privileged to have Rabbi Steven Silberman of Congregation Ahavas Chesed as our guest teacher (that's redundant, you know) on Sunday, 11 August at 9:00AM.

Rabbi Silberman will be helping us understand what contemporary Judaism is and how it has changed from Old Testament times. He will also help us with a picture of what Judaism was like in the first century and how it differs from the picture of it we see in the New Testament scriptures.

Reb' Steven is usually teaching a Hebrew class on Sunday mornings (yes, they have Sunday School, too!). Please make every effort to be part of this special offering. He is a great speaker and will probably give us a little Hebrew lesson as well. —TKH

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## JONATHAN MYRICK DANIELS PILGRIMAGE

The annual Jonathan Myrick Daniels Pilgrimage and Procession will be Saturday, August 10th, beginning at 11:00AM in Hayneville, Alabama, near Montgomery. Daniels was an Episcopal seminarian when he was killed in 1965 while working in the civil rights movement in Alabama. He has been placed on the Episcopal Church's Calendar of Saints and Martyrs. This event has become increasingly popular and attracts pilgrims nationally and internationally. It is hoped there will be a good representation from the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast. See you in the town square!



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

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,  
Lois Hamby, Nell Kirk, Violet Kosko,  
Margie Mattoon, Jane Moore,  
Mary Lou Varnes, Catherine Warren,  
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:**

Dennis McCants, John Wierenga,  
Angela White, Ashley Garris,  
Rick Sundie, 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,  
Dot & Herbert Trehern, Gabe Pippin,  
William & Barbara Dorsey,  
Steven Garner, Andrea Murray,  
Anna Marie Brown, Betty Chenoweth,  
Mark Stiber, Maddie West

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## EfM PLENARY

On Sunday, 25 August at 11:30AM, there will be a plenary session for those interested in beginning or continuing the Education for Ministry (EfM) program at Saint John's. If you don't know anything about it or simply want more information, see Kathe Gieseler or Fr. Heard. The meeting will be held in the EfM Room.

## *Elsewhere in the Diocese*

### **YOUTH MINISTER AND CAMP DIRECTOR SOUGHT**

The Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast is seeking to fill the full-time position of Diocesan Youth Minister and Summer Camp Director. The position will support the Bishop, the Commission on Youth and Young Adult Ministries, and the Executive Director of Beckwith to ensure safe, enriching youth events, programs, and camps.

Applicants should have a passion for the gospel and a desire to share the gospel message with young people. An undergraduate degree, experience in youth ministry in the Episcopal Church, and computer and social networking skills are also desirable. The office of the Youth Minister and Summer Camp Director will be at Beckwith, near Fairhope. The position begins September 1.

For more information, contact Eleanor Reeves at 251-928-7844.

### **FATHER/SON RETREAT AT BECKWITH SEPTEMBER 6-8, 2013**

A retreat for fathers and sons will be held at Beckwith, September 6-8. Hosted by the Rev. Peter Wong, the Rev. Keith Talbert, and his son John Talbert, the retreat will include fun on the challenge course, water activities, croquet, badminton, music, worship, and a low country boil. The children should be age 12 and older.

Bring drinks and snacks to share and a musical instrument for singing around the campfire.

The cost is \$150.00 per person for a motel room, double occupancy, or \$89.00 for accommodation in a dorm room with 12 beds. This includes three meals on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday.

For more information, call 251-928-7844.

## **THE REVEREND BEVERLY GIBSON NAMED CATHEDRAL RECTOR**



The Rev. Canon Beverly F. Gibson will succeed the Very Rev. Johnny W. Cook as rector of Christ Church Cathedral on September 1 and is expected to be appointed the cathedral's next dean.

The vestry of Christ Church named Gibson as rector, which will make her head of the congregation. Bishop Duncan said he expects to appoint Gibson as dean once Cook begins his retirement September 1. She is currently sub-dean.

Cook has been rector since 2003 and dean since 2005, when Christ Church became the cathedral of the Diocese.

"Dean Cook has done wonderful work there," said Duncan. "I would expect that Gibson will also when she becomes dean."

Gibson, a native of Andalusia, began her work at Christ Church in 2005. She, her husband, Mike, and their two children reside in midtown Mobile. For 18 years, she was an English professor at Troy University.

"We expect the next few years to be a time of continued growth," said Gibson, 52. She said she hopes the cathedral will continue to be welcoming to young families.

by Carol McPhail  
(Mobile) Press Register





## EPISCOPAL RELIEF & DEVELOPMENT IN THE CITY OF GOD

City of God (Cidade de Deus) is a district in the Western Zone of the city of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. It was founded in 1960, planned and created by the government as part of the policy to systematically remove poor settlers from the center of the city to the suburbs. It was a grand plan gone drastically wrong. The project was planned for 10,000 people but because of tragedies in slum areas now almost 40,000 people live in less than a square mile area.

The area had a high crime rate and was for all practical purposes run by drug dealers. In 2009, the UPP (specialty police units) went in to neutralize gang activity and violence as part of an effort to make the city more presentable for next year's FIFA World Cup and the 2016 Olympic Games. These actions led to decreased drug activity and use. Community and church organizations got more involved to revive the community.

Several years ago, a study conducted by Episcopal Relief & Development and the Anglican Diocese of Rio de Janeiro, part of the Episcopal Anglican Church of Brazil, found that one in three women suffered from exposure to violence. In an environment marked by chaos and uncertainty, many suffer from symptoms of trauma, debilitating stress and anxiety, which impacts their self-perception and relationships with others.

Episcopal Relief & Development partnered with the Diocese to provide psychosocial support and mental health services through a community clinic in Cidade de Deus. Offering psychotherapy in individual or group settings, our program is carried out in cooperation with

local health clinics, and incorporates health promotion and disease prevention into its services.

Community response to the program was enthusiastic. Information about the clinic's services spreads by word of mouth, generating huge interest in the program. As the program grew, participation also grew – growing in self-awareness and confidence, and in their desire to help others raise themselves out of depression and anxiety.

Fabiana and Sandra live in Cidade de Deus. Fabiana said, "I began to accept myself and overcome my own difficulties." Veterans of the program receive training in how to reach out to those who need help.

Participants in this advanced training learn how to facilitate the same kind of group therapy that helped them to improve their own lives. As facilitators and community leaders, these individuals can help their community to shape a better future, one person and one family at a time. When asked what she learned through her training, Sandra said, "The group taught me that we have an incredible capacity to help each other."

By building on this hope and supporting a community that is learning to heal itself, the Church in Brazil is truly helping people transform their lives for the better. Please remember Cidade de Deus (City of God) on Sunday August 18<sup>th</sup> when, as part of the Anglican cycle of prayer, we will pray for the diocese of Rio de Janeiro - (Brazil) The Rt. Rev. Filadelfo Oliveira Neto.

-Submitted by Eugene Johnston



### 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](mailto:llowe@stjohnsmobile.org).



Curtis & Cindy Gass 08/19



Mac Pearce	08/01	Bill Sundie	08/22
Andrew Lee	08/03	Bootsie Cieutat	08/26
Kathe Gieseler	08/07	David Rich	08/27
James Christiansen	08/11	Mazie Cleveland	08/29
Eugene Johnston	08/21	David Jones	08/29



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

Lynn Seymour

Jamie & Greg Saad

David & Carol Norris

Mr. & Mrs. William E. Drew, Jr.

Betty Bassett

Myrle Benson

Bootsie & Tina Cieutat

Lucy Faust

Joyce Lee

Dorothy Wohlert

Joyce Lee

Pam Privett

Matt & Marjorie Mattoon

Sandra & James Ladd

## Contact Us

### Staff:

The Reverend Thomas Heard, *rector*  
[rector@stjohnsmobile.org](mailto:rector@stjohnsmobile.org)

Louis Daniel  
 Organist & Choir Director  
[music@stjohnsmobile.org](mailto:music@stjohnsmobile.org)

Lella Lowe  
 Financial Secretary  
[finance@stjohnsmobile.org](mailto:finance@stjohnsmobile.org)

Jack Ruppe  
 Sexton

### Vestry:

Bootsie Cieutat

Jan Dabney

Chris Gass, *junior warden*

Cindy Gass, *treasurer*

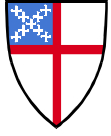
David Jones

Wilmer Mayson

Connie McLean

Nikki Shaw, *clerk*

Butch Yeager, *senior warden*



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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.

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Fax: 251-473-1230

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to be the hands of Our Lord.