FROM THE RECTOR:

Dear Ones,

Christmas Day has come and gone and here we are in Christmastide, the days from Christmas to the Epiphany.

Christmas Day is the celebration and remembering of Jesus’ birth in a stable in Bethlehem. Luke tells us of the stable and the shepherds’ visit there, having been told by an angelic chorus. It also a longing for his return as judge and king to proclaim that the Kingdom of God has been fulfilled.

On Epiphany, we celebrate the arrival of Matthew’s three Eastern sages who followed a celestial sign to bring the King of the Jews gifts that are symbols of his life and ministry: Gold for a king, Frankincense for a priest, and Myrrh for his burial. The story also tells us of Herod’s treachery and the Holy Family’s flight to Egypt.

The Twelve Days of Christmas have also been immortalized in a song, recounting the gifts received from a lover, each more extravagant than the previous.

Here are lots of traditions swirling around here!

From the Church calendar, we have:

- December 26 Stephen, first deacon and first martyr
- December 27 Saint John the Evangelist and Apostle
- December 28 The Holy Innocents
- December 29 Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury
- December 30 Frances Joseph Gaudet, educator and prison reformer
- January 1 The Holy Name of Our Lord
- January 6 The Epiphany of Our Lord

In the secular world, traditions abound as well. This is the time for bowl games in college football, continuation of holiday parties, New Year’s Eve and New Year’s Day celebration.

Tradition is a huge part of who we are, as individuals, families, communities, and nations. In this season, some of our traditions come from shortly after Jesus’ time with us, through the middle ages, and our recent past, drawn from every conceivable source. For example, as colonists in America brought many traditions with them, others were created here. The wreaths we traditionally hang on our doors seem to have originated here, made on Christmas Eve.

Another of those traditions is Saint Nicholas, beloved by children of all ages. He is patterned after Saint Nicholas, Bishop of Myra. He lived from 270CE to 343CE in Lycia, now a part of Turkey. Nicholas was known for anonymous gift giving and for multiplying wheat during a famine in Myra in 311-312CE. How he has morphed into the jolly old elf that visits every house on Christmas Eve can only be guessed.

I’m pretty sure that there were gifts exchanged in all of our families. Possibly even some gifts from Santa for those of us well beyond our childhood years. In our house, Santa fills stockings and leaves other packages. Mixed in, of course are packages containing things each of us wants or needs, given by one to another. We love Christmas morning, and try to make it last as long as possible.

I think that’s probably got something to do with the Twelve Days of Christmas: Let’s keep this going for as long as we can. Perhaps that’s because we want to savor the time we have with Our Lord before his inexorable journey begins.

Jesus is, after all, the first and best present we can ever receive. He brings us light and life. Through him we have the promise of life with him and God and the Holy Spirit after our time on this earth is ended. While we live in this time, we know our future is secure, thanks to God’s unselfish and unimaginable gift to us.

--Thomas
Holy Name

This day we celebrate the naming of Our Lord on the eighth day after his birth, in accordance with Jewish custom. Naming is important to all of us; it establishes our identity. We will celebrate this feast on Wednesday, 1 January 2010 at 10:00AM. Normally on the first Wednesday, we include Healing at our Mass. We’ll postpone that until 7 January.

Epiphany

“Epiphany” comes from a Greek word meaning to manifest or appear. This feast concludes the twelve days of Christmas and marks the discovery of God Incarnate by the gentiles in the persons of the wise men. Join us to celebrate the visit of the Magi to the stable in Bethlehem.

We will celebrate the Epiphany of Our Lord on Monday, 6 January at 12:10PM.

Harriet Bedell

Harriet was a missionary and Deaconess, living from 1875 until 1969. She served the Cheyenne in Oklahoma, a teacher and nurse in Alaska, and missionary to the Seminole and Mikasuki in Florida. A Deaconess was a lay order for women, set apart for caring for women and children. We will commemorate her life and work on Wednesday, 8 January at 10:00AM.

Baptism of Our Lord

The First Sunday after the Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ is also known as The Baptism of Our Lord. On this day, we recount Jesus’ baptism in the Jordan by his cousin John the Baptist. It is a particularly appropriate day for baptisms.

Confession of Saint Peter

On this occasion, we commemorate Peter’s confession of Jesus as the Christ. Of course, we also remember how human Peter is: often bumbling, stumbling, impetuous, intense, and with rough edges. This feast also marks the beginning of the annual Week for Christian Unity, and we’ll celebrate it on Saturday, 18 January at 5:00PM.

Vincent of Saragossa

Vincent is often considered the first martyr of Spain. He was ordered Deacon by Valerius, Bishop of Saragossa. One legend says that Vincent used to preach for his bishop, because the bishop had a speech impediment. He and his bishop were captured during the Diocletian persecutions. Vincent was martyred for defending his bishop. We will commemorate his life and work on Wednesday, 22 January at 10:00AM.

Conversion of Saint Paul

We mark Paul’s acceptance of Jesus as his Lord and Savior on this day. Even though it is referred to as his conversion, the Pauline position seems to be more of enlightenment to a new reality, rather than rejection of his heritage in favor of Christ. We’ll celebrate this on Saturday, 25 January at 5:00PM, concluding the Week for Christian Unity.

FLOWER CHART SIGN-UP

It’s time to sign up for flowers for 2014!

Please use the cards on the bulletin board to begin signing up to supply altar flowers for Sundays in 2014. As Sundays are covered we will update the flower chart and post it for all to see. Altar flowers cost $50 per Sunday.
The regular meeting of the Vestry of Saint John’s was held on 8 December in the Parlor. The meeting was convened by Fr. Heard at 11:35AM.

Minutes of the meetings on 13 October 2013 and 24 November 2013 were approved.

Cindy Gass reviewed our financial reports for November. She noted that we moved $10,000 from our investment account to cover expenses. The balance in that account is about $16,000.

Outreach has set up the Giving Tree to benefit residents of Kindred Nursing Home. They have also directed monies to Episcopal Relief and Development for typhoon relief in the Philippines.

Fr. Heard reported that the Stewardship letter and Pledge Cards would go out this week.

The nominating committee reported on its progress.

Connie McLean reported on the Endowment Committee, and nominated Max Stiber to serve a 4-year term and Cindy Gass to serve a 5-year term. The nominations were seconded and the vestry voted unanimously for the nominations.

Fr. Heard reported that he is awaiting a proposal from Bob Sheffield for the lighting in the chancel.

Concerning the sale of the Weinacker lot, Fr. Heard reported that requests for proposal would go out this week.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 12:20 PM.

ELECTION

On Sunday, 22 December, the parish met to elect new Vestry and Convention Delegates. The following were elected to serve the parish:

To serve on the Vestry for three years:
- Ms. Connie Anderson
- Ms. Janet Buckley
- Mr. Jim Hayward

To serve as Delegates to the Diocesan Convention:
- Mr. James Christiansen
- Mr. Eugene Johnston
- Ms. Connie McLean

To serve as Alternate to the Diocesan Convention:
- Mr. Ron Waites

Congratulations to all.

Memorial Donations

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

- Albert Kendrick
- Geri Moulton
- Eugene & Emily Johnston
- St. John's ECW
- Dorothy Wohlert
- Eugene & Emily Johnston
- Gordon Moulton
- Jim & Dee Gambill
- Curtis & Cindy Gass
- Eugene & Emily Johnston
- Jim Cieutat
- Matt & Marjorie Mattoon
- Eugene & Emily Johnston
- Joe Stroecker
- James Christiansen
- Eugene & Emily Johnston
- Lynn Seymour
- Eugene & Emily Johnston
- Rick Sundie
- St. John's ECW
- Pat Thomas
- Michael & Karen Keel
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**Nursery:** Jennifer Tamardle, Pat Fulford, Petie Tarantole, Cheryl Winters-Head, Nina Shaw, Marie Brown, Butch Yager, Wilmer Mason, Martin Dunham

**Vestry Teller:** G. J. Dabney, Cindy Cass, Pat Fulford, Duane Ciesielski, Gary Gass, Debby McClellan, Nancy Sonora, Jennifer K. Tomlinson, David Brown, Linda Moore

**Altar Guild:** Cecelia Salazar, Jim Dabney, Cindy Cass, Ron Wakes, Ron Wakes

**Eucharistic Visitor:** Eugene Johnston, Cheryl Winters-Heard, Pat Fulford, Eugene Johnson, Pat Fulford, Eugene Johnston, Pam Ross, Paula Ross, Melissa Brown, Joan-Marie Elam, Irene & Butch Yeager, Janet Buckley, Mary Sheffield, Connie Anderson, Ron Brown, Ron Brown, Ron Brown, Ron Brown, Ron Brown, Ron Brown


**Intercessor:** Jan Dabney, Jan Dabney, Kay Gieseler, Cindy Cass, Jan Dabney, Jan Dabney, Jan Dabney, Jan Dabney, Jan Dabney, Jan Dabney, Jan Dabney, Jan Dabney, Jan Dabney, Jan Dabney, Jan Dabney, Jan Dabney, Jan Dabney, Jan Dabney, Jan Dabney, Jan Dabney


**Lectors:** Eugene Johnston, Cheryl Winters-Heard, Pat Fulford, Eugene Johnson, Pat Fulford, Eugene Johnson, Pam Ross, Paula Ross, Melissa Brown, Joan-Marie Elam, Irene & Butch Yeager, Janet Buckley, Mary Sheffield, Connie Anderson, Ron Brown, Ron Brown, Ron Brown, Ron Brown, Ron Brown, Ron Brown

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COLLAGE CLASSES BEGIN JANUARY 22

Beginning Class:
(Introduction to the art of paper collage)

If you would like to try your hand at this avant garde art form, this is your opportunity. Jim Hayward is once again offering this beginning class which will include a brief history of collage, an examination of collage examples, and “how-to” instruction on collage making.

Everyone who signs up for the class will be making a collage. The beginning class will meet on Wednesdays beginning January 22 from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

Advanced Class:

Those folks who participated in the beginning class last fall are eligible for this class. We will have a brief review of cutting and glue techniques. Then we’ll get right to work.

The advanced class will meet on Wednesdays beginning January 22 from 10:45 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

There is no cost for either class. We do ask that you bring your own scissors, a willingness to learn, and plan on having some fun.

See Jim at church to sign up, or call him at (251) 509-4294 by January 15. Each class is limited to eight people.

-Jim Hayward

For healing grace and continued strength, we pray for our members:
Lois Hamby, Lorraine Murray, Matt Mattoon, Bud McLean, Joyce Lee

For our Homebound:
Ray Campbell, Doris Cunningham, Mae Dunn, Corinne Faust, Nell Kirk, Violet Kosko, Margie Mattoon, Jane Moore, Mary Lou Varnes, Catherine Warren, 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:
Joni O’Jard, Lottie Wyndham, Susan Lloyd, Bobby Smith, Margo Guess, Evia Daniel, Dennis McCants, Angela White, Ashley Garris, Regina Fielder, Brandy Greer, Sandy & Ray Michel, Preston Stevens, Carol Hubbard, Danny Melton, Emily Steiner, Larry Kent, Warren Bishop, Robby Shelton, John & Pat Cranton, Dot Trehern, Gabe Pippin, William & Barbara Dorsey, Steven Garner, Andrea Murray, Anna Marie Brown, Betty Chenoweth, Mark Stiber, James Henry LeBatard [deacon]

Above: The beginning class meeting in September. At right (clockwise): Jim with artists Bootsie Cieutat, Irene Yeager and Joyce Lee. Photos by Butch Yeager.
MAGNOLIA CHAMBER ORCHESTRA
AT ST. JAMES’ EPISCOPAL CHURCH, FAIRHOPE, AL

January 19, 2014
4:00 pm Sunday
Magnolia Chamber Orchestra
Artistic Director tomÂs Fajardo

The Magnolia Chamber Orchestra is dedicated to the vision of bringing music to the Gulf Coast community through intimate chamber music concerts.

Their philosophy is to serve as a social tool that aims to inspire youth, evoking creativity in them and igniting a genuine interest for the arts through community outreach. MCO is artist-in-residence at the St. Peter’s by-the-Sea Episcopal Church in Gulfport, Mississippi.

Conductor and founder tomÂs Fajardo is a violist with the Mobile Symphony Orchestra and has conducted orchestras in Boston, Houston and Washington DC. The program will feature Bach Brandenburg Concerto # 4, Wilhelm Friedemann Bach’s Sinfonia, and a Handel Concerto with Helen VanAbbema Rodgers, St. James’ organist.
Saint John’s Episcopal Church
1707 Government Street
Mobile, Alabama 36604

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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.

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

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Wednesday
Thursday
9 a.m.-1 p.m.
and by appointment

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