



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:

Dear Ones,

There's been a lot of press given over to the topics of re-visioning ministry, of attracting young people, and of new paradigms of "doing church". One of the recent articles I read talked about First Baptist Church in Washington D.C. and its attraction to millennial generation young people. That congregation uses a full text service leaflet, including all of the hymns. They say that it appeals to the young people because they know exactly what to expect during the service. Their bulletin also contains who/what/why sections, giving the participants additional information. (If you recall, our service leaflets for the Triduum had the same kind of info.) The congregation doesn't include time estimates for the parts of their service in their bulletin, which generally runs at least two hours (!) in length.

At Saint John's, we also use a full-text service leaflet, though we don't include the hymns. I suppose that's my nod to keeping our paper consumption to a minimum, and besides, we have hymnals in the pew racks. My choice to do this wasn't about appealing to millennials, but rather, to being as welcoming as possible to any visitors, particularly those not well practiced at juggling a prayer book, a hymnal, and a service leaflet. I've recently heard that we might need to make a few with larger text. I'll look into that.

Thinking back to FBC Washington, D.C., but not knowing exactly what they're doing, I'm going to have to guess that the sermon or homily is probably something longer than we're used to. I'm thinking a length in the 30 to 40 minute range, if not longer. In the Presbyterian church I grew up in, the tradition had been for the sermon to be an hour long. The last pastor who held to that was Dr. James W. McIvor and his norm was 1 to 1-1/2 hours.

I recently listened to a sermon from another church in Mobile. It was 44 minutes long. I listened while doing something kind of mindless and had the advantage of being able to pause it, get up and walk around, and then restart a bit later. I can't imagine sitting through it in one session, especially if sitting on a hard pew like ours!

But I digress. After making it all the way through, I decided to listen again and make note of the preacher's structure and content. There was only one nugget or take-home message in the preacher's message. That's consistent with what is taught in homiletics classes. Abiding by that guideline lets the preacher remain focused on that topic/theme/subject and not wander too far afield. This preacher didn't wander very much. There was a lot of exegesis, a critical explanation of the text. There was also a lot of interpretation, too, though much of it trying to position the gospel reading into a present time context. In my opinion, the preacher really strained the text and contemporary situation to force a fit; it wasn't very successful. After listening the second time, making my notes, and doing a little thinking about it, I think the message could have been delivered in about five minutes and been as effective.

I've joked with you about preaching for 30 or 40 minutes. There are many texts that are so rich that it would be easy to use every bit of that time. Doing so would violate that "one nugget" rule. While I really like to get "down and dirty" with the text, I suspect it isn't nearly as interesting to others as it is to me. And besides, how much would make it home? Our pews get really hard. So, I'll stick to my 10 to 12 minutes with one take-home. We'll leave the Bible Study for another time.

— 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 this feast at 10:00AM on Friday, 4 July with a Said Mass.

Saint Mary Magdalene

We will celebrate the feast of Saint Mary Magdalene on Tuesday, 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.

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 Friday, 25 July at 12:10PM.

William Wilberforce

William Wilberforce was born in 1759 to an affluent Yorkshire family. He was educated at Cambridge and was elected to the House of Commons in 1780. He became a Christian in 1784 and was persuaded by his friends not to give up his political life. Wilberforce was an eloquent speaker and was an uncompromising voice for the abolition of slavery. Wilberforce died one month before Parliament put an end to it in 1807. We will commemorate William Wilberforce at our Wednesday Said Mass on 30 July at 10:00AM.

In Memoriam

WILLIAM DONALD SUNDIE **22 AUGUST 1932 – 3 JUNE 2014**

Bill Sundie entered into new life on Thursday, 3 June in the early evening. Bill had spent 40+ days in hospital because of pneumonia and difficulty breathing. He was finally well enough that he and Wanda Hannon married on 23 May. They were surrounded by family for this event; Bill and Wanda had been “an item” for twenty years so, as some said, “It’s about time.” Bill’s life among us slipped away quietly. When someone told me that Bill was a retired Sergeant-Major, you could have knocked me over with a feather. He was the kindest, gentlest man. He served Saint John’s on the vestry and as Junior Warden.

RAY CHARLES CAMPBELL **28 NOVEMBER 1925 – 13 JUNE 2014**

I first met Ray Campbell on a Sunday morning as he was fulfilling his role as an usher. He always had a smile on his face, a kind word to say, and did a great job of keeping assigned seats free when visitors would try to take them. I was saddened to see Ray have to give up his Sunday job due to his dementia. In the Navy, Ray served in World War II and in Korea and retired from the Coast Guard. Ray and Ida raised their three children at Saint John’s. He quit going to church for a while, but Fr. Klopfenstein convinced him to come back after Ida’s death in 2000. Ray loved Saint John’s very much and we’ve been missing him for a few years already.



Vestry

The June meeting of the Wardens and Vestry of Saint John's Church was held on 8 June 2014 in the Parlor. Fr. Heard called the meeting to order at 11:35AM.

All members of the Vestry were present.

The minutes of the 11 May 2014 meeting were approved as distributed.

Connie McLean reviewed the financials for May, noting that we are a bit behind where we had projected.

Janet Buckley and Bootsie Cieutat reported on the planned activities for the parish. Sunday the 29th, the ECW will be hosting Take-Out Sunday. The parish picnic has been set for 27 July. The ECW is planning a Bakeless Sale for August.

A work day was tentatively scheduled for 21 June. If the azaleas along Government Street can be trimmed in time for trash pickup, then the workday will be canceled.

Fr. Heard asked and the vestry confirmed his appointment of James Christiansen to the vestry to fill the balance of the term vacated by Wilmer Mayson.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer by Fr. Heard at 12:15PM.



The June meeting of the Saint John's ECW was held on Sunday, 22 June 2014.

The minutes of the April meeting were approved.

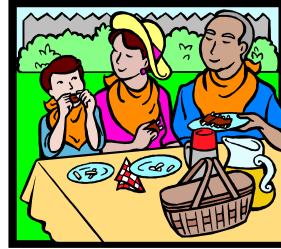
The Treasurer's Report was received and approved. A question was raised as to whether the check to McKemie place had been issued.

Plans for Carry-Out Sunday were reviewed. Plans for the Bakeless Sale in August were also discussed.

Janet Buckley reported that over 200 recipes for the cookbook have been received.

Parish Life

PARISH PICNIC—SUNDAY, JULY 27



Once again, we're not out at the park or at the beach, this year: the annual **parish picnic** will be at St John's after Sunday service on the 27th of July (which is also the fourth Sunday).

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. (Croquet on the side lawn, anyone?) 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.

Questions, ideas, or a volunteer to bring an ice cream churn so we can have home-made ice cream, and volunteers to turn the churn... see Janet Buckley.

LAST CALL FOR RECIPES ...

The St John's ECW is moving into phase two of the cookbook project: we're into the organizing and typing into a consistent format phase now. So, if you are going to submit a recipe it **MUST** be in by Sunday, July 6th.



We have had great response: over 200 recipes! But we can always use a few more!

We intend to complete this project this summer so we can have them ready for the fall and holiday gift-giving season. Think hostess gifts and Christmas gifts...you want to buy many copies!!

St. John's ECW

JULY 2014 AT SAINT JOHN'S

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|---------------|---|--|----------------------------------|--|--|
| HE = Holy Eucharist MP = Morning Prayer SS = Sunday School | | 1 830A MP | 2 830A MP 10A HE+Uction 1030A Prayer Shawl Group | 3 830A MP | 4 Independence Day 830A MP 10A HE | 5 |
| 6 Pentecost 4 10A HE | 7 830A MP | 8 830A MP 630P Winning Solutions | 9 830A MP 10A HE | 10 830A MP | 11 Benedict of Nursia 830A MP | 12 |
| 13 Pentecost 5 10A HE 1130A Vestry | 14 830A MP | 15 830A MP | 16 830A MP 10A HE | 17 William White 830A MP | 18 830A MP | 19 Macrina |
| 20 Pentecost 6 10A HE 1130A ECW | 21 830A MP | 22 Saint Mary Magdalene 830A MP 1210P HE 630P Winning Solutions | 23 830A MP 10A HE | 24 Thomas a Kempis 830A MP | 25 Saint James 830A MP 1210P HE | 26 Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary |
| 27 Pentecost 7 10A HE 1130A PARISH PICNIC | 28 830A MP | 29 Mary and Martha of Bethany | 30 William Wilberforce 830A MP 10A HE | 31 Ignatius of Loyola 830A MP | | |

LECTIONARY AND ROTA FOR JULY 2014

| Date Service | 6 July HE II, EP-A | 13 July HE II, EP-A | 20 July HE II, EP-A | 27 July HE II, EP-A |
|--------------------------|--|---|--|--|
| Lectionary Day | Pentecost 4 A Proper 9 RCL | Pentecost 5 A Proper 10 RCL | Pentecost 6 A Proper 11 RCL | Pentecost 7 A Proper 12 RCL |
| Color | Green | Green | Green | Green |
| Lessons | Zechariah 9:9-12 Psalm 145:8-15 Romans 7:15-25a Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30 | Isaiah 55:10-13 Psalm 65:(1-8), 9-14 Romans 8:1-11 Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 | Isaiah 44:6-8 Psalm 86:11-17 Romans 8:12-25 Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 | 1 Kings 3:5-12 Psalm 119:129-136 Romans 8:26-39 Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52 |
| Greeters | Irene & Burch Yeager | Connie & Bob Anderson | Connie McLean | Joan-Marie Elam |
| Lectors | Connie Anderson Ron Waites | Cheryl Winters-Heard Mary Sheffield | Paula Ross Geri Moulton | Eugene Johnston Pat Fulford |
| Intercessor | Ron Brown | Connie Anderson | Janet Buckley | Connie Anderson |
| Eucharistic Ministers | Ron Brown Mary Sheffield | Geri Moulton Eugene Johnston | Connie Anderson Butch Yeager | Connie Mclean Ron Waites |
| Eucharistic Visitor | Ron Brown | Paula Ross | Eugene Johnston | Ron Waites |
| Altar Guild | Marie Brown Lorraine Murray | Connie Anderson Jennifer Tarantole | Connie Anderson Jennifer Tarantole | Donna Waites Irene Yeager |
| Vestry Teller | Jim Hayward Cindy Gass | Bootsie Cieutat James Christiansen | Jan Dabney Connie McLean | Cindy Gass Connie Anderson |
| Nursery | Connie McLean Denise Dunham | Pat Fulford Marie Brown | Cindy Gass Jessica Dennis | Nikki Shaw Butch Yeager |



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In partnership, we have achieved amazing things. We invite you to celebrate with us and invest in a thriving future by:

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- [Fast to Feed Campaign](#): Expanding everyone's supply of nutritious food by empowering families to raise healthy animals and utilize sustainable agricultural practices.
- [Thrive to Five Campaign](#): Enabling children and families to get the best start in life through maternal health, malaria prevention and early childhood development programs.
- [Pennies to Prosperity Campaign](#): Generating opportunities for local entrepreneurs by promoting micro-finance, vocational training and small business development.

Please celebrate with us as we journey boldly and faithfully into a better future!



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

Ray Campbell
James Christiansen
Mark Alan Smith
Fran & Mike Barbour

Bill Sundie
Connie & Bob Anderson
Lee Dorsey
Neva Bache
Ben Schmerbauch
St. John's ECW
James Christiansen
Emily & Eugene Johnston
Joan-Marie Elam



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

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

Directory Update

Please add the following email address for Mary Gieseler to your new St. John's directory:
 mmgieseler@gmail.com

If you have not picked up your copy, they are available in the Great Hall.



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

Becky Anderson, Wanda Hannon-Sundie, Joyce Lee, Jean Brown, Donna Waites, Ben Schmerbauch, Lorraine Murray, Matt Mattoon, Bud McLean, Ashley Garris

For our Homebound:

Doris Cunningham, Mae Dunn, Corinne Faust, Nell Kirk, Violet Kosko, Margie Mattoon, Jane Moore, Bessie Southall, Mary Lou Varnes, Catherine Warren, Chick Wohlert

For victims of war and their families, and members of our Armed Forces and their families:

Ellis Garner, Eric Mattoon

For our Friends and Family:

Irene Barrow, Julie Hilton, Frances & Sonny Bridges, Sheila Gerhardt, Bill Jones, Ann Hall, Evia Daniel, Dennis McCants, Angela White, Sandy & Ray Michel, Preston Stevens, Carol Hubbard, Emily Steiner, Larry Kent, Warren Bishop, Robby Shelton, John & Pat Cranton, Dot Trehern, William & Barbara Dorsey, Andrea Murray, Anna Marie Brown, Betty Chenoweth, Mark Stiber, Frank Morgret [*pastor*], James Henry LeBatard [*deacon*].

Contact Us

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Lella Lowe
 Financial Secretary
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Jack Ruppe
 Sexton

Vestry:

Connie Anderson

Janet Buckley

James Christiansen

Bootsie Cieutat

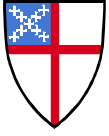
Jan Dabney, *clerk*

Cindy Gass, *senior warden*

Jim Hayward, *junior warden*

David Jones

Connie McLean, *treasurer*



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Sunday:

9:00AM Adult and Youth Christian
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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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