



# 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. XXIV, Issue 8

August 2014

## FROM THE RECTOR:

Dear Ones,

I stumbled across an article by Tom Ehrich. He is known in church circles as a resource for church development and turnaround. Here in Mobile, the Church of the Redeemer used Tom to facilitate a strategic planning process that they concluded recently.

Tom's article is titled, "8 Things the Church Needs to Say." He had more words than just the list and sees the church separated by things that are not central to the message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Things that aren't central to who we are as Christians and what we believe, that is, things that are indifferent are often called *adiaphora*. It is a concept that comes out of Stoic philosophy, but found new life in the church as liturgical, ritual, and other practices became the focus of disagreements and schism. Imagine that!

I think Mr. Ehrich's list is pretty good and it resonates with me. It gives us a place to start thinking about what it means to be Christians and how we are to be the Church in this time and place:

1. We would say the name "Jesus."
2. We would say what we mean by faith in God, in an I-message: "Here's why I believe in God."
3. We would tell stories about God's impact on our lives through stories of personal encounter.
4. We would listen to other's stories, eager to hear what our fellow Christian has to say.
5. We would each tell as honestly as we can how we are trying to lead our lives in the light of our encounters and stories.
6. We would tell what we see in the world and how we think God cares about it.
7. We would speak of a durable hope that God is God, and God can use us to make a difference.

8. We would talk of joy as that deeper response to God that feels whole and peaceful.

It seems to me that Mr. Ehrich has captured the things that are essential for us to be the Church today. I don't think any of them are optional, nor are any *adiaphora*.

I guess it boils down to how it is that we manifest our faith, but even that is a bit of a knife edge. For example, item (1) in the list, saying the name of Jesus seems simple enough. I've offered the invocation for the Mobile County Commission a couple of times; the first time, I kept my prayer ecumenical and interfaith. As I was leaving the chamber, a woman stopped and asked if I believed in Jesus.

The rest of Mr. Ehrich's list is straightforward. Each of these topics focus on why we believe and how we have been impacted by the presence of God in our lives. I think the difficulty comes when we try to live into them. Perhaps that's because we don't feel confident about how to express these kinds of things.

It is a risky proposition: exposing thoughts, ideas, and feelings that are incredibly personal. On the other hand, if we truly live in the kind of community for which Jesus was a living example, then there can be no risk. Our sharing with one another should be a safe space, precisely because we are following the example of our Lord, receiving what is shared with us, just as we desire our offerings to be received.

Perhaps it doesn't always work that way. Perhaps we hold back, perhaps we refuse to trust. That's not what Jesus showed us in his life, ministry, and obedience. Maybe we're confused about who we are to trust. I suggest that it should be trusting in Jesus and the Father and the Holy Spirit rather than each other.

--Thomas

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE AUGUST LITURGICAL CALENDAR

### The Feast of the Transfiguration

The **Feast of the Transfiguration** will be celebrated on Wednesday, 6 August at 10:00AM and will include Holy Unction. The Transfiguration is one of the supernatural manifestations recounted in the gospels. It commemorates both the spiritual experience of the three disciples and God's authentication of Jesus as God's Son. In this brief encounter, the disciples witnessed a glimpse of the glory of God. The event itself is believed to be a foreshadowing of Jesus' resurrection and ascension. Transfiguration wasn't included in the Western church calendar until the early days of the Reformation and was omitted from the Anglican calendar until it was included in the 1892 revision of the American Book of Common Prayer.

### Jeremy Taylor

We will celebrate the **Feast of Jeremy Taylor** on Wednesday, 13 August at 10:00AM. Taylor was one of the *Caroline Divines* and a friend of William Laud. Taylor was imprisoned by Cromwell's forces and served as chaplain to Lord Carbery of Wales. During this period, he wrote his most important works. Perhaps the most significant was Liberty of Prophesying, which proved to be key to the development of "freedom of thought" ideas and religious toleration. The latter was notably absent from much of the Reformation time in England. Taylor was known for his prayers, exemplifying the best of Caroline divinity. Sadly, he was not asked to contribute to the 1662 Prayer Book and only a few examples of his work survive in our prayerbook.

### Saint Mary the Virgin

Friday, 15 August at 12:10PM, we will celebrate the **Feast of Saint Mary the Virgin** with a Said Mass. Mary, the mother of Our Lord, is a key disciple and companion to Jesus during his ministry. Luke's portrayal of her willingness and conviction are often used as models for those who think they want to commit their lives to God. Mary holds a very special place in the hearts of many Episcopalians.

### Bernard of Clairvaux

On Wednesday, 20 August at 10:00AM, we will observe the **Feast of Bernard of Clairvaux**. Bernard was abbot of Clairvaux, a Cistercian monastery. Born the son of a knight and landowner near Dijon, France, Bernard was raised in a secular world and surprised his family when he entered the Benedictine Abbey of Citeaux. He eventually persuaded four of his brothers and twenty-six friends to join him in the establishment of the monastery at Clairvaux in 1115. Bernard was a writer and we have hymn texts that are credited to him, including "O sacred head sore wounded." Bernard died in 1153 and was canonized in 1174.

### Saint Bartholomew the Apostle

**Saint Bartholomew the Apostle** will be remembered on Monday, 25 August at 12:10PM. One of the Twelve, Bartholomew is only known to us because he is included in the list of disciples in the three synoptic Gospels. In John's Gospel, he is identified with Nathaniel, the "Israelite without guile", to whom Jesus promised the vision of angels. St. Jerome and the Venerable Bede knew of a Gospel of Bartholomew, but it is lost to us. Eusebius tells us of knowledge of Bartholomew in India where tradition holds that the Gospel of Matthew in Hebrew was brought by him.

### Thomas Gallaudet & Henry Winter Syle

We remember **Thomas Gallaudet & Henry Winter Syle** at the Said Mass on Wednesday, 27 August at 10:00AM. Gallaudet is synonymous with ministry to the deaf in The Episcopal Church, even being called "The Apostle to the Deaf." Thomas grew up in a family with deafness and his wife, Elizabeth Budd, was a deaf-mute. Ordained deacon in 1850, he served St. Stephen's Church in New York, where he began his ministry to the deaf with a Bible class. Henry Winter Syle was one of Gallaudet's successes. Syle lost his hearing due to scarlet fever. Gallaudet convinced him to pursue Holy Orders and Syle was ordained in 1876, the first deaf person to receive Holy Orders in The Episcopal Church.



# Parish Life

## “BATTLE OF MOBILE BAY” SCREENING

A group of Saint John’s parishioners are interested in attending the Learning Lunch at the History Museum on Wednesday, August 13. Want to join in?

This particular learning experience is a Special Screening of the documentary “Battle of Mobile Bay” and a conversation with filmmaker Michael Marr.

If you are interested, see or call Bootsie Cieutat (438-1302) or Joan-Marie Elam (476-3951). We would meet at the church and caravan to the Mobile History Museum, 111 South Royal Street, Mobile’s historic City Market and former City Hall.



We would like to thank those who supported us in our first Carry Out Sunday. Special thanks go to Ashley Garris for her delicious spaghetti dinner and to those who provided the wonderful desserts. We can’t forget the kitchen crew who made it seem so effortless.

Our recipe deadline has come and gone, and we received lots of inviting recipes. Look for more on this project. They will be ready for holiday gift giving, so start your list now.



## NAME THE ST. JOHN’S COOK BOOK CONTEST

A big THANK YOU to everyone who contributed recipes: at last count we had over 250!! The volunteer typists are typing and reformatting to get all those recipes into a consistent page format. We’re still planning for a September “publication” date.



BUT the cookbook does not have a name; a title!! We know it will say “A Collection of Recipes from Members and Friends of St. John’s Episcopal Church” on the cover but a real TITLE for the cookbook, a clever title, one that reflects us, is original, and shows off who we are---that’s what we’re searching for. So think about it. There will be “Name the Cook Book” cards on the bulletin board; you can submit as many suggestions as you want. Put the completed card in Janet Buckley’s mailbox in the office. We’ll display all the suggestions on Sunday, August 17, 2014.

Can you guess what the prize will be?!

The Cookbook Committee

## PLATES AND NAPKINS FOR FELLOWSHIP HOUR

Every Sunday we use paper plates and napkins for our fellowship hour. Sometimes they are plain and sometimes they are fancy. Rather than appealing to you to go out and buy these items we are giving you the opportunity to clean out those extra ones you have at home. You know the ones: the half a package left from your grandson’s first birthday (he’s twelve now!); your daughter’s graduation (she’s been teaching for seven years!); those ones you bought on sale but haven’t found a use for yet.



Bring them in, we’ll enjoy the amusement of different plates and napkins every week and there will probably be a story to tell...

Parish Life

## *In Memoriam*

### **REBECCA ANDERSON 31 AUGUST 1944—18 JULY 2014**

Our sister, Becky, entered into new life on Friday, 18 July. Becky was admitted to Providence Hospital four weeks before with little blisters all over. The doctors initially thought it was an allergic reaction but also suspected an immune system problem. She fought valiantly, but eventually it wore her down. I was surprised when her sister told me that she had died. Becky couldn't always make Sunday morning, but if there was a Saturday afternoon mass, I always knew she'd be there.



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

Bill Sundie	Ray Campbell
Bud & Connie McLean	Bud & Connie McLean
Joyce Lee	Joyce Lee
Jim Cieutat	Rebecca Anderson
Sue Dyess	Thelma Lomers
Lois Hamby	Sonny Bridges
Joyce Lee	Joyce Lee
Mark Alan Smith	Bob & Paula Ross
Joyce Lee	



## *Elsewhere in the Diocese*

### **ST. LUKE'S, MOBILE TO HOST ART WALK SATURDAY, AUGUST 16**

St. Luke's, Mobile, at the corner of Japonica and 1050 Azalea Road, will host its second Lo-Ja Art Walk, Saturday, August 16, from 6:00 until 8:30 pm. The Art Walk will feature artists and artisans from St. Luke's and other local artists. For more information, contact St. Luke's parish office at (251) 666-2990.

### **TRINITY MOBILE RETURNING TO RESTORED CHURCH**

Since Christmas Day 2012, when a tornado cut a destructive path across the heart of their city, the people of Trinity, Mobile, have been anxiously awaiting their return to the parish's nearly 170-year-old church building. If all goes well, they will finally return to their church home for worship on Sunday, August 24. It has been a long, winding road back.

### **GET FIRED UP FOR WILMER HALL! AUGUST 16TH, 2014 WILMER HALL FRONT LAWN**

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## *News from the Diocese*

### **MASSEY GENTRY TO ASSIST BISHOP DUNCAN AS CANON TO THE ORDINARY**

Bishop Duncan has announced the appointment of the Rev. B. Massey Gentry as part-time Canon to the Ordinary. Gentry will serve for the remainder of Bishop Duncan's time as Bishop of the Central Gulf Coast. Known through his work at Beckwith Camp and Retreat Center, Gentry will assist Bishop Duncan in several areas as he continues his ministry until his retirement next year.

### **VINCE CURRIE RETIRES**

Vince Currie, retiring this month as diocesan administrator, was presented with a model of the Greyhound Bus Station by Bishop Duncan at his retirement party on Thursday, June 26. Vince's party was coordinated by Margherita Soule and held at Christ Church, Pensacola, which is one block from the old Greyhound Bus Station that Vince Currie oversaw the purchase of for the Diocese. Several people from throughout the Diocese stopped by to celebrate Vince's years of hard work for the Diocese and wish him well in retirement.



Vince Currie and Diocesan staff: Paula Ross, Vince Currie, Carmen Kimmons, Jennifer Barnard, Kim Weinstein

### **DWIGHT BABCOCK NAMED NEW DIOCESAN ADMINISTRATOR**

Bishop Duncan has named Dwight Babcock as diocesan administrator. He replaces Vince Currie who retired this summer.

Babcock is a long-time Episcopalian and has been active in both church and volunteer organizations in a variety of lay and leadership capacities. He has been married 22 years to the Rev. Jessica H. Babcock, associate rector at St. Christopher's, Pensacola, and has two daughters who attend Pensacola Catholic High School. Babcock met his wife while they were serving in the Peace Corps in the Marshall Islands. He has an MBA from Georgia Institute of Technology (Finance) and a BS in Business Administration from the University of Montana (Finance/Economics). He has lived and traveled all over the world; however, he really enjoyed "going back to school" in a non-academic capacity when his wife was in seminary at Sewanee's School of Theology. Babcock loves to go camping, canoe local waterways, and garden (so please do share any cuttings with him!).

### **ELEANOR REEVES NAMED INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF BECKWITH**

The Beckwith Board of Directors has named Eleanor Reeves Interim Executive Director, following the resignation of the Rev. Massy Gentry after several years at the helm. Reeves currently serves as Director of Marketing and Development at Beckwith, and the Board anticipates that her experience and high profile in the Diocese will ensure a smooth transition during the search process for a permanent Executive Director. "We look forward to continuing to grow our ministries of refreshment, reflection, and recreation under Eleanor's leadership," the Board said.



## SUPPORTING EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF JERUSALEM'S RESPONSE IN GAZA

Episcopal Relief & Development is supporting the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem's Al-Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza City with funding for food and fuel as it responds to urgent needs during the current crisis.

Despite structural damage to the hospital from the impact of Israeli airstrikes, Al-Ahli staff have maintained round-the-clock presence and care for those who have been wounded. Further adding to the strain are shortages in medical supplies and fuel for electrical generators. The hospital's food supplies are stretched as they provide for patients, their families, hospital staff and those from the community seeking aid.

"We are helping our partner in Jerusalem care for those most vulnerable, particularly the injured and women and children affected by the airstrikes in Gaza," said Abigail Nelson, Episcopal Relief & Development's Senior Vice President for Programs. "Our assistance will help the hospital provide life-saving treatment and compassionate aid, and our prayers are with them as they carry out their work in very difficult conditions."

The Rt. Rev. Suheil Dawani, Bishop of the Diocese of Jerusalem, noted in correspondence with Episcopal Relief & Development that Al-Ahli provides care to the community regardless of faith or ability to pay, including psychosocial support for patients and families severely traumatized by the violence.

"Civilians exposed to heavy bombing have been killed, injured, traumatized, in some cases left homeless and without food," Dawani stated. "A few children have lost their entire families."

Since the escalation in violence, one Israeli has died from shrapnel wounds sustained while visiting Israeli soldiers at the Gaza border, and the Magen David

Adom Israel reports it has treated six others who were seriously or moderately injured by shrapnel and fires caused by direct rocket strikes.

"God weeps at this war between his children," Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori told Episcopal News Service on July 15. "We weep as we watch the destruction, and we should be storming heaven with prayers for peace."

Episcopal Relief & Development's long-standing partnership with the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem has provided support for Al-Ahli Hospital in Gaza and St. Luke's Hospital in Nablus, in addition to emergency assistance during periods of increased conflict.

Al-Ahli is an [80-bed hospital](#) in Gaza City, one of the Gaza Strip's three main population centers. With a total area of 139 square miles and a population of over 1.8 million people, Gaza is one of the most densely populated areas on earth. The Palestinian Ministry of Health reports that there are 30 hospitals in Gaza, with some operated by the Palestinian government and others by local and international faith groups and non-governmental organizations. UN OCHA reported in 2010 that more than half of Gaza's hospitals (15 out of then 27) had suffered damage during Israel's Operation Cast Lead in the winter of 2008-09.

"Please continue to pray for our partners in the Holy Land and the communities they serve, and for all those who are affected by the conflict," said Episcopal Relief & Development's Abigail Nelson.

*Donations to the Middle East Fund will sustain Episcopal Relief & Development's partnership with the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem and ensure continued support for the Church's presence and life-giving work in the Holy Land.*





Mac Pearce	08/01
Andrew Lee	08/03
Kat Velaski	08/03
Ben Schmerbauch	08/04
Kathe Gieseler	08/07
James Christiansen	08/11
Eugene Johnston	08/21
Bootsie Cieutat	08/26
David Rich	08/27
Mazie Cleveland	08/29
David Jones	08/29



Curtis & Cindy Gass 08/19



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

Paula Ross, Budd McLean, Wanda Hannon-Sundie, Joyce Lee, Jean Brown, Donna Waites, Ben Schmerbauch, Lorraine Murray, Matt Mattoon, 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:**

Guy Phelps, Toni Pearce, Irene Barrow, Julie Hilton, France 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, James Henry LeBatard [*deacon*].

## Directory Update

Please make the following changes/additions to your 2014 St. John's directory:

Doris Cunningham  
The Atrium – Apt. 305  
4720 Morrison Dr.  
Mobile, AL 36609

Rhonda Clark:  
[rfavitta11@yahoo.com](mailto:rfavitta11@yahoo.com)

Jim Hayward:  
[jimhaywardart@mail.com](mailto:jimhaywardart@mail.com)

## 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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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.

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