



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,

As you know, Julia is now at Emory University for a master's degree in Systematic Theology. She is a historian, particularly enthralled by the medieval period, but must also consider theology, spirituality, art, and science in order to really understand the history. She's also a deeply committed Christian.

In her time at The General Seminary, there has been a growing recognition of the absence of Mary from the Chapel of the Good Shepherd. This year, a group of students petitioned for the addition of a statue of Mary to the Chapel. Many students wrote of their interest in such an addition and their reasoning to support it. Julia shared hers with me and I am sharing it with you:

Mary's particular devotion to our Lord is best manifest in her words "*Fiat mihi secundum verbum tuum*" [Be it unto me according to thy word], which as you know holds particular significance for me (as it is tattooed on my arm!). But I think Mary's acceptance of God's call in these words, and demonstrated by her life (even arguably as the first priest?) stands as an example to all seminarians, whether they seek a life of ordained ministry or whether their call is for living God's Word and will in a lay capacity; her faith, trust and enduring love for Christ are an example of the kind of lives all Christians should seek to live. Anyone entering into a seminary education is like Mary in that they have said "yes" to God's call, and for seminarians in particular perhaps(?), Mary ought to be someone to whom we return time and time again as we struggle with our calling, as we struggle with our "yes;" Mary acts as our guide, our example, our Mother, and our friend. Her particular suffering in the sacrifice of her son is also of particular significance for all seeking a life in Christ, as we will all experience suffering, and we will

be asked to minister to those who are suffering. I pray we all approach suffering, faith, and love with the same humble obedience which Mary personifies in her "yes," and in her life. As a people of the Incarnation, we must remember Mary's significance to us as the vessel of Incarnation: the original Eucharistic vessel; the chalice which brought forth the most sacred Body and Blood of Christ, all of which was brought to fruition in her answer, "Be it unto me according to thy word." This is a refrain I recite daily as I encounter struggle, challenge, and fear, and I look to our Blessed Mother for the strength to answer just as she did.

I am thinking of a poem written by monks in England in the 9th-ish century, which was set to music by Benjamin Britten, and which has served as a source of significant meditation and contemplation for me of Mary and of Christ.

At the cry of the first bird, they began to crucify thee, o Swan! Never shall lament cease because of that: it was like the parting of day from night. O sore was the suffering born, by the body of Mary's Son. But sorer still to Him was the grief, which for His sake, came upon His Mother.

As you know, Mary figures prominently in our Lenten devotion of Stations of the Cross. It was out of her love for God that she could be obedient and trusting. It was her love for God that took her to the streets of Jerusalem and to Calvary. It was her love for God that enabled her to be the *theotokos*, the God-bearer, to do that incredible service to God, and ultimately, to us.

Each week the post-communion prayer reminds us of our service to God and our love of God, and our promise to be witnesses to Jesus. It is our weekly way of saying, "Be it unto me according to thy word."

--Thomas

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SEPTEMBER LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

On Monday, 8 September, we will celebrate the **Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary** at a Said Mass at 12:10PM. While not a mandatory feast day of The Episcopal Church, this observance dates from the early centuries of the church. The first evidence of its celebration is found in the sixth century Eastern church and includes hymns composed in the fourth century, around the time of the Council of Ephesus. The Eastern church has long revered Mary the mother of Our Lord as *Theotokos*, the “God Bearer”.

Alexander Crummell

On Wednesday, 10 September, we’ll observe the **Feast of Alexander Crummell** with a Said Mass at 10:00AM. Crummell, born in 1819, had a vocation as priest and struggled against racism for most of his life. He was dismissed as a candidate for Holy Orders by the Diocese of New York and refused admission to The General Theological Seminary. Ordained priest by the Diocese of Massachusetts in 1844, Crummell moved to England and entered Cambridge University. After receiving his degree, he embarked on a mission to Liberia. He believed that Africans possessed qualities that America had corrupted through oppression. He believed that a Christian republic could be established in Liberia and set about encouraging African Americans to emigrate to Liberia. Crummell is also credited with the establishment of the Union of Black Episcopalians. He spent over 50 years in his ministry and his perseverance and unfailing belief in the goodness of his people are his greatest legacy.

Holy Cross Day

On Sunday, 14 September at our 10:00AM Solemn Mass, we will celebrate **Holy Cross Day**. We commemorate the discovery of “The True Cross” by St. Helena, mother of Constantine I. The Cross was found during the excavation of foundations for a

building to glorify the sites of Our Lord’s Crucifixion and Burial. The building, now known as the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, encompasses both of these sites which most archaeologists believe to have been accurately identified. They were dedicated on this date in the year 355. Holy Cross Day recalls our redemption by Our Lord in his crucifixion.

Hildegard of Bingen

Wednesday, 17 September is the **Feast of Hildegard of Bingen**. We will observe her day at the 10:00AM Said Mass. Hildegard lived from 1098 to 1178 in what is now Germany. She was raised in a monastic setting by the anchoress of Jutta near a Benedictine monastery. Hildegard was an amazingly spiritual person from a very young age and experienced very complex visions. At 43, she heard a voice that told her to share what she had seen. Most of her extraordinary writings survive today and abound in feminine imagery for God and of God’s creative work. Hildegard was also a trailblazer. In a time of male-dominated governance, Hildegard established two independent monasteries over which she was abbess, and answered only to the Archbishop of Mainz. Hildegard also possessed musical abilities and believed music to be essential for worship. Her unusual compositions are sweet to the ear and engaging to hear.

Saint Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

Sunday, 21 September is the **Feast of Saint Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist** and we will observe it at Solemn Mass at 10:00AM. As one of Jesus’ disciples, Matthew is reputed to have been a tax collector. For the Jews, this was a position of collaboration with the Romans and also carried with it violation of Torah from exacting more tax than was required. Of course, under the Roman system, this was how the tax collector earned a living. Matthew, usually identified with Levi, was one of Jesus’ earliest calls. The gospel

(Continued on page 3)



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SEPTEMBER LITURGICAL CALENDAR (CONT'D)

(Continued from page 2)

attributed to him was not the first written, nor was it the last. It is a theological document written for a Jewish community and contains many sayings of Jesus. Tradition holds Matthew working his way through Judea, converting many to The Way, and ending up in the East. He is regarded as a martyr even though we have no verifiable knowledge of the circumstances of his death.

Saint Michael and All Angels

One of the Major Feasts of the Church, we will celebrate the **Feast of Saint Michael and All Angels** at a Said Mass on Monday, 29 September at 12:10PM. Angels have found a place in contemporary society with many identifying a personal guardian angel. But angel comes from the Greek "*Angelos*" which means "messenger". This day we commemorate all the messengers and agents of God throughout the course of history. Also known as 'Michaelmas' in England, seminaries often set their matriculation ceremonies on this day.



PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

On Sunday, 14 September, we will begin a three-week program on Planning for the Future. We will take a week each on:

- Legal planning: Wills, Inheritance, and Probate
- Financial planning: Trusts, Endowments, Gifts
- Service planning: Getting the details of "final arrangements" down on paper

We'll have experts in these fields to talk about what's possible, what is required, and why this is necessary.

All of our sessions will be in the Great Hall beginning at 9:00AM.



Jane Tate Moore 8 February 1916 – 10 August 2014

Our sister, Jane, entered into new life on 10 August. She was 98 years old. Jane described herself as a life-long member of Saint John's. There was an article in the Press Register about her a couple of days ago, recounting her significant contribution to the care, education, and welfare of people who were then referred to as "retarded citizens." Jane had a personal stake in this; her third child, Frankie, was born with Downs Syndrome. Due to her efforts and others, the Mobile Group Aid for Retarded Citizens was founded in 1955. We owe her a debt of gratitude for her work. Jane will be missed, but she has certainly earned her reward.



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

- Thanksgiving for Yeagers
Bob & Paula Ross
- Memory of Rebecca Anderson
Alberta Cieutat
- Memory of Jane Tate Moore
Bob & Paula Ross
Joyce Lee
Joan Marie Elam
Carol Watson Harrison
- Memory of Skuppers Barbour
Geri Moulton



ECW MEETING AUGUST 17, 2014

The August meeting of St. John's ECW was held in the church parlor on August 17 with President Bootsie Cieutat presiding. Bootsie offered the opening prayer, and Paula Ross gave the thought for the day. Prior meeting minutes were reviewed and accepted. Connie Anderson was welcomed to the group.

Care of shut-ins was discussed and members were asked to come up with Christmas ideas for them.

Connie McLean gave a detailed income/expense report for the month of July. Bootsie reported that we netted \$469 from our carry out Sunday. Many thanks to Ashley Garris, Irene Yeager and Butch Yeager for this being such a great success.

Bootsie thanked all for the wonderful Bishop's reception, and for the reception for Jane Tate Moore's memorial service.

Bootsie announced that the Prayer Shawl group would begin meeting again on the 1st Wednesday in September. She also pointed out that there was a new coffee hour/refreshment sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the hall.

The group discussed resuming the 4th Sunday potluck and concluded that it would be good to continue this event.

Cheryl Winters-Heard made a motion that we give the church \$500 to help with the electrical problem; Tina Cieutat seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Paula M. Ross Secretary

ECW "BAKELESS" SALE

St. John's ECW will be holding a "Bakeless Sale" as a fundraiser in August, and we invite you to participate by writing a check for your dream (and in your dreams) dessert. No clean up, no guilt, no calories!

The Imaginary Dessert

by Joyce Lee

We Women of the Church have bills to pay,
So we thought and thought of some cute way
To raise some money without too much stress.
It's an easy way, we must confess!

On these long, hot days while the weather is icky
How about a dessert that's gooey and sticky?
Imagine a cake all covered with ice cream
And add chocolate sprinkles as you drool and dream.

Don't feel guilty as you imagine all that
Because this is a dessert without any fat!
We women know that it's too hot to bake
So an IMAGINARY cake is what we'll make.

Please write a check and drop it in the mail.
Don't imagine that our project will fail!
Some of our projects are large; some are small,
And with your help, we will complete all!

Checks may be made payable to the St. John's ECW, and dropped in the mail, in the office, or in the offering plate. Your donation is gratefully received, and enables us to continue supporting our parish and our neighborhood. Thank you!



NEW ELECTRICAL SERVICE

It's been an exciting few months at Saint John's. For the past couple of years, we have experience occasional power outages that affected only Saint John's. Fuses on Alabama Power's transformer bank would open, typically during a storm. When it happened once or twice a year it was an annoyance. As the frequency picked up, we began to have other impacts. On more than one occasion, surge protectors had to be replaced, requiring a visit from our electrical contractor. This spring it happened once a month or so. By summer the interval between outages was decreasing: three times in June, and by the 11th of July, we'd already had 3 outages.

Alabama Power (AP) believed the problem to be in our facilities, of course, but also admitted that their equipment needed to be replaced. So, we started working on approaches to solving the problem. Our contractor didn't believe that there was anything wrong with our facilities and arranged with AP to shutdown the power so it could be inspected. After the inspection, he was satisfied that it wasn't our problem.

There was a "But...". Our service has been in use since 1956. The cabling was in a metallic conduit that could be rusted through, the insulation could be disintegrating. It was, certainly, a ticking time-bomb and no one could be certain how long it would be before it would go off. This perspective ruled out one of the options, "do nothing". The other two were to aerial drop the service to the building and to go underground again.

On Tuesday, 8/5, we had the inspection of our facilities and found nothing wrong. AP did some repairs to their facilities; the lineman felt 80% certain that the problem had been corrected. About 1:30 on Tuesday, he was proven to be incorrect. A flash of lightning, a loud BOOM, followed by thunder and the lights went out. Our same two fuses. AP restored power, but it blew again at 4:15AM on Wednesday. We reported it to AP at 7:30AM. By the time we got to church for Morning Prayer, AP had come and gone. This time, all three fuses were open. I got a call from the AP Engineer I'd been working with to tell me that it was a "hard fault" and that an emergency crew would be out to replace their facilities. I called our contractor who mobilized his crew. How fortunate it was that the Vestry and decided the approach to take on the previous Sunday.

Long story short, by 5:15 in the afternoon, we had power again. Both AP and our contractor performed brilliantly. Thanks to them for their efficient and excellent work. You can see our new pole by the walkway from the parking lot and AP's new facility across the parking lot.

Our part of the adventure was quoted by our contractor to total \$4,750. I've mentioned in the announcements that contributions to help offset our unplanned expense would be gratefully received. You all have responded by giving \$3,100 for it. Your generosity is outstanding and I thank you for it.

-Thomas

Dear Saint John's Friends:

I want to thank you and the ECW for all of your prayers and good thoughts while I have been sick. Your prayers have been just what I needed because last week the clinic where I get dialysis said that my number has come up to 12, and that if you are over 10 dialysis is not needed. I haven't been since last Wednesday and am feeling good. I'm still having a problem walking without a cane but when you get my age what can you expect?

Thank you again for your prayers and cards. You have no idea how much it has meant to me. I love you all and thank you.

Life is good, enjoy!

Donna Walker Waites

Parish Life

NEWSLETTER MYSTERIES UNVEILED

In case you're under the impression that our church office copy machine not only copies and collates this Saint John's newsletter that you are holding in your hands, but also inserts the calendar, folds, tapes and labels it as well, then let me gently tell you that there is a faithful, efficient, and hard-working committee that does that every month – rain or shine.

This monthly bulletin is put together by our multi-talented Financial Secretary, Lella Lowe (don't ask me how that got in her job description), and run off by Father Thomas since he has an intimate relationship with the sometime exasperating copy machine. THEN the Newsletter Committee spends a couple of hours getting it in the proper Post Office-approved shape to be sent to you.

These generous and faithful Saint John's members are Neva Bache, Mary Gieseler, Fran Barbour, Leah Betts and your undersigned reporter. Ben Schmerbauch and Becky Youngblood have faithfully served for several years, but both are under the weather and not able to take part. We miss them! Generous fill-ins have been Donna Waites, Rhonda Clark, Jim Hayward, and Joyce Lee.

-Joan-Marie Elam

SCOTT ESCOBIO SCRAMBLES HIS LAST EGG

Come September, Saint John's will welcome back its Second Sunday Breakfast. Near as those involved in the beginning can remember, we have been gathering at 8:30AM on the second Sunday of the month to eat scrambled eggs, sausage, grits and biscuits for about 15 years.

Many men of the church have participated, but Scott Escobio has hung in there longer than anyone – 12 years! At first, he was the “grits guy” when David Davis and Steve Brown were in charge, but later inherited the whole meal.

Scott's son, Sam, started helping when he was 10 years old, and then Scott's Boy Scout Venture Crew 3 joined in. This is a Crew that Scott “masters”, in which seven of the eight Crew members have become Eagle Scouts, and the eighth one will reach that commendable designation this year.

Sam Escobio, esteemed Saint John's acolyte in his high school years, graduated from Murphy High School in 2013, and is now a Certified Nursing Assistant at Little Sisters of the Poor Nursing Home. He plans to pursue a degree in nursing.

Scott is retiring from cooking us breakfasts, and we wish to thank him for all those he has fed us. Jesus said, “Feed my sheep,” and Scott took this seriously.

-Joan-Marie Elam

LIFE LINE SCREENING

Saint John's is providing space for Life Line Screening to hold an event in Mobile. You may have seen advertisements for their services on TV over the last few weeks. If you are interested, you can find brochures covering their offerings in the Great Hall on the table near the west door. Please understand that Saint John's is not promoting their services, rather, we are simply informing you of the event.

-Thomas



Ron Brown	09/06
Alice Schablinski	09/09
Barbara Vann	09/12
Becky Youngblood	09/13
Jim Hayward	09/15
Lavelle Ollhoft	09/19
Hannah Tarantole	09/19
Neil McPhail	09/20
Jerrod Sheffield	09/20
Thelma Lomers	09/22



Regina & John Molyneux	09/02
Dana & Scott Escobio	09/07
Carrie & Glenn Fairley	09/09
Donna & Ron Waites	09/17
Irene & Butch Yeager	09/29



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

Tina Cieutat, Thelma Lomers, Marie McPhail, Paula Ross, Budd McLean, Wanda Hannon-Sundie, Joyce Lee, Jean Meador 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, 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:

Shirley Demaree, Guy Phelps, 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

Directory Update

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

Wanda Hannon-Sundie
8031 Domain St.
Mobile, AL 36619
251-660-9914

Julia Heard
2401 Monterrey Parkway
Sandy Springs, GA 30350
314-650-5743
jheard83@gmail.com

Contact Us

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Louis Daniel
Organist & Choir Director
music@stjohnsmobile.org

Lella Lowe
Financial Secretary
finance@stjohnsmobile.org

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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Mobile, Alabama 36604

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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

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.