FROM THE RECTOR:

Dear Ones,

My topic this month is one that will make many of you squeamish, so prepare yourselves.

I’m going to use the “$” word. That’s right – STEWARDSHIP. In my mind’s eye I can see the groans and rolled eyes.

It’s OK, though, it won’t hurt. I promise.

Sadly, when we do actually talk about Stewardship, it seems only to be about the annual pledge campaign. I know of a parish that used to conduct a “stealth Stewardship Campaign” – read that to be the annual pledge drive. No one ever saw a budget. No one ever actually talked about money. No one had any clue where they stood among the others supporting the parish. Do you begin to suspect that the stealth campaign wasn’t very successful? You’d be absolutely correct.

The annual pledge campaign is absolutely a part of our stewardship – but there is so much more to it. Stewardship tied up with care-taking, acting as God’s agents in this world, carrying out God’s will for all of creation.

In the Prayers of the People we are currently using are two petitions that come from collects in the Book of Common Prayer. Both are concerned with Stewardship, but take on different areas. The first of the two reflects on our stewardship of the environment:

In charging us to be your stewards over all things, you made us fellow workers in your creation: Give us wisdom and reverence so to use the resources of nature, that no one may suffer from abuse of them, and that generations yet to come may continue to praise you for your bounty.

Its meaning is clear: we are responsible for how the world we live in is cared for. Living where we do, we know the challenges that face this beautiful and plenteous area. Caring for and working for wise and safe use of God's creation is what we’re called to do.

The second collect goes in a different direction:

You have made all the peoples of the earth for your glory, to serve you in freedom and in peace: Give to the people of our country a zeal for justice and the strength of forbearance, that we may use our liberty in accordance with your gracious will.

This is a stewardship of souls and it speaks to our call as children of God to care for each other with respect, dignity, and compassion. To love each other. That doesn’t mean overlooking or passing by. It means being invested in our communities and the world at large.

Going beyond the words and actions implied, there is also the aspect of how we live into our call as stewards of creation. I think it should be our first thoughts, not just something that’s “nice to do”. I think this is perhaps the hardest part of living into our call. It requires us to keep ourselves in “the mind of Christ” as Paul wrote to the Philippians.

Not to say that it is ever easy. When I have someone appear at the door of the parish hall looking for some kind of assistance, I confess to being suspicious. Sometimes the story is clearly manufactured, but even then, I try to find a meaningful way to help. We have more folks showing up at the door needing food. We buy bus tickets to get people home. We help with fuel costs. It’s not something that’s done “to be nice”, rather, it is part of our stewardship.

We will talk more about stewardship — and it will eventually come time for each of us to commit our time and our talents for the operation of this parish, but that’s for another time.

—Thomas
Remigius of Rheims
At our 10:00AM Wednesday Eucharist and Healing liturgy on 1 October we will commemorate Remigius, Bishop of Rheims. “Remi”, as he was known, became bishop at 22 years old. One of the patron saints of France, he is credited with baptizing King Clovis of the Franks and his entire army on Christmas Day of 496, changing the face of Christianity in Europe. By becoming a Roman Catholic, Clovis was able to unify the Gallo-Roman population and their Christian leaders against the Germanic peoples. At his baptism, Remi charged Clovis, “Worship what you have burned and burn what you have worshiped.” Remi died in about 530.

Francis of Assisi
On Saturday, 4 October at 5:00PM, we will once again hold a Blessing of the Animals liturgy in the Garden. Saint Francis of Assisi is one of the most popular saints and is widely admired. On the other hand, he is probably the least imitated, largely due to his broad rejection of nearly everything worldly. Francis is the founder of the Order of Friars Minor, usually called “the Franciscans”, known for their ascetic ways. Francis didn’t leave many writings behind, but his Canticle of the Sun expresses his joyous faith and love for all of creation.

Teresa of Avila
We will commemorate Teresa of Avila at our 10:00AM Wednesday mass on 15 October. Teresa is one of the two women who have been declared a “Doctor of the Church”. In her case, it was a way of honoring her work in the creation of two mystical contemplative writings, The Way Of Perfection and Interior Castle. Teresa’s mother died when Teresa was very young. Her father placed her in an Augustinian convent for her education, but a serious illness interrupted. She later entered the Carmelite order, but found it not structured enough to nourish her spiritual life. Setting out to reform her order, she founded the “discalced” Carmelites, who wore sandals or went barefoot. She traveled throughout Spain for 25 years, founding 17 Reformed Carmelite convents along the way.

Saint Luke
On Saturday, 18 October, we will commemorate Saint Luke the Evangelist at a Said Mass at 5:30 PM. Luke is credited with two major works in the New Testament, namely The Gospel According to Luke and The Acts of the Apostles. According to his writings, he was a companion of Saint Paul for some of his travels and was a physician. Most scholars believe that Luke was a gentle and wrote his Gospel in Greek, to give it wider circulation and accessibility.

James of Jerusalem
On Thursday, 23 October at 12:10PM, we will remember Saint James of Jerusalem. James is brother of Our Lord and is also known as “James the Just”. Apocryphal writings suggest that James was Joseph’s son by Joseph’s first wife, or a cousin. We do know that James became a follower shortly after the resurrection and he is mentioned in the Epistle to the Galatians and Matthew’s Gospel. Eusebius credits James with the conversion of many to the faith. His success angered many. He met his end in about 62CE; he was thrown from the pinnacle of the temple to the street below.

Saint Simon and Saint Jude
We will remember Saints Simon and Jude on Tuesday, 28 October at a 12:15PM Said Mass. We know that Simon was called “the Zealot” and John mentions Jude in his account of the Last Supper. Tradition links Simon and Jude and names them as the apostles to Persia, or modern-day Iran. Some accounts speak of their martyrdom while others tell us that both died peaceful deaths. It is possible that Simon’s “Zealot” label was on account of his zeal for the Jewish law. Jude, on the other hand, is known as the patron saint of lost causes; the basis for this tradition is entirely unknown.

James Hannington & Companions
James Hannington and his Companions will be remembered at our 10:00AM Wednesday Said Mass on 29 October. Hannington became Bishop of Equatorial Africa in 1884; his mission field was the shores of Lake Victoria. While traveling toward Uganda, Hannington and his companions were
captured and taken to King Mwanga. Mwanga feared losing power if foreigners entered his lands. After suffering a week of privations and suffering, Hannington and his companions were martyred in 1885. Hannington sent a message to Mwanga before he died, “Go, tell Mwanga I have purchased the road to Uganda with my blood.” More were martyred for the road to Uganda, but the roots of the Gospel were planted deeply.

The Vestry met twice in September.

The first meeting was a Special Called Meeting on 7 September to act on an offer to buy the 256 Weinacker Avenue lot. They accepted the offer.

The second meeting was its regular meeting on 14 September. Minutes from the 10 August and 7 September meetings were approved.

Connie McLean reviewed the financial reports, noting that we are slightly better than we had budgeted. She also reported that growth has been taken from the T. Rowe Price account. The growth of this account, given by Bill Scoggin, is to be used for the maintenance and repair of the property.

Outreach has purchased books for the Mobile County Head Start children. They are in the process of being labeled.

Parish Life reminded the Vestry that the 4th Sunday Potluck resumes this month. The 28 September event will have a Tailgate theme.

Fr. Heard updated the Vestry on the trespasser at 1700 Church St. He commented that donations toward the Electrical Service Entrance project had reached $3,100; the final cost on the project was $4,750.

The committee to recommend updates to our building use policies had no report.

COOKBOOK UPDATE

The cookbook committee (and all their friends and helpers) has been very busy typing, re-formatting, typing, re-formatting again, proofreading, correcting, and re-formatting the cookbook. The target date for “publication” is the fourth Sunday in October…we hope.

The cookbook has a name: *Cookin’ at the Cannon* is the winner of the name-the-cookbook contest/vote. Thanks to Mary Sheffield for that creative title. The subtitle will be *A Collection of Recipes by the Members and Friends of Saint John’s Episcopal Church.*

Now we just have to make those last changes, do the layout, the indexing and the artwork. Then there’s the printing, collating and binding—we may be soliciting more volunteers!

Thank you to everyone who contributed recipes, titles and have taken an interest in this project. *Bon appetit!*

-Janet Buckley

Directory Update

Address update:
Kay Meador
P.O. Box 152
Gulf Shores, AL 36547-0152
ST. JOHN’S ECW MEETS SEPTEMBER 21, 2014

The September meeting of St. John's ECW was held in the church parlor with our President, Bootsie Cieutat, presiding. Bootsie gave the opening prayer. Paula Ross gave the thought for the day....for seniors... “We are not getting older...we are just getting closer to home”.

August minutes were read and approved. A shut-in report was given. Connie McLean gave a detailed income/expense report for the month of August.

Janet Buckley updated all on the cookbook. The name of the cookbook will be “Cooking at the Cannon”. This name was submitted by Mary Sheffield. Janet said that the book was presently being proof read by Mary Gieseler and that the completion target date is sometimes in mid or late October. It was suggested that one of our upcoming 4th Sunday luncheons be recipes from our cookbook.

Bootsie advised that she has several prayer shawls available, and that as soon as she finds the appropriate crosses to pin on each we will take these shawls to our shut-ins. The shawls will be blessed by Father Thomas before taken to the shut-ins.

Donna advised that if anyone was interested in learning how to Tunisian crochet that she would be happy to teach them.

It was decided that we would have a potluck luncheon in November, the Sunday before Thanksgiving, and that it would be announced “no turkey allowed.”

Rhonda Clark recognized Joyce Lee for her work in the court yard.

- Paula Ross

BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS!!

The St. John's Outreach Committee is providing 1,000 books to the Head Start children in Mobile and Washington Counties. St. John's members spent fellowship time putting stickers into the books. The stickers read: “A gift from St. John’s Episcopal Church with hopes you will become a lifetime learner.”

Head Start is a federally funded comprehensive school readiness program that serves low income three and four year old children. The purpose of the program is to get the children ready for kindergarten. There are 1,463 Head Start children in Mobile and Washington Counties. These books will be provided to the children to take home and keep.

The books come from First Book, the National Book Bank which receives the books from publishers and then distributes them to organizations that will provide them to low income children and their families. Although the Book Bank gets the books at no cost from the publishers, organizations have to pay shipping and handling to receive the books. St John's Outreach Committee paid for the books to get to Mobile to be distributed to the Head Start children.

- Janet Buckley

St. John's members label books for delivery to Head Start children. (Photo by Janet Buckley)
Blessing of the Animals

Please join us at Saint John’s on Saturday, October 4 at 5:00PM in the courtyard for a blessing of all of our furry, feathered and finned friends. All types of animals are welcome, but please respect others and leash or restrain your pets.

Elsewhere in the Diocese

You're Invited

To an Event Fundraiser to Benefit Beckwith Camp and Retreat Center

Saturday, November 1st

With The Modern Eldorados

4:00pm - 9:00pm

with Low Country Boil served at 6:00pm

Weekend events include:

The Modern Eldorados and raffle drawings with the chance to win $5,000

$100 raffle ticket admits two for dinner, drinks, and music.

Lots of prizes being given away.

News from Wilmer Hall

Wilmer Hall residents need some items for their rooms. If you can help, please drop the items by Wilmer Hall during the weekdays, or UPS or mail them to: Wilmer Hall, 3811 Old Shell Road, Mobile, Alabama 36608

Here's the list:

Twin sheets
Blankets - solid colors
Ironing boards
Queen size sheets
Laundry baskets
Kitchen supplies (flatware, plates, cups, pots & pans)

Questions? Please call the Wilmer Hall office at 251-342-4931 or email to mscarborough@wilmerhall.org

Women’s Retreat at Beckwith

October 3, 4 & 5

Beckwith Camp and Retreat Center

Host: Commission for Episcopal Church Women

Keep your light shining and give yourself the respite of a retreat for three glorious days. Come, relax, and recharge your batteries with workshops, sharing meals, yoga, worship, and the splendor and serenity of Weeks Bay. Mark your calendars now, round up your girlfriends, and we'll look forward to seeing you this fall. Join us!

The retreat, called "Women of the Bible: Our Spiritual Foremothers," will be led by the Rev. Lindsay Hardin Freeman, award-winning author. Her latest book is entitled Bible Women: All Their Words and Why They Matter.
Episcopalians, friends and partner agencies around the
globe are joining together to celebrate Episcopal Relief &
Development’s 75th Anniversary. The 75-week
celebration, which will continue through the end of
2015, invites supporters to learn more about the
organization’s programs and get involved in campaigns
to raise $7.5 million to sustain its vital work.

In 1940, the National Council of The Episcopal
Church established Episcopal Relief & Development –
originally the Presiding Bishop’s Fund for World Relief
– to respond to the needs of European refugees fleeing
World War II. Now, working on behalf of the Church
with partners in nearly 40 countries, the organization
continues its legacy of bringing together the generosity
of Episcopalians and others to help communities
overcome challenges and create lasting change.

"At this milestone anniversary, Episcopal Relief &
Development is celebrating 75 years of healing a
hurting world, together with our partners and
supporters around the globe whose contributions of
time, talent and treasure have made this work happen," said Rob Radtke, the organization’s President. "Each
year, more than 3 million people participate in
innovative, locally led programs that boost harvests
while protecting the environment, prevent diseases by
mobilizing local volunteers and empower people to
build livelihoods through financial and skills training.

Led by a volunteer Steering Committee and an
Honorary Committee co-chaired by Presiding Bishop
Katharine Jefferts Schori and her predecessors, the Rt.
Rev. Frank T. Griswold and the Rt. Rev. Edmond L.
Browning, the 75th Anniversary Celebration provides
many opportunities to engage more deeply with
Episcopal Relief & Development’s programs and get
involved in promoting and sustaining the organization’s
work. These opportunities are detailed in a special web
section at http://www.episcopalrelief.org/75.

One of the cornerstones of the celebration is a
traveling photo exhibition, which features 33 iconic
images of Episcopal Relief & Development’s work,
along with in-depth explanations and personal
reflections through an accompanying e-docent app.

Similarly, the organization’s 75 Stories Project provides
a window into the programs, events and personalities
that have shaped the last 75 years and are changing
lives today. Individuals and groups are encouraged to
offer reflections and stories through the Share Your
Story page, and inspire and energize others to join the
celebration.

"As the Chair of Episcopal Relief & Development's
Board of Directors, I am honored to have personally
witnessed a deepening in the organization's impact,” said the Right Reverend Robert J. O’Neill, Bishop of
the Episcopal Diocese of Colorado. "I invite everyone
to join in the celebration of what we have
accomplished together over the last 75 years."

Episcopal Relief & Development has created a variety
of resources to help individuals, congregations,
dioceses, schools and groups to join the 75th
Anniversary Celebration. Worship and prayer
resources build awareness and solidarity with the
organization’s partners worldwide, and faith formation
materials can spark multi-generational conversation
about global needs and what each person can do to
help. Additionally, five campaign toolkits provide easy-
to-use informational leaflets, images, videos and
creative ideas to rally communities around a specific
issue, or support the organization’s overall mission.

- 75th Anniversary Campaign: Lasting solutions
to poverty, hunger and disease
- Carry the Water Campaign: Clean water,
hygiene and sanitation
- Fast to Feed Campaign: Sustainable agriculture
and livestock
- Thrive to Five Campaign: Maternal and child
health
- Pennies to Prosperity Campaign: Vocational
training and micro-finance

The overall goal of the campaigns is to raise $7.5
million by the end of 2015. Downloadable toolkits are
available on the organization’s website to help
individuals and groups to invite their communities to
make a 75th Anniversary contribution and join the
celebration.

"Episcopal Relief & Development is one of the

(Continued on page 7)
(Continued from page 6)

foremost outward expressions of faith for Episcopalians, and one of the best examples of what we can accomplish when we join with our brothers and sisters in the US and internationally to strengthen communities and create a thriving future,” said Dr. Catherine George, Chair of the 75th Anniversary Celebration Steering Committee and former Episcopal Relief & Development Board Member from the Diocese of New Jersey. "I think this is great cause for celebration, and I am excited be leading the efforts to honor Episcopal Relief & Development's 75th Anniversary."

Ashleigh Sheffield 10/04
Meagan Partsch 10/08
Alana Escobio 10/10
Bob Anderson 10/11
Kay Meador 10/11
Marjorie Duohon 10/13
Marjorie Mattoon 10/13
Shirley Hall 10/14
LaVerne Foster 10/15
Pam Velaski 10/24
Chris Velaski 10/24
Madison Hughes 10/25
Marietta Ford 10/30
Audrey Garner 10/30

Contact Us

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Lella Lowe
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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

For healing grace and continued strength, we pray for our members:
Thelma Lomers, Paula Ross, Budd McLean, Wanda Hannon-Sundie, Joyce Lee, Jean Meador Brown, Donna Waites, Ben Schmerbauch, Lorraine Murray, Matt Mattoon

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:
Connor Christ, Shirley Demaree, Guy Phelps, France Bridges, Sheila Gerhardt, Erica Long, 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, Mark Stiber, Keith Talbert [priest]
Saint John’s Episcopal Church
1707 Government Street
Mobile, Alabama 36604

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

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Grounded in shared sacramental life and moving into the world to be the hands of Our Lord.