



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 11

November 2014

FROM THE RECTOR:

Dear Ones,
As promised, I continue with “Stewardship” as our topic this month.

Sunday, 26 October, our Gospel reading was Matthew’s account of Jesus’ stepping outside the rules as he answered the Pharisee’s question about what is the greatest commandment in the law. The Pharisees asked for one. Jesus responded with two.

The first was a quotation from the *Shema*: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.” The second was a quotation from Leviticus 19 verse 18: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.”

Our Old Testament reading was supposed to be 6 verses from chapter 19 of Leviticus, but I extended it to include the omitted verses. Some of these are restatements of the Ten Commandments and expansions on them. I extended it to make sure the following was heard:

⁹ When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field to its very border, neither shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest. ¹⁰ And you shall not strip your vineyard bare, neither shall you gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner: I am the LORD your God. . . . ¹³ You shall not oppress your neighbor or rob him. The wages of a hired servant shall not remain with you all night until the morning. . . . ¹⁵ You shall do no injustice in judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great, but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbor. . . . ¹⁷ You shall not hate your brother in your heart, but you shall reason with your neighbor, lest you bear sin because of him.

The Hebrew word “*Mitzvotb*” has been somewhat erroneously translated as “Commandment”. In

Hebrew, it is less authoritarian and, instead, it is much more of an obligation on our part. We are not forced by the Law; rather, we are pleased to fulfill our obligation under the Law. It might seem like too subtle a difference, but I think it makes all the difference.

“Obligation” is a funny word. It does mean something that is done because of a law or a rule. It also means something done because of a promise or a vow or perhaps out of a feeling of gratitude. Let’s follow that path for a bit.

If we are grateful for the many blessings that have come our way, I think we are obliged to do something to show our gratitude. Maybe we like fishing in Mobile Bay or the Gulf; wouldn’t we want to take care of it? Perhaps a garden is our source of fresh vegetables; wouldn’t we take care of the soil? If we value our friends and family, wouldn’t we want make sure they are healthy and safe?

I think showing our gratitude for the blessings we have from God follows the same line of thinking. The world we live in, the people around us, our incomparable weather are all creations of our God. I think the Rite I post-Sanctus captures this pretty well:

Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.
It is meet and right so to do.

What it is that we offer to God, our time, our talents, and our treasure, ought to be of the first things we think about, out of the abundance that we have. Too often, though, we approach our offerings to God from what’s left over – from a place of scarcity. Our gifts to God should be our first fruits, our best efforts, from the richness that God has given us.

Let us always remember the goodness and bounty that has been given to us and render our obligation to God with the greatest joy.

-- Thomas

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NOVEMBER LITURGICAL CALENDAR

All Saints' Day

Adopted by the Roman Catholic Church in the 9th century, the Feast of All Saints' might have originated in Ireland and spread through the British Isles and to the continent. A commemoration of all who had professed faith in Christ and had given their lives for it and were felt to be in communion with Christians everywhere is found in the writings of Gregory Thaumaturgus from about 270. All Saints' is a Principal Feast of the church, one of only seven that takes precedence over a Sunday. The 1979 Prayer Book recommends All Saints' as one of four days that are particularly appropriate for the administration of the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

All Souls' Day

The day following All Saints' is known as All Souls' or All Faithful Departed. This day recalls the body of all faithful Christians who have risen to new life in Christ. It is a day for remembering family and friends and members of a parish who have died in the preceding year. All Souls' lost favor in the Reformation due to the abuses connected with the practice of saying Masses for the dead. A renewed understanding of All Souls' led to its acceptance amongst Anglicans.

Charles Simeon

On Wednesday, 12 November, at the 10:00AM said mass, we will remember Charles Simeon. A student at Cambridge, Simeon was preparing for his first Communion, which was required of all undergraduates. He had been using a popular devotional tract which emphasized law and obedience as the way to be worthy of receiving the Sacrament. To him, this was to be a depressing and disheartening experience until he happened upon Instructions for the Last Supper, which led him to understand that

righteousness could not be achieved by adherence to the law. He soon saw that only by faithfully perceiving Christ's sacrifice would he be worthy of receiving the Sacrament. His first Communion was a moment of peace and exhilaration and marked the beginning of his new life as a Christian. Simeon was one of the founders of the Church Missionary Society and actively recruited for mission work. As a preacher, Simeon was passionate and simple, ranking high in the history of Anglicanism.

Elizabeth, Princess of Hungary

Elizabeth, the daughter of a king of Hungary, had great concern for the poor and sick at an early age. She was attracted to the Franciscans and received spiritual direction from them. Her husband, recognizing the importance of almsgiving to her, allowed her to use her dowry for it. During a period of famine while her husband was out of the country, she sold her jewels to establish a hospital for the poor and sick. Much like Joseph in Egypt, Elizabeth opened the granaries for the people. Not surprisingly, her actions were seen as extravagant by the court and she and her children left Wartburg (now Bratislava). Some time later she became a Franciscan of the Third Order in Germany. She, along with Louis IX of France, is known as the patron of the Third Order of Saint Francis. Her short life of 24 years ended on 16 November, 1231.

Thanksgiving Day

Falling on 27 November this year, Thanksgiving shares the commonality of agricultural festivals with many religions. None of these feasts were included in our Prayer Book until the Continental Congress established the Day of National Thanksgiving. Its roots are found in the observances of the Massachusetts and Virginia colonies.

NOMINATIONS FOR VESTRY & CONVENTION DELEGATES

Please contact a member of your nominating committee—Bootsie Cieutat, Jan Dabney, Cindy Gass, or Fr. Thomas if you are interested (or know someone who is interested) in running for vestry or diocesan convention delegate. Elections will be held at a parish meeting on Sunday, December 7 in the Nave after Mass.



ANGEL TREE

The St. John's "Angel Tree" will be up on the fourth Sunday in November.

The gifts will be going to residents of Azalea Gardens Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center Home (formerly Kindred Nursing Home). The tags have names and requests for specific items. The list of items was given to us by the Activity Director of the nursing home.

Our Christmas gifts are going to low income, senior, long term residents of Azalea Gardens who do not have a network of family or friends to provide them with presents that make the holidays special.

Each tag has the name of an individual with a specific request. We are asking that you take a tag (or two or three) from the tree, purchase the specific items requested, and return **by Sunday, December 14th**, wrapped or in a gift bag with the angel tag on it. We will be delivering the gifts on December 16th.

This year, the Outreach Committee is providing a "shopping service." There will be a basket and some envelopes next to the tree, choose an "angel" put it in the envelope with the amount you wish to spend (check or cash) and a member of the Outreach Committee will do your shopping for you.



FOOD DRIVE: THANKSGIVING FOOD BOXES FOR FAMILIES IN NEED



This fall's food drive will have a specific goal: we are going to **fill sixteen boxes with non-perishable food** and have them delivered to sixteen families who are in need. The Outreach Committee will be providing a ham to go in each

box. The families have been chosen by Mobile Community Action, a social services agency that serves low income clients. All of the families have young children; many are grandparents raising their grandchildren.

The MCA social workers will be picking up and delivering the boxes to the families on Thursday, November 30th. We want to have **the boxes filled by Sunday, November 16th**. You can start bringing your contributions to the church any time during the next two weeks.

Our goal is to provide a box of food that will be a Thanksgiving celebration for these families. Take this shopping list to remind you what we want to provide in each box.

Thank You
Outreach Committee

Saint John's Fall Food Drive Shopping List

- canned yams
- canned sweet peas
- canned fruit cocktail
- pudding cups
- fruit or applesauce cups
- grits
- canned peaches
- dried beans
- rice
- boxed macaroni and cheese



Vestry

The regular meeting of the Vestry and Wards of Saint John's Church was held on 12 October in the Parlor. Fr. Heard called the meeting to order with prayer at 11:35AM.

- Cindy Gass reviewed the financial reports, noting a deficit for the month of \$8,580.
- Janet Buckley, reporting for Outreach, said that the Angel Tree program will be repeated this year, likely providing gifts for residents of Azalea Gardens again.
- Bootsie Cieutat reminded that Breast Cancer Awareness is the theme for the October 4th Sunday Potluck and invited everyone to wear something pink. The November 4th Sunday Potluck will be a "No Turkey" theme and held on the 23rd, 5 days before Thanksgiving. The ECW is forming a committee to nominate candidates for next year's officers.
- James Christiansen reported that progress is being made on the ceiling replacement projects. The Baptistery and Chapel are well underway and bids for the Parlor will be sought soon.
- Fr. Heard reported that the closing documents for 256 Weinacker are being reviewed by the Chancellor of the Diocese.
- Several recent gifts to the parish have helped our financial position. A member tithed on a property sale. Saint John's has been named as a beneficiary in the estate of a deceased member.
- The Nominating Committee will be Bootsie Cieutat, Jan Dabney, and Cindy Gass and two members of the congregation.
- The Vestry voted to call a Meeting of the Parish for election of officers on 7 December 2014.
- The Building Use Policy committee will report next month.

Some discussion ensued concerning projects to enhance the curb appeal of our properties.

The meeting adjourned at 12:10PM with prayer.



ST. JOHN'S ECW MEETS OCTOBER 19, 2014

The October meeting of St. John's ECW was held in the church parlor with our President, Bootsie Cieutat, presiding. Paula Ross gave the opening prayer. The Minutes from the previous meeting were unanimously accepted as distributed.

Bootsie, giving the Treasurer's Report in the absence of Connie McLean, our Treasurer, advised that there was only one expense this past month – the donation to the church for the electrical work. The Treasurer's Report was approved as presented.

Janet Buckley advised that the Cookbook was coming along nicely and on track insofar as time scheduling is concerned.

There was no report in full for the election of the officers for next year, and it was advised that the election would be next month.

It was announced that the 4th Sunday Potluck dinner would be next Sunday, October 26th, and the theme would be Breast Cancer Awareness. Janet advised that she would be in charge of the decorations for this luncheon.

Joyce Lee shared with us the prayer shawl that she had completed and Bootsie advised that she had purchased some crosses for the shawls.

Bootsie showed us a Christmas poinsettia that she had gotten at Old Time Pottery, and she was asked to get one for all of our shut-ins for Christmas.

-Paula Ross

DID YOU KNOW?

The black urns in the courtyard came from old St. John's.

When the church was being demolished and all of the things were bought up, Angela McGuire bought the two iron urns and took them to her home.

After enjoying them for years, Angie decided to donate them back to St. John's. She had them repaired, power washed, and painted. They looked beautiful afterwards.

Look at them when you pass through the courtyard. They are still beautiful!

-Joyce Lee



REMEMBER to set your Clocks



Please remember to turn your clocks **BACK** one hour at 2 a.m. on Sunday, November 2, marking the end of Daylight Savings Time. You don't want to miss the All Saints' service!

Also, the International Association of Fire Chiefs asks people to test their existing batteries or install fresh batteries in their smoke detectors when they change their clocks each year. So, please remember to "Change Your Clock—Change Your Battery" this weekend.



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

Jane Tate Moore

James Christiansen

Eugene & Emily Johnston

Bessie Southall

Mark Alan Smith

Bessie Southall

Betty Chenoweth

Frances Peters Barbour

Martha Donoghue

James Christiansen

John & Brenda Elsevier

Butch & Sandy Ousley

Beverly Hess

Jamie & Greg Saad

Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd

FALL FESTIVAL

Saturday, November 1, 2014

11:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

Please join us for
delicious food, fun
and fellowship

605 Donald Street
Mobile, AL 36617
For More Info,
Please Call
251-452-9596

- Music
- Games & Fun
- Fish
- Chicken Wings
- Ribs
- Hot dogs
- Cold Drinks
- And Lots More!



EPISCOPAL RELIEF & DEVELOPMENT GIFTS FOR LIFE FEATURES 75TH ANNIVERSARY CHRISTMAS PACKAGE

Each year, hundreds of congregations around The Episcopal Church make *Gifts for Life*, Episcopal Relief & Development's alternative giving catalog, a part of their Advent and Christmas celebrations. With more than 30 gifts to choose from in categories such as "Animals & Agriculture" and "Green Gifts," *Gifts for Life* provides a way for Episcopalians and friends to include their communities and loved ones in creating a thriving future.

Gifts for Life choices range from a \$12 mosquito net, which includes installation and follow-up by a trained health volunteer, to \$5,000 for a village well, which includes maintenance training and hygiene education. Along with popular gifts such as literacy education to empower women and fruit trees to produce nutritious food, a new gift joins the catalog this year: medicine packages and training for health workers and parents to stop the three leading killers of children in Africa — diarrhea, malaria and pneumonia.

Additionally, in honor of the organization's 75th Anniversary Celebration, *Gifts for Life* now features a 75th Anniversary Christmas Package with five of the most essential building blocks for strong communities.

"The 75th Anniversary Package includes Clean Water, Care for Moms and Newborns, Micro-Credit Loans for Women, Reforestation and Goats – which are one of the hardiest and most versatile animals kept domestically around the globe," said Judy Sawler, Episcopal Relief & Development's Manager of Direct Response Marketing, who oversees the catalog. "Together, these items support the holistic well-being of families around the world, improving health, nutrition, livelihoods and the environment."

Giving *Gifts for Life* is a fun and simple way to nurture a world where communities are strengthened and empowered from within. Individuals and families can send gifts to friends and relatives through the print catalog or by ordering online, and choose to send recipients an attractive printed card or convenient e-card.

Banding together to create an even bigger impact, churches and school groups can use *Gifts for Life* as an Advent campaign to raise awareness and funds for Episcopal Relief & Development's life-giving work. The Advent Toolkit available on the organization's website (<http://www.episcopalrelief.org/advent>) provides helpful planning and activity resources such as an Advent Calendar, bulletin inserts and special prayers. Handy tri-fold brochures highlight the special 75th Anniversary gifts and are perfect for fundraising events and alternative gift markets. These tools are designed to help groups engage and motivate their whole communities to join hands in outreach.

The easiest way to order *Gifts for Life* is with a credit card, by visiting <http://www.episcopalrelief.org/giftsforlife> or calling 1.855.312.HEAL (4325). To order with a check or money order, download an order form and mail to Episcopal Relief & Development, PO Box 7058, Merrifield, VA 22116-7058. E-cards are not available for orders made by phone or mail. Gifts to Episcopal Relief & Development are tax-deductible.





Addison Fairley	11/04	Denise Dunham	11/18
Rosalie Pritchard	11/04	Jennifer Tarantole	11/19
Violet Kosko	11/07	Caitlin Bryan	11/22
Louis Daniel	11/09	Christopher Gass	11/22
Arthur Youngblood	11/09	Nikki Shaw	11/22
Cindy Gass	11/11	Ray Campbell	11/28
Mayson Pritchard	11/12	Kim Partsch	11/30



Emily & Eugene Johnston	11/05
Jessica & Jeff Dennis	11/10
Ashleigh & Jerrod Sheffield	11/19
Marjorie & Roy Duhon	11/22
Pat & Jerry Fulford	11/23



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

Pat Fulford, Jan Joseph, Marian Wallace, Thelma Lomers, Paula Ross, Budd McLean, Wanda Hannon-Sundie, Joyce Lee, Jean Meador Brown, Donna Waites, Ben Schmerbauch, Matt Mattoon

For our Homebound:

Doris Cunningham, Mae Dunn, Corinne Faust, Nell Kirk, Violet Kosko, Margie Mattoon, Lorraine Murray, 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:

Marsha Gilmore, David Pearce, Louise Barnett, Connor Christ, Shirley Demaree, Guy Phelps, Frances Bridges, Sheila Gerhardt, Erica Long, Bill Jones, 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]

Contact Us

Staff:

The Reverend Thomas Heard, *rector*
rector@stjohnsmobile.org

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*



Saint John's Episcopal Church
1707 Government Street
Mobile, Alabama 36604

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Mobile, Alabama
Permit No. 607

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.