



# 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. XXV, Issue 1

January 2015

## FROM THE RECTOR:

Dear Ones,  
There are significant events in the life of the diocese happening over the next two months. These relate to the election of the Fourth Bishop of the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast.

Early in December, the Standing Committee announced a slate of four candidates chosen by the nominating committee from the names submitted to it. There was a brief period where nomination by petition could add names to the slate, but I haven't heard about any additions. As it stands now, the nominees are:

The Rev. James Russell Kendrick  
Rector, St. Stephens Episcopal Church,  
Birmingham, Alabama

The Very Rev. Edward Francis O'Connor  
Dean, Cathedral Parish of St. Andrew,  
Jackson, Mississippi

The Rev. Canon Dr. E. Daniel Smith  
Canon to the Ordinary, Diocese of Missouri,  
St. Louis, Missouri

The Rev. Dr. William C. Treadwell III  
Rector, St. Paul's Episcopal Church,  
Waco, Texas

In the Episcopal Church, the Diocesan Convention is the body that elects a bishop. The convention votes by orders, meaning that votes are tallied for clergy and laity separately. Election can only occur if both orders have a majority of votes for the same person. Sometimes it takes a long time, sometimes not. I know of one diocese where no election occurred and the convention recessed until a later date. When I was in Missouri, three ballots were required before we elected the new bishop. Bishop Duncan was elected on the second ballot.

The election of a bishop is a matter of great importance to a diocese. The bishop is to be the pastor

and example to the whole of the church. Your Convention Delegates and I will represent Saint John's at the convention in February.

"Walkabout" is the term the church is using for the opportunities for people in a diocese to meet and converse with their bishop candidates. (It used to be called a "dog and pony show"!)

There are three days set aside for the Walkabouts, with four hour time blocks reserved for face-to-face conversations with the candidates. The closest one to us will be at **Saint Paul's, Daphne on Wednesday, 21 January 2015, beginning at 6:00 PM.**

Your Rector and your Convention Delegates will be participating. I believe there will be some standard questions used in all of the events, but there will be time for the participants to ask questions of the candidates. I encourage you to make plans to go to the Daphne walkabout.

The election of a new bishop is an event that will shape the future of the church in this diocese for many years to come. The Saint John's Convention Delegation wants to hear from you. We represent you and would like to know your thoughts and impressions about the candidates. Following the Walkabouts we will have a **Sunday School** session on **January 23** devoted to talking about the candidates. We want to hear from you.

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a bishop for this Diocese, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

—Thomas

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE JANUARY LITURGICAL CALENDAR

### The Holy Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ

The 1979 Prayer Book moved us to this name for the feast that was previously known as the Feast of the Circumcision. I suspect the change was envisioned as a move to be less exclusive: on the eighth day, all Jewish children are named. Naming, of course, is about establishing identity. We are named by God and claimed by God. We'll celebrate this day at 12:10 PM on Thursday, 1 January 2015.

### The Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ

“Epiphany” comes from a Greek word meaning to manifest or appear. This feast concludes the twelve days of Christmas and marks the discovery of God Incarnate by the gentiles in the persons of the wise men. Join us to celebrate the visit of the Magi to the stable in Bethlehem on Tuesday, 6 January at 12:10PM.



### The Baptism of Our Lord Jesus Christ

The First Sunday after the Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ is also known as The Baptism of Our Lord. On this day, 11 January at 10:00AM, we recount Jesus' baptism in the Jordan by his cousin John the Baptizer. It is a particularly appropriate day for baptisms.



### The Confession of Saint Peter

This feast usually occurs on the 18<sup>th</sup> January, but is transferred to Monday, 19 January at 12:10PM this year. We commemorate Peter's confession of Jesus as the Christ. This feast also marks the beginning of the annual Week for Christian Unity.

### Agnes of Rome

At the age of 12, Agnes endured beatings and torture before she was martyred for her faith in Rome in 304. This was during the particularly severe persecution of Christians by the Emperor Diocletian. Her name, which means “pure” in Greek and “lamb” in Latin, was regarded by the early Church Fathers as particularly appropriate for the young girl who showed such courage, chastity and faith. Pilgrims to Rome still visit her tomb, its surrounding catacomb and the basilica over it. We will commemorate Agnes at a Mass on Wednesday, 21 January at 10:00AM.

### The Conversion of Saint Paul

We mark Paul's acceptance of Jesus as his Lord and Savior on Monday, 26 January at 12:10PM. Even though it is referred to as his conversion, the Pauline position seems to be more of enlightenment to a new reality, rather than rejection of his heritage in favor of Christ. This feast concludes the Week for Christian Unity.

### Thomas Aquinas

Thomas Aquinas was of the Order of Preachers, the Dominicans. Trained as a lawyer, Thomas employed Aristotelian principles to questions facing the church and became the theological light of the Middle Ages. Thomas wrestled with questions like, “Can God change?” and “What is the essence of God?” His two most significant works, *Summa Theologica* and *Summa Contra Gentiles* caused him to be condemned by ecclesiastical authorities. These works still influence us today, and his canonization in 1323 certainly vindicated him. We will commemorate Thomas at a Mass on Wednesday, 28 January at 10:00AM.

## ST. JOHN'S ECW

The November 15 meeting of St. John's ECW was held in the church parlor with our President, Bootsie Cieutat, presiding. Bootsie gave the opening prayer and welcomed our honored guest, Father Thomas. Minutes from the last meeting were approved and Treasurer Connie McLean reviewed financial activity for the past month, noting that we are doing really well.

There was no activity in our Caring and Sharing; however, several folks commented on some of our parishioners being sick, and updating everyone on them. Bootsie shared with the group the gift for our shut-ins that she and Tina Cieutat had made and everyone thought they were very pretty and that our shut-ins would really like them.

The following officers for next year were unanimously elected:

President – Bootsie Cieutat  
 Vice President – Irene Yeager  
 Treasurer – Connie McLean  
 Secretary – Paula Ross

Bootsie announced about our Pot Luck luncheon next Sunday and advised that she, Mary Jones and Wendy Cape would be in charge of decorating the tables in a Thanksgiving theme.

It was decided that the Women's group would have our 'dutch treat' luncheon after the first of the year, the date to be announced later.

There will be no meeting in December. Our Parish Christmas party will be on December 28<sup>th</sup>, and the ECW voted to furnish the ham for this luncheon.

The annual Cookie Swap was discussed, and it was decided to have it on December 14<sup>th</sup>. Janet Buckley agreed to write an article about this for the 4<sup>th</sup> Epistle.

The Cook Books are here...There was much excitement when Bootsie showed them to us. The cost for the book is \$15.00.

—Paula M. Ross



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

By John & Patsy Christiansen in memory of	
	Betty Chenoweth
By Bill & Margaret Finegan in honor of	
	Brian and Juliana Finegan
	Mark Finegan
	Katie and J.D. Sarginson
	Margaret and Jeff Blake
By Bill & Margaret Finegan in memory of	
	Audrey Meador

## ELECTION

On Sunday, 7 December, the parish met to elect new Vestry and Diocesan Convention Delegates. The following were elected to serve the parish:

To serve on the St. John's Vestry:  
 Mr. Ron Brown, Mr. Eugene Johnston,  
 Ms. Geri Moulton, Mr. Butch Yeager

To serve as Delegates to Convention:  
 Mr. James Christiansen, Mr. Eugene Johnston  
 Ms. Connie McLean

To serve as Alternate to Convention:  
 Ms. Janet Buckley

Congratulations to all.

## FLOWER CHART SIGN-UP

It's time to sign up for flowers for 2015! Please use the cards on the bulletin board to begin signing up to supply altar flowers for Sundays in 2015. As Sundays are covered we will update the flower chart and post it for all to see. Altar flowers cost \$50 per Sunday.

# JANUARY 2015 AT SAINT JOHN'S

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
HE = Holy Eucharist MP = Morning Prayer SS = Sunday School				1 <b>The Holy Name</b> 1210P HE	2 830A MP	3
4 <b>Christmas 2</b> 9A SS 10A HE 1130A Outreach	5 830A MP	6 <b>The Epiphany</b> 830A MP 1210P HE	7 830A MP 10A HE+Uction 7P Choir	8 Harriet Bedell 830A MP	9 Julia Chester Emery 830A MP	10 William Laud
11 <b>Epiphany 1</b> <b>ERD 75<sup>th</sup> Birthday</b> 9A SS 10A HE 1130A Vestry	12 Aelred of Rievaulx 830A MP	13 Hilary of Poitiers 830A MP 630P Winning Solutions	14 830A MP 10A HE 7P Choir	15 Martin Luther King Jr. 830A MP	16 830A MP	17 Antony of Egypt
18 <b>Epiphany 2</b> 9A SS 10A HE 1130A ECW	19 <b>The Confession of Saint Peter</b> 830A MP 1210P HE	20 Fabian of Rome 830A MP	21 <b>Agnes of Rome</b> 830A MP 10A HE 7P Choir	22 Vincent of Saragossa 830A MP	23 Phillips Brooks 830A MP	24 Ordination of Florence Li Tim-Oi
25 <b>Epiphany 3</b> 9A SS 10A HE 1130A 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday Potluck	26 <b>The Conversion of Saint Paul</b> 830A MP 1210P HE	27 John Chrysostom 830A MP 630P Winning Solutions	28 <b>Thomas Aquinas</b> 830A MP 10A HE 7P Choir	29 830A MP	30 830A MP	31

# LECTIONARY AND ROTA FOR JANUARY 2015

Date Service	4 January HE II, EP-B	11 January HE II, EP-B	18 January HE II, EP-B	25 January HE II, EP-D
Lectionary Day	2 Christmas	1 Epiphany Baptism of Our Lord	2 Epiphany	3 Epiphany
Color	B Christmas 2 RCL White	B Epiphany 1 RCL White	B Epiphany 2 RCL Green	B Epiphany 3 RCL Green
Lessons	Jeremiah 31:7-14 Psalm 84 Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a Matthew 21:13-15, 19-23	Genesis 1:1-5 Psalm 29 Acts 19:1-7 Mark 1:4-11	1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20) Psalm 139:1-5, 12-17 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 John 1:43-51	Jonah 3:1-5, 10 Psalm 62:6-14 1 Corinthians 7:29-31 Mark 1:14-20
Greeters	Paula & Bob Ross	Melissa Brown	Connie & Budd McLean	Irene & Burch Yeager
Lectors	Cheryl Winters-Heard Ron Brown	Janet Buckley Paula Ross	Ron Brown Geri Moulton	Mary Sheffield Denise Dunham
Intercessor	Cheryl Winters-Heard	Kathe Gieseler	Connie Anderson	Budd McLean
Eucharistic Ministers	Ron Waites Geri Moulton	Connie Anderson Ron Brown	Butch Yeager Paula Ross	Connie McLean Eugene Johnston
Eucharistic Visitor	Ron Waites	Eugene Johnston	Ron Brown	Paula Ross
Altar Guild	Pat Fulford Cindy Gass	Pat Fulford Cindy Gass	Lee Dorsey Mary Gieseler	Lee Dorsey Mary Gieseler
Vestry Teller				
Nursery				

## DID YOU NOTICE?

A couple of weeks ago, while working in the courtyard, I noticed the legs on the trellises were rotten. It looked like only the paint was holding them up. I asked Bob Anderson to please take a look at them.

Bob said it looked like wood rot and maybe some termites mixed in. The next day (a Monday), Bob came to the church and did all sorts of measurements on the trellises. Before the week was over, Bob brought back two new trellises for the garden. He said these should last much longer because he used pressure treated lumber this time.

Thank you, thank you, Bob Anderson! That's a special gift to the church.

-Joyce Lee

## COOKBOOK CORRECTION

Please note the following correction to your new St. John's cookbook. On page 53, the prayer by Rhonda Clark should be:

### My Favorite Prayer

Heavenly Father, I love you. I believe in you. I worship you. I thank you. I am sorry for my sins.

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*Cookin' By the Cannon*, the St. John's cookbook, is still available for purchase! For a mere \$15 you will get 212 pages of 357 delicious recipes and many blessings. Literally "many blessings": there are over 30 blessings for food prayers included in the cookbook.



## ST. JOHN'S CELEBRATION OF THE 75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF EPISCOPAL RELIEF & DEVELOPMENT

On December 6, 1940, a resolution presented to National Council of Episcopal Church passes, founding the Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief. This resolution was put forth in direct response of The Most Rev. Henry St. George Tucker, 19<sup>th</sup> Presiding Bishop and Primate of the Episcopal Church, at that year's General Convention. He said: "There is one problem created by the war (WW II) for which we have a more direct responsibility, namely, the relief of those to whom it has brought suffering. I trust that this General Convention will call upon our people to take their full part in relief activities, wherever they are practicable under the condition of war, not only as an obligation, but still more as a Christian privilege."

This was the beginning of the Presiding Bishop's Fund which was renamed by General Convention in 2000 to Episcopal Relief & Development. In that time the organization has gone from reacting to the issues created by a world war to being a presence working with over 3 million people annually in approximately 40 countries worldwide. This has been made possible by your prayer and donations.

On January 11, St. John's will celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Episcopal Relief & Development at the Mass. The Collect and The Prayers of the People, planned to help rejoice in the organization's work, will be available. At the coffee hour we will continue the celebration by eating a 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary cake.

Please join us!





Faye Owen 01/07  
 Leslie Johnson 01/08  
 Bob Ross 01/08  
 Mary Jones 01/09  
 Curtis Gass 01/16  
 Nicholas Tarantole 01/17  
 Jeffery Yeager 01/17  
 Irene Yeager 01/19  
 Alexandria Harvey-Smith 01/20

Samuel Tarantole 01/21  
 Janet Buckley 01/24  
 Mary Frances Chestang 01/25  
 Grayson Dennis 01/25  
 Scott Escobio 01/26  
 Donna Waites 01/26  
 Doris Cunningham 01/28  
 Bill Duke 01/31



Craig & Shirley Hall 01/31



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

Margie Mattoon, Pat Fulford, Jan Joseph, Thelma Lomers,  
 Paula Ross, Budd McLean, Joyce Lee, Donna Waites,  
 Ben Schmerbauch, Matt Mattoon

**For our Homebound:**

Doris Cunningham, Mae Dunn, Corinne Faust, Marietta Ford,  
 Nell Kirk, Violet Kosko, 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:**

Jean Cochran, Julia Federle, Tricia Forbes, David Shippee,  
 Marsha Gilmore, David Pearce, Connor Christ, Shirley Demaree,  
 Guy Phelps, Frances Bridges, 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, Mark Wilson [*priest*], Mary Joan [*religious*]

## Contact Us

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Bootsie Cieutat

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Cindy Gass, *senior warden*

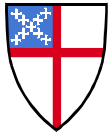
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8:30AM Morning Prayer

Sunday:

9:00AM Adult and Youth Christian  
Formation

10:00AM Holy Eucharist

Wednesday:

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.

**Parish Office**

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SAINT JOHN'S: THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN MIDTOWN MOBILE  
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to be the hands of Our Lord.