FROM THE RECTOR:

Dear Ones,

At the 44th Annual Convention of the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast, our last official act was the election of the 4th Bishop for our diocese. On the third ballot, the convention elected The Reverend James Russell Kendrick to that post. More on that later.

The Annual Convention gathers to conduct the official and canonically required business of the diocese. Much of this business is receiving reports from commissions, committees, and coordinators. This year, as we have done in the past, all of these reports were printed in the convention materials (well, most of them) and they were received by the convention “by title”. That just means that we didn’t have to hear them. Saves a lot of time. We did receive the report of the Convention Finance Committee and adopted the budget for 2015.

Saving time turned out to be a problem this year. By my reckoning, we could have heard the Bishop’s Address before lunch and been finished for the day. We didn’t do that. Instead, we did have verbal reports from several entities. Sally Greene reported on Wilmer Hall, Eleanor Reeves on Beckwith, James Lawrence on Youth activities, George Riggall for the Standing Committee, and yours truly for Murray House.

After I finished my report, the Bishop asked me to talk about Ecumenical and Interfaith activities, so I got to do about five minutes off-the-cuff, and it seemed to be well received.

The Bishop’s Address was given after our lunch. It was well constructed and delivered. It seemed to me that he was more relaxed this year than in the past. Maybe it has something to do with his not-too-far-away retirement? We recessed for the day, with the promise of seeing others Friday evening at the gala.

The gala was held at the Alabama Cruise Terminal. The food was great, the company better; I think most had a good time. A chance to wind down before the election.

On Thursday, we were told that The Reverend Canon E. Daniel Smith had withdrawn from the election. It came as quite a surprise.

We convened Saturday morning with Eucharist at 8:00AM. The bishop celebrated and preached. At the conclusion of the service, everyone left the church so that it could be set up for the election.

This year, we used voting machines and they significantly expedited our task. Results were instantaneous. We got better at using them and the process was a great improvement. The successful candidate would have to receive a majority in both the Lay and Clergy orders: 82 and 27, respectively.

On the first ballot, the results were:

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Clergy</th>
<th>Lay</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kendrick</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O’Connor</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treadwell</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>59</td>
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The second ballot results were similar:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th>Lay</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kendrick</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O’Connor</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treadwell</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>70</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Fr. O’Connor withdrew after the second ballot. On the third ballot, we had an election. The results were:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Clergy</th>
<th>Lay</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kendrick</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treadwell</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We sang the Doxology and Gloria in excelsis and adjourned the convention.

On Monday night, I got a call from our Bishop-Erect. I was pleased to talk with him for about ten minutes. I think the spirit led us to the right person.

-- Thomas
Cyril of Jerusalem
We will mark the Feast of Cyril of Jerusalem on Wednesday, 18 March at our 10:00AM Said Mass. Cyril lived from 318 to 386, spending nearly his whole life in Jerusalem. He became bishop of Jerusalem in about 349, living during the time of the first Ecumenical Councils of the church in 325 (Nicaea) and 381 (Constantinople). These were the formative years of the Nicene Creed which we say each Sunday. Cyril was a teacher and wrote *Catechesis, or Catechetical Lectures* on the Christian Faith which still survive. Perhaps his most lasting contribution is the Triduum liturgies that we celebrate today. These were painstakingly documented by a 4th century Spanish pilgrim named Egeria.

Saint Joseph
We will remember Joseph at a Said Mass at 12:10PM on Thursday, March 19. Joseph was a pious Jew. He is counted as a descendent of King David and a carpenter by vocation. Joseph is considered to be the patron saint of working men and women. What we know of him is that he trusted in God, even when what God asked was to be a challenge to his daily life.

The Annunciation
The Feast of the Annunciation of Our Lord Jesus Christ to the Blessed Virgin Mary will be celebrated on 25 March at 10:00AM. This celebration commemorates the visit of the angel Gabriel to Our Lady and her assent to God’s request to be *Theotokos*, or God-bearer. Her answer, like that of Abraham, was “Let it be to me according to your word.”

Sunday of the Passion or Palm Sunday
Holy Week begins on 29 March with the Liturgy of the Palms in the Garden at 10:00AM and processing into the church for the Liturgy of the Word and the Eucharist. Palm Sunday is an odd mix: I think this happened to accommodate those who don’t darken the door of the church except on Sundays, so we get the Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem and the Passion of Our Lord – Palm Sunday and Good Friday all rolled into one.

The regular meeting of the vestry was held on 11 January 2015 in the Great Hall. All members were present and welcomed new members Ron Brown and Eugene Johnston. Geri Moulton was not present

The minutes of the November meeting were approved. These were held over because the vestry did not meet in December.

The vestry elected its officers for the year:
- Senior Warden: James Christiansen
- Junior Warden: Butch Yeager
- Treasurer: Connie McLean
- Clerk: Connie Anderson

Parish Life reported that the 4th Sunday Potluck would be 25 January.

Physical Plant has received bids to replace the ceiling in the parlor which has suffered water damage.

Fr. Heard reported that copier proposals are being refined. Our HVAC issue in the church has been referred to Church Insurance. Saint John’s has been asked to co-sponsor a Believe Out Loud training to be held in August; this was deferred until next month.

Fr. Heard reported that pledge letters have gone out to 146 members in 49 pledge units.

James Christiansen distributed a summary of fees charged for building use by other parishes in Mobile. Connie McLean agreed to replace Jan Dabney on the ad hoc committee.

The vestry set Tuesday, 24 February as the Vestry Retreat. It will be held in the Great Hall.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 12:41PM.
**Lenten Study and Simple Supper**

Our Lenten study series and meal will continue throughout March as follows:
- Wednesday, March 4, 2015
- Wednesday, March 11, 2015
- Wednesday, March 18, 2015
- Wednesday, March 25, 2015

We begin with Evening Prayer at 5:30PM in the church. The meal starts at 6PM and is followed by discussion led by Fr. Heard. Please sign up on the bulletin board to help with the meal.

We are asking for a $5.00 donation per person per meal, with the funds collected going to Penelope House, a local shelter for victims of domestic abuse.

**Lenten Suppers and Penelope House**

The proceeds from the Lenten Suppers this year are going to Penelope House. (Yes, you can buy Lenten Supper tickets and not come if you just want to support a very good cause.)

The mission of Penelope House is to provide safety, protection, and support to the victims of Domestic Violence and their children through the provision of shelter, advocacy, and individual and community education.

Penelope House helps victims of intimate partner violence to gain social and economic independence through shelter, counseling, advocacy, and referral to community resources and agencies. The center can provide refuge for victims and their children when their lives are in imminent danger; the temporary shelter allows escape from a violence situation. The prevention of domestic violence through education and public awareness is the goal of Penelope House.

**Garden Clean Up Morning Saturday, March 28**

We’ll be having Garden Cleanup morning on Saturday, March 28 starting at 8 AM. We want to get the courtyard and all of the church grounds looking “Easter ready”. We’ll weed, replace the plants in the planters, remove the dead leaves, trim the shrubbery, cut the grass and cut back the parking lot “jungle”. The more hands helping, the faster the task will go! There will be coffee and goodie but the real reward will be how beautiful Saint John’s will look.

Bring your gardening gloves, gardening tools and lots of energy: Sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.

**Food Boxes for Eastertide “Spring Break Survival”**

Outreach Committee is once again asking your generosity to help fill 20 food boxes for low income families. We’re partnering with Mobile Community Action to identify 20 families with young children who need assistance.

Easter weekend starts Spring Break for children in Mobile County, so families will have their children home all week; definitely an added economic burden when you are used to having your children eat breakfast and lunch in school.

These food boxes will focus on breakfast and lunch-type foods. We’ve generated a shopping list for you. We are asking the food stuffs be brought in by Sunday, March 22th or before. The MCA Social Workers will be picking up the boxes on April 2nd. Outreach Committee will be adding sandwich bread, cheese and lunch meat to the non-perishables.

**Spring Break Survival Food Box Shopping List**

- Individual boxes/cups of dry cereal
- Oatmeal packets
- Instant grits packets
- Granola bars
- Mac & cheese (cups)
- Peanut butter
- Little Debbie snack cakes
- Cracker packets
- Cookies
- Pudding cups
- Jello cups
- Apple sauce cups
- Fruit cups
TRANSITIONS

Many of you have shown interest in my recent move to Murray House, the Assisted Living facility our Diocese runs on Government Street in Mobile. First, I asked Butch Yeager to put my sweet house on Dauphin Street up for sale and began to clear out 26 years of stuff.

Many people rallied around to help me: my patient, generous children, Lia and Dug, plus Will’s children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren who came from Iowa, Florida and Montgomery. The weekend the Elams descended…ah, make that “arrived”…Saint John’s ECW came through with enough food to feed all of midtown…delicious and welcomed! We feasted on Honeybaked ham, with ALL the trimmings, for days. My heartfelt thanks go to Bootsie, Tina, Neva, Fran, Marie, Wendy, Sue, LaVerne, Leah, Mary, Joyce, Cookie, Paula, Donna and Irene.

Parks Family treasures were given to relatives, and then the date came for the kitty cat and I to move to Murray House. The Executive Director, our own Connie Anderson, had been guiding me through the paperwork and stuff I needed to know, furniture was transported from Dauphin to Government, and the good-sized room began to take shape: single bed, recliner, rocker, drop-leaf table, TV, beautiful antique desk on loan from my son-in-law, clothes, and on and on. There is a good-sized walk-in closet and bath. And what else was waiting for me when I first walked into my new home? Roses from the ECW and treats for the kitty cat!

Services are top-notch: bed made, clothes washed, loan of a walker and a refrigerator, three meals a day, activities, and on-call emergency help.

Going to the Dining Room – I opted out of breakfast – takes a little getting used to, but I lucked out on a lively, entertaining tablemate and found the food very good. You fill out cards each day for the next day’s meals and are served at your table.

Sure, it’s a huge adjustment. But I’m grateful Murray House is there for us, as I physically and emotionally was not able to handle homeownership and all its aggravations.

I kept my car, so I’m able to do a lot of what I was doing before…. My cat and my car, what more could I ask for? Come see me.

Joan-Marie Elam

HVAC PROBLEMS

You’ve seen the trailer in the parking lot; you’ve seen the white ductwork going through the parlor window. You’ve also been nice and warm. All this because our 58-year-old air handler in the church has leaks that cannot be repaired.

We have a preliminary proposal from a local contractor who has worked with Carrier to reverse engineer the specifications for our unit. It will take seven weeks to have the unit built and two weeks to do the installation. Once the details of the proposal are finalized it will be forwarded to our insurance carrier for consideration. We also have damage to the building that has already been inspected.

This is a very expensive problem, running in the neighborhood of $45,000!

Stay tuned…
As the last days of December marked the end of 2014, it also saw the sun set on Venturing Crew 3. The scouts have all earned their Eagle rank, they are hitting the age where they can no longer be considered as youths, and more importantly they are moving on with their futures. Camping stories are being replaced with tales of college and basic training and work. Talk of summer camp has been pushed aside by discussions of changing majors and military assignments and careers.

The entire crew is eternally grateful for all of the love and support and acceptance that the people of St John’s have shown us for the five years we spent as a ministry of this parish. Our success was possible because of the St John’s family standing behind our endeavors with their prayers and encouragement.

Although the Crew feels the debt of kindness can never be fully repaid, they do promise to pay it forward at every opportunity. Thank you again for letting your home be our home as well.

Pictured below are the scouts and adult leaders of Venturing Crew 3 at our final pizza party on January 2nd in the Great Hall at St John’s.

Will Halliday, Jennings Halliday, Sam Escobio, Thomas Mather, Scott Escobio, Anthony Hall, Sebastian Collette, Daven Ervin, Josef Straughn, Trevor Thiel and Joe Collette. Not pictured are Chris Smillie who was out of town, Leo Straughn who joined us later and everyone’s little sister Polly Straughn.

-Scott Escobio

Please make the following changes to update your St. John’s Directory:

**Joan-Marie Elam**
1257 Government St. #205
Mobile, AL 36604
(251) 431-9271

**Matt & Margie Mattoon**
(for mail only—they still live at Somerby)
c/o Vivian Watt
10275 Howells Ferry Rd.
Semmes, AL 36575

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

Becky Anderson
Llanelle & Clayton Minhinnette
Violet Kosko
Shirley Roberts Short
Connie & Bud McLean
Dana Herazo
Ken & Elizabeth (Buff) Brown
Gloria Whigham & Jamie Lloyd
Bernita Linthicum
Frances Peters Barbour
A generous pledge from a group of committed donors in honor of Episcopal Relief & Development’s 75th Anniversary generated tremendous response during the agency’s annual Matching Gift Challenge. The $750,000 matching amount attracted an astounding $1,013,513 in donations, as Episcopal Relief & Development supporters sought to make their gift go twice as far toward healing a hurting world.

“What an incredible outpouring of support in celebration of our 75th Anniversary, and a wonderful way to invest in our thriving future,” said Joy Shigaki, Episcopal Relief & Development’s Senior Director of Advancement. “This was the largest match amount in the history of the Matching Gift Challenge, and I am continually amazed and inspired by the generosity of our friends and supporters.”

Partnering with local Church bodies and affiliated agencies in nearly 40 countries, Episcopal Relief & Development energizes and expands community-based programs that address poverty, hunger and disease. Donations to the 75th Anniversary Fund enable the organization to respond to urgent needs and continue these vital programs across the globe.

For 75 years, Episcopal Relief & Development’s diverse, faithful community has responded compassionately to human suffering worldwide. In partnership with Episcopalians and friends, it has grown from its founding in 1940 as a granting agency into a respected international development organization.

Helpful information, compelling stories and free campaign resources are available at www.episcopalrelief.org/75.

For more information on Episcopal Relief & Development’s programs, please visit www.episcopalrelief.org/what-we-do.

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**Easter Lilies**

Look for cards to sign up for Easter Lilies on Rose Sunday, which is the 4th Sunday in Lent, March 15.

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**2015 Pledge Summary**

As this newsletter goes to print, we have received financial commitments from 45 pledge units. Our total for 2015 stands at $136,134. For 2014 we received 48 pledges totaling $155,424.

If you plan to pledge to the 2015 operating budget, please turn in a pledge card as soon as possible. Extra cards are available in the church office.
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, clerk
Ron Brown
Janet Buckley
James Christiansen, senior warden
Eugene Johnston
David Jones
Connie McLean, treasurer
Geri Moulton
Butch Yeager, junior warden

DON’T FORGET
Daylight Savings Time begins at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 8. Set your clocks forward one hour before you go to bed Saturday night.

Happy Birthday
Bessie Southall  03/05
Howard Yeager  03/10
Marian Boykin  03/12
Bud McLean  03/18
Courtney Bryan  03/19
Jean Brown  03/20
Charles Wohlert  03/24
Sandra Wilson  03/27
Rhonda Clark  03/28

Prayer List
For healing grace and continued strength, we pray for our members:
Audrey Garner, Caitlyn Brown, Margie Mattoon, Pat Fulford, Jan Joseph, Joyce Lee, Donna Waites, Ben Schmerbauch, Matt Mattoon.

For our Homebound:
Doris Cunningham, Mae Dunn, Corinne Faust, Nell Kirk, 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:
Connie Bryan, Irene Barrow, Meg Cole, Rocky Rockwell, Mike Davis, Jean Cochran, Marsha Gilmore, David Pearce, Connor Crist, 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, Mark Stiber, Anna Marie Brown, Mary Joan [religious].

For those who have died:
Marietta Ford
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

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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.