



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
The Reverend James Russell Kendrick, Bishop-Elect

Vol. XXV, Issue 4

April 2015

FROM THE RECTOR:

Dear Ones,

This month, I thought I'd bring you up to date on things around the parish.

By the time you receive this, it'll be mid-Holy Week. As I've said previously, this is an opportunity for us to become immersed in the actions of Jesus' passion, with moments for each of us to experience these events in our own time, reliving them, putting flesh on the bones of memory as it has been passed down to us from the ancient Church.

The Easter Triduum starts on Thursday, with the Evening Mass of Our Lord's Supper at 6:00PM. This will include Footwashing, a practice that has been part of the 1979 BCP liturgies since its inception and part of our practice at least since 2008. The way we do it, each one that comes forward washes the feet of the one before and has his or her feet washed by the next. In this way, we each take Jesus' role in washing the feet of the disciples, for that is who we truly are. The liturgy concludes with carrying the Sacrament to the Chapel of the Nativity, where it will repose until the Good Friday liturgy, the Stripping of the Altar, and the beginning of the Watch over the Blessed Sacrament until noon on Friday.

The Good Friday liturgy, offered at noon and 6:00PM takes us throughout the Passion according to John, the Solemn Collects, and presentation and veneration of the Cross.

The Triduum concludes with the Great Vigil of Easter, following the outline provided to us by Egeria, a Spanish woman who made pilgrimage to the Holy Land in the 5th century. We begin in the garden with the kindling of a new fire and procession into the church proper, bearing the Pascal candle, representing the light of Christ in the world. I confess that I love singing the *Exultet*, praising the light of Christ and recalling the significance of our history from Creation, the Exodus, and our redemption by Jesus from our bondage to sin and death. We conclude the Triduum with the first Eucharist of Easter

and will use Eucharistic Prayer "D", which we share with many other denominations. We are an Easter people. This is the first of our Eastertide celebrations of Jesus' resurrection that will continue through Pentecost.

To the more temporal side of happenings at Saint John's, I'd like to thank all those who came out on Saturday before Palm Sunday for a work day at the church. We did an amazing amount of cleanup, both in the church and outside. As we worked, the Azalea Trail Run passed by us, even though most of the azaleas around the church had yet to bloom.

We are putting together 20 food boxes for underprivileged families in Mobile, to be distributed through Mobile Community Action. Your contributions to this effort are appreciated by the Outreach Committee and me, and will be very helpful to the recipient families.

As most of you know, the air handler in the church became inoperable in late October due to an irreparable leak in the heat exchanger core. We've reached a very favorable settlement with Church Insurance and a replacement unit has been ordered, the contractor is mobilizing the workforce for an installation in mid-May that will give us air conditioning and heat for many years to come. Our supplemental heating arrangement has been converted to cooling, so we will still be able to worship in the church without melting!

Our sister, Betty Plash, died on 30 January 2013. Betty was a fervent supporter of many organizations, including Saint John's. In October of 2014, we began receiving statements from her trust. I enlisted Connie McLean to investigate. It turned out that dear Betty had remember Saint John's as a residual beneficiary of her trust after her death. I am pleased to tell you that we have received a distribution from the trust of a little over \$95,000 which will keep us solvent for a few more years.

I am thankful for our many faithful members.

--Thomas

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE APRIL LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Maundy Thursday

The name comes from the Latin “*Mandatum*”, meaning command. With our observance of Maundy Thursday on 2 April at 6:00PM, we will commemorate Jesus’ Last Supper with his disciples and imitate Our Lord’s washing of his disciples’ feet. All who wish to participate will have their feet washed and then wash someone else’s feet, becoming servants to each other. The Mass will conclude with the transfer of the Holy Sacrament to the Altar of Repose and the stripping of the Sanctuary and washing of the altar. At the end of the mass, the Watch over the Blessed Sacrament begins. This overnight vigil affords quiet time to spend in prayer and meditation.

Good Friday

We will offer the Good Friday liturgy twice on 3 April, once at 12:00PM and again at 6:00PM. This liturgy features the Passion of Our Lord according to John. In the place of the Prayers of the People, the Solemn Collects are prayed. In the Showing of the Cross, the celebrant will bring a cross into the Nave. An opportunity to venerate the cross will be offered to all present. Following the veneration, Holy Communion will be prepared from the Sacrament reserved at the altar of repose.

The Great Vigil of Easter

Holy Week reaches its peak with the Great Vigil of Easter at 7:30PM on Saturday, 4 April. The service begins in the garden (weather permitting) where the Pascal Candle is prepared and lighted and we process into the church. The liturgy continues with readings from the Old Testament, taking us from creation through all of our salvation history. In the early church, this was the liturgy where catechumens were baptized, becoming full members of the community. I believe we will have a baptism at our Vigil observance. Following baptism and renewal of our Baptismal Covenant, the proclamation of Easter is made: bells are rung, candles are lit, the lights come up and we celebrate the first Mass of Easter.

Saint Mark the Evangelist

We will commemorate the life and work of Saint Mark the Evangelist on Saturday, 28 April at 5:30PM. Mark, as the author of the Gospel bearing his name, is not precisely identified. Various traditions have him filling roles ranging from being one of Jesus’ disciples to being the cousin of Barnabas in Paul’s letters. The Church of Alexandria claims that Mark was its first bishop and a martyr, killed while on a missionary journey. It is Mark’s Gospel that gives us the shortest account of Jesus ministry, but we must be careful not to equate short with simple. Mark’s Gospel leaves us with many questions, but gives us many clues to the answers.

Catherine of Sienna

The life and work of Catherine of Siena will be commemorated at our said mass on 29 April at 10:00AM. Catherine was the youngest of 25(!) children of a dyer in Siena, Italy. At the age of 6, she had a remarkable vision of her vocation. She became devoted to prayer and meditation and eventually became a Dominican postulant and nurse. She worked tirelessly during the plague outbreaks, as well as a visitor of condemned prisoners. She saw the division of the church during the Avignon papacy as unforgivable and wrote repeatedly to popes, princes, and kings, calling on them to restore the unity of the church.





VIOLET LOUISE CHIGHIZOLA KOSKO

Our sister Violet entered into new life on 31 January. She was 92 and died at home under hospice care. Violet and husband, Joe, were longtime members of Saint John's. You might recall that Joe was a carpenter and built the case that holds the window from the Chapter House in our Great Hall. Violet was surrounded by a very devoted and loving family. For some reason, this didn't get into the March newsletter; for that, I apologize.

MARIETTA NELSON FORD

Marietta entered new life on 21 February 2015. A life-long member of Saint John's, she and husband, Tom, sat in the short pew at the middle arch on the Epistle side. Marietta was 91, and though she and Tom never had children, nieces and nephews became like their own, as was evident from their grief at her passing. Mardi Gras, Dauphin Island, and Alabama Football were other loves she shared with Tom.

DORIS ANNE SWIFT CUNNINGHAM

At age 93, our sister Doris entered new life on 8 March 2015. Doris and husband, Richard, had two daughters and a son. Doris was active at Saint John's as a youngster. She and Richard raised their children here and were active until Richard's retirement. They moved to Gulf Shores and Holy Spirit until a few years ago when they moved back to Mobile, to be closer to their doctors. Doris was an artist, noted for her painting of porcelain and china, as well as being an instructor for more than thirty-five years. As with Richard, the family elected to have a private burial, using neither Saint John's nor Holy Spirit.



The Vestry met on Tuesday evening, 24 February, beginning with a light supper. At 7:10PM, Fr. Heard called the meeting to order.

Connie McLean reviewed the financial statements, noting that we continue to operate at a deficit, with expenses outrunning income by \$4,000 for January.

Janet Buckley reported that the Easter Food Boxes will be distributed to 20 families on 2 April. She also said that proceeds from the Lenten Supper will go to Penelope House.

The 4th Sunday Potluck was scheduled to be 22 March. (This was Postponed until April due to lack of notice.)

Fr. Heard reported that a preliminary proposal for the replacement of the church air handler has been received, totaling about \$45,000. He is hopeful that Church Insurance will cover the lion's share. Fr. Heard also distributed a Believe Out Loud document for review prior to the next meeting of the vestry.

A budget committee of Connie McLean, Butch Yeager, Janet Buckley and Fr. Heard was formed.

The Vestry then began its retreat time. Discussed were topics of membership (existing and new), ideas for new programs, raising our visibility and celebrating our "high church" identity.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30PM.



It's time for a church directory update. So that we may get the best information to you, please make sure that we have all the latest in address, e-mail and telephone changes turned in to the church office by Sunday, May 10. New parish directories will be available by the end of May.

APRIL 2015 AT SAINT JOHN'S

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
HE = Holy Eucharist MP = Morning Prayer SS = Sunday School			1 Wednesday in Holy Week 830A MP 10A HE+Uction	2 Maundy Thursday 6P HE	3 Good Friday 12P Good Friday 6P Good Friday	4 Holy Saturday 730P Great Vigil of Easter
5 Easter Day 10A HE	6 Monday in Easter Week 830A MP	7 Tuesday in Easter Week 830A MP	8 Wednesday in Easter Week 830A MP 10A HE+Uction 7P Choir	9 Thursday in Easter Week 830A MP	10 Friday in Easter Week 830A MP	11
12 Easter 2 9A SS 10A HE 1130A Vestry	13 830A MP	14 830A MP 630P Winning Solutions	15 830A MP 10A HE 7P Choir	16 Yom HaSho'ah 830A MP	17 830A MP	18
19 Easter 3 9A SS 10A HE 1130A ECW	20 830A MP Newsletter Deadline	21 Anselm of Canterbury 830A MP	22 830A MP 10A HE 730P Choir	23 830A MP	24 830A MP	25 Saint Mark 530P HE
26 Easter 4 9A SS 10A HE 1130A 4 th Sunday Potluck	27 830A MP	28 830A MP 630P Winning Solutions	29 Catherine of Sienna 830A MP 10A HE 7P Choir	30 830A MP		

LECTIONARY AND ROTA FOR APRIL 2015

Date Service	2 April HE-II, EP-A	3 April Good Friday	4 April HE II, EP-D	5 April HE-II, EP B	12 April HE II, EP-B	19 April HE II, EP-B	26 April HE II, EP-B
Lectionary Day	Maundy Thursday	Good Friday	Great Vigil of Easter	Easter Day	Easter 2	Easter 3	Easter 4
Color	White	Red	White	White	White	White	White
Lessons	Ex 12:1-14a Ps 78: 14-20, 23-25 1 Cor 11:23-32 John 13:1-15	Isa 52:13-53:12 Ps 22:1-11 Heb 10:1-25 John 18:1-19:37	Gen 1:1-2:2 Ex 14:10-15:1 Eze 36:24-28 Eze 37:1-14 Rom 6:3-11 Mt 28:1-10	Acts 10:34-43 Ps 118:1-2, 14-24 1 Cor 15:1-11 John 20:1-18	Acts 4:32-35 Psalm 133 1 John 1:1-2:2 John 20:19-31	Acts 3:12-19 Psalm 4 1 John 3:1-7 Luke 24:36-48	Acts 4:5-12 Psalm 23 1 John 3:16-24 John 10:11-18
Greeters				Paula & Bob Ross	Irene & Butch Yeager	Melissa Brown	Connie & Bob Anderson
Lectors	Ron Waites Geri Moulton	12P Heard 6P Brown	Heard Gieseler Anderson Brown McLean	Geri Moulton Budd McLean	Mary Sheffield Pat Fulford	Cheryl Winters- Heard Connie Anderson	Mary Sheffield Pat Fulford
Intercessor	Connie Anderson			Paula Ross	Ron Waites	Ron Brown	Eugene Johnston
Eucharistic Ministers	Ron Waites Mary Sheffield		Butch Yeager Connie McLean	Butch Yeager Paula Ross	Eugene Johnston Ron Waites	Ron Brown Mary Sheffield	Eugene Johnston Paula Ross
Eucharistic Visitor				Ron Waites	Ron Brown	Paula Ross	Eugene Johnston
Altar Guild				Lee Dorsey Mary Gieseler	Marie Brown Lorraine Murray	Marie Brown Lorraine Murray	C. Anderson J. Tarantole
Vestry Teller				Janet Buckley Ron Brown	Eugene Johnston Geri Moulton	Ron Brown Butch Yeager	Geri Moulton David Jones
Nursery				Butch Yeager Denise Dunham	C. Winters-Heard Marie Brown	Andrew Lee Cindy Gass	Denise Dunham J. Tarantole



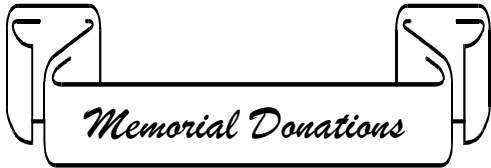
The Saint John's ECW met on 15 March 2015.

After convening, concerns about some of our members were shared. The minutes and Treasurer's reports were approved.

The Cookbook project has gone very well; there are only 12 copies left! Some expenses are still not in, so the final figure is not available.

The proposed 2015 budget for the ECW was distributed and discussed. The budget, projecting a \$750 deficit, was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 12:15PM.



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

Marietta Ford
 Frances & Van Wells
 Evelyn Grubbs
 Bessie Southall
 Lee Dorsey
 Alice Schaffer
 Violet Kosko
 Donna Houston



Jessica Dennis	04/05
Mike Johnson	04/13
Mary Lou Varnes	04/14
Joyce Lee	04/18
Frances Barbour	04/22



A PRAYER FOR THOSE LIVING IN POVERTY AND HUNGER

by Rob Radtke
 President of Episcopal Relief & Development

One of the most important ways of engaging with our work around the world, and especially during the 75th Anniversary Celebration, is by lifting up prayers for the communities in which we work.

This prayer comes from *Lifting Women's Voices: Prayers to Change the World*, a collection of wonderful prayers written by women from around the world.

Sharing Abundance

O Creator of all living things:
 We are all hungry in a world full of abundance.
 The possibilities of food for bodies and souls overflow in this beautiful world.
 We ask for the grace to see the abundance of our world and enough awareness to acknowledge our sins of greed and fear.

Give us openness of soul and courageous, willing hearts to be with our sisters and brothers who are hungry and in pain.

We ask for your intercession on behalf of every person hungry for earthly food and hungry for the taste of the Spirit of God.

We give thanks that we can be part of that intercession.

This world is blessed with enough food of the earth for every person to eat and be satisfied.
 We all can feed on the bread of Christ, through the Holy Spirit, as God makes a home in our hearts.

We come together in awe and wonder at the Creator who loves us so much that we are invited and urged to be co-creators with God in the care of our brothers and sisters.

In the name of the tender Mother-Father of all people who hears every cry, Amen.

Ann Case

Holy Week

Thursday, 2 April 2014

Maundy Thursday

Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper at 6:00PM
Sermon by the Rector

Friday, 3 April 2014

Good Friday

The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ
Said Liturgy at 12:00PM
Sung Liturgy at 6:00PM
Sermon by the Rector

Saturday, 4 April 2014

Holy Saturday

The Great Vigil of Easter at 7:30PM
Sermon by the Rector

Sunday, 5 April 2014

The Sunday of the Resurrection

Solemn Mass at 10:00AM
Sermon by the Rector
Easter Egg Hunt for the Children after Mass



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

LaVerne Foster, Audrey Garner, Caitlyn Brown, Margie Mattoon,
Pat Fulford, Jan Joseph, Joyce Lee, Donna Waites,
Ben Schmerbauch, Matt Mattoon.

For our Homebound:

Mae Dunn, Corinne Faust, Nell Kirk, Lorraine Murray,
Bessie Southall, Mary Lou Varnes, Catherine Warren,
Chick Wohler.

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:

Midge Harden, Connie Bryan, Irene Barrow, Rocky Rockwell,
Mike Davis, Jean Cochran, Marsha Gilmore, David Pearce,
Connor Crist, 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]*.

Contact Us

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Sexton

Vestry:

Connie Anderson, *clerk*

Ron Brown

Janet Buckley

James Christiansen, *senior warden*

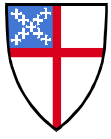
Eugene Johnston

David Jones

Connie McLean, *treasurer*

Geri Moulton

Butch Yeager, *junior warden*



Saint John's Episcopal Church
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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

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