FROM THE RECTOR:

Dear Ones,

Summer draws to a close, the schools are back in session, the weather is mellowing, and we’re about to start a new fall season at Saint John’s. There are lots of things going on, lots of things to get involved with, many new opportunities. I want to highlight a few of them for you in this month’s article.

The Guild of Saint Martha will be offering breakfast on the second Sunday at 8:30 AM. Many of you remember the Men of the Church breakasts of scrambled eggs, grits, bacon and sausage, and orange juice. This is not what the guild is planning; that’s all I really know. I am certain that the members of the guild, all quite competent chefs in their own right, will be providing an appetizing and filling breakfast for us. I just hope it doesn’t bring on too many carbohydrate comas during the Sunday School hour. The guild has asked for a $3 donation to offset their expenses. Still a deal; where else can you get breakfast for that much?

Starting a week later, the 20th of September, will be a new confirmation class. It is specifically for confirmation and reception from other traditions, but if you are feeling called to reaffirm your commitment to the Church, you would be most welcome to join. We’ll begin at about 11:45 for the first meeting and figure out our schedule into the future. This is, of course, in advance of our new bishop’s pastoral visitation.

Yes, our new bishop, Russell, will be coming to Saint John’s on 25 October for a Pastoral Visit. During these visits, the bishop meets with the vestry, staff, and clergy. On Sunday morning, he will spend time with the congregation at 9:00 in the Great Hall. This will also be the time he spends with those to be confirmed, received or making reaffirmation. At Mass, the bishop will preside and preach. It will be a “pull out all the stops” day!

Backing up to the 13th again, we will begin a new program in the Adult Formation hour. This is a project for the whole congregation to be a part of; it depends on each one of us contributing for the parish as a whole. We will be taking a look at who we are and how we think we’re perceived, what our place in the community is, and where we seem to be going.

From there, we’ll work on where we want to be going, what we want to be doing, and building action plans to help us move in those directions. I guess we might call these “improvement projects” for the church. There might be a few ‘bricks and mortar’ projects, but I suspect most will not.

We’ll then look at what modernism and post-modernism are about and in what age groups these characteristics are most likely to be found. This is a prelude to exploring what will attract these age groups to the church. This will be followed by some planning of actions we might take toward that end. We’ll take two sessions and explore what the Great Commandment really means to us, how it affects our daily life, and it strengthens our commitment to God. This one should be easy for us; you all hear enough about it from me week after week. We’ll see how easy it really is!

The last two sessions will be devoted to developing our vision for the future. We may not get a vision statement fully formed, but we’ll have enough meat on the bones for the vestry to complete it.

Just so there’s no misunderstanding, we need to have full participation to make sure everyone has a chance to be heard and contribute. If you’re here on Sunday morning, you should be part of this.

-- Thomas
The Martyrs of New Guinea
At our Wednesday Said Mass with Holy Unction on 2 September, we will commemorate the Martyrs of New Guinea. The second largest island in the world is still a frontier for Christian missionary work because of its terrain and diversity. The first missionaries arrived in the 1860s with the Anglicans arriving in 1891. During the second world war, eight missionaries and two Papuan martyrs were betrayed to Japanese invaders. Their witness is part of this day’s celebration, but also the faith and devotion of Papuan Christians who risked their lives to care for the wounded and damaged.

Constance and Her Companions
Also known as the Martyrs of Memphis, Constance and the Sisters of Saint Mary worked tirelessly and at personal risk to minister to the victims of Yellow Fever in Memphis in 1878. Working alongside doctors and priests, the epidemic finally passed, but not before so many had fallen. We will remember their devotion to their brothers and sisters at a Said Mass at 10:00AM on Wednesday, 9 September.

Holy Cross Day
On Monday, 14 September at 12:10PM, we will celebrate the Feast of the Holy Cross. Eusebius tells us that it was Helena, mother of Constantine, who discovered the True Cross buried at Golgatha. She was entrusted to build a suitable housing for it, that would inspire attraction and veneration. Whether or not Helena actually found the cross, her work stands today as the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. This day, we honor the implement of execution that brings us life and salvation.

Ninian of Galloway
Ninian, a Romanized Briton, appears in a brief account in the Venerable Bede’s *Ecclesiastical History of the English People*. Martin of Tours was a great influence on Ninian where he gained his ideals of an Episcopal-monastic organization for missionary work. Along with Patrick of Ireland, Ninian is part of the continuity between the ancient Roman-British church and the developing Celtic Christianity of Ireland and Scotland. We’ll celebrate Ninian’s life and work at a Said Mass on Wednesday, 16 September at 10:00AM.

Saint Matthew
Saint Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist will be commemorated on Monday, 21 September at a Said Mass at 12:10PM. Legend holds that Matthew the Tax Collector became a disciple of Jesus and later wrote an account of the life and works of Jesus. We know this today as the Gospel of Matthew.

Philander Chase
Philander Chase served the Episcopal Church as Bishop of Ohio and later as Bishop of Illinois. Chase began his mission work among the Mohawk and Oneida peoples shortly after his diaconal ordination in 1798. He served as rector of Christ Church in Poughkeepsie for six years and then established the first Protestant congregation in Louisiana in 1806. He was elected Bishop of Ohio and established Kenyon College and Bexley Hall Seminary. He resigned to do mission work in Michigan. He was later elected first Bishop of Illinois, where he served until his death in 1852. We will commemorate his life and work at our Said Mass on Wednesday, 23 September at 10:00AM.

Saint Michael and All Angels
One of the Major Feasts of the Church, we will celebrate the Feast of Saint Michael and All Angels at a Said Mass on Tuesday, 29 September at 12:10PM. Angels have found a place in contemporary society with many identifying a personal guardian angel. But angel comes from the Greek “*Angelos*” which means “messenger”. This day we commemorate all the messengers and agents of God throughout the course of history.

Jerome of Bethlehem
We will celebrate the feast of Jerome of Bethlehem at our Wednesday, 30 September Said Mass at 10:00AM. Jerome, a priest and monk, died in about 420. Pope Damasus tasked Jerome with making a new translation of the Bible into Latin, known to us as the Vulgate.
The regular meeting of the Wardens and Vestry of Saint John’s was convened on Sunday, 9 August, at 11:30AM.

The minutes of the 12 July meeting were approved.

Connie McLean reviewed the financial statements. The auditor’s report had been previously distributed. Connie moved that the Vestry receive and approve the report as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.

Reporting for Outreach, Janet Buckley said that the book project was completed on August 2. The books will be distributed to the Head Start children in September. Outreach will continue the McKemie Place project with Redeemer and will look for a fall project.

Parish Life reported that the picnic was a success and that the 4th Sunday Potluck for August will have a football/tailgate theme.

Fr. Heard reported that the repairs to the narthex have been completed. The replacement compressor for the chiller is enroute and the motor controller for the air handler will be changed when the compressor is installed.

Fr. Heard reported that the Great Hall has been used by MEJAC on 16, 23, and 30 July and will be using it again on 13 August. Life Line Screening has requested the use of the Great Hall on 13 November.

Fr. Heard reported that Cooner Construction and Dobson Roofing have been contacted to inspect the Great Hall roof and provide estimates for repair.

Butch Yeager has spoken with Tony Seymour and the Landscape Plan is coming together. He reported that the removal of the signage on the van will run about $600. The Vestry voted to sell the van for $4,000 (minimum $3,000).

The meeting was adjourned with prayer by Fr. Heard at 12:30PM.

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**A NEW FORMATION PROGRAM**

We’ll start of the academic year with a new program during the Christian Formation hour beginning on 13 September. The program will run for several weeks.

We’ll start by doing a self-assessment: How do we perceive ourselves? What are the impediments to our revitalization? Do we have “unresolved issues” that we need to address? The goal of the program is to build a vision statement of where we want Saint John’s to be in five years and beyond.

**HYMN BOARD**

Would you like to help with the hymn board? Perhaps one Sunday a month?

It’s not that difficult; there are usually only four hymns per Sunday, five if there’s no anthem. And we usually have enough numbers...tho’ we are a little short of 1’s...

Don’t worry about making mistakes: the congregation is quite forgiving when the numbers on the board are different from the ones in the bulletin or one side is singing a different hymn than the other side... or the last hymn was left off the board....

See Janet Buckley if you would like to be part of this little ministry.
The tradition of Second Sunday Breakfast will start up again on Sunday, September 13. The Guild of St. Martha will be hosting this, and with your support and input, we hope to continue throughout the fall. Donations of $3.00 per person are appreciated, since it will enable us to continue in our ministry of hospitality.

NURSERY WORK DAY

Saturday, September 26 will be a work day in the nursery. Come in your grubbies, bring your rags, and help us to clean up and sort out toys and books. You might even get to put together a puzzle or two! We are also accepting donations of new coloring books, paper for our Sunday morning art work, and any DVDs that are toddler appropriate. We will meet at the church at 9:00 AM with Sugar Rush donuts available, and will plan to finish by noon at the latest.

Second Sunday Breakfast

St. John’s Parish Potluck
August 23, 2015

Tailgate: Wear Your Colors

Paula & Bob Ross, Bessie Southall, LaVerne Foster, Butch Yeager and Ashley Garris

Pat Fulford, Gavin, Tanner & Calvin Dunham, Denise Dunham

Joyce Lee, Thelma Lomers, Joan-Marie Elam

Ron & Donna Waites
**Outreach**

**SAINT JOHN’S MCKEMIE PLACE PROJECT**

Every fourth Thursday Saint John’s, in partnership with Redeemer, provides dinner for the residents of McKemie Place, the Mobile area’s only overnight shelter for single, unaccompanied women. Our current commitment to this project is to provide the dessert, tea, and paper products every month.

Fourth Thursday rolls around every month … so we need volunteers every month to pick up the dessert (for 72), tea (5 gallons sweet) and paper goods. We have a Walmart/Sam’s card to be used for this—so no one has to “front” the expenses of buying the goods. Of course, if the spirit moves you to cook dessert for 72, then the card can be used to purchase the ingredients!

Once purchased, there are two ways to get the goods to McKemie Place: bring them to St John’s before noon on the fourth Thursday and Lella will see that they get to McKemie Place or bring them to McKemie Place between 5 and 6 pm. Staying to help serve is optional, but can be a very rewarding experience.

Sign up sheet is on the bulletin board. See Cheryl or Janet if you have questions or need more details.

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**Books, Books Books….**

We’re getting very good at putting the St. John’s labels into the books that are going to the Head Start children: Last year it took us two Sunday fellowship hours to put labels in 1000 books. This year we did the task all on one Sunday!!

Thank you to all the willing hands: those who opened the boxes, those who put the labels in the books, those who put the books back in the boxes, and those who restacked the boxes. Many hands made short work!

The children will be getting their books the second week in September.
Ten years ago, on August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina slammed into the US Gulf Coast as a Category 3 storm. Over 1,800 people lost their lives, and one million were displaced from their homes, some for years following the storm and others permanently.

In the aftermath, Episcopal churches organized food and volunteers, providing pastoral care as well as links to relief and recovery services. Regionally, churches hosted and cared for evacuees, aiding them in finding temporary housing and employment.

Long-term program partnerships in Louisiana and Mississippi helped people rebuild their lives and revitalize their neighborhoods through case management, gutting and rebuilding homes and making mortgages accessible and manageable. Hurricane Katrina also marked the beginning of what is now Episcopal Relief & Development’s US Disaster Program, which equips and inspires Episcopal congregations to increase their resilience and care for their vulnerable neighbors.

Commemorating the tenth anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, Episcopal Relief & Development presents its #Katrina10 story series, offering in-depth perspectives from area residents as well as the organization’s partners and staff. These stories unfold through the month of August on Episcopal Relief & Development’s 75th Anniversary story section: http://www.episcopalrelief.org/75stories.

Hurricane Katrina transformed The Episcopal Church’s understanding of its potential role after emergencies, and it also transformed how congregations view mission, outreach and membership. A new initiative, Called to Transformation, helps congregations identify and utilize their gifts to enhance local ministry and mission.

Churches are celebrating these ministries on the Episcopal Asset Map, a searchable online tool that shows the locations and strengths of thousands of Episcopal institutions. “There is a growing awareness in The Episcopal Church of how an asset-based approach can unlock potential and inspire action, not only in a disaster response context but in responding to everyday challenges and creating thriving communities,” said Katie Mears, Director of Episcopal Relief & Development’s US Disaster Program. “Hurricane Katrina put a spotlight on problems that we continue to struggle with, but it also showed us how to create solutions. I think we honor those whose lives were impacted by Katrina when we build strong, diverse communities that care for those most vulnerable.”

Please continue to pray for and support communities affected by disaster.

Directory Update

Please make the following changes/additions to your 2015 St. John’s directory:

Jerry Fulford e-mail: jerrful@gmail.com
Pat Fulford e-mail: patfulf@gmail.com

Pam Velaski
8423 Oak Pointe Ct.
Mobile, AL 36695
251-635-7026
pamelapreston24@gmail.com
Ron Brown 09/06
Alice Schablinski 09/09
Barbara Vann 09/12
Becky Youngblood 09/13
Jim Hayward 09/15
Lavelle Ollhoft 09/19
Hannah Tarantole 09/19
Jeremy Anderson 09/20
Neil McPhail 09/20
Thelma Lomers 09/22

Regina & John Molyneux 09/02
Dana & Scott Escobio 09/07
Carrie & Glenn Fairley 09/09
Donna & Ron Waites 09/17
Irene & Butch Yeager 09/29

For healing grace and continued strength, we pray for our members:
Bob Anderson, Corinne Faust, Ashley Garris, Fran Barbour,
Marian Boykin, Cookie Rich, Budd McLean, Leah Betts,
Caitlyn Bryan, Joyce Lee, Donna Waites, Ben Schmerbauch.

For our Homebound:
Mae Dunn, Nell Kirk, Lorraine Murray, Alice Schablinski,
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:
Don Mettes, Paul Garchow, Martha Morgret, Robby Cochran,
Bobby Moss, Gwin Henderson, Linda Smith, Barbara Bassett,
Blake Bennett, Linda Taylor, Cliff Federle, Michael Blankenship,
Justin Runyan, Donny Chestang, Zeb Morgan, Midge Harden,
Connie Bryan, Irene Barrow, Rocky Rockwell, Mike Davis,
Jean Cochran, Marsha Gilmore, David Pearce, Connor Crist,
Frances Bridges, Erica Long, Bill Jones, Eva Daniel,
Dennis McCants, Angela White, Sandy & Ray Michel,
Preston Stevens, Carol Hubbard, Emily Steiner, Larry Kent,
Warren Bishop, Robby Shelton, John & Pat Cranton,
Dot Treher, William & Barbara Dorsey, Mark Stiber,
Anna Marie Brown, Mary Joan [religious].
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
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.