



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 James Russell Kendrick, Bishop

Vol. XXVI, Issue 4

April 2016

FROM THE RECTOR:

Dear Ones,

Bishop Russell attended his first House of Bishops retreat last month. He's one of the "baby bishops". They typically look to their "older" colleagues for information and guidance.

At our Holy Week gathering on Wednesday, he told us that he was told to expect to be very busy, with almost every hour of each day programmed for some purpose or other. Personally, I can't imagine a worse fate. Everyone needs at least a little processing time, even the most flaming extroverts.

He told us that what he found was very different. First they were to spend time in silence. I think that was Russell's first clue that this retreat was going to have a new pattern.

The bishops worshipped together, prayed together, laughed together. There were no fisticuffs (I'm told that has happened in the past!). The overall atmosphere was different. Russell suggested that this was because this was Michael Curry's first HOB retreat.

The Bishops of The Episcopal Church unanimously adopted the following statement:

A Word to the Church - Holy Week 2016

"We reject the idolatrous notion that we can ensure the safety of some by sacrificing the hopes of others."

On Good Friday the ruling political forces of the day tortured and executed an innocent man. They sacrificed the weak and the blameless to protect their own status and power. On the third day Jesus was raised from the dead, revealing not only their injustice but also unmasking the lie that might makes right.

In a country still living under the shadow of the lynching tree, we are troubled by the violent forces being released by this season's political rhetoric. Americans are turning against their neighbors, particularly those on the margins of society. They seek to secure their own safety and security at the expense of others. There is legitimate reason to fear where this rhetoric and the actions arising from it might take us.

In this moment, we resemble God's children wandering in the wilderness. We, like they, are struggling to find our way. They turned from following God and worshiped a golden calf constructed from their own wealth. The current rhetoric is leading us to construct a modern false idol out of power and privilege. We reject the idolatrous notion that we can ensure the safety of some by sacrificing the hopes of others. No matter where we fall on the political spectrum, we must respect the dignity of every human being and we must seek the common good above all else.

We call for prayer for our country that a spirit of reconciliation will prevail and we will not betray our true selves.

To me, this is incredibly powerful. I can't help think that Michael Curry is the primary author (I don't really know), because it sounds like him. It also takes up one of his favorite topics: reconciliation. Isn't that what we're supposed to be about? Jesus reconciled us to God and entrusted the reconciliation of the rest of creation to us. I don't think we've done all we could have done. There's still time left for us to take it up and do better.

--Thomas

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE APRIL LITURGICAL CALENDAR

The Annunciation

The Feast of the Annunciation of Our Lord Jesus Christ to the Blessed Virgin Mary will be celebrated on Monday, 4 April at 12:10PM. Normally celebrated on 25 March, the calendar conspired to have it fall on Good Friday this year. As we hold the days of Holy Week and Easter Week alone, this means the first open date is 4 April. 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."

Saint Mark the Evangelist

We will commemorate the life and work of Saint Mark the Evangelist on Monday, 25 April at 12:10PM. 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.



Vestry

The regular meeting of the Wardens and Vestry of Saint John's was convened at 11:33 AM in the parlor on Sunday, 13 March 2016.

Treasurer Janet Buckley reviewed the financial reports, noting that we had a \$4,200 deficit for the month of February.

Reporting for Outreach, Janet said that food donations for the Food Pantry are still coming in. She reminded that this is used primarily for homeless clients. She added that the Head Start Books will be distributed in April.

Fr. Heard reported that a plumber has been called to address the 'no hot water' issue in the Sacristy. There is a workday scheduled for 19 March.

Butch Yeager reported that he had met with Tony Seymour. Tony is putting together pricing for the West side of the church. He will also price the monument sign and the North side. Tony provided Butch with a rough sketch for the 1700 Church St. lot, and has requested direction from the Vestry.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:07 with prayer by Fr. Heard.



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

In Memory of:

Ben Schmerbauch
 St. John's ECW
 Mary Lou Varnes
 Bob & Paula Ross
 James Christiansen
 Connie & Bud McLean
 St. John's ECW
 Dean & Ken Purcell
 Tom & Marietta Ford
 Alice Mitchell

In Honor of:

Gerri Moulton
 Pat & Robert Meaher



ERD EXCEEDS GOAL

75TH ANNIVERSARY CAMPAIGN RAISES \$7.94 MILLION

Thanks to the generous support and coordinated efforts of thousands of Episcopalians and friends, Episcopal Relief & Development's 75th Anniversary Celebration exceeded its goals for fundraising and engagement throughout the Church and beyond. During the 75-week celebration, the organization raised \$7.94 million as part of a special campaign, and connected with supporters through live events, webinars, stories and a traveling photo exhibition. St. John's had its own celebration in January 2015.

"After 75 years of serving millions of people around the world, Episcopal Relief & Development and our faithful supporters had much to celebrate – and what a celebration it was!" said Neel Lane, Chair of Episcopal Relief & Development's Board of Directors. "On behalf of our board and staff, thank you to our excellent Honorary and Steering Committees (which included St. John's member Eugene Johnston), and to all who pledged themselves this past year and a half toward our shared mission of healing a hurting world."

The goals of the 75th Anniversary Celebration were to build awareness about Episcopal Relief & Development's work and strengthen the organization's capacity to fulfill its mission through raising \$7.5 million. The total amount exceeded the goal by nearly half a million dollars, thanks in part to a successful 2015 Matching Gift Challenge, which raised \$979,708 and activated a matching amount of \$750,000. Support for the 75th Anniversary Campaign came from around The Episcopal Church, including the General Convention Eucharist offering, the House of Deputies campaign and many diocesan and local campaigns.

"It has been an honor to chair this fabulous effort, which has united the gifts and energies of so many people across The Episcopal Church and in the wider community," said Katy George, former board member and Chair of the 75th Anniversary Celebration Steering Committee. "The support raised throughout the celebration, both in funding and in advocates who are telling the story of Episcopal Relief & Development, will sustain the organization for years to come."

The capstone event of the anniversary celebration was the International Symposium, held at New York's Harold Pratt House on November 11, 2015. Presiding Bishop Michael B. Curry of The Episcopal Church preached at the opening Eucharist, and World Bank Group President Dr. Jim Yong Kim delivered the keynote address. Four panel discussions followed, presenting case studies and perspectives on the strengths and complexities of local partnerships, as well as the role of faith-based actors in development work. The evening concluded with a dramatic performance from actress, playwright and social commentator Anna Deavere Smith.

"This was a momentous opportunity to celebrate the legacy of those whose support and dedicated action over the past 75 years has enabled this organization to carry out Jesus' words from Matthew 25: to welcome the stranger and care for those on the margins," said Rob Radtke, President of Episcopal Relief & Development. "My deep thanks go to our board, staff, donors, partners and friends, whose enthusiasm and energy made this a vibrant celebration of the transformative power of faith and communities working together to create lasting change."



THANK YOU
FOR CELEBRATING WITH US!



APRIL 2016 AT SAINT JOHN'S

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
HE = Holy Eucharist MP = Morning Prayer SS = Sunday School					1 Friday in Easter Week 830A MP	2 Saturday in Easter Week
3 Easter 2 9A SS 10A HE 1130 Outreach/SMG	4 The Annunciation 830A MP 12P Noonday 1210P HE	5 830A MP	6 830A MP 10A HE+Unction 7P Choir	7 Tikhon 830A MP	8 W.A. Muhlenberg 830A MP	9 Dietrich Bonhoeffer
10 Easter 3 9A SS 10A HE 1130 Vestry	11 G.A. Selwyn 830A MP	12 830A MP	13 830A MP 10A HE 7P Choir	14 830A MP	15 830A MP	16
17 Easter 4 9A SS 10A HE 1130 ECW	18 830A MP Newsletter Deadline	19 Alphae 830A MP	20 830A MP 10A HE 7P Choir	21 Anselm 830A MP Newsletter Deadline	22 830 A MP	23
24 Easter 5 9A SS 10A HE 1130A 4th Sunday Potluck	25 Saint Mark 830A MP 12P Noonday 1210P HE	26 830A MP	27 830A MP 10A HE	28 830A MP	29 Catherine of Siena	30

LECTIONARY AND ROTA FOR APRIL 2016

Date Service	3 April HE-II, EP-B	10 April HE-II, EP-B	17 April HE-II, EP-B	24 April HE-II, EP-B
Lectionary Day	Second Sunday of Easter C Easter 2 RCL	Third Sunday of Easter C Easter 3 RCL	Fourth Sunday of Easter C Easter 4 RCL	Fifth Sunday of Easter C Easter 5 RCL
Color	White	White	White	White
Lessons	Acts 5:27-32 Psalm 150 Revelation 1:4-8 John 20:19-31	Acts 9:1-20 Psalm 30 Revelation 5:11-14 John 21:1-19	Acts:9:36-43 Psalm 23 Revelation 7:9-17 John 10:22-30	Acts 11:1-18 Psalm 148 Revelation 21:1-6 John 13:31-35
Greeters	Irene & Butch Yeager	Connie & Bob Anderson	Melissa Brown	Connie & Budd McLean
Lectors	Ron Brown Janet Buckley	Pat Fulford Kathe Gieseler	Jan Joseph Bidd McLean	Paula Ross Nikki Shaw
Intercessor	Denise Dunham	Cheryl Winters-Heard	Geri Moulton	Mary Sheffield
Eucharistic Ministers	Ron Brown Paula Ross	Connie McLean Mary Sheffield	Geri Moulton Ron Waites	Paula Ross Butch Yeager
Eucharistic Visitor	Ron Brown	Paula Ross	Ron Waites	Ron Brown
Altar Guild	Lee Dorsey Mary Gieseler	Donna Waites Irene Yeager	Donna Waites Irene Yeager	Connie Anderson Jennifer Tarrantole
Vestry Teller	Geri Moulton Connie Anderson	Butch Yeager Janet Buckley	Connie Anderson Eugene Johnston	Eugene Johnston Connie Anderson
Nursery	Butch Yeager Cindy Gass	Jennifer Tarrantole Andrew Lee	Pat Fulford Connie McLean	Connie Anderson Denise Dunham

Elsewhere in the Diocese



Register online at:
<http://www.beckwithal.com/summer-camp/summer-sessions/>



WILMER HALL ANNUAL PANCAKE BREAKFAST

SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 2016!

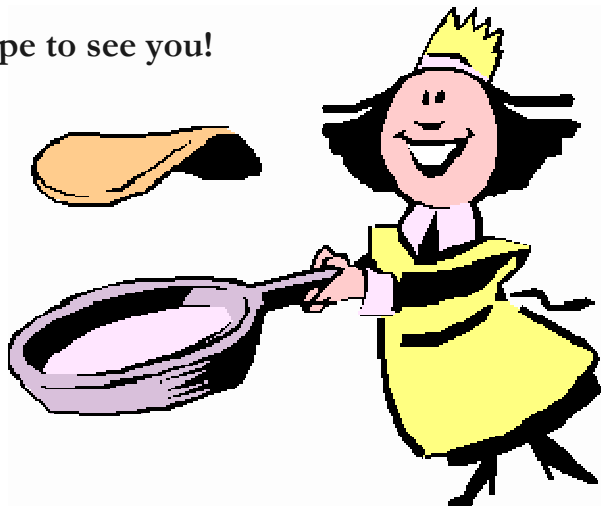
7:00 - 11:00 AM

\$5 a plate

Drive through and pick up your order or come in and eat with us.

We'll also have a tent outside with tables and chairs.
 Fun inflatables for kids.

We hope to see you!



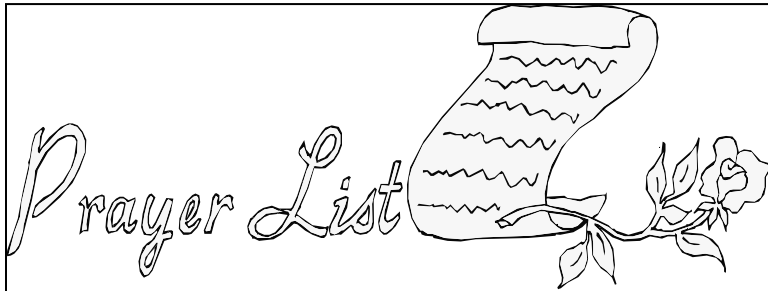
Happy Easter!



Jessica Dennis	04/05
Mike Johnson	04/13
Joyce Lee	04/18
Frances Barbour	04/22



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 1. New parish directories will be available by the end of May.



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

Ron Brown, Tina Cieutat, Andrew Lee, Bessie Southall, Emily Johnston, Jayson Chestang, Ashley Garris, Marian Boykin, Budd McLean, Joyce Lee, Donna Waites.

For our Homebound:

Mae Dunn, Nell Kirk, Lorraine Murray, Alice Schablinski, 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:

Kellie Roberts-Bryars, David Bryars, Bonnie Jernigan, Allen Edwards, Troy Fisher, Kaye Turner, Katelynn Tillman, Britney Butler, Ann Hall, John Hawlicheck, Lou McBeath, Angie Leon, Neal Tourné, Sandy & Ray Michel, Brenda Bateman, Connor Crist, Blake Bennet, Starley Anderson, Paul Nelson, Barbara Bassett, Krystal Hiatt, Robert Cochran, Sr., Irene Barrow, Elias Bates, Donnie Chestang, Bill Jones, Mark Stiber, Dennis Brown [*priest*], Jayne Carson [*deacon*].

Contact Us

Staff:

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Louis Daniel
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Lella Lowe
 Financial Secretary
finance@stjohnsmobile.org

Jack Ruppe
 Sexton

Vestry:

Connie Anderson

Ron Brown

Janet Buckley, *treasurer*

James Christiansen, *junior warden*

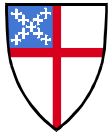
Cindy Gass, *senior warden*

Eugene Johnston

Geri Moulton

Nikki Shaw, *clerk*

Butch Yeager



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

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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

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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.