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.

Memorial Donations

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:
- Geri Moulton
- Pat & Robert Meaher

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.
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.

“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.”
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**Lectionary and Rota for April 2016**

**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
- Psalm 148
- Revelation 21:1-6
- John 13:31-35

**Greeters**
- Irene & Butch Yeager
- Connie & Bob Anderson
- Melissa Brown
- John 1:31-33
- Revelation 2:1-6
- Psalm 148
- Acts 11:1-18

**Lectors**
- Ron Brown
- Paula Ross
- Gen Moulton
- Connie McLean
- Cheryl Winters-Heard
- Pat Fulford
- Kate Gieseler
- Jan Joseph
- Jan Bidd McLean
- Paula Ross
- Ron Brown
- John 2:1-19
- Revelation 5:11-14
- Psalm 30
- Acts 9:1-20
- Acts 2:7-32

**Intercessor**
- Denise Dunham
- Cheryl Winters-Heard
- Geri Moulton
- Mary Sheffield

**Eucharistic Ministers**
- Ron Brown
- Paula Ross
- Gen Moulton
- Connie McLean
- Mary Sheffield

**Eucharistic Visitors**
- Ron Brown
- Paula Ross
- Connie McLean
- Mary Sheffield
- Geri Moulton
- Ron Waites

**Vestry Teller**
- Geri Moulton
- Connie Anderson
- Butch Yeager
- Janet Buckley

**Nursery**
- Butch Yeager
- Cindy Gass
- Jennifer Tarantole
- Andrew Lee

**Altar Guild**
- Lee Dorsey
- Mary Gieseler
- Donna Waites
- Irene Yeager
- Connie Anderson
- Jennifer Tarantole

**Vestry**
- Connie Anderson
- Eugene Johnston
- Pat Fulford
- Kate Gieseler
- Jan Joseph
- Jan Bidd McLean
- Paula Ross
- Ron Brown

**Pulpit**
- Connie Anderson
- Eugene Johnston
- Pat Fulford
- Kate Gieseler
- Jan Joseph
- Jan Bidd McLean
- Paula Ross
- Ron Brown

**Altar**
- Connie Anderson
- Eugene Johnston
- Pat Fulford
- Kate Gieseler
- Jan Joseph
- Jan Bidd McLean
- Paula Ross
- Ron Brown

**Color**
- White
- C Easter 3 RCL
- Second Sunday of Easter

**White**
- C Easter 3 RCL
- Third Sunday of Easter

**White**
- C Easter 2 RCL
- Fourth Sunday of Easter

**Color**
- White
- C Easter 4 RCL
- Fourth Sunday of Easter

**Date**
- 24 April
- 17 April
- 10 April
- 3 April

**Day**
- Lessonary Day
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!
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:

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.
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.