



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

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June 2016

FROM THE RECTOR:

Dear Ones,

Your vestry is working on something that's pretty exciting. 7 October 1956 saw the first services at 1707 Government. This year is the 60th anniversary of "the new church", and the vestry is working on plans for a commemoration.

I don't think there's anyone around that remembers the events that led to the construction of our current facilities. There had been a long correspondence with the City of Mobile. It seems that the 1853 wooden church at Monroe and Dearborn Streets was riddled with termites, creating structural integrity problems. I think it was Lillian Mayson who said that the only thing holding the old church up was "the termites in the walls, holding hands, and singing 'Kumbayah'."

The earliest letters from the city that I've seen were from 1951. There was, apparently, a tremendous spirit of cooperation between the building inspectors and the parish leadership, as well as a recognition that the problems cited weren't going to go away by themselves. Emergency repairs were made to address the problems.

The move wasn't entirely prompted by the building issues. Mobile was growing. There were subdivisions beyond the city limits; folks who used to live in the neighborhood were moving west. In her book, Lucy Green Nelson writes that the congregation had been diminished by folks moving out of the neighborhood. I suspect that such motion came about because of driving by another church before reaching Saint John's.

So, picture this: Saint John's was ten streets west of Christ Church. All Saints' was ten streets west of Saint John's. Trinity had already moved to 1900 Dauphin. I do know of a family who moved their membership to

All Saints' from Saint John's precisely because they drove by it on the way. (I'll add that they didn't move back when Saint John's moved west of All Saints'!)

Under Dr. Pennington's leadership, conversations about moving started almost immediately upon his arrival in 1946. In the summer of 1947, a Building Fund was started. The vestry had become convinced that they had no choice but to move. This was not universally welcomed by the members of the parish. It was a question of Repair & Remodel v. Move. A meeting in 1950 was held to discuss this, and at the end, the attendees voted 87 to 10 in favor of moving. Dr. Pennington didn't live to see the completion of the work he'd started; he died in 1951.

The Rev. James B. Roe picked up the torch and carried it across the finish line. Lots had been purchased; fundraising continued. Finally, plans were drawn and posted in the parish house in June of 1954. While most all of the furnishings from the old church were to be moved, along with the stained glass windows behind the altar, the omission from the list of the gothic windows along the nave angered a number of people. In March 1955, the vestry authorized receiving bids for the construction project.

For me, it's a real privilege to stand at the altar of the old church, bathed in the light coming through the windows from the old church, using sacred vessels that have been around since 1885. It is a connection to the people of Saint John's since 1853 and to the Church from its very beginning.

—Thomas

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE JUNE LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Justin of Rome

Justin was born in about 110, near Shechem in Samaria. He became a Christian following an encounter with a stranger who told him of Christ. Coming from a Greek background, he was educated in philosophy and became restless, seeking even more knowledge. In about 150, Justin established a school for Christian Philosophy in Rome and began writing; three of his works are known to us. He was martyred for refusing to renounce his faith in about 167 CE. We will commemorate Justin at our 10AM mass on 1 June.

Saint Barnabas

Our first knowledge of Barnabas comes from Acts 4:36-37 Thus Joseph who was surnamed by the apostles Barnabas (which means, Son of encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus, sold a field which belonged to him, and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet. His missionary efforts earned him the title of Apostle. Barnabas was from Cyprus, a Jew of the Diaspora. It was Barnabas who brought Paul to the Apostles in Jerusalem, testifying to Paul's experiences. He later settled in Antioch and sent for Paul to assist in leading the church there. On Saturday, 11 June, we will observe the Feast of Saint Barnabas on Saturday, 11 June at 5:30PM.

Evelyn Underhill

A relative contemporary, Evelyn Underhill was born in England in 1876. At a young age she developed a devotion to writing. Although confirmed in the Church of England, Underhill was influenced by the Italian masters and the Roman church. In 1921, she became reconciled to her Anglican roots and began writing about things spiritual in her book *Mysticism*. Until her death in 1941, Underhill developed many disciples through her work as a lecturer and retreat director. We will commemorate her at our Wednesday Mass on 15 June.

Alban of Britain

Alban is remembered as the first British martyr. A soldier in the Roman army at Verulamium (now called St. Alban's), Alban sheltered a Christian priest. When his persecutors came, Alban dressed in the priests clothes and was arrested, tortured and killed. The Venerable Bede wrote of Alban in his text *The Ecclesiastical History of the English People*. Although tradition holds Alban's martyrdom as occurring in 303 or 304, current scholarship suggests that it was almost 100 years earlier, in 209, during the reign of Septimius Severus. We will commemorate Alban at our 10AM mass on 22 June.

Nativity of Saint John the Baptist

On Friday, 24 June, we will observe the Feast of the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist at 12:10PM. John the Baptist, one of the "Johns" commemorated in the main window in the chancel, is chronicled in all four of the Gospels. The son of Elizabeth and Zechariah, John was destined to be the herald of Jesus ministry. John had his own crowd of disciples that followed him, calling people to repentance and baptizing them as a symbol of their new lives. John is remembered in Advent as Prophet and in Epiphany as the baptizer of Our Lord. In the Gospel of John, John the Baptist is the figure who declares Jesus to be "The Lamb of God"

Saint Peter & Saint Paul

On Wednesday, 29 June at 10:00AM, we will observe the Feast of Saint Peter and Saint Paul. While sometimes at odds with each other, their joint leadership of the church is commemorated in remembering their martyrdom at Rome. Tradition holds that Peter was crucified head downward and Paul was beheaded, as befitted a Roman citizen.





Vestry

The May meeting of the vestry was called to order at 11:40AM on Sunday, 15 May by Fr. Heard.

The proposed agenda was adopted. All members of the vestry were present. The minutes of the April meeting were approved as written.

Treasurer Janet Buckley reviewed the financial statements, remarking that we continue to run at a deficit; April was \$6,676.

Outreach: The books for Mobile County Head Start have been picked up.

Parish Life: There will be no 4th Sunday Potluck in June; the annual picnic will be in July.

Physical Plant: James reported that replacement locksets for the courtyard gates have been ordered.

Repair estimates for the gutters have been received and approved, and he is getting estimates to repair the soffits around the parish house.

Fr. Heard reported that we have received a service contract from Quimby Pipe Organs. He also reviewed the non-parish use of the Great Hall for April. He also reported that he has finally talked to the roofing contractor, but we still have not been scheduled.

Butch Yeager reported that we do not have cost estimates for the north and west aspects of the Landscape Plan.

The 60th Anniversary Committee will be meeting soon to begin event planning. It is tentatively scheduled for October 9.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00PM with prayer.

NO JUNE 4TH SUNDAY POTLUCK IN JUNE PARISH PICNIC IN JULY

We're taking a break in June from 4th Sunday Potluck since so many families are enjoying summer activities. We will pick back up with our July Parish Inside-Outside Picnic on July 24th. We'll need a volunteer to be "Grill Master" and we will look forward to picnic food from all the participants! More information next month.



-Janet Buckley, for
Parish Life



Saint John's extends a hearty "THANK YOU" to Joan-Marie Elam, for years of devotion in coordinating the monthly folding of *The Fourth Epistle*. Joan-Marie retired from that position in May.

Thank you also to Neva Bache, who has agreed to step in as the new volunteer coordinator. If you would like to join the newsletter team for a once-a-month morning of conviviality and light labor, please notify Neva!

PARISH LIFE

ST. JOHN'S HOMECOMING: CELEBRATING 60 YEARS IN MIDTOWN



In October 2016 we will have been at our current location for 60 years. It's time to plan a celebration! To

commemorate this occasion we are hoping to have Bishop Kendrick join us (that will take some schedule juggling); have a beautiful service in the church, and then have a wonderful reception in the Great Hall.

We are in the preliminary planning stage. We know we want to invite those who have been part of St. John's for the past 60 years to come to the celebration—baptized here, confirmed here, married here, former member, we want to invite them. We need addresses to send the invitations—if you know someone who was at one time affiliated with St. John's and have their current address please be ready to share.

We want to make a pictorial history of the happenings at St John's over the past 60 years: if you have photos, newspaper articles, old newsletters, please share (we will scan the photos so you need not worry about your treasures being damaged).

There will be multiple committees and many tasks to make this a memorable, festive event. If you have suggestions, ideas, thoughts, comments, please share with the any member of the planning committee or any member of the vestry. We want this to be an all-parish event!

Connie Anderson, Janet Buckley
James Christiansen

DID YOU KNOW?

St. John's had a lot of proud parents and grandparents as the school year came to an end. We had Graduates and Honor Society inductees.

Graduating this May:

- John Paul Vallas, grandson of Irene and Butch Yeager, graduated from St. Paul's Episcopal School.
- Kathryn Shaw, daughter of Nikki Shaw and David Levy, graduated from Winthrop University in South Carolina.

National Honor Society inductees include:

- Mary Frances Chestang at St. Luke's Episcopal School. Mary Frances is the daughter of Lisa Chestang and granddaughter of Mary and David Jones.
- Will Anderson at Haskeew Elementary School. Will is the son of LaNeisha and Darren Anderson and grandson of Connie and Bob Anderson.
- Ginny Waites from Dodge Elementary School and Marshall Waites from Clark Shaw Middle School. Donna and Ron Waites and the proud grandparents of Ginny and Marshall.

Congrats to all!

Nikki Shaw has joined the Cathedral Square Gallery in downtown Mobile and now has her photography on display there. Cathedral Square Gallery is on Dauphin St, across from Wintzell's, and is a cooperative gallery with 50+ artists. According to Nikki, "I am concentrating on my floral macro photos – highly magnified shots of flowers such as roses, orchids, and tulips. Many of my shots were taken at Bellingrath Gardens; I love to spend an afternoon there with my camera. I encourage everyone to come down for ArtWalk, which is the second Friday of each month. The gallery is open in the evening, and there are wine and appetizers, and the chance to visit with many of the artists (including me)."

Thelma Lomers is settling into a new apartment in Fairhope. Look for her new contact information in the recently released 2016 St. John's directory.

"Did you Know?" is a new article for *The Fourth Epistle*. If you would like to share something with our church family, contact Bootsie Cieutat.

WHAT YOU'RE MISSING

A couple Sundays ago I was sick and missed Sunday church. Between trips to the bathroom, I began wondering what's on television on Sundays while I'm not home. Yes, we've seen the "teasers", but by the time any actual programs come on we're warming up with the choir.

I started channel-surfing, and the results were truly amazing. For instance:

- A brief feature on some of the famous Alabamians buried at Arlington – not clear on whether these included Civil War vets;
- A half-hour plea from John Hagee, Pat Boone, and others for my donation of \$175 to help Russian Jews to emigrate to the Holy Land "before the Russian borders are closed forever";
- "Discovering Alabama," with Dr. Doug Phillips – beautiful photography with little commentary – just music & scenery;
- A program about family farms in Ohio, Virginia, and Florida where fourth- and fifth- generation family members are finding new ways to enhance their crops and their livelihoods;
- The story of how a group of Floridians managed to block "land developers" who were selling "land" that was definitely under water and home to gators and other critters;
- Several "news" programs discussing the 2016 presidential election and the various presumptive

participants, much of which had been thoroughly masticated last week;

- A nice home-ec-type lady making a super carrot soup;
- One of my weekday favorites, "Second Opinion", where learned physicians from the University of Rochester Medical School present an unusual illness with a patient who's managing his/her situation;
- (briefly) A couple of third-rate 60's teenager movies that didn't sell when they were new;
- A generous supply of "paid programming" shows selling muscles, auto clubs, collapsing garden hoses, home-maintenance machinery, etc. etc.;
- A Triathlon (bikes, swimming, & running) with its official drink, official bike, official hotels, etc. etc.;
- A rebroadcast of a Saturday night financial/political group discussion by "experts";
- Several other "religious" programs with giant wall screens showing the words of the hymns for the audience, the organist, the band, blah blah blah;

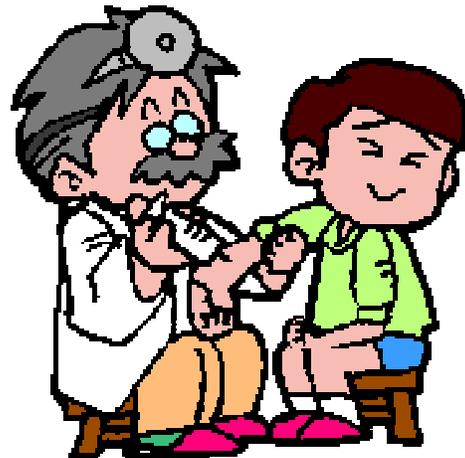
By this time it was plain to me that my illness would be short-lived and I'd be back at church the following Sunday. In fact, I feel "cured" for at least six months! Hooray!

—Mary Gieseler

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT FROM SAINT JOHN'S

Get Your Children Immunized!

Do you have children or grandchildren starting kindergarten this fall? NOW is the time to get those vaccinations taken care of, rather than waiting until the last minute before school starts.





EPISCOPAL RELIEF & DEVELOPMENT RESPONDS TO CANADIAN WILD FIRES

Episcopal Relief & Development is in contact with its Canadian counterpart, the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF), following wildfires in Alberta. Fort McMurray, in the Diocese of Athabasca, has been very severely impacted by the blaze, which destroyed more than 1,600 structures in the town and necessitated the evacuation of 80,000 residents. PWRDF is aiding the Diocese of Athabasca's support of congregations in Athabasca, Northern Lights and Lac La Biche, which are sourcing relief supplies locally in Grand Prairie and providing them to evacuees who are in need of food, water, clothing, toiletries and bedding.

The Diocese of Edmonton is supplementing these efforts with additional relief supplies through congregations close to the impacted area, and pastoral support to displaced people arriving in the diocese.

Bishop Jane Alexander of Edmonton praised the efforts of the Parish of Lac La Biche in the Diocese of Athabasca, saying they are doing amazing things for the evacuees. Lac La Biche is a community of 2500 people that is now hosting thousands of evacuees. The parish of Cold Lake,

Edmonton's parish nearest to Lac La Biche, is providing pastoral support and gathering supplies to bolster the efforts of St. Andrew's, Lac La Biche.

Clergy and chaplains from the Diocese of Edmonton are part of the rotation of those providing pastoral support in Northlands Expo Centre, the main meeting and registration point for evacuees arriving in Edmonton. They expect thousands more evacuees to be flown in today, and a convoy has left Fort McMurray with still more thousands of people this morning as well.

The blaze, which began May 1, is 1,930 square miles which includes areas that are currently burning and those that have already burned, plus nearly three square miles in the neighboring province of Saskatchewan.

UPCOMING RETREAT: CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER RETREAT FOR WOMEN

Led by the Rev. Marshall Craver at St. James Episcopal Church, Fairhope, this retreat offers three simple prayer practices that when used together serve as a bridge from that sense of separateness from God to a more consistent state of "praying without ceasing" or practicing the Presence.

Come and join us **Saturday, June 18 from 8:30 AM to 2:30 PM** as we learn about and practice: *Prayer of the Heart as taught by the desert Fathers and Mothers*, *Brother Lawrence's "little interior glance"*, and *St. Ignatius' daily "Examen"*. The beauty of these classic prayer practices is that their content and shape rise out of and are connected to our daily lives, which means that by learning them we begin to experience prayer more and more as a way of *being* rather than an isolated act of doing!

Presented by the Women's Wednesday Morning Bible Study and open to the public, please feel free to invite your friends. We are so blessed to have the opportunity to offer this session. **Cost is \$15.00 and lunch (from 12 - 1) is included.** Scholarships are available if needed.

For more information, contact Sue Ladd at sueladd@bellsouth.net or 928-6203. RSVP to the St. James office at 928-2912 by June 15. Make your check payable to **St. James Episcopal Church** with "Day Retreat" on the memo line.

Fr. Marshall Craver is serving in his fourteenth year as the Associate Rector of St. Paul's, Mobile. Marshall and his wife Jan have led numerous retreats in parishes and dioceses in Alabama, North Carolina, Texas, and Florida.



Sam Escobio	06/02	Emily Johnston	06/10
Connie Anderson	06/03	Ron Waites	06/12
Neva Bache	06/05	Wanda Hannon-Sundie	06/13
Joan-Marie Elam	06/05	Gavin Dunham	06/16
Jerry Fulford	06/07	Connie McLean	06/16



David & Kim Partsch	06/06
David & Mary Jones	06/12
Art & Becky Youngblood	06/20
Bob & Mary Sheffield	06/28
Neil & Marie McPhail	06/30



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

Hazlynn Greer, Mary Jones, Megan Partsch, Carolyn Pearce, Ron Brown, Andrew Lee, Bessie Southall, 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:

Karen Davis, David Pearce, Cliff Federle, Charlie Coles, Felicia Gill, Joyce Bolden, Marsha Gilmore, Anna Marie Brown, Eddy Velaski, Mary Jo Vinson, Kellie Roberts - Bryars, David Bryars, Bonnie Jernigan, Troy Fisher, Kaye Turner, Katelynn Tillman, Britney Butler, Ann Hall, John Hawlicheck, 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.

Contact Us

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Cindy Gass, *senior warden*

Eugene Johnston

Geri Moulton

Nikki Shaw, *clerk*

Butch Yeager



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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.

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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.