



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. XXVII, Issue 6

June 2017

FROM THE RECTOR:

Dear Ones,

I write this month about a decision that the Vestry made during our retreat on 1 April. No, this is not an April Fool joke; it is about something we've wrestled with for several years.

After reviewing its history and performance, along with considerable discussion, the Vestry voted to close **Thee Store Episcopal Books and Gifts**.

I suspect that this is not news to many of you, but this is the first "official" announcement. We didn't try to keep a tight lid on this. (Not that it would have done much good if we had; there are no secrets here.)

Before I go any further, I want to publicly express my thanks and praise for Pat Pritchard, P.L. Pritchard and Harold Pritchard for the hard work and long hours they have put in for Thee Store. And, they did it because they loved Thee Store! The three of you have kept it afloat all these years. You've done a great job and we are all in your debt.

So, what are the factors that led us to this decision? Well, there are many and it is a complicated story.

After Murray Benson left Saint John's, Pat Pritchard stepped up to manage and staff Thee Store. At the time, Pat was not working outside her home and joyfully took the reins. Many of Thee Store's past activities kept on, even adding some. Packing up part of the store to be a presence at parishes in the Mobile/Baldwin County area during the Bishop's Visitation, or at Diocesan Convention, or the Women's/Men's Conferences, Cursillo, Clergy conferences, Blue Lake, ... I'm sure I've missed a few... was no small effort, not to mention setting up shop for what could be as short as a couple of hours. Then, it was pack up what was left and schlep it back.

At some point, we cut back the hours for the store, because we weren't getting any significant traffic. We also weren't getting many phone calls. We toddled along this way for several years.

Pat found a position with the Mobile Police Department. She continued as manager, while her daughter, P.L., became our regular Thee Store staff.

The primary project of Thee Store was the annual calendar sale. Thee Store collected orders from parishes and a few individuals for the calendars used in the coming year. The ability of a parish to order their calendars directly seems to have eroded the volume of orders we handled, and this last year, the calendar order was forgotten.

One of the specialties we used to offer was embossing prayer books with the owner's name. Our local source for this work became unreliable and we couldn't find another.

I think the growing trend of online buying hurt Thee Store, and I suspect many folks went to other sources to buy their prayer books and other items. We've never had a storefront on the internet. It was something we probably should have done. Would it have made a difference? I don't know.

Over the past few years, we've lost several bookstores in Mobile. Those that remain appear to be hanging on, but for Thee Store, it's time to call it a day.

--Thomas

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE JUNE LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Pentecost

The conclusion of the Great Fifty Days of Easter will be celebrated on Sunday, 4 June at our 10:00AM mass. We get two different views of the gift of the Holy Spirit, one from Acts and one from John's Gospel. In Acts, it is the fiftieth day and the Holy Spirit descends upon the disciples as tongues of flame and sound of rushing wind. In the Gospel of John, Jesus breathes the Holy Spirit on the disciples on the evening of the day of the resurrection. In both, it is the commissioning of Jesus' disciples to take up the work of spreading the Gospel. It is with the help of the Holy Spirit that we continue Jesus' work today, in our parish, in Mobile and in the world beyond.



First Book of Common Prayer

As has been our custom over the last few years, we will commemorate the First Book of Common Prayer at our Wednesday, 7 June said mass. This commemoration is to be placed in an open day in the week following Pentecost. As has also been our custom, we will use the rite from the 1549 Book of Common Prayer.

Saint Barnabas

We will commemorate Saint Barnabas the Apostle on Monday, 12 June at 12:10PM. 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.

Basil the Great

Basil was born about 329 in Cappadocia. He became bishop of Caesarea shortly after his ordination as priest in 364. He was an ardent defender of orthodox Christianity, particularly opposing the Arians. He worked tirelessly to restore the faith, discipline clergy and defend the Nicene faith. At the same time, Basil was also a benefactor of the poor. At his death in 379 (at age 52), he willed that his estate was to be used for a new town with housing, hospital, church and staff to minister to the poor.

The Nativity of Saint John the Baptist

On Saturday, 25 June, we will observe the Feast of the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist at 5:30PM. 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."

Irenaeus of Lyons

Irenaeus is likely the first systematic theologian of the church. That might sound really fancy, but it simply means that he approached thinking about his faith by arranging his thoughts in a deliberate and "systematic" order. His name means 'peaceable one' and it is certain that he learned from Polycarp, who, in turn, had known John the Baptist. His major work, with the shortened title of "Against Heresies" was written to oppose Gnosticism, a sect that rejected earthly existence and looked only to a spiritual existence. Irenaeus died in about 202.

Saint Peter and Saint Paul

On Thursday, 29 June at 12:10PM, 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 Wardens and Vestry of Saint John's Church was called to order at 11:30AM on Sunday 21 May 2017.

Minutes from the 12 March and 1 April meetings were approved as submitted.

Cindy Gass, standing in for Connie McLean, reviewed our financial performance and observed that we are slightly ahead of where we had budgeted. Scrip sales continue to provide a needed addition to our income.

Outreach is planning to buy books for Mobile County Head Start again; we'll have "Sticker Sunday" in the coming months. A Giving Tree is planned to assist Penelope House with their "Urgent Needs" list.

The Fourth Sunday Potluck in May will be used to try out "Sharing our Faith," the initiative from the Presiding Bishop's office.

Fr. Heard reported the non-parish use of the Great Hall and that he had attended the Mayor's presentation at Springhill Avenue Temple. He reported on the Bishop's visit with the Mobile Clericus. (a) Plans are forming for Golden Anniversary celebration of the founding of our diocese; (b) clergy and laity are encouraged to participate in diocesan events; (c) each vestry should be planning to use Mutual Ministry Review with their clergy.

Fr. Heard also reported that the closure of Thee Store is progressing slowly.

James Christiansen reported that in the aftermath of the attempted break-in at Catherine Warren's house and a successful burglary across the street from her, we have installed a basic alarm system in 1702 Church Street house. Mrs. Warren will pay the monthly monitoring through the church.

Fr. Heard pointed out the Safe Church training materials in the vestry packet and explained the process. He asked that the vestry complete their training by the July meeting.

Fr. Heard announced that the Bishop's Visitation will be Sunday, 27 August (12th Sunday after Pentecost, Proper 16).

The Vestry approved donating the foosball table to Darren Anderson's Boy Scout troop. The Vestry was asked to think about Eagle Service Projects around the church.

The Vestry approved the sale of the windows (believed to be from St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church) for the sum of \$2,000.

Fr. Heard introduced the idea of making the parish house available to McKemie Place for day time use. There will be significant renovation required to do so and he will be meeting with the Diocesan Architectural Consultant to ballpark the scope of work and price. With that, we can pursue grant funding to accomplish the work if it is necessary and approved.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 12:19 PM.

In
Loving
Memory



DONNA WALKER WAITES
26 January 1942 – 2 May 2017

Our sister Donna entered new life on Wednesday evening, 2 May. Ron, Patrick and Laurie, and I were present with her. I had the opportunity to give her last rites shortly before her passing. When I arrived only an hour and a half earlier, Donna was awake and alert and still convinced that she was going to beat the disease. I think her body was just worn out from fighting it. This was a peaceful and blessed death. The trials she and her family have faced over the last three years have taken their toll on all of them. Dear Donna is no longer in pain or suffering; she is with her Lord and Savior, but we will miss her nonetheless.

OUTREACH

Outreach

All of us at Saint John's are part of the Outreach Committee even if we don't all come to the meetings. The Outreach Committee's funds come from a percentage of the plate and pledge income of the church. Many of the Outreach Committee's projects actively involve all the church membership: food drives, the Christmas Angel Tree, and other giving opportunities.

Here are some of the projects the committee (and you) have done so far in 2017:

Murray House:

The Outreach Committee matched the funds raised at the Lenten Suppers and gave the money, a total of \$500, to Murray House as an unrestricted gift. Unrestricted means the Murray House Administrator (our own Connie Anderson) could use the funds to purchase whatever was needed –new tablecloths for the dining room was first on her list!

St. John's Outreach also has funds for two new dining room chairs –this was part of a diocesan-wide appeal made at this year's diocesan Conference.

Food Drive:

Thank you to all for bringing cans and boxes of food or contributing money to buy commodities for the food drive. We filled both barrels and two big boxes!

The food went to Mobile Community Action, Inc.'s Food Pantry and was distributed to those in need in the Prichard and Toulminville neighborhoods.



McKemie Place:

We continue to partner with Redeemer to assist in providing a meal once a month. St. John's provides the paper goods (plates, napkins, cups, plastic ware, etc.), the dessert and the beverages every fourth Thursday of each month.

Books for the Head Start Children:

We have, again, ordered 1200 books (many boxes!!) from First Book. They will be delivered to the church soon and then we will have one of our "Sticker Sundays" where we put the St. John's sticker in each book. These books will be sent home with the three- and four-year-old children who attend our local Head Start Program. Head Start is a federally funded pre-school program for low income children. These books really do give the children a "head start" since many of them do not have any books of their own at home.



The Giving Tree:

It's back...this time we are responding to Penelope House "urgent need" list. The tree will be up in the Great Hall with "wish" tags for you to take and fill. No need to wrap these gifts: we will put them all together and then notify Penelope House so their staff can come and pick them up. Remember, Penelope House is a domestic violence shelter so its location is not publicly known for the safety of the residents.

Got some ideas for other projects? Please let us know ... It is YOUR Outreach committee.



JUNE 4TH IS PENTECOST SUNDAY

Don't forget to wear red to church on Sunday, June 4th.

Red is the liturgical color for this day; it recalls the tongues of flame in which the Holy Spirit descended on the first Pentecost. We will celebrate with a special "red reception."



DID YOU KNOW?

The large iron urns that came from the old St. John's location have again been lovingly restored (cleaned and painted) by Darren and LaNeisha Anderson. The bench in the courtyard received some attention, also. Thank you very much.

If you remember, Angela McGuire, a long-time member of St. John's, bought the urns when the properties at the old church were being sold. She kept them at her home for a long time, and then decided the urns needed to be returned to their original home. So she had them repaired, painted, and delivered to the courtyard.

They are still very beautiful. I hope you agree.

-Joyce Lee

WORTH CONSIDERING:

Spring Hill College's
Summer Institute of Christian Spirituality

From Program Director Dr. Timothy R. Carmody:

"This year we are looking at a modern Catholic writer, contemporary spiritual practice, the spiritual Gospel of John and the themes of suffering and justice in Shia Islam. Each of these very diverse avenues all lead to a catholic appreciation for engaging God in everyday life and finding the message of God in unlikely places. While there is no explicit theme for the 2017 Summer Institute of Christian Spirituality, its focus converges again on the age-old Jesuit theme of "Finding God in All Things." In *The Joy of the Gospel*, Pope Francis says that God's people "need to develop a spiritual taste for being close to people's lives and to discover that this is itself a source of greater joy." All of the courses for this summer will ask us to engage our own and others' lives in their ordinariness, their challenges and surprises."

"Now in its 24th year, our annual Institute offers a unique blend of academic challenge and spiritual enrichment, specifically designed for adults seeking to deepen their faith, exploring the vast traditions of Christian spirituality and, if you choose, for pursuing one of our certificate or degree programs. The curriculum is made up of a series of one-credit courses offered in one-week or intensive weekend sessions, studying a variety of spiritual masters and mystics, along with biblical, liturgical and social themes. Taught in the Jesuit tradition of excellence, courses may be taken for graduate or undergraduate credit or on an easy listening basis (*no required assignments, no grade, no transcript record kept*). While rooted in Catholic theology, the program is fully ecumenical and welcomes persons of all faiths."

Classes offered in Mobile this summer:

June 5-9, 2017

Morning: Monday - Friday, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Walker Percy's Tarnished Woman of Grace

Evening: Monday - Thursday, 6:30-9:00 p.m.

Spirituality and Global Politics: Suffering and Justice in Shia Islam

June 12-16, 2017

Morning: Monday - Friday, 9:00-11:00 a.m.

The Examined Life: Spirituality and Everyday Practice

Evening: Monday -Thursday, 6:30-9:00 p.m.

Signs of Glory: Miracles in John's Gospel

For more information, email theology@shc.edu or call (251) 380-4458.



JOIN OUR MALARIA MATCHING GIFT CAMPAIGN

Every dollar you send today will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$200,000, thanks to a grant from the Episcopal Health Foundation to ensure that children are protected from malaria and other childhood diseases as part of our Early Childhood Development program.

You may already know about NetsforLife®, our program to help communities and individuals not only safeguard their families from disease, but build a better future.

By raising awareness, integrating net distribution with life-saving education and promoting the use of Long-Lasting Insecticidal Nets (LLINs) in homes, we're empowering families with the tools and education they need to keep their children healthy.

The result is less sickness, fewer deaths and stronger communities.

But we haven't reached everyone yet. So please, put your faith into action today! You can go on line to [Malaria Matching Gift Campaign](#) or send your checks to:

Episcopal Relief & Development
P.O. Box 7058
Merrifield, VA 22116-7058

In the memo line add Malaria Matching Gift Campaign.



May and June are the heart of GRAD and DAD season and end of year gifts for teachers. Gift cards are the way to go. You can take two routes: one larger denomination card for stores like Bed Bath & Beyond or Target, or multiple smaller denomination cards for things like coffee or a quick bite; either way... think SCRIP.

The ShopWithScrip.com web allows you to go into categories. You choose Dining, (Casual, Fine or On The Go), you can go with Teacher Appreciation, Books & Music, Clothing & Accessories and Discount Stores. Finally what dad can resist gift cards from Electronics & Office, Home Improvement, or Sporting Goods.

There are these and many other options. Orders will be taken on the second **Sunday, June 13th**.



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

Donna Waites
Neva Bache
Fran & Mike Barbour
Audrey Garner
Joyce Lee
Connie & Bud McLean
Marie & Neil McPhail
Paula & Bob Ross
Cindy & Curtis Gass
Geri Moulton
James Christiansen
Janet Buckley
Kay Raines
Fran & Mike Barbour



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



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:

Marian Boykin, Ron Brown, Mary Jones, Jayson Chestang, Budd McLean.

For our Homebound:

Bea Brown, Mae Dunn, Joan-Marie Elam, LaVerne Foster, Catherine Warren, Chick Wohlert, Becky & Art Youngblood.

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:

Latecia Cushion Knight, Roger Irwin, Hayley Espey, Laura Howard, Evia Daniel, Marsha Gilmore, Charles Geck, Judy Wonson, Louis Bell, Jerry Wigfield, Karen Davis, Charlie Coles, Anna Marie Brown, Mary Jo Vinson, Bonnie Jernigan, Kaye Turner, Katelynn Tillman, Britney Butler, Angie Leon, Johnny Leon, Neal Tourné, Sandy & Ray Michel, Connor Crist, Paul Nelson, Krystal Hiatt, Elias Bates, Bill Jones, Mark Stiber and his transplant donor.

Contact Us

Staff:

The Reverend Thomas Heard, *rector*
rector@stjohnsmobile.org

Louis Daniel
 Organist & Choir Director
music@stjohnsmobile.org

Lella Lowe
 Financial Secretary
finance@stjohnsmobile.org

Jack Ruppe
 Sexton

Vestry:

Darren Anderson

Ron Brown

James Christiansen, *junior warden*

Cindy Gass, *senior warden*

Kathe Gieseler

Connie McLean, *treasurer*

Geri Moulton

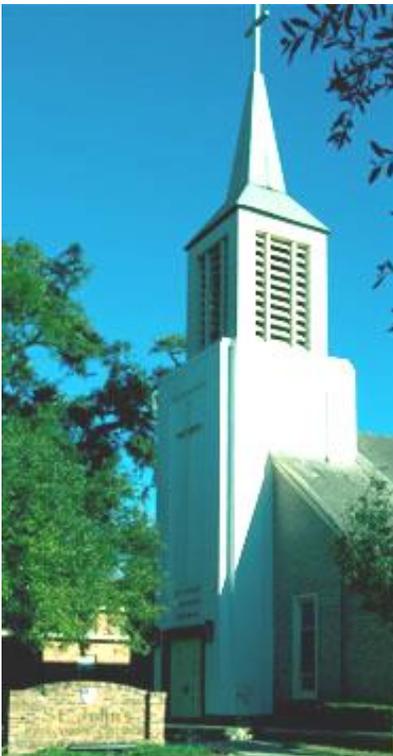
Nikki Shaw, *clerk*

Butch Yeager

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

Nonprofit Organization
 U.S.POSTAGE PAID
 Mobile, Alabama
 Permit No. 607

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.