



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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FROM THE RECTOR:

Dear Ones,

As a society, a culture, I think we are obsessed with measuring. Not only that, but we're overly concerned with directions and trends. I think there are a couple of things at work here. One is our need to feel like we're in control of everything. Another is our feeling that we have to be better. Better than another person, team, college/university, city, state, nation,...; you get the idea, I hope.

The basic need to control probably has a biological basis. It seems to go hand-in-hand with our ability to choose. Choice and Control: keys to our very survival. We exercise control over our environment in order that we achieve desired outcomes. When we choose, we have an expected and desired outcome. When we achieve that outcome, we feel like we're in control.

These choices we make can be one-in-a-lifetime decisions, like who to marry or where to go to college, or they can be unconscious choices we make multiple times each day. An example of this latter might be at what we choose to look, or on what we choose to focus our attention.

Our ability to choose and see a desired outcome is what leads us to believe that we have control over our environment. As we gain more and more experience, our belief that we have control becomes stronger and more permanent. We develop confidence that we can make things happen the way we want.

Sadly, we do not limit our manipulation. We even extend our influence to people, attempting to get others to do what we want them to do. This takes us to the second aspect I mentioned earlier: to be better.

I've talked and written about the work of René Girard previously. His work on mimetic desire was rooted in his study of literature. Essentially, he posits that what we desire is mimetic, that is, everything we desire is 'borrowed' from other people. He called it 'mimetic rivalry' and lays out the scapegoat mechanism as the source of sacrifice. He posits that religion came about to hold in check the violence that results from mimetic rivalry.

I started this by saying that we're obsessed with measuring and with direction and trends. When we measure, we have a metric, a basis for comparison. Can you guess where I'm going? Once we have metrics, we can compare one to another and reach a conclusion about the goodness or 'betterness' of one over another. Therein are the roots of competition and judgement.

Unfortunately, the behaviors described here bleed over into all aspects of life, including the church. Each year, every congregation submits information to the diocese and national church concerning our finances, number of services, attendance, and so on. These data are combined with previous years, and charts and graphs are made to tell the story of 'The Episcopal Church, its dioceses, and its parishes.' Then starts the hand wringing.

Rather than having anxiety about the future, we should, instead, be working toward the future. Rather than fretting over the shrinking nature of the church, we should be working diligently to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. Rather than feeling sad about empty pews, we should be inviting others to join us.

Forget the metrics and comparisons. Be doers of the word, not just hearers.

--Thomas

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE JULY LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Independence Day

Independence Day is one of the “Other major feasts”, which include apostles, evangelists, Saints Mary the Virgin, Joseph, Mary Magdalene, James of Jerusalem, Stephen, and Michael and All Angels, as well as The Holy Innocents and Thanksgiving Day.

Independence Day entered the calendar with the proposed prayer book of 1786. It didn’t make into the 1789 Prayer Book, due to concerns of appropriateness since most of the clergy of the church had been British loyalists. Independence Day finally entered our calendar with the 1928 Prayer Book. We will observe Independence Day at our 10:00AM Said Mass on Tuesday, 4 July.

Macrina

Macrina was a monastic, a teacher, and a theologian. She was sister to Basil the Great, Gregory of Nyssa, Peter or Sebaste, and Naucratis. Clearly, for this family the ‘church’ was their business! Her thought and her approach to spirituality have been recorded by Gregory, who credits his sister with the family’s careers in the church. Born in a wealthy family, Macrina convinced her mother to help her start a monastery on the family estate. Her ministry emphasized caring for the poor and needy, as well as ministering to the wider community. We will remember Macrina at our Wednesday Mass at 10:00AM on 19 July.

Saint Mary Magdalene

We will celebrate the feast of Saint Mary Magdalene on Saturday, 22 July at a 5:30PM Said Mass. Surnames were not a feature of Palestine in the first century, so it was customary to use genealogical and geographical annotations to differentiate between people of the same name. Saint Mary Magdalene features prominently in the Gospels of Luke and John. In Luke, she was healed by Our Lord who cast out seven demons from her. She became a follower immediately. In John’s Gospel, Mary Magdalene is the “Mary” at the tomb who recognizes the resurrected Jesus and tells the disciples, “I have seen the Lord.” In the Eastern tradition, Mary is held as equal to the apostles.

Saint James the Apostle

James is sometimes called “the Greater”, to differentiate him from James the brother of our Lord, and the other apostle named James. With his brother John, the sons of Zebedee were also known as the “Sons of Thunder”, due to their dispositions. James is accorded the honor of being the first of the apostles to be martyred for Our Lord. We will celebrate James at a Said Mass on Tuesday, 25 July at 12:10PM.

The Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary

In the second century, an apocryphal gospel appeared containing stories of Mary’s parents, Joachim and Anne. The gospel is known as the *Protevangelium of James* or *The Nativity of Mary*. In it, the parents are portrayed as an elderly couple rewarded with the birth of a daughter who they pledged to God’s service. In case you’ve forgotten, this parallels the birth of Samuel to Hanna and Elkanah. (Not forgetting Isaac, born to Abraham and Sarah.) Samuel, of course, was a priest and the last judge. Mary serves God in an entirely different role. St. Anne is celebrated on July 25 in the Eastern church, while Joachim has had several days. In the 1969 Roman Calendar, Anne and Joachim are jointly celebrated on 26 July. We’ll observe this day at our Said Mass on Wednesday, 26 July at 10:00AM.

JULY’S FOURTH SUNDAY POTLUCK: PARISH PICNIC

St. John’s annual inside-outside Parish Picnic will be held on Sunday, July 23rd. Our “grill master” Darren Anderson has volunteered to do the duties on the grill again this year. The rest of us have the task of providing all the traditional picnic “fixings”. The sign-up sheet will be on the bulletin board. So let’s dress for a picnic and eat picnic foods, but we’ll leave the bugs outside!





Vestry

The regular meeting of the Wardens and Vestry of Saint John's Church was called to order on 11 June 2017 at 11:35AM by Fr. Heard. All members of the Vestry were present.

Connie McLean reviewed the financials. The Vestry voted to deplete Undesignated Gifts & Memorials in an amount sufficient to offset the negative balance in Unrestricted Net Equity.

Outreach: Books for the Head Start kids have arrived and will be stickered in the coming weeks. A Giving Tree will go up to provide for immediate needs items for Penelope House.

Parish Life: Sharing our Faith was done as part of the 4th Sunday Potluck in May. Pictures will be sent to the diocese.

Physical Plant: James Christiansen will get estimates for soffit repairs on the parish house.

Rector's Report: The parish hall has been used by MEJAC and the Petro piano studio in May. Fr. Heard continues to work on building an estimate for construction costs to support providing a day center for the women of McKemie Place.

Old Business: The vestry voted to set the final business day of Thee Store as 30 June 2017. The Vestry was reminded of their need to complete the canonically required Safe Church training by the July meeting. The bishop's pastoral visitation will be 27 August 2017.



ST. JOHN'S SCRIP PROGRAM

The St. John's Scrip program is a fund raising effort of the Vestry. In just 7 months we have raised close to \$900 for St John's. To keep that amount growing we need people to continue buying scrip.

Scrip requires no extra time or money to be spent. People simply do their weekly shopping with scrip gift cards, and in turn raise money for St. John's. Our scrip provider, Great Lakes Scrip Center, supplies the gift cards.

As soon as a gift card is ordered, a rebate goes directly to St. John's, and the gift card is made available and can be used in place of a credit card or cash. In some cases, checkout is faster using a gift card. Scrip fundraising is easy, time-effective, and you will also benefit St. John's while making everyday purchases.

The Scrip program offers over seven hundred and seventy (770) retailers. Categories include department stores, dining establishments, electronic and office products, gas stations, grocery stores, pet stores and travel vendors. To view more of the stores go to <https://shop.shopwithscrip.com/Shop/Product/Browse#?saved>



THE Giving Tree

The Summer Giving Tree for Penelope House

Yes, you did see a Christmas tree in the Great Hall! No, we haven't gotten confused as to what season this is. Saint John's Outreach Committee, as a summer project, is asking you to respond to Penelope House's priority needs.

There are many tags on the tree. Please take some (many of the items are small) and **bring the items back by Sunday, August 6th**. No need for wrapping, there will be boxes under the tree to receive your gifts.

Penelope House is the Mobile area domestic violence shelter. They provide safety, protection, and support to the victims of Domestic Violence and their children by offering shelter, advocacy, and individual and community education.

JULY 2017 AT SAINT JOHN'S

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
MP = Morning Prayer						1
2 Pentecost 4 10A Mass 1130A Outreach	3 830A MP	4 Independence Day 10A Mass	5 830A MP 10A Mass+Unction	6 830A MP	7 830A MP	8
9 Pentecost 5 10A Mass 1130A Vestry	10 830A MP	11 Benedict of Nursia 830A MP	12 830A MP 10A Mass	13 830A MP	14 830A MP	15
16 Pentecost 6 10A Mass 1130A ECV	17 William White 830A MP	18 830A MP	19 Macrina 830A MP 10A Mass	20 Stanton, Bloomer, Truth, and Tubman 830A MP	21 830A MP	22 Saint Mary Magdalene 530P Mass
23 Pentecost 7 10A Mass 1130A Parish Picnic	24 Thomas à Kempis 830A MP	25 Saint James 830A MP 12P Noonday 1210P Mass	26 Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary 830A MP 10A Mass	27 William Reed Huntington 830A MP	28 830A MP	29 Mary & Martha of Bethany
30 Pentecost 8 10A Mass						

LECTIONARY AND ROTA FOR JULY 2017

Date Service	2 July HE-II, EP-B	9 July HE-II, EP-B	16 July HE-II, EP-B	23 July HE-II, EP-B	30 July HE-II, EP-B
Lectionary Day	Fourth Sunday after Pentecost A Proper 8 RCL GC	Fifth Sunday after Pentecost A Proper 9 RCL GC	Sixth Sunday after Pentecost A Proper 10 RCL GC	Seventh Sunday after Pentecost A Proper 11 RCL GC	Eighth Sunday after Pentecost A Proper 12 RCL GC
Color	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Lessons	Jeremiah 28:5-9 Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18 Romans 6:12-23 Matthew 10:40-42	Zachariah 9:9-12 Psalm 145:8-15 Romans 7:15-25a Matthew 16-19, 25-30	Isaiah 55:10-13 Psalm 65:9-14 Romans 8:1-11 Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23	Isaiah 44:6-8 Psalm 86:11-17 Romans 8:12-25 Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43	1 Kings 3:5-12 Psalm 119:129-136 Romans 8:26-39 Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52
Greeters	Connie & Budd McLean	Paula & Bob Ross	Thelma Lomars	Irene & Butch Yeager	Connie & Bob Anderson
Lectors	Kathe Gieseler Cheryl Winters-Heard	Budd McLean Gei Moulton	Nikki Shaw Mary Sheffield	Ron Brown Janet Buckley	Pat Fulford Kathe Gieseler
Intercessor	Jan Joseph	Paula Ross	Connie Anderson	Denise Durham	Cheryl Winters-Heard
Eucharistic Ministers	Ron Brown Connie McLean	Gei Moulton Paula Ross	Mary Sheffield Butch Yeager	Connie Anderson Ron Brown	Connie McLean Gei Moulton
Altar Guild	Marie Brown Lee Dorsey	Marie Brown Lee Dorsey	Pat Fulford Gindy Gass	Pat Fulford Gindy Gass	Irene Yeager Bootsie Geurtat
Vestry Teller	Connie McLean Butch Yeager	Ron Brown Gindy Gass	Gei Moulton Nikki Shaw	Butch Yeager Darren Anderson	James Christiansen Kathe Gieseler
Nursery	Denise Durham Butch Yeager	Gindy Gass Connie Anderson	Andrew Lee Pat Fulford	Butch Yeager Gindy Gass	Denise Durham Andrew Lee



JOIN OUR MALARIA MATCHING GIFT CAMPAIGN

Episcopal Relief & Development and Zambia Anglican Council Outreach Programmes (ZACOP) celebrated the five-year achievements of their flagship integrated Early Childhood Development Program at a forum in Lusaka on Wednesday, May 24.

More than 70 attendees participated in the forum, including The Most Rev. Albert Chama, Archbishop and Primate of the Church of the Province of Central Africa. Representatives were present from the Zambian Ministry of Education, as well as national and international non-governmental organizations such as UNICEF and USAID. At the event, participants discussed key findings from the five-year program report and external evaluation report shared earlier with the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, which provided major funding as part of its Young Children Affected by AIDS Initiative.

The external evaluation found that the Early Childhood Development Program (ECD) model was successful in changing primary caregivers' behavior, strengthening their nurturing care and stimulation with their children. Further it concluded that the program has wide applicability in rural communities across Africa, particularly in high HIV prevalence areas.

The program's successful experience in Zambia has already been incorporated into holistic programs in Nyanza, Kenya by Episcopal Relief & Development's implementing partner, Anglican Development Services-Nyanza. In Zambia Episcopal Relief & Development and ZACOP are planning to reach new families in current ECD Center communities and identifying marginalized areas for new ECD programs.

Across the spectrum of challenges facing vulnerable families in rural communities, the ECD Program has sparked energy, change and hope – in the daily interactions between primary caregivers and children for lifelong impact; in the tangible results volunteers and leaders are seeing from their work; and in the process of family and community transformation in which the communities' youngest children are thriving.



CURSILLO EVENTS IN THE CENTRAL GULF COAST

- Ultreya: July 23, 3:00 pm, Holy Nativity Panama City. For more information call Lori Bates 256-426-5895.
- Cursillo #159: September 14-17, 2017. Spaces still available.
- Diocesan Ultreya: September 30, 2:00 pm, Beckwith Camp and Conference Center (part of the [BayLights](#) weekend)

Cursillo weekends are transformational. For more information please contact Eugene Johnston at ejohnston14@comcast.net or 251-591-4328





Caroline Chestang	07/08
Catherine Warren	07/08
Max Stiber	07/10
Tina Cieutat	07/13
Regina Harvey-Molyneux	07/20
Cheryl Winters-Heard	07/21
Carolyn Pearce	07/26



Please add the following email addresses to your new St. John's parish directory:

Darren Anderson: ande3754@yahoo.com
LaNeisha Anderson: lca71503@yahoo.com



Bob & Paula Ross	07/12
Darren & LaNeisha Anderson	07/15
Lavelle & Debbie Ollhoft	07/20



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

Tina Cieutat, Marian Boykin, Ron Brown, 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:

Kay Barnes, Latecia Cushion Knight, Roger Irwin, Hayley Espey, Laura Howard, Evia Daniel, Marsha Gilmore, Charles Geck, Judy Wonson, 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.



Saint John's wishes to extend a sincere thank you to Karen Keel, who made a donation in memory of her mother, Patricia Thomas.

Contact Us

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Darren Anderson

Ron Brown

James Christiansen, *junior warden*

Cindy Gass, *senior warden*

Kathe Gieseler

Connie McLean, *treasurer*

Geri Moulton

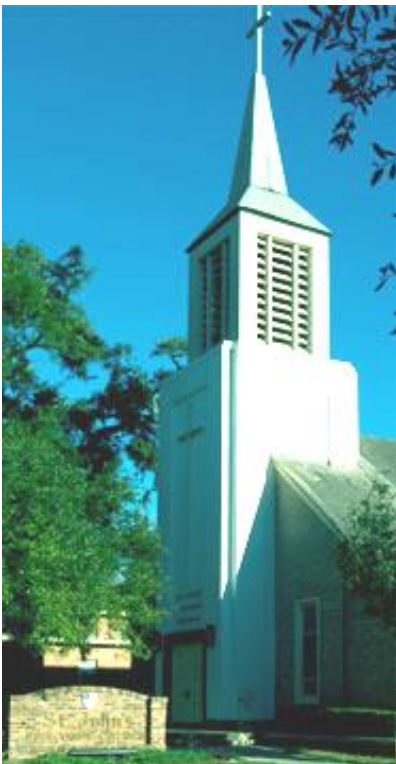
Nikki Shaw, *clerk*

Butch Yeager

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

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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

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.