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
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 Naukratos. 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!
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](https://shop.shopwithscrip.com/Shop/Product/Browse#?saved)

---

**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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>SUNDAY</strong></th>
<th><strong>MONDAY</strong></th>
<th><strong>TUESDAY</strong></th>
<th><strong>WEDNESDAY</strong></th>
<th><strong>THURSDAY</strong></th>
<th><strong>FRIDAY</strong></th>
<th><strong>SATURDAY</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MP = Morning Prayer</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2 Pentecost 4</strong></td>
<td><strong>3</strong></td>
<td><strong>4 Independence Day</strong></td>
<td><strong>5</strong></td>
<td><strong>6</strong></td>
<td><strong>7</strong></td>
<td><strong>1</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10A Mass</td>
<td>830A MP</td>
<td>10A Mass</td>
<td>830A MP</td>
<td>830A MP</td>
<td>830A MP</td>
<td>830A MP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1130A Outreach</td>
<td></td>
<td>11 Benedict of Nursia</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>830A MP</td>
<td>830A MP</td>
<td>830A MP</td>
<td>830A MP</td>
<td>830A MP</td>
<td>830A MP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>9 Pentecost 5</strong></td>
<td><strong>10</strong></td>
<td><strong>11 Benedict of Nursia</strong></td>
<td><strong>12</strong></td>
<td><strong>13</strong></td>
<td><strong>14</strong></td>
<td><strong>15</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10A Mass</td>
<td>830A MP</td>
<td>830A MP</td>
<td>830A MP</td>
<td>830A MP</td>
<td>830A MP</td>
<td>830A MP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1130A Vestry</td>
<td></td>
<td>830A MP</td>
<td>830A MP</td>
<td>830A MP</td>
<td>830A MP</td>
<td>830A MP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>16 Pentecost 6</strong></td>
<td><strong>17 William White</strong></td>
<td><strong>18</strong></td>
<td><strong>19 Macrina</strong></td>
<td><strong>20 Stanton, Bloomer, Truth, and Tubman</strong></td>
<td><strong>21</strong></td>
<td><strong>22 Saint Mary Magdalene</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10A Mass</td>
<td>830A MP</td>
<td>830A MP</td>
<td>830A MP</td>
<td>830A MP</td>
<td>830A MP</td>
<td>830A MP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1130A BCW</td>
<td></td>
<td>830A MP</td>
<td>830A MP</td>
<td>830A MP</td>
<td>830A MP</td>
<td>530P Mass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>23 Pentecost 7</strong></td>
<td><strong>24 Thomas à Kempis</strong></td>
<td><strong>25 Saint James</strong></td>
<td><strong>26 Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary</strong></td>
<td><strong>27 William Reed Huntington</strong></td>
<td><strong>28</strong></td>
<td><strong>29 Mary &amp; Martha of Bethany</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10A Mass</td>
<td>830A MP</td>
<td>830A MP</td>
<td>830A MP</td>
<td>830A MP</td>
<td>830A MP</td>
<td>830A MP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1130A Parish Picnic</td>
<td></td>
<td>12P Noonday</td>
<td>1210P Mass</td>
<td>830A MP</td>
<td>830A MP</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>30 Pentecost 8</strong></td>
<td><strong>31</strong></td>
<td><strong>32</strong></td>
<td><strong>33</strong></td>
<td><strong>34</strong></td>
<td><strong>35</strong></td>
<td><strong>36</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10A Mass</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nursery Intercessor</td>
<td>Leaders</td>
<td>Lessons</td>
<td>Service</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------</td>
<td>---------</td>
<td>---------</td>
<td>---------</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butch Brown</td>
<td>Ron Brown</td>
<td>Cindie Gieseler</td>
<td>minced</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bud Cheree</td>
<td>Patty Wilson</td>
<td>Lee Basset</td>
<td>minced</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clay McLean</td>
<td>Connie Anderson</td>
<td>Ron Brown</td>
<td>Cindie Gieseler</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butch Brown</td>
<td>Ron Brown</td>
<td>Cindie Gieseler</td>
<td>minced</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butch Brown</td>
<td>Ron Brown</td>
<td>Cindie Gieseler</td>
<td>minced</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clay McLean</td>
<td>Connie Anderson</td>
<td>Ron Brown</td>
<td>Cindie Gieseler</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butch Brown</td>
<td>Ron Brown</td>
<td>Cindie Gieseler</td>
<td>minced</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Lectioary and Rota for July 2017**
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.

---

**JOIN OUR MALARIA MATCHING GIFT CAMPAIGN**

---

**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
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

Contact Us

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:
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

St. John’s Episcopal Church
1707 Government Street
Mobile, Alabama 36604

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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.