



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 8

August 2017

FROM THE RECTOR:

Dear Ones,

Recently, I've been struck with the preponderance of political messages that infer or overtly claim that God has blessed their campaigns for election or re-election. The race for the U.S. Senate seat vacated by Jeff Sessions seems to have amplified the rhetoric.

Frances Coleman had a very humorous column in the 19 July *Mobile Press-Register* where she has God dictating a letter to all creation. Saint Peter figures in this column, as well. Here's the URL for her column:

[What God really thinks about Alabama politics](http://www.al.com/opinion/index.ssf/2017/07/what_god_really_thinks_of_alab.html)

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Frances has a well balanced, apolitical perspective for us. She pokes fun at the current crop of folks seeking election, using God's voice to voice the complaints that I suspect we've all had as we've watched campaign ad after campaign ad.

I think, though, we come by some of it honestly.

Think back to the stories of the Israelites coming in to the Promised Land. They engage in battles with the indigenous people. They have no fear of losing. Why? Because they believe that God is on their side.

I mean, of course they do. Just look at Psalm 124:

- ¹ If the Lord had not been on our side, *
let Israel now say;
- ² If the Lord had not been on our side, *
when enemies rose up against us;
- ³ Then would they have swallowed us up alive *
in their fierce anger toward us;
- ⁴ Then would the waters have overwhelmed us *
and the torrent gone over us;
- ⁵ Then would the raging waters *
have gone right over us.

⁶ Blessed be the Lord! *

he has not given us over to be a prey for their teeth.

⁷ We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler; *

the snare is broken, and we have escaped.

⁸ Our help is in the Name of the Lord, *
the maker of heaven and earth.

In our own country, we've claimed this in World War I and World War II. We claimed it on both sides of the war between the states. So what makes us think that any opposing side in a conflict wouldn't make the same claim? If we really think that, then 'we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.' (1 John 1:8)

So, the next time you hear a political advertisement, hear a politician speak about some program he or she favors, start keeping count.

How many times is God mentioned?
How many times are 'Christian value' emphasized?
Does he/she claim to have an inside track with God?
Are other religions put down as false?

Rather than listen to all the noise, I think I'm going to take another tack. I think I'm going to turn them off/tune them out and seek the quietness of God, the peace of Christ, and the warmth of the Holy Spirit. I'm just going to listen. I'll think about the life that Jesus demonstrated for us. It is all I need to understand about being a follower of Jesus of Nazareth. It is all I need to pattern my life.

What I don't need is someone telling me how righteous he or she is. What I don't need is someone telling what is true and what is not.

God's already spoken. We simply need to listen.

--Thomas

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE AUGUST LITURGICAL CALENDAR



Vestry

The Transfiguration of Our Lord

We will celebrate the Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord Jesus Christ on Sunday, 6 August at 10:00AM. This will be a said mass commemorating Jesus' physical and spiritual re-manifestation. The Roman calendar didn't include the Transfiguration until just before the Reformation, and in The Episcopal Church, we didn't include it until the 1892 Prayer Book. It has, however, been in the Eastern church's calendar for a very long time. In their theology, the Transfiguration prefigures Jesus' resurrection and ascension.

Saint Mary the Virgin

The Feast of Saint Mary the Virgin is known in the Roman church as The Assumption and in the Eastern tradition as The Dormition of the *Theotokos*. Perhaps the Greek *Theotokos* gets us to a place where we can truly grasp Mary's importance. It means "God bearer", that is the one who was mother to Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The tradition for this day cannot be supported by scripture, but is older than any surviving texts: Mary, for her service to God as *Theotokos* did not suffer earthly death, but "fell asleep in God" and was taken to heaven. One of our Major Feasts, we will observe Saint Mary the Virgin on Tuesday, 15 August, at 12:10PM.

Saint Bartholomew

One of the Twelve, Bartholomew is known only by his inclusion in the list of disciples in the Gospels of Mark, Matthew, and Luke. Some sources credit Bartholomew with the writing of a Gospel that was known to Saint Jerome and the Venerable Bede. Eusebius reports the existence of a copy of the Gospel of Matthew in Hebrew that was purportedly given to the church by Bartholomew. We will celebrate Saint Bartholomew on Thursday, 24 August, with a said mass at 12:10PM.

The regular meeting of the Wardens and Vestry of Saint John's Church was called to order on 9 July at 11:30AM. All members were present. The minutes of the 11 June meeting were approved as distributed.

Reports:

- Connie McLean reviewed the financial reports. She reported that our scrip program has almost \$900.
- Outreach reported that the books for Head Start are being processed today and will be distributed in August. In August, a giving tree to benefit Penelope House Immediate Needs will go up.
- Parish Life reported that the annual picnic will be on the 23rd at the church.
- Physical Plant reported that estimates for soffit repairs are being sought.
- Fr. Heard reported that he has had an initial conversation with an architect to look at modifications to support McKemie Place as a day center.

Old Business:

- It was voted to extend permission for use of the garage by James Christiansen for another year.
- An honorarium will be presented to Pat Pritchard and P.L. Pritchard in recognition of their work for Thee Store.
- A subcommittee consisting of the wardens, treasurer, rector and Butch Yeager will work on a lease for 1702 Church Street.
- Safe Church training for the vestry has been completed by 7 of the 9 members. Next will be retraining of our Nursery Volunteers.
- There will be a reception for the bishop after mass on 27 August. Plans for a meeting with the Vestry are being considered.

New Business:

Connie McLean presented an idea for reaching out to missing parishioners. She proposes sending "We miss you" cards when someone has been absent for a few weeks. She will work on a design and a procedure to be followed.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer by Fr. Heard at 12:15PM.

OUTREACH

THE SUMMER GIVING TREE FOR PENELOPE HOUSE

Saint John's Outreach Committee had two summer projects this year: the books for the Head Start children and our response to Penelope House's priority needs.

We have finished the book projects (thank you everyone who helped) So now the giving tree is up in the Great Hall.

There are many tags on the tree, please take some (many of the items are small) and **bring the items back by Sunday, September 3rd**. 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 through the provision of shelter, advocacy, and individual and community education.



EPISCOPAL VISITATION

Bishop Russell Kendrick will be visiting Saint John's on Sunday August 27. There will be a general meeting of the parish at 9AM in the Great Hall. This is an opportunity for us to get to know the bishop and for the bishop to get to know us. Mass will be at 10:00 as usual.



PARISH LIFE

PARISH PICNIC GREAT SUCCESS

Good friends, good food, good company, and no bugs: the formula for a successful parish picnic. St. John's parish picnic was judged to be one of the best ever: grill master Darren Anderson produced a great selection of delicious grilled meats; salads, beans, veggies and all the picnic "fixins" filled the tables; and then there were the desserts...more goodies than could be sampled! Thanks to everyone for participating, bringing food, and helping to clean up. See you next year!!



AUGUST 2017 AT SAINT JOHN'S

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|--|--|-------------------------|
| MP = Morning Prayer | | 1 Joseph of Arimathaea 830A MP | 2 830A MP 10A Mass + Unction | 3 830A MP | 4 830A MP | 5 |
| 6 Transfiguration 10A Mass 1130A Outreach | 7 John Mason Neale 830A MP | 8 Dominic 830A MP | 9 830A MP 10A Mass | 10 Laurence of Rome 830A MP | 11 Clare of Assisi 830A MP | 12 Florence Nightingale |
| 13 Pentecost 10 10A Mass 1130A Vestry | 14 Jonathan Myrick Daniels 830A MP | 15 Saint Mary the Virgin 830A MP 12P Noontday 1210P Mass | 16 830A MP 10A Mass | 17 830A MP | 18 Wm. Porcher DuBose 830A MP | 19 |
| 20 Pentecost 11 10A Mass 1130A ECW | 21 830A MP | 22 830A MP | 23 830A MP 10A Mass | 24 Saint Bartholomew 830A MP 12P Noontday 1210P Mass | 25 Louis of France 830A MP | 26 |
| 27 Pentecost 12 Episcopal Visitation 9A Time with the bishop 10A Mass 1130A Reception | 28 Augustine of Hippo 830A MP | 29 830A MP | 30 830A MP 10A Mass | 31 Aidan of Lindisfarne 830A MP | Omitted: 8/13 – Jeremy Taylor, Bishop of Down, Connor, and Dromore, 1667 8/20 – Bernard, Abbot of Clairvaux, 1153 8/27 – Thomas Gallaudet & Henry Winter Syle | |

LECTIONARY AND ROTA FOR AUGUST 2017

| Date Service | 6 August HE-II, FP-B | 13 August HE-II, FP-B | 20 August HE-II, FP-B | 27 August HE-II, FP-B |
|-----------------------|--|--|--|---|
| Lectionary Day | The Transfiguration of Our Lord ABC Transfiguration | Tenth Sunday after Pentecost A Proper 14 RCL GC | Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost A Proper 15 RCL GC | Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost A Proper 16 RCL GC |
| Color | White | Green | Green | Green |
| Lessons | Exodus 34:29-35 Psalm 99:5-9 2 Peter 1:13-21 Luke 9:28-36 | 1 Kings 19:9-18 Psalm 85:8-13 Romans 9:1-5 Matthew 14:22-33 | Isaiah 56:1, 6-8 Psalm 67 Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32 Matthew 15:(10-20), 21-28 | Isaiah 51:1-6 Psalm 138 Romans 12:1-8 Matthew 16:13-20 |
| Greeters | Melissa Brown | Connie & Budd McLean | Paula & Bob Ross | Thelma Lomerts |
| Lectors | Jan Joseph Budd McLean | Paula Ross Nikki Shaw | Connie Anderson Ron Brown | Denise Durham Pat Fulford |
| Intercessor | Geni Moulton | Mary Sheffield | Janet Buckley | Kathe Gieseler |
| Eucharistic Ministers | Paula Ross Mary Sheffield | Burch Yeager Connie Anderson | Ron Brown Connie McLean | Geni Moulton Paula Ross |
| Altar Guild | Irene Yeager | Connie Anderson Lal Neisha Anderson | Connie Anderson Lal Neisha Anderson | Marie Brown Lee Dorsey |
| Vestry Teller | Gindy Cass Connie McLean | Nikki Shaw Ron Brown | Darren Anderson Geni Moulton | Kathe Gieseler Burch Yeager |
| Nursery | Denise Durham Gindy Cass | Andrew Lee Pat Fulford | Gindy Cass Burch Yeager | Connie Anderson Andrew Lee |

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT (ECD) CENTERS IN ZAMBIA

Getting a pre-school education is something that much of the world takes for granted. In rural Zambia, however, this concept is only just starting to take hold thanks to the Zambia Anglican Council Outreach Programmes (ZACOP)/Episcopal Relief & Development joint effort. The program assists families in keeping their kids healthy, happy and educated – things that had previously been unattainable in rural areas.

Children from villages all around the recently erected structure can now come and receive the basic knowledge that forms the foundation for all future education, thanks to volunteer teachers like Dina Manda. "I'm passionate to work with the children, [and] play with the children. I've got [a] heart to save the children's lives... so that's why I'm here," she said. The curriculum at the Kasenga ECD center includes five subjects: environmental science, social studies, math, language and literature and expressional arts. Children are taught in their local language and also learn some English words and songs.

None of this existed even a few years ago, and would not be possible today without

sustainable recruitment of dedicated volunteers and the participation of nearby families. Through the Early Childhood Development program, parents learn improved parenting practices to promote bonding and stimulate early learning. They also increase the capacity to meet their children's needs through savings groups, in which 25% of savings goes towards their children's health and education.

Equally important, though perhaps more exciting for the kids, are the pieces of playground equipment outside the center. Once given the opportunity, they run about and play.



We are in the hot and humid part of summer, but school will be starting soon. It seems to come earlier each year. As students and teachers begin the year, it would be good to give them an "I am thinking of you gift card" or a gift card that helps them get ready for school from Scrip.

- To help with school supplies there is Walmart, Target, Best Buy, Staples and Office Depot.
- To help the always hungry student you can choose from Wendy's, Subway, Taco Bell, DQ, Pizza Hut, Krispy Kreme, Starbucks and many more.
- Then there is the place that seems to have everything...Amazon.

These are just a few of the gift cards that are available with Scrip. As usual we will be taking Scrip orders on the second Sunday (August 13). Order forms are available in the church office or from Eugene Johnston.



| | | | |
|--------------------|-------|-----------------|-------|
| Mac Pearce | 08/01 | Eugene Johnston | 08/21 |
| Julia Heard | 08/03 | Erin Nelson | 08/25 |
| Andrew Lee | 08/03 | Bootsie Cieutat | 08/26 |
| Kat Velaski | 08/03 | David Rich | 08/27 |
| Kathe Gieseler | 08/07 | Marion Wallace | 08/27 |
| James Christiansen | 08/11 | David Jones | 08/29 |



| | |
|------------------------|-------|
| Robert & Charlynn Will | 08/10 |
| Curtis & Cindy Gass | 08/19 |



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

Neil McPhail, 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:

Ross Hussman, Josh Vernor, Ellis Garner, Eric Mattoon.

For our Friends and Family:

Martha Anderson, Kay Barnes, Latecia Cushion Knight, Roger Irwin, Hayley Espey, Evia Daniel, 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 Ron Waites, who made a donation in memory of his wife, Donna.

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

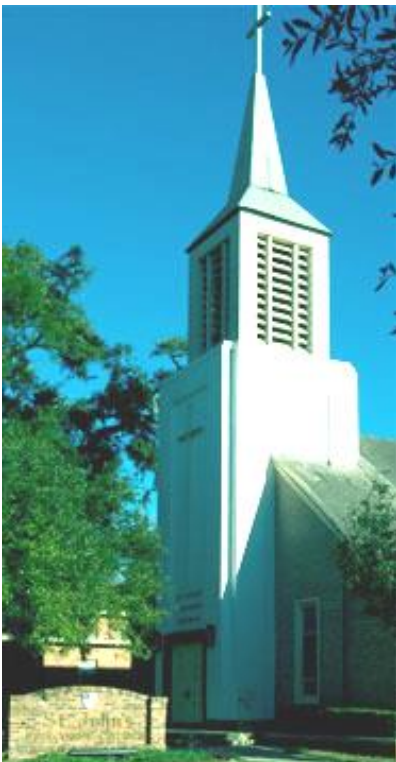
Nikki Shaw, *clerk*

Butch Yeager

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

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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

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.