



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 10

October 2017

FROM THE RECTOR:

Dear Ones,

As many of you know, I attended the meeting of the Council of Centers on Jewish-Christian Relations (CCJR) as one of the representatives of the Mobile Christian Jewish Dialogue (MCJD). The meeting was held in New York City and hosted by Union Theological Seminary and the Jewish Theological Seminary. They are diagonally across Broadway at 122nd Street.

Over the course of twenty-six hours, we were treated to four panel discussions, a public keynote address, and the CCJR annual meeting. During our group dinner on Sunday night, the *Shevet Achim* award was presented to Alice Eckardt, professor emerita of Lehigh University. She and her husband, Roy (deceased), have been pioneers in Holocaust study and Christian-Jewish relations. Alice is spry and sharp as a tack; you would never guess that she's 98.

Shevet Achim is a reference to Psalm 133:

Oh, how good and pleasant it is, *
when brethren live together in unity.

The award honors those who have worked to promote unity between the peoples of God.

Our panel discussions are listed below.

- “The Experience of Female Muslim Scholar-Educators in Dialogue Today”
- “Today’s Use of ‘Judeo-Christian’ to Reinforce a ‘Clash of Civilizations’: Problems and Proposed Solutions”
- “Bilateral and Trilateral Approaches to Dialogue among Jews, Christians, and Muslims”
- “The View from Here: Working for Racial Justice: Perspectives from JTS and UTS”

I think you can see that there was as definite “Muslim” theme to our meeting. Our first panel featured Mehnaz Afridi of Manhattan College and Jerusha Lamptey of Union Theological Seminary. Both spoke from their personal experience, reflecting on the barriers and obstacles they had encountered as (1) women and (2) Muslims. Each aspect had its own characteristics. Both women spoke of the implied and actual challenges to their authority coming from both. A lively Q&A period followed. MCJD hopes to bring Mehnaz Afridi to Mobile in the next year.

We started Monday, 11 September, with a “Meditative Moment” to remember the 9/11 events of sixteen years ago.

Our second and third panels brought us to the challenges of creating, energizing, and maintaining dialogue in today’s society. From the second panel, I am even more aware of the implications of someone saying ‘a Christian nation’ or ‘a Judeo-Christian perspective’. These phrases have become bludgeons of division, emphasizing ‘otherness’ and marginalizing the targets. We had a very lively discussion following the presentation. The third panel presented models that have been employed in other areas. Building relationship is of paramount importance, but ‘doing something’ together (beyond just talking) can really get things going. (I will bring this up at the next *Dialogue* board meeting.)

Throughout the meeting, we shared with each other the successes and challenges of bringing a third voice to the conversation. The challenge is, of course, bringing someone new into an established relationship. Here in Mobile, we formed the *Dialogue* separately, and conveniently avoided that problem. What we need to do now is generate some enthusiasm for the process of getting to know each others and actually doing it.

--Thomas

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE OCTOBER LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Francis of Assisi

Francis was born in 1182 into a wealthy merchant family in Assisi. He had numerous encounters with the poor and outcast of his society that reoriented him to his religious life. He renounced all material possessions and devoted the rest of his life in service to the poor.

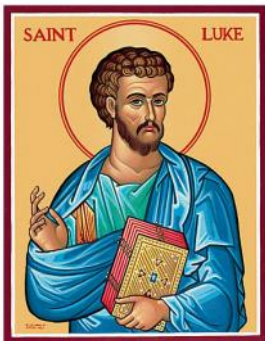
The Order of Friars Minor was established in 1210 and grew rapidly. In 1226, he received the stigmata of Christ on Holy Cross Day. He died on 4 October 1226. Francis' devotion to poverty and the suffering of Christ make him, perhaps, the least imitated, but at the same time, the most popular of the saints in our calendar



Philip, Deacon and Evangelist

In scripture, we encounter Philip in three places in the Acts of the Apostles. First, he is one of the seven honest men appointed to care for the widows and poor of Jerusalem. These are traditionally referred to as deacons. Second, we encounter Philip being directed by the Holy Spirit to instruct and baptize the servant of the Queen of Ethiopia. Lastly, we find Philip in Caesarea where he is host to Saint Paul. Philip may have been a bishop at Lydia, but we really don't know what became of him. We'll remember him at our said mass on Wednesday, 11 October.

Saint Luke the Evangelist



We will celebrate the life and ministry of **Saint Luke** at a Said Mass on Wednesday, 18 October, at 10:00AM. Luke, the self-identified author of the Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles, brings his own perspective on the person and ministry of Jesus and Jesus' continuing effect on the world. Luke's account of the spread of

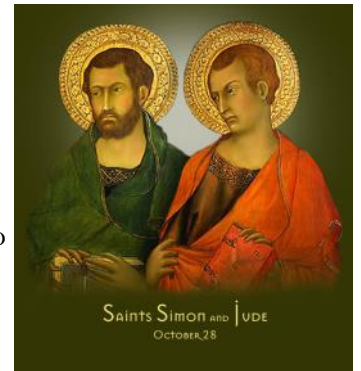
the early church and the ministry of Saint Paul helps us to craft a picture of the world in the first century. His portrayal of the radical hospitality and inclusion that Jesus manifested still stands today as a standard by which we can judge our ministries.

Saint James of Jerusalem

We will remember **Saint James of Jerusalem**, the brother of Our Lord, at a Said Mass on Monday, 23 October at 12:10PM. Sometimes called "James the Just", James supported the inclusion of Gentiles in the church. According to a second-century chronicler, James provoked the ire of some factions in Jerusalem because of his success at bringing new converts into the church. Taking James to the pinnacle of the Temple, they commanded him to recant his faith and Jesus. When he refused, James was thrown from the roof and then cudgelled to death.

Saint Simon and Saint Jude, Apostles

Simon and Jude will be remembered at a Said Mass on Saturday, 28 October at 5:30PM. Sadly, our knowledge of these two original apostles is quite lacking. Simon is referred to as "a Zealot" and Saint John mentions Jude in his account of the Last Supper. Tradition associates both with the region of Persia, now Iran. Some accounts call them martyrs, some say that both died peaceful deaths in Edessa or Beirut. The Epistle of Jude brings us a unique doxology:



"Now to him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you without blemish before the presence of his glory with rejoicing, to the only God, our Savior through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and for ever. Amen."

OUTREACH

The Outreach Committee would like to thank everyone who participated in our summer "Giving Tree" project for Penelope House. As you can see in the picture, St. John's contributions will help them meet the needs of their clients and families.

The Outreach Committee has contacted Penelope House and they will be sending staff to the church to pick up the goods.

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.

-Outreach Committee



PARISH LIFE

PINK SUNDAY

October is
Breast
Cancer
Awareness
Month

Once again St. John's will be holding a **Pink Sunday** acknowledging the need for more awareness, research, and treatment for breast cancer. Sunday, October 22 will be our day to **wear pink** to support those fighting cancer, admire the survivors, and honor those taken.

We will have information, discussion, and prayer. Please join us and WEAR PINK!!

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS



Please join us at Saint John's on Sunday, 1 October at 4:00PM in the courtyard for a blessing of all of our furry, feathered and finned friends. All types of animals are welcome, but please respect others and leash or restrain your pets.

Donate



WILMER HALL IS SEEKING CAR DONATIONS

Have a car, SUV, or light truck that you're thinking about selling or trading? Consider donating it to Wilmer Hall. Our Transitional Living and Transitional Family programs prepare young adults to live independently when they graduate from Wilmer Hall. A big challenge for most of them is obtaining a vehicle they can afford. Your gift of a serviceable vehicle will go a long way to help us help our residents. We will service or repair the car or truck to ensure it is safe and in good running condition. We then will sell it to the resident at a very low price, on terms they can afford. This encourages financial planning and responsibility.

The donation process is simple. Just call us and we'll take care of picking up the vehicle and processing the paperwork. Your gift may also be tax deductible. Call or text George Riggall at 251-923-6310, or send an email: georgeriggall@gmail.com.



Vestry

The regular meeting of the Wardens and Vestry of Saint John's Church did not take place on the 10th of September. Instead, a brief meeting was held at 11:20AM on 17 September to deal with one pressing issue.

All members of the Vestry were present.

The meeting was held to decide how to cover the income/expense discrepancy for the balance of the calendar year. The Vestry voted to withdraw \$20,000 from the growth of the Endowment. This will leave approximately \$34,000 of growth in the account.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30AM.



THE MURRAY HOUSE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
INVITES YOU TO A CELEBRATION FOR THE

20th Anniversary OF Murray House

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2017

2:00 TO 4:00 PM



1257 GOVERNMENT STREET
MOBILE, ALABAMA



The September meeting of the ECW focused on three main topics:

- ◆ Remembering and supporting our church sisters and brothers who are shut-ins and who are temporarily “out of commission”. The Sunshine Committee of the ECW sends cards, but everyone was reminded that a personal visit or a call is often very welcome.
- ◆ The ECW’s fall project is going to be starting the refurbishing of the furniture in the church. The two chairs located in the chancel, the chairs the Lay Eucharistic Ministers sit on, are in need of reupholstering. ECW members will be choosing fabric and contacting an upholsterer to do the work. ECW funds will be used for the project.
- ◆ ECW members collected small prizes for the Bingo activity time at Murray House. Small items such as costume jewelry, small artificial flowers, little statues of angels, and seasonal items were given to Murray House.

The next ECW meeting will be Sunday October 15th at 11:30 – please join us.





HAPPY SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS!

Saint John's kicked off monthly birthday celebrations with the September birthdays of Mary Bonner, Ron Brown and Thelma Lomers in attendance. Thelma then had her own special 90th birthday celebration during the 4th Sunday potluck.. Enjoy these photos shared by Nikki Shaw and Irene Yeager.





CHANGING HOW THE STORY ENDS

People don't like sad endings. In a movie theater, all we can do is walk out when the last sad scene is over. When the book ends, all we can do is turn the last page. When you lose the football game, you shake the winners' hands and drive home.

Today, we see and hear the devastation that was left after these recent massive storms. It's not easy to watch our neighbors suffer: lives lost, property destroyed and worlds turned upside down. The feeling of helplessness can be paralyzing. It's only been a few weeks since Hurricane Harvey landed in Texas. Weeks seem like months, thanks to Irma, Jose and Maria. Throw in two earthquakes in Mexico and a typhoon in the Philippines. Just to mention a few recent events. It's a lot. In my life I cannot remember back-to-back-to-back storms and other natural disasters of this magnitude in the same part of the world.

Presiding Bishop Curry released a video on September 12. Because of work it took me some time to sit and watch it. Finally, I had a few minutes in between meetings, so I put on my headphones and let the video play on my monitor. There he was, offering wisdom and perspective to anyone who would listen. Then Bishop Curry said: "You can't do everything, but you can do something." I froze.

My breath became staggered. Tears welled up in my eyes as I sat alone in my office listening to Bishop Curry's voice, reminding me that all the donors I've

come in contact with are living out these words. They already know that they CAN do something and it's through Episcopal Relief & Development.

It was a beautiful moment of realization, maybe even the cry that I needed to get me through that day. But those few words spoken by The Presiding Bishop connected me, in a deeper way, to those who suffer and we hold so dear. Something clicks inside us all when things get bleak. When I speak with donors over the phone, I can hear it in their voices. I see it in the generous contributions of all amounts and types to Episcopal Relief & Development. I read it in their emails of encouragement, pushing us to continue our good work. They have a genuine concern for neighbors in the next town or thousands of miles away. Even in comments and suggestions on how we can improve, it's there! The outpouring of concern and generosity from all our supporters is humbling, inspiring and overwhelming. Our donors make sure that the something they CAN do will change how the story ends.

Our donors continually amaze me. What is more beautiful than seeing, hearing and reading our supporters' commitment to changing how the story ends?

By Xerxes Eclipse, Director of Donor Services at Episcopal Relief & Development



We are getting into the school and church year. Things have gotten off to a great start. What better way to reward yourself than a scrip card for Starbucks or Amazon, or Walmart or the Tanger Outlets. Get one of these or check the list of over 700 retailers at <https://www.shopwithscrip.com/featured-scrip-retailers>.

This month Cindy Gass will be collecting your scrip orders. Make her feel loved and order a whole heap! She will take orders on the second Sunday, October 8th and you will receive your order on Sunday October 15th.



| | |
|----------------------|-------|
| Ashleigh Sheffield | 10/04 |
| Meagan Partsch | 10/08 |
| Alana Escobio-Pocase | 10/10 |
| Bob Anderson | 10/11 |
| Kay Meador | 10/11 |
| Marjorie Duhon | 10/13 |
| Shirley Hall | 10/14 |
| LaVerne Foster | 10/15 |
| Pam Velaski | 10/24 |
| Chris Velaski | 10/24 |
| Madison Hughes | 10/25 |
| Jeweliana Barbour | 10/27 |
| Audrey Garner | 10/30 |



| | |
|---------------------|-------|
| Ron & Marie Brown | 10/07 |
| Bud & Connie McLean | 10/22 |



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

Marie Brown, Joyce Lee, Mary Gieseler, David Rich, Emily Johnston, Neil McPhail, Marian Boykin, Ron Brown, Jayson Chestang, Budd McLean.

For our Homebound:

Bea Brown, Mae Dunn, Joan-Marie Elam, LaVerne Foster, Mary 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:

Kelley Lynd, Lynette Brown, Kay Barnes, Latecia Cushion Knight, Hayley Espey, Evia Daniel, Charles Geck, Jerry Wigfield, Karen Davis, 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.

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

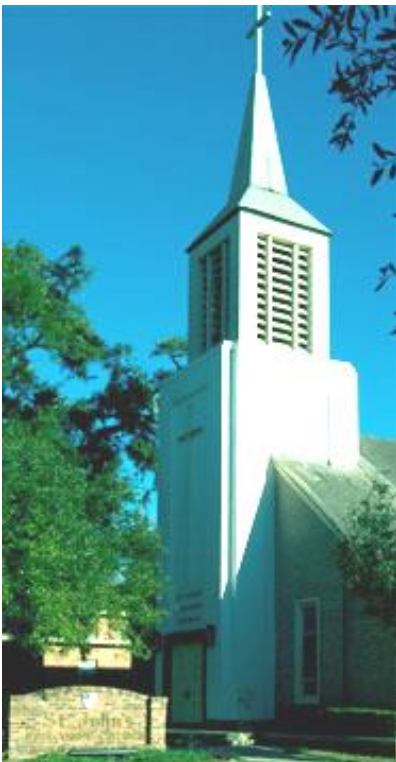
Nikki Shaw, *clerk*

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

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.