



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 11

November 2017

FROM THE RECTOR:

Dear Ones,

We find ourselves, once again, in the waning days of the year, for both the liturgical year and the calendar year. On the first Sunday of December, we will start a new liturgical year with the First Sunday of Advent, this time in Year B of our lectionary cycle.

We follow the same path each year: Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Pentecost; always leading us back to the same place. I hasten to point out that this is not something that we Christians have come up with all by our selves. We've co-opted or inherited the practice of a liturgical calendar from our Jewish sisters and brothers. Our liturgical calendars do the same thing: they establish a rhythm to our lives and keep us always in remembrance of our history. That, I think, is one of the marvels of our liturgical life.

Our annual cycle includes other events as well. In December, we will have a meeting of the parish to elect Vestry members and Convention Delegates. We do this annually in advance of Diocesan Convention to meet its canonical deadlines. It does move us forward so that our first meeting of the vestry in the new year has its new members in place. One of the Vestry's first tasks in the new year is drawing up the budget.

One of the "other" last things we do in a liturgical year (oh, alright, the calendar year, too) is our Pledge Campaign. This is the time where we make our promises for the support of the parish for the coming year. Somehow it always happens in November.

Now, I want you to notice that I didn't call it a "Stewardship Campaign". That is because our stewardship is not "a once-a-year-and-done" kind of thing. Our stewardship is an obligation, a *Mitzvoth* to God for all of creation that has been entrusted to our care and keeping.

Stewardship, then, should be a year-round activity. Each week, we pray that we may be "good stewards" of creation. That, of course, means everything that exists: Critters, Plants, Land, Water, Air, and People. In our Baptismal Covenant, we don't explicitly promise to be good stewards; we kind of edge around it, but I think the intent is there. (Perhaps that's something we should look at if we revise the Prayer Book.)

I'd like you also to notice that we're not pledging to a budget. Yes, that makes the Vestry's job harder and maybe we won't be able to fund all our projects. But, there is a reason for that: Our gifts should be coming from our hearts, from the abundance that God has given us, a free offering to God in thanksgiving for God's grace and promise of eternal life.

In this newsletter mailing, you will find a Pledge Card for your use. For those who want to mail it back to us before our ingathering, we've also included an envelope for that purpose. It would be really something to see everyone on that day.

Through the course of November, we will have brief moments from our sisters and brothers sharing why Saint John's and its ministries are important to them. We might even hear some stories about how folks got here.

Finally, on the 26th of November, Christ the King Sunday, we will gather our pledges and offerings of money, time, and talents and ask for God's blessing on them, on us, and on the work of this parish.

--Thomas

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NOVEMBER LITURGICAL CALENDAR

All Saints' Day – 1 November

Adopted by the Roman Catholic Church in the 9th century, the Feast of All Saints' might have originated in Ireland and spread through the British Isles and to the continent. A commemoration of all who had professed faith in Christ and had given their lives for it and were felt to be in communion with Christians everywhere is found in the writings of Gregory Thaumaturgus from about 270. All Saints' is a Principal Feast of the church, one of only seven that takes precedence over a Sunday. The 1979 Prayer Book recommends All Saints' as one of four days that are particularly appropriate for the administration of the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

All Faithful Departed – 2 November

The day following All Saints' is known as All Faithful Departed or All Souls'. This day recalls the body of all faithful Christians who have risen to new life in Christ. It is a day for remembering family and friends and members of a parish who have died in the preceding year. All Souls' lost favor in the Reformation due to the abuses connected with the practice of saying Masses for the dead. A renewed understanding of All Faithful Departed led to its acceptance amongst Anglicans.

Clive Staples Lewis – 22 November

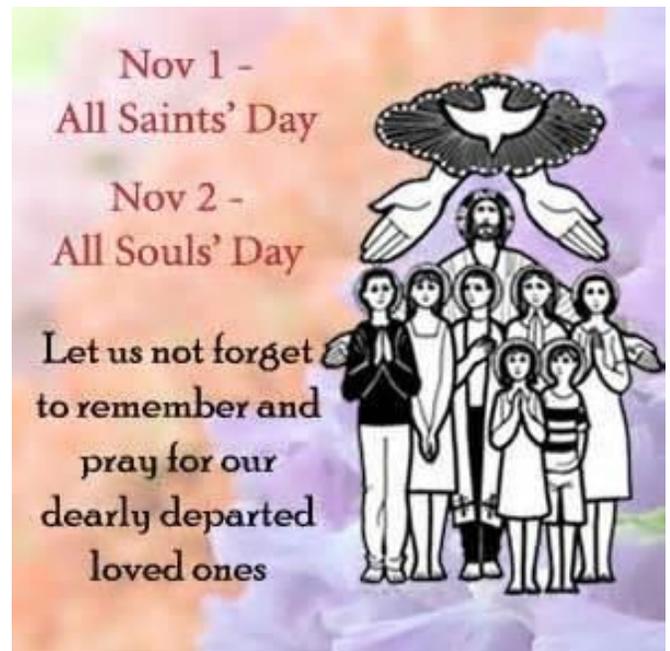
Perhaps better known as C.S. Lewis and as author of the *Chronicles of Narnia*, he was not always a believer. Born in Belfast in 1898, Lewis was raised in Anglicanism. In his adolescent years, he became an atheist. Following his service in World War I, Lewis began a distinguished career in academia at Oxford and Cambridge universities. His field was Medieval and Renaissance literature. At 31, he began a conversion to Christianity which led to his incredible output as an apologist for the faith. He wrote on popular theology, children's literature, fantasy and science fiction, and had numerous correspondences on spiritual concerns. At 57, he wrote *Surprised by Joy*, which is his account of his conversion. At 58, he married Joy Davidman. She died four years later. Lewis died in 1963 at his home in Oxford.

Thanksgiving Day

Falling on 23 November this year, Thanksgiving shares the commonality of agricultural festivals with many religions. None of these feasts were included in our Prayer Book until the Continental Congress established the Day of National Thanksgiving. Its roots are found in the observances of the Massachusetts and Virginia colonies.

Saint Andrew – 30 November

The Feast of Saint Andrew is the first feast in the liturgical year, most often falling after the First Sunday of Advent. Andrew is most commonly remembered as the brother of Simon Peter, but overlooks his special gifts to Jesus' companions. Andrew was first a disciple of John the Baptist, one of two who left to follow Christ after John pointed out Jesus with the words, "Behold the Lamb of God." Andrew, the first missionary, sought out his brother and brought him to Jesus. He was the disciple who brought the boy with the fishes and loaves to Jesus for the feeding of the multitude. Eusebius' writings tell us that Andrew went to Scythia. Legend holds that he was martyred by pagans and crucified on an X-shaped cross. This is seen in the flag of Scotland, honoring its patron saint.



OUTREACH

FOOD DRIVE: THANKSGIVING FOOD BOXES FOR FAMILIES IN NEED

This fall's food drive will have a specific goal: we are going to **fill twelve boxes with non-perishable food** and have them delivered to twelve families who are in need.

The Outreach Committee will be providing a ham to go in each box. The families have been chosen by Mobile Community Action, a social services agency that serves low income clients. All of the families have young children; many are grandparents raising their grandchildren.

The MCA social workers will be picking up and delivering the boxes to the families on Thursday, November 16th. We want to have **the boxes filled by Sunday, November 12th**. You can start bringing your contributions to the church any time during the next two weeks.

Our goal is to provide a box of food that will help them out for the week their children will be home for Thanksgiving holiday. Take this shopping list to remind you what we want to provide in each box.

Thank You
Outreach Committee

Saint John's Fall Food Drive

(bring to the church by Sunday, November 12th)



pudding cups	dry cereal
fruit or applesauce	canned peaches
cups	dried beans
grits	rice
cereal	boxed macaroni
peanut butter	and cheese
jelly	granola bars
canned tuna	snack cakes

PARISH LIFE

NOVEMBER 26TH 4TH SUNDAY POTLUCK

November's 4th Sunday Potluck will be held on Sunday, November 26, 2017. That's Thanksgiving weekend and many of us will have had turkey dinner, turkey leftovers, turkey sandwiches, turkey, turkey, turkey..... and be a bit "turkeyed out".

Our theme for November's 4th Sunday will be "Anything but Turkey." So bring a dish and join us for fun, fellowship, and lots of good food!



HOW TO PREPARE FOR CHRISTMAS (EARLY!)



An easy, practical and helpful (to St. John's) way to prepare for Christmas is with St John's Scrip. This is an easy way to stay away from the mall as it begins to get crowded. There are so many stores that you can choose that perfect gift. The denominations are such that they are great stocking stuffers. Finally take the hassle out of trying to find gifts for those "hard to buy for" people.

You can review over 700 retailers consisting of **discount stores, grocery stores, gas stations, restaurants, department stores and online line and catalog options**. Go to: <https://shop.shopwithscrip.com/Shop/Product/Browse#?saved>

As of November 1st there are only 54 shopping days left.





Vestry

The regular meeting of the Wardens and Vestry of Saint John's Church was delayed until the 15th of October due to Hurricane Irma. The meeting was called to order at 11:32AM by Fr. Heard.

Minutes for the 13 August and 17 September meetings were approved as distributed.

Department Reports:

- The financial reports were reviewed, noting lower than expected pledge income. There was some discussion as to the reasons for this anomaly. The Scrip program continues to add to our income.
- Outreach will be doing Thanksgiving boxes again this year, with completion by Sunday the 12th of November.
- The November 4th Sunday Potluck will have the "Anything but Turkey" theme again this year.

As a result of the Hurricane, a small roof leak in the church has been found. There was discussion about using a 3rd party to handle our grounds maintenance. We have a bid for this work that is less than what we spend for Jack to do it. It was suggested that this be considered in the budget preparation for 2018.

Rector's Report

- Fr. Heard reported that the bishop will next visit Saint John's on Thursday, 10 May. This is the Feast of the Ascension; we will have to think about the time for the service.
- A set of tasks for the sexton has been identified and organized into daily checklists. So far, it is working pretty well.
- Fr. Heard is concerned about being able to notify everyone in the parish of events like the cancellation of

services on 8 October. Not everyone has email or cell phones that receive text messages. Phone trees tend to break down due to incorrect numbers and inability to make contact. He is talking with the diocese about the system it is using.

- The Vulcan range has been acquired from the former Italian Fisherman/Chuck's Place and has been cleaned. Installation is still up in the air.
- It appears that the McKemie Place project is now a dead end.

Old Business

- We have been requested to commit to the School for Mission in the diocese if we are going to participate. The Vestry voted to participate and will determine the "students" at a later date.
- Connie McLean and Cindy Gass will assist Fr. Heard with the activities to close out Thee Store.
- The "We Miss You" card mailing will begin this month for those who have not been seen in church for three weeks. Connie McLean is spearheading this effort.
- We still need to organize recurrent training for our Nursery volunteers.

New Business

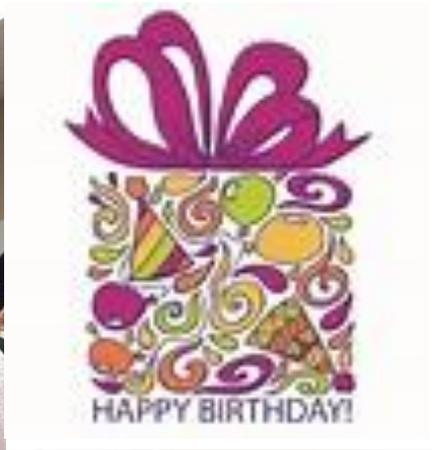
Stewardship campaign will be conducted throughout November. Pledge ingathering will be on 26 November, Christ the King Sunday. During announcement time, there will be brief presentations.

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



Please remember to turn your clocks BACK one hour at 2 a.m. on Sunday, November 5, marking the end of Daylight Savings Time.

Also, the International Association of Fire Chiefs asks people to test their existing batteries or install fresh batteries in their smoke detectors when they change their clocks each year. So, please remember to "Change Your Clock—Change Your Battery" this weekend.



ST. JOHN'S CELEBRATES NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS!

Above: Audrey Garner, Fr. Thomas, Thelma Lomers



Above: Charlynn Will, Bob Anderson

Left: Irene Yeager, LaVerne Foster, Butch Yeager



The October meeting of the ECW focused on projects and giving.

ECW members discussed our church sisters and brothers who are shut-ins and those 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 refurbishing the two chairs located in the chancel that are in need of reupholstering. An upholsterer has been identified; now it is just a matter of choosing fabric that will match the other fabrics in the chancel.

Murray House needs were discussed: They are in need of a large flat screen TV and in need of new Bingo

Cards. It was noted that if money contributions are made and are expected to go for a specific project or meet a specific need; the contribution needs to specify the project, otherwise the money goes into the general operating fund. ECW members will continue to collect small prizes for the Bingo activity time at Murray House.

The next ECW meeting will be Sunday November 19th at 11:30 – please join us.





DAY OF THE GIRL EMPOWERED GIRLS STRENGTHEN COMMUNITIES

For years, I have had the pleasure of working with different groups of teenage girls in my hometown of Brooklyn, NY. Each girl has had similar experiences growing up in a big city like New York and they come from different social, economic and cultural backgrounds. Some of my girls were members of my congregation, who confided to me the struggle with balancing the standards of their religious upbringing and still trying to “fit in” with their friends at school. Some of my girls were part of a girls mentoring program that I volunteered with for the last three years. They struggled with living in New York’s roughest and most impoverished neighborhoods and everything that goes along with it.

It is easy to believe that a girl in Brooklyn, NY may have nothing in common with a girl in Accra, Ghana or a girl in New Delhi, India. However, the truth is, girls all around the world share similar types of growing pains. Some of these similarities are physical changes that every teenage girl goes through and the insecurities that go along with it. Some are cultural and societal ideals that have shaped their views of themselves and how society views them. In many cases, these girls lack the outlets and opportunities of empowerment in their communities.

Episcopal Relief & Development partners with communities to reverse the damage caused by gender inequality and gender-based violence. We work to restore the health, dignity and livelihoods of women and girls by keeping gender at the heart of development. In the Microfinance savings group programs in places like Honduras, Liberia and Mexico, women earn an income and are able to put money aside for their children's school fees. For many young girls, this is the first opportunity they've had

to go to school. In the Gender-Based Violence program, faith and community leaders are leading the charge to change the narrative around how women and girls are valued and perceived. In the Integrated Early Childhood Development program in Kenya, women who are HIV-positive are able to get the treatment they need and their children are able to attend school at development centers simultaneously. 30 schools within the Integrated Early Childhood Development program in Liberia have youth-led gender-based violence campaigns and committees.

By opening up conversations about how women and girls are perceived and providing opportunities for growth, we are giving girls the tools to succeed and the chance to build skills for a brighter future. I've witnessed how this can lead to the personal growth, sense of self and a more hopeful outlook on life.

The truth is if we support the growth and dignity of girls, we allow them to bloom into their own power which in turn strengthens their family and community. Her view of the world and herself are transformed.

By Jessica A. Forrester, *Engagement Associate at Episcopal Relief & Development*



Happy Birthday

Rosalie Pritchard	11/04	Denise Dunham	11/18
Louis Daniel	11/09	Jennifer Tarantole	11/19
Art Youngblood	11/09	Caitlin Bryan	11/22
Cindy Gass	11/11	Nikki Shaw	11/22
Mayson Pritchard	11/12	Kim Partsch	11/30



Emily & Eugene Johnston	11/05
Marjorie & Roy Duhon	11/22
Pat & Jerry Fulford	11/23



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

Bea Brown, Audrey Garner, Joyce Lee, David Rich, Neil McPhail, Marian Boykin, Ron Brown, Jayson Chestang, Budd McLean.

For our Homebound:

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:

Eddie Chubb, Jeanette Sprinkle, 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.



Dec 2, 2017
10am-3pm

Coastal Response Center
7385 HWY 188, Coden, AL

Coats for Kids is a community wide event to help those in need. Families sign up for coats, to assure sizes needed. The day of the Event we invite families to come for refreshments, crafts, and to make cards for Military and USA children's Hospital.

ANY QUESTIONS CALL

Lori Bosarge Jermaine Payne
(251)206-9990 (251)366-1442



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

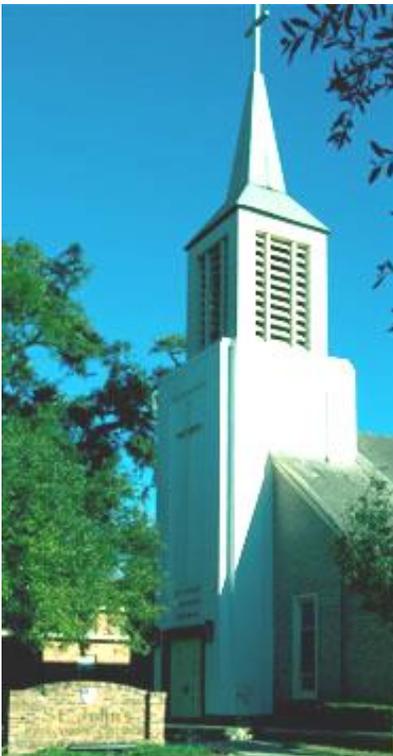
Nikki Shaw, *clerk*

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.