



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. XXVIII, Issue 2

February 2018

FROM THE RECTOR:

Dear Ones,

I've excerpted something from the September 2014 newsletter:

On Sunday, 14 September, we will begin a three-week program on Planning for the Future. We will take a week each on:

- Legal planning: Power of Attorney, Advance Directives, Wills, Inheritance, and Probate
- Financial planning: Trusts, Endowments, Gifts
- Service planning: Getting the details of "final arrangements" down on paper

We'll have experts in these fields to talk about what's possible, what is required, and why this is necessary.

Our Adult Forum was well attended. Duane Graham, Connie McLean, Leslie Johnson and I were the presenters. You all seemed to be interested, asked great questions, and were really engaged. But, apparently, there's been a bit of a disconnect. Over the past few years, I've noticed what didn't happen in several cases.

There were two handouts to take home and complete. The first was the Advance Directive form, approved for use in the State of Alabama. This document leads you through decision making scenarios for you to say how you would like to be treated for a variety of medical situations. It also provides for naming a healthcare proxy to act on your behalf if you aren't able to speak for yourself. It, of course, only makes sense that your proxy would have a copy of your Advance Directive to know what your wishes would be. Let me point out that many people don't think an Advance Directive and Healthcare Proxy are important if they are married. While a spouse doesn't need the officialness of the Healthcare Proxy, the content of the Advance Directive can be really helpful.

OK, I've gotten that part out of my system. Please think seriously about it.

Now to the other item, your Planning Form for the Burial Office. I put this together to be a guide for each of us to use to think about/plan for our ultimate disposition. I have several of these on file in the office. I will say that it is not even close to a majority of the parish.

The Prayer Book says, "Baptized Christians are properly buried from the church." (p. 468, p. 490) Over the past few years there have been some really strange occurrences.

Richard and Doris Cunningham were long time members of Saint John's. They had a sojourn to Holy Spirit-Gulf Shores when they moved there. Upon their return to Mobile, before the moving van had even arrived, Richard was at the church to ask me to request their letters from Holy Spirit. It was clearly important to them. Fast forward a few years. Richard dies. His children bury him from the funeral home. They never contact the church. A couple of years later, Doris died. Her children did exactly the same. I know that Richard didn't have a planning form; we hadn't created it yet. I wonder if it had been among his "important papers", his children would have honored his wishes? We will never know.

So, I make the appeal to you: Think about what you want your final arrangements to be. Write down your wishes. Communicate your wishes to your family so that they know what you want. If it's burial from the church, let them know to contact the church so that we can help with the specific planning.

I know this has been a bit of a rant, but your wishes are important. Make sure they are known.

--Thomas

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FEBRUARY LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Season of Lent and is a fast day. It gets its name from the practice of the imposition of ashes, made from the palm branches from the previous year. We hold the ashes to be sacramental (not a Sacrament), which serve as reminders of our repentance or turning from old ways to the Lord. In ancient times, dusting with ashes was one way for a penitent to express sorrow and regret for sins and faults. We will hold the Ash Wednesday liturgy twice on 14 February. The first will be a Said service at 10:00AM and the second a Sung service at 6:00PM. Throughout the day, the church will be open for prayer.

The Presentation of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple

We will celebrate the feast of the Presentation on Friday, 2 February 2011 at a Said Mass at 12:10PM. "Presentation" is a new name for what's previously been known as "The Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary" and "Candlemas." In the Easter tradition, this feast is called "the meeting of Christ with Simeon." In Jewish tradition, first born sons were to be dedicated to God in remembrance of the sparing of the first born of Israel and the exodus from Egypt. In Christian tradition, this marks the recognition by Simeon and Anna that the Messiah, long promised by God, has appeared.

Saint Matthias

After Judas' death, the disciples met and decided that they must replace him. They met, prayed and finally chose Matthias as the new twelfth disciple. We know nothing more of Matthias, where his mission field was, what he was like, or where he came from. We commemorate his life on Saturday, 24 February at a Said Mass at 5:30PM.

Anna Julia Haywood Cooper

Born to an enslaved woman and probably her mother's master in 1859, Anna Julia Haywood Cooper was an academically gifted child. She received scholarships to Saint Augustine Normal School and Collegiate Institute and became an Episcopalian. She married George Cooper who had been one of her instructors. She later received degrees in mathematics from Oberlin College and became principal of the only African American high school in Washington, D.C. She wrote and spoke on race and gender issues. At 65, she completed a Ph.D. at the Sorbonne and later served as president of Frelinghuysen University. She died at 104, her devotion to scholarship, education, and advocacy remaining as hallmarks of her life.

NEW VESTRY MEMBERS AND CONVENTION DELEGATES



Left to right: Mary Sheffield (cd), James Christiansen (cd), Ron Waites (v), Jan Joseph (v), Connie McLean (cd), Janet Buckley (v), and Eugene Johnston. (Photo by Irene Yeager)

A NEW BEGINNING

Beginning on Monday, 29 January, we will begin hosting some of the McKemie Place ladies in the Great Hall. At this writing, not all of the details have been worked out. The plan is for 20-25 ladies to use the Great Hall as a gathering place. They will have programs and projects to occupy them from their arrival at 8:00 AM until they return to McKemie Place at 4:00 PM. Staff will be able to provide counselling and direction.

Whether we view this as “loving our neighbor as ourselves” or simply providing hospitality to some living at the margins of our society, it is a good thing for us to do. Saint John’s has a great facility that goes largely unused; making it available to the ladies gives them a safe place to be and opportunities for self-betterment. For us, this is a way that we can try to make a difference in the lives of folks in Mobile.



A new prayer group is being formed at St. John’s. To become a member you must first make a commitment to pray for your partner daily. Next, complete the brief request card. You can get one from Bootsie Cieutat or from the office. We will draw for our Prayer Partners on February 11, which is the Sunday before Lent.

You must keep your partner secret and pray for them daily. We will reveal our identities before Lent 2019. During the year it would be nice to send cards. This lets your partner know they are being remembered. Sign with “Your Secret Prayer Partner,” rather than your own name.

If you have any questions, please see Bootsie. We would love to have you join us.

LENTEN SERIES

For Lent this year, we’ll continue our tradition of Stations of the Cross at 5:30 PM, followed by a vegetarian supper in the Great Hall at 6:00 PM, with program following. This year, we will be looking closely at creeds of the church. These will include the Nicene Creed, which we say every Sunday, the Apostles Creed, which we use as our Baptismal Covenant and say at burials, and the so-called Creed of Saint Athanasius (see p. 864 in your BCP). The suppers will begin on February 21st and run through March 21st. There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the parish house to get our meal planning organized. Supper cost will be \$5.00 per week, or all 5 for \$20.00.



2018 PLEDGE SUMMARY

As this newsletter goes to print, we have received financial commitments from 37 pledge units for 2018 totaling \$129,668. In 2017, we received 38 pledges totaling \$132,476.

If you plan to pledge to the 2018 operating budget, please turn in a pledge card as soon as possible. Extra cards are available in the church office.

FEBRUARY 2018 AT SAINT JOHN'S

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
MP = Morning Prayer				1 Brigid 830A MP 7P Choir	2 Presentation of Our Lord 830A MP 12P Noontday 1210P Mass	3 Anskar 9A Vestry Retreat	
4 Epiphany 5 9A Formation 10A Mass 1130A Outreach	5 Martyrs of Japan 830A MP	6 830A MP	7 830A MP 10A Mass+Uction	8 830A MP 7P Choir	9 830A MP	10	
11 Epiphany Last 9A Formation 10A Mass	12 830A MP	13 Absalom Jones 830A MP	14 Ash Wednesday 830A MP 10A Mass 6P Mass 7P Choir	15 Thomas Bray 830A MP	16 830A MP	17 Janani Luvum	
18 Lent 1 9A Formation 10A Mass 1130A ECW	19 830A MP	20 830A MP	21 830A MP 10A Mass 530P Stations 6P Lenten Series 7P Choir	22 830A MP	23 Polycarp 830A MP	24 Saint Matthias 830A MP 12P Noontday 1210P Mass	
25 Lent 2 9A Formation 10A Mass 1130A 4 th Sunday Potluck	26 830A MP	27 George Herbert 830A MP	28 Anna Julia Haywood Cooper 830A MP 10A Mass 530P Stations 6P Lenten Series 7P Choir	Omitted: 2/4 Cornelius the Centurion 2/14 Cyril & Methodius, Monk & Bishop, missionaries to the Slavs, 869, 885 2/18 Martin Luther, Reformer, 1546			

LECTIONARY AND ROTA FOR FEBRUARY 2018

Date Service	4 February HE-II, EP-B	11 February HE-II, EP-B	18 February HE-II, EP-B	25 February HE-II, EP-B
Lectionary Day	Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany B Epiphany 5 RCL	Last Sunday after the Epiphany B Epiphany Last RCL	First Sunday in Lent B Lent 1 RCL	Second Sunday in Lent B Lent 2 RCL
Color	Green	Green	Violet	Violet
Lessons	Isaiah 40:21-31 Psalm 147:1-12, 21c 1 Corinthians 9:16-23 Mark 1:29-39	2 Kings 2:1-12 Psalm 50:1-6 2 Corinthians 4:3-6 Mark 9:2-9	Genesis 9:8-17 Psalm 25:1-9 1 Peter 3:18-22 Mark 1:9-15	Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 Psalm 22:22-30 Romans 4:13-25 Mark 8:31-38
Greeters	Thelma Lomers	Irene & Burch Yeager	Connie & Bob Anderson	Meissa Brown
Lectors	Eugene Johnston Ron Waites	Cheryl Winters-Heard Jan Joseph	Gerri Moulton Paula Ross	Mary Sheffield Connie Anderson
Intercessor	Kathe Gieseler	Budd McLean	Nikki Shaw	Ron Brown
Eucharistic Ministers	Burch Yeager Mary Sheffield	Paula Ross Gerri Moulton	Connie McLean Ron Brown	Connie Anderson Eugene Johnston
Altar Guild	Irene Yeager Bootsie Geurtat	Irene Yeager Bootsie Geurtat	Connie Anderson Lal Neisha Anderson	Connie Anderson Lal Neisha Anderson
Vestry Teller	Kathe Gieseler Connie McLean	Connie McLean Janet Buckley	Janet Buckley Jan Joseph	Jan Joseph Ron Waites



The regular meeting of the Wardens and Vestry of Saint John's Church was called to order at 11:35 on Sunday, 14 January 2018. All members were in attendance.

The Vestry confirmed the Rector's appointment of Cindy Gass as Senior Warden. The Vestry elected Darren Anderson to serve as Junior Warden, Janet Buckley to serve as Clerk, and Connie McLean to serve as Treasurer.

Connie McLean reviewed the financial statements for 2017.

Janet Buckley reported for the Outreach committee. They plan to continue the Azalea Gardens Nursing Home project in 2018. For the Lenten Supper series this year, the Vestry decided for the proceeds to go Ozanam Charitable Pharmacy.

Fr. Heard reported that the possibility of hosting the McKemie Place ladies during the week is back on again. He will be meeting with them on Thursday. Also, the Mobile area clergy are gathering with the bishop to talk

about how the Episcopal Church in Mobile is serving the community and to begin to explore how we might do a

better job. Pledges are still coming in and our projections appear to be on target. While there were no pledges that decreased this year, the number that have remained the same continues to grow, even though our expenses do not remain the same.

The Vestry voted that the rent for 1702 Church Street be raised to \$500 per month, effective with the new lease.

Recurrent training for Nursery Attendants and new Vestry members needs to be started. Fr. Heard will communicate with the appropriate individuals.

The Vestry will meet in retreat on Saturday, 3 February at 9:00 AM at the church.

The Vestry, making one small change to the proposed budget, approved the budget for 2018.

The meeting adjourned at 11:40AM with prayer by Fr. Heard.



EPISCOPAL RELIEF & DEVELOPMENT'S 2018 LENTEN MEDITATIONS OFFER A SPECIAL FOCUS ON CHILDREN

Episcopal Relief & Development invites supporters to "Learn from Our Children" with this year's Lenten Meditations, featuring reflections written by staff, partners and friends from around the Episcopal Church and Anglican Communion.

"At Episcopal Relief & Development, we are blessed by partners who nurture some of the world's most vulnerable children," said Sean McConnell, Senior Director of Engagement for the organization. "They are people of deep faith and spirit. In this edition of Lenten Meditations, we look to the source of that faith, encountering Christ in the children they serve."

The 2018 Lenten Meditations series focuses on the gifts of children in poignant and joyous recollections and reflections of educators, caregivers, parents and grandparents.

In the Episcopal Church, Lent has been designated as a time to remember Episcopal Relief & Development's response to global issues. Many congregations will observe Episcopal Relief & Development Sunday on February 18, which is the first Sunday of Lent, or on another convenient time during the season. For additional information and planning guides, go to episcopalrelief.org/Sunday.

"We do not take the Lenten journey of following Jesus alone, we are joined by our sisters and brothers throughout the world," said the Most Rev. Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop and Primate of the Episcopal Church. "And the work of Episcopal Relief & Development connects us to so many who join the Church in this work. Episcopal Relief & Development gives us the opportunity to help realize God's dream for the world; a world free from poverty and injustice and filled with compassion and reconciliation."

Happy Birthday

January Birthdays

Geri Moulton	02/01
Bob Sheffield	02/05
Mary Sheffield	02/08
LaNeisha Anderson	02/10
Alison Chestang	02/12
Lee Dorsey	02/15
Thomas Heard	02/15
Debbie Ollhoft	02/15
Lisa Chestang	02/17
David Thompson	02/23



Celebrating January birthdays at St. John's with Janet Buckley, Bob Ross, Irene Yeager, Mary Jones, and Mary Frances Chestang. (Photo by David Jones)



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

Kathe Gieseler, Connie Anderson, Joyce Lee, Neil McPhail, Marian Boykin, Ron Brown, Jayson Chestang, Budd McLean.

For our Homebound:

Bea Brown, Joan-Marie Elam, LaVerne Foster, Mary Catherine Warren, Chick Wohlert.

For victims of war and their families, and members of our Armed Forces and their families:

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

For our Friends and Family:

Betty and Ed White, Lydia Hayward, Starley Anderson, Augusta Wombaugh, Daidone Family, Betty Williams, Lee Bert Benbow, David Fowler, Jimmy Douglas, Eddie Chubb, Jeanette Sprinkle, Kelley Lynd, Kay Barnes, Latecia Cushion Knight, Hayley Espey, Evia Daniel, Charles Geck, Jerry Wigfield, Karen Davis, 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

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Janet Buckley

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Cindy Gass, *senior warden*

Kathe Gieseler

Jan Joseph

Connie McLean, *treasurer*

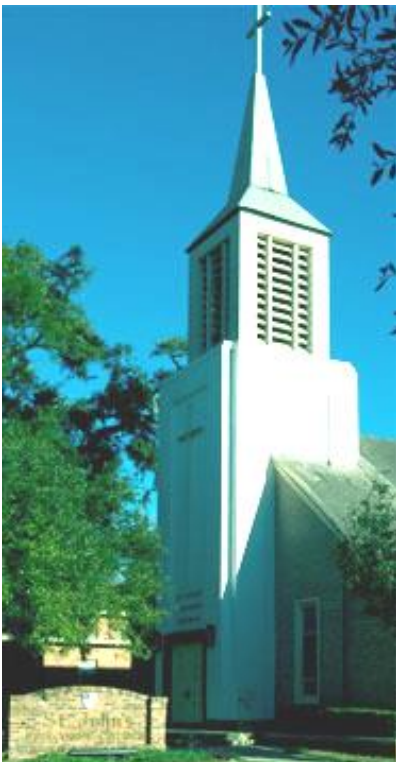
Nikki Shaw, *clerk*

Ron Waites

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.

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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.