



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 4

April 2018

FROM THE RECTOR:

Dear Ones,

I write this early in Holy Week. There are still five major services to go and I'm almost ready for them. At the same time, I'm not quite sure I'm ready to give up Lent.

The whole point of the season of Lent, I think, is to help us to be "ready" for Easter. By "ready" I think I mean that we'll be filled with two-fold anticipation: The Glory of Easter and The End of Lent.

I think most of you know that I'm not into punishing myself in Lent. Instead of giving up some item or practice, I tend to add something on. This year, I had a great idea: Evangelize! No, not precisely in the way that you're probably thinking. My quest is to spread the idea of "adding on in Lent". I've had a little success, certainly not as much as I had hoped.

To me, you see, the idea of giving up something for Lent seems kind of short-sighted. For example, I know someone who gives up Brussels sprouts for Lent every year. In his case, it isn't much of a trial, because he studiously avoids Brussels sprouts at any cost for the rest of the year! (He would probably be healthier if he did eat his Brussels sprouts.) If what one is giving up is supposed to make them a better person, then shouldn't it be something that is given up permanently? Say for example, if someone is a smoker, quitting for the 40 days of Lent probably means it could be permanent, not to mention being healthier!

So back to the evangelizing. I've shared my "add on" idea with lots of folks. One pretty devout Roman Catholic seemed to really like the idea and agreed that giving up sugar for Lent was kind of silly as she had no intention of giving up permanently. She asked if I had any ideas for her to consider.

No, I didn't suggest that she 'swim the Thames', though I did want to. I did suggest that she look into The Good Book Club. I made it clear that it isn't an agent for proselytizing, but rather, a way to engage more deeply with the scriptures that define who we are as Christians. Something that should be good for us all.

If I'd been going to 'give something up' for Lent, it might have been the media: social, broadcast, electronic, and print. I bounce between anger and resignation as I read the stuff that's there, so much of it intended create or widen rifts between people. It is so antithetical to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

We are called to be imitators of Jesus. The New Testament epistles have many suggestions for exactly that. Even Jesus' own words, "that you should love one another as I loved you, and that you should love one another" express that same concept of imitation.

We are called to imitate God's love for all creation. Jesus models this for us so beautifully, so completely, so faithfully that it shouldn't be hard for us to imitate it. Somehow, however, we find it difficult. Sometimes, we even find it impossible.

God's love for us is so strong that God gave us Jesus, to live, love, heal, eat, laugh, cry with us. Jesus lived to show us what perfect love looks like, a love that has no limits to its devotion to another. A love that will give up even life itself for the other.

God made all things new as Jesus was resurrected, showing that not even death can stop the power of love.

--Thomas

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE APRIL LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Easter Day

April 1 is the Sunday of the Resurrection or Easter Day. While it is “just a normal Sunday”, it carries with it a special significance: it is the celebration of Jesus’ resurrection. We will, as always, have mass at 10:00AM. It will be a joyous day!



The Annunciation

The Feast of the Annunciation of Our Lord Jesus Christ to the Blessed Virgin Mary occurred on Palm Sunday this year. Because it is a major feast, it is transferred to the first open day in the calendar. Because there are no open days in Holy Week or Easter Week, Annunciation is transferred to the 9th of April. This celebration commemorates the visit of the angel Gabriel to Our Lady and her assent to God’s request to be *Theotokos*, or God-bearer. Her answer, like that of Abraham, was “Let it be to me according to your word.”



George Augustus Selwyn

Bishop Selwyn was the first Bishop of New Zealand, consecrated in 1841. He mastered the Maori language and was able to minister to the native people in their own language. Selwyn was called on to minister to both sides of a ten year conflict between the English and Maori. He was beloved by both sides. The first general synod laid down a constitution greatly influenced by the Episcopal Church. Selwyn was persuaded to accept the See of Lichfield, England during the first Lambeth Conference in 1867. Selwyn died on 11 April 1878 and is buried in the cathedral close in Auckland.

Saint Mark the Evangelist

We will commemorate the life and work of Saint Mark the Evangelist on Wednesday, 25 April at 10:00AM. Mark, as the author of the Gospel bearing his name, is not precisely identified. Various traditions have him filling roles ranging from being one of Jesus’ disciples to being the cousin of Barnabas in Paul’s letters. The Church of Alexandria claims that Mark was its first bishop and a martyr, killed while on a missionary journey. It is Mark’s Gospel that gives us the shortest account of Jesus’ ministry, but we must be careful not to equate short with simple. Mark’s Gospel leaves us with many questions, but gives us many clues to the answers.

UPGRADING THE GARDEN SPRINKLER SYSTEM AND LANDSCAPING: AN APPEAL

At the March Vestry meeting, Junior Warden Darren Anderson presented a proposal for replacing the current garden sprinkler system and landscaping the garden. The current sprinkler system does not work, and the garden needs some professional landscaping. Although St. John’s courtyard garden is small, it is very much part of our worship, celebrations, and quiet moments.

The cost to install and maintain the new system was not included in the 2018 operating budget. The Vestry is appealing to the congregation (and friends) to contribute to the garden fund so that this work can get done.

Consider it an Easter gift to St. John’s. When you contribute, please make sure you write on your check “Garden Fund.” Thank you.





Vestry

The regular meeting of the Wardens and Vestry of Saint John's Church was held on 11 March 2018.

The minutes of the 11 February meeting were approved as submitted.

Connie McLean walked the vestry through the financial reports. It was noted that our plate and pledge income was down in February.

Darren Anderson reported that \$52 was received from the sale of the old stove to the scrap yard. He also reported on the evaluation of the sprinkler system in the garden. The contractor says that it has multiple problems and it will cost as much to repair it as it will to replace it. The estimate for replacement is \$1200. The contractor also noted that the distribution of plantings is not good; incompatible soil requirement plants are adjacent to each other. A rework of the garden with replacement of the azaleas with Encore azaleas and relocating similar soil type plants to the same area would cost \$1200. It was voted that an appeal be made to the congregation to cover the \$2400 unbudgeted expenditure.

Fr. Heard reported that MEJAC used the Parlor for meetings on 2/22 and 3/8. There was a sewer blockage on 2/28 that required plumbers. As there was no clean-out in the system for the parish house, the sewer line had to be electronically located, excavated, and a clean-out installed in order to clear the blockage. Insurance covered most, leaving the parish with about \$1400. Fr. Heard will convey that to McKemie Place management. The 2017 Parochial Report is complete and was reviewed. The vestry voted unanimously to approve the report.

Janet Buckley reported on the results of the 'yard sale' of Thee Store items at Diocesan Convention.

Connie McLean reported on the "We Miss You" postcard program.

PARISH LIFE

THIS AND THAT

Remember to send an anonymous card or note to your Prayer Partner. Let them know they are being remembered.



April birthdays will be celebrated on the second Sunday this month. If you have an April birthday come and celebrate with us.

We have a special birthday on April 15th. We will honor Joyce Lee on her 90th birthday. Come and wish her Happy Birthday.

Sunday the 8th is the day to order scrip. The cards will be back on the 15th. Scrip cards are an easy way to shop and a great way to support St. John's. Bootsie Cieutat will have order forms.



Bingo prizes are needed for Murray House. Pick up one or two when you shop. They love costume jewelry and scarves; you may have a few extras to share. Please give the prizes to Irene Yeager.

March Birthdays



St. John's celebrates the March birthdays of Butch Yeager, Marian Boykin, Julie Garner, Budd McLean, Kristen Turner.

APRIL 2018 AT SAINT JOHN'S

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Easter 1 10A Mass	2 Monday in Easter Week 830AMP	3 Tuesday in Easter Week 830AMP	4 Wednesday in Easter Week 830AMP 10A HE+Unction	5 Thursday in Easter Week 830AMP	6 Friday in Easter Week 830AMP	7 Saturday in Easter Week
8 Easter 2 9A Formation 10A Mass 1130A Vestry	9 The Annunciation 830AMP	10 William Law 830AMP	11 George Augustus Selwyn 830AMP 10A HE	12 830AMP	13 830AMP	14 830AMP
15 Easter 3 9A Formation 10A Mass 1130A ECW	16 830AMP	17 830AMP	18 830AMP 10A HE	19 Alphege 830AMP	20 830AMP	21 Arselm
22 Easter 4 9A Formation 10A Mass 1130 A 4th Sunday Podluck	23 830AMP	24 830AMP	25 Saint Mark 830AMP 10A HE	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	27 830AMP	28
29 Easter 5 9A Formation 10A Mass	30 830AMP	Omitted: 04/01, Frederick Denison Maurice, Priest, 1872 04/02, James Lloyd Breck, Priest, 1876 04/03, Richard, Bishop of Chichester, 1253 04/04, Martin Luther King, Jr., Civil Rights Leader, 1968	Omitted (cont'd) 04/07, Ikhon, Patriarch of Russia, Confessor, Ecumenist, 1925 04/08, William Augustus Muhlenberg Priest, 1877 04/09, Detrich Bonhoeffer, 1945 04/29, Catherine of Siena, 1380			

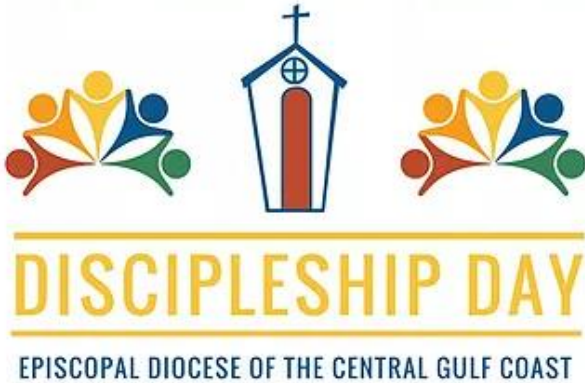
LECTIONARY AND ROTA FOR APRIL 2018

Date Lectionary Day Color	Greeter	Lectors	Intercessor	Lay Eucharistic Ministers	Altar Guild	Vestry Teller
1 April B Easter 1 White	Connie & Bob Anderson	Kathe Gieseler Cheryl Winters-Heard	Jan Joseph	Eugene Johnston Connie Anderson	Irene Yeager Bootsie Geurtat	Darren Anderson Connie McLean
8 April B Easter 2 White	Melissa Brown	Budd McLean Geri Moulton	Paula Ross	Paula Ross Geri Moulton	Irene Yeager Bootsie Geurtat	Kathe Gieseler Janet Buckley
15 April B Easter 3 White	Connie & Budd McLean	Geri Moulton Paula Ross	Nikki Shaw	Connie McLean Burch Yeager	Connie Anderson LalNaiSha Anderson	Connie McLean Jan Joseph
22 April B Easter 4 White	Paula & Bob Ross	Mary Sheffield Connie Anderson	Ron Brown	Connie Anderson Eugene Johnston	Connie Anderson LalNaiSha Anderson	Janet Buckley Ron Waites
29 April B Easter 5 White	Thelma Lomers	Janet Buckley Ron Waites	Kathe Gieseler	Mary Sheffield Paula Ross	Marie Brown Lee Dorsey	Jan Joseph James Christiansen

Elsewhere in the Diocese

DISCIPLESHIP DAY

PREPARING DISCIPLES
FOR BEING THE CHURCH



Saturday, April 14 | 9:15 am to 3:30 pm
Pre-registration by April 10 is required.
Cost is free, \$5 per person suggested donation for lunch.

St. Simon's on-the-Sound
28 Miracle Strip Pkwy SW
Fort Walton Beach, FL

9:15 am | Registration Check-in
9:45 am | Opening remarks
10:15 am | AM Workshops
12:15 pm | Lunch
1:00 pm | PM Workshops
3:00 pm | Closing

Questions? Email Jenn Johnson at jenn@diocgc.org.

WORKSHOPS

Each workshop will be two hours in length, and will be offered twice - once in the morning, once in the afternoon. Attendees will choose two workshops to attend. Register by April 10.

CATALYSTS FOR GROWTH: HOW YOUR CONGREGATION CAN GROW SPIRITUALLY (AND NUMERICALLY)

The Rev. Scott Gunn,
Executive Director of Forward Movement

LEARNING TO LOVE OUR NEIGHBORHOODS AGAIN: PRACTICAL STRATEGIES FOR UNDERSTANDING AND ENGAGING OUR COMMUNITIES

The Rev. Ken Howard, Executive Director of FaithX Project and Co-creator of the Datastory for Faith Communities

SPIRITUAL CARE OF THOSE WITH ALZHEIMER'S AND DEMENTIA

The Rev. Colette Wood, Rector of All Saints in Whitman, MA; Author of "Do This, Remembering Me: Spiritual Care of those with Alzheimer's and Dementia"

BRINGING CREATIVITY AND CURIOSITY TO WORSHIP

The Rt. Rev. Russell Kendrick,
Bishop of the Central Gulf Coast

ASSET BASED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: CREATING PARTNERSHIPS THAT CHANGE THE WORLD

The Rev. Deacon Clelia Garrity,
Vocational Deacon and experienced global missionary

LOVING YOUR NEIGHBOR THROUGH THE VISION AND EFFORTS OF EPISCOPAL MIGRATION MINISTRIES

Astrida Miller, Bill Miller, Rachel Harding, Peter Horn, and Deacon Terry Goff; diocesan attendees of Episcopal Migration Ministries training

Happy
Birthday

Mike Johnson 04/13
Joyce Lee 04/18
Frances Barbour 04/22
Laura Barbour 04/24



Prayer List

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

Mac Pearce, David Rich, 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:

Tiffany Matthews, Betty White, Starley Anderson, Augusta Wombaugh, Betty Williams, Lee Bert Benbow, Jimmy Douglas, Eddie Chubb, Kelley Lynd, Kay Barnes, Latecia Cushion Knight, 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, Mark Stiber.



Having a good time packing food packets at the Diocesan Convention : Janet Buckley, James Christiansen, Fr. Thomas Heard, Connie McLean, Mary Sheffield

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

Janet Buckley, *clerk*

James Christiansen, *junior warden*

Cindy Gass, *senior warden*

Kathe Gieseler

Jan Joseph

Connie McLean, *treasurer*

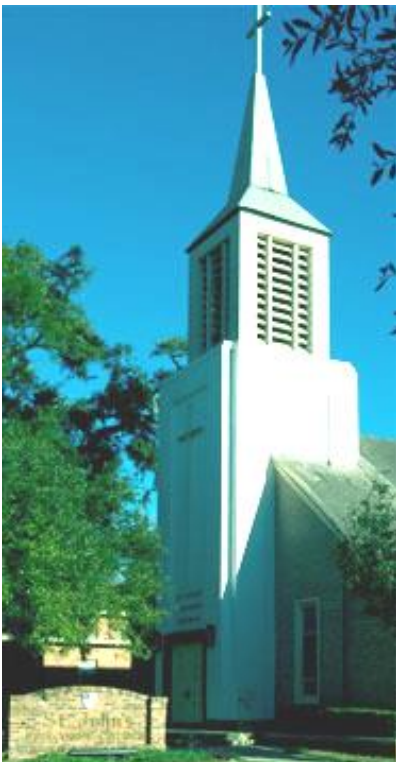
Nikki Shaw

Ron Waites

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.