FROM THE RECTOR:

Dear Ones,

On Thursday, 10 May, we will welcome our bishop to celebrate and preach at the Feast of the Ascension. (More on the details of that in a bit.) I’ve included the picture to the right for your edification and amusement.

Titled “An Episcopal Visitation”, this is an etching made by Léon-Augustin Lhermitte in 1881. Lhermitte was an artist of the realist vein. You can see the incredible detail that he has included in his work. Off to the right side, behind the bishop, you can see clergy seated, listening to their bishop’s every word. In front of the bishop are both men and women, though we see women predominantly. Notice how piously some of them kneel as they take in the bishop’s words!

By the time of Lhermitte’s etching, the Church of England (“C of E”) had two distinct characters: Evangelical and Catholic; the Methodists had separated from the C of E. The Anglo-Catholic movement was increasing, bringing the Eucharist back to the center of worship life. In the ghettos of “The Big Smoke” (as London was called), parishes like All Saints’ - Margaret Street became beacons of refreshment and hope for its neighbors. Not only did the church provide a place to escape the dingy air of London for a while, there was active work undertaken to care for the un-met needs of the neighborhood.

All this is a prelude to a coming event in the life of Saint John’s: our Episcopal Visitation. According to episcopalchurch.org, this is, “[the] bishop’s official pastoral visit to a congregation of the diocese for the purpose of examining the condition of the congregation, overseeing the clergy, to preach, confirm, preside at the eucharist, and to examine parochial records.”

Bishop Kendrick scheduled his visit with us on the Feast of the Ascension because he knew we’d be observing it. We will gather for time with the bishop at 5:30PM and retire to the church to celebrate mass at 6:30PM. I hope we’ll have a confirmation or two, perhaps a reaffirmation, as well.

I know the timing is challenging to those who do not come out in the evening. Please let me know if I can help. We can arrange rides and walk folks to the door when arriving home.

Bishop Kendrick likes to spend time with you, the folks of the parish. He wants to get to know you, understand your hopes, dreams, and concerns. It’s your chance to get to know him, as well.

--Thomas
Saint Philip and Saint James, Apostles
The feast commemorating the lives and ministries of Philip and James is appointed to be 1 May. Our knowledge of these two apostles comes primarily from the gospels of John and Mark. James and his brother, John, were sons of Zebedee. We know Philip was from Bethsaida. Jesus encountered Philip in Galilee and called him to be a disciple. It was Philip who told Nathaniel “We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.”

Athanasius of Alexandria
We will celebrate the feast of Athanasius on Wednesday, 2 May, at our 10:00AM Said Mass. Athanasius lived from about 296 to 373. He was one of the collection of folks referred to as the Church Fathers, and is best known for his defense of Trinitarian Theology. Athanasius was the 20th bishop of Alexandria and suffered 5 different exiles under four different Roman emperors. Athanasius is perhaps best remembered for his stance on the Arian Controversy which occupied much of the First Ecumenical Council in Nicaea in 325. The Arians held that Jesus could not be coeternal with the Father, since he was begotten by the Father. Arius was declared a heretic, but the issue never died out.

Gregory of Nazianzus
Also known as Gregory the Theologian, Gregory is one of the Cappadocian Fathers. His particular contribution is the introduction of Hellenist philosophy to the early Church. He is also noted as one of the significant contributors to Trinitarian Theology, particularly regarding pneumatology, or the theology of the Holy Spirit. We will commemorate Gregory on Wednesday, 9 May at our 10:00AM Said Mass.

Ascension Day
Falling forty days after Jesus’ resurrection, Ascension Day is always on a Thursday. We will commemorate Our Lord’s ascension to his father at a sung mass on 10 May at 6:30PM. Jesus’ ascension is a key component of the story of his life. The original Greek of many texts and the Nicene Creed set as opposites Jesus’ descent from his Father in heaven and his subsequent ascension back to his father. This is done by prefixing the verb that means “to ascend” with ‘kata’. Jesus’ ascension is the final step in confirming his identity as the Son of God.

Pentecost
The conclusion of the Great Fifty Days of Easter will be celebrated on Sunday, 20 May at our 10:00AM mass. We get two different views of the gift of the Holy Spirit, one from Acts and one from John’s Gospel. In Acts, it is the fiftieth day and the Holy Spirit descends upon the disciples as tongues of flame and sound of rushing wind. In the Gospel of John, Jesus breathes the Holy Spirit on the disciples on the evening of the day of the resurrection. In both, it is the commissioning of Jesus’ disciples to take up the work of spreading the Gospel. It is with the help of the Holy Spirit that we continue Jesus’ work today, in our parish, in Mobile and in the world beyond.

First Book of Common Prayer
As has been our custom over the last few years, we will commemorate the First Book of Common Prayer at our Wednesday, 23 May said mass. This commemoration is to be placed in an open day in the week following Pentecost. As has also been our custom, we will use the rite from the 1549 Book of Common Prayer.

The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
We will celebrate the feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary at 12:15PM on Thursday, 31 May. This commemorates the visit of the mother of Our Lord to her cousin Elizabeth as recounted in Luke’s Gospel. It is from the Annunciation and the Visitation that the words for Magnificat are drawn.
The regular meeting of the Wardens and Vestry of Saint John’s Church was held on 8 April. The meeting was called to order at 11:35AM by Fr. Heard.

Nikki Shaw was excused due to illness.

Administration: Connie McLean reviewed the financial reports. Income was $16,122 against expenses of $21,355. The Scrip account grew by $59 this month.

Outreach: The Lenten Food Drive was completed and 24 boxes were delivered on Maundy Thursday by Mobile Community Action.

Parish Life: Joyce Lee’s 90th birthday celebration will be 15 April. 4th Sunday Potluck will be 22 April.

Physical Plant: Darren Anderson reported that the Garden appeal is going well.

Rector’s Report:

MEJAC used the Parlor for meetings on 3/22 and 4/5. McKemie Place continues to be at Saint John’s on weekdays.

McKemie will cover $882 of the plumbing repairs. One toilet still is problematic.

The Bishop’s Visitation will be Ascension Day, Thursday, 10 May. Event schedule has not been set.

Thee Store: A “yard sale” is being organized to dispose of the balance of merchandise and the fixtures.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55AM with prayer by Fr. Heard.

Congratulations to Mayson Pritchard. He participated in the Special Olympic games hosted by St. Paul’s. Mayson won a first place ribbon for the softball throw and a second place ribbon in the 500-yard walk/run event. His family is very proud of their 8th grader. WAY TO GO MAYSON!!

Joyce Lee celebrated her birthday surrounded by lots of love. Family came from Texas, California and Alabama to help her celebrate. Bad weather did not slow them down. It was nice to see old friends at her party on Sunday.

Sunday, May 13th is the day to order scrip. The cards will be back on the 20th. Scrip cards are an easy way to shop and a great way to support St. John’s. Bootsie Cieutat will have order forms.

-Bootsie Cieutat

HAVE YOU NOTICED? - If not, take a look at the beautiful chairs next to the prayer desks on the chancel that have been recovered. Many thanks to Wendy Cape and her son for having this done for us. This is one of the projects that the ECW is proud to have completed. Thanks so much Wendy. Please share with your son and others that helped us. They are absolutely beautiful.
Holy Week 2018
at Saint John’s
Photos by Nikki Shaw.
Elsewhere in the Diocese

From the Coastline:

Once again, we will join with other Episcopal dioceses for Sharing Faith Dinners. Last year many friends gathered at dinner tables scattered across our diocese for a shared meal and sacred conversation. The process of sharing stories helps to deepen our own personal faith. Hearing others’ stories of God's presence in their life brings us into deeper relationship with each other and with God.

At Saint John’s, we will participate in the Sharing Faith program during the 4th Sunday potluck on May 27th.

"We have a story to tell, a story filled with hope and love and God’s grace and mercy. We’ve got a story of God in our lives, a story of ways that Jesus has already been working in our lives sometimes without our even knowing."
- Presiding Bishop Michael Curry

Episcopal Relief & Development Responding to the Drought in South Africa

Ten water tanks and clean water for drinking and other domestic use are being distributed to nine primary schools and one group home for children in the Western Cape Province. This province is located in the southernmost region of the country and includes the city of Cape Town. Water tanks have been sourced and companies have been identified to supply water to fill the tanks.

Many areas of South Africa are facing a severe drought, the country’s worst natural disaster in 30 years. After three years of severe drought, reservoirs now stand at 26% of capacity. The lack of water impacts the agricultural economy, potentially causing cutbacks and layoffs for seasonal workers. Less water also means lower yields for vineyards, fruit orchards and vegetable crops.

The lack of clean water also compromises health and hygiene and increases the spread of diseases and possible outbreaks. The rationing of water may occur as early as August.

Health Opportunity Partnership and Empowerment in Africa (HOPE Africa) serves as the social development department of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa and oversees church and community development projects in South Africa and other countries in the region.

“Winter rains are about four months away and we hope they will help alleviate the current water crisis in South Africa,” said Nagulan Nesiah, Senior Program Officer for Disaster Response and Risk Reduction at Episcopal Relief & Development. “We are grateful to HOPE Africa and the Anglican Church of Southern Africa for responding to critical needs during the drought.”
For healing grace and continued strength, we pray for our members:

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:

For our Friends and Family:
Laurie Williams, Melanie Bouler, Ted & Sadie McGill,
Larry Kent, Frank Thompson, Tiffany Matthews, Betty White, Starley Anderson, Augusta Wombaugh, Betty Williams,
Lee Bert Benbow, 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.

It's time for a church directory update. So that we may get the best information to you, please make sure that we have all the latest in address, e-mail and telephone changes turned in to the church office by Sunday, May 13. New parish directories will be available by the end of May.

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

Tony Seymour 5/03  Paula Ross 5/15
Cookie Rich 5/09  Zachary Anderson 5/16
Tanner Dunham 5/10  Trey Johnson 5/20
Mike Barbour 5/11  Pat Fulford 5/29

Kat & Chris Velaski 05/31

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
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www.stjohnsmobile.org