



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 11

November 2018

FROM THE RECTOR:

Dear Ones,

I had a drop-in at the office the other day. It was a different event than I'm used to. It had a somewhat unexpected outcome.

Usually, when someone comes to the door of the Parish House, that person is seeking some sort of assistance. It could be food, it could be gas for their vehicle, it could be for a bus ticket, or just looking for a monetary handout.

So this person, a young man, came to the door and rang the bell. One of the McKemie Place women answered the door; it's usually one of their residents. She was a bit wary — we're extremely careful about men being in the building. (You see, it could be the abusive spouse of one of the women, and that's the best case.) She asked him what he wanted through the partially opened door. He said that he wanted to talk to the priest. She let him in and called to me. I met them in the outer office. The young man was clean, neatly dressed, but carried a backpack that was bursting at the seams.

I asked the young man how I could help him. He said, in a quite matter-of-fact manner, that he "wanted to find God" and that he thought God might be here.

"OK" I said, while at the same time mentally calculating whether this young man was serious or had significant mental illness. As you may know, within the homeless population, there is a significant amount of undiagnosed mental illness. Most of it seems to be benign, at least that's my experience. Over the last eleven years, I have encountered a few that obviously had profound "issues".

So, then I asked if he'd tell me his name. He hesitantly replied, "I'm Adam." So I asked, "Have you had any experience with God?"

He looked really sheepish and said, "Well, I used to be able to talk to him, but God has gotten lost." We talked for fifteen minutes or so, and it became clear that it was Adam that had gotten lost. He told me that he'd never prayed, but had a spiritual connection to God; that's how God talked to him. He said he'd never been a church goer, but considered himself a Christian. I suggested that being a Christian meant being part of a community, that would support, encourage, and care for its members. I invited him to join us, although I'm fairly certain we won't see him.

It is interesting to me how we've become so self-focused, with the world revolving completely around the individual. It is not a local or national issue; it is global. I think Adam falls into the "spiritual but not religious" camp, which feels like it is another expression of this individualism.

Jesus had disciples. They lived and travelled together. They were a community that looked after each other, took care of each other. More importantly they cared about each other. What bound them together was the commonality of following Jesus who represented a new and fulsome way of living. It wasn't about what they had, or who their family was, or how much land/money they had. It was about who they knew — Jesus of Nazareth, the anointed one of God, and their relationship with him — and by extension, with God.

Anyone can be a follower of Jesus, but it is really hard to do by ourselves: it's isolated and alone. We need time with our fellow disciples to hold each other up, to celebrated joys, to share sorrows, and to simply "be with" each other.

I hope some Sunday morning, I'm surprised to see Adam among us. He needs us, even if he doesn't know it.

--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 take 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. We will observe All Saints' on Sunday, 4 November at 10AM with baptisms!

All Faithful Departed – 2 November

The day following All Saints' is known as All Souls' or All Faithful Departed. 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 Souls' led to its acceptance amongst Anglicans.

Willibrord of Utrecht – 7 November

Much of what we know of Willibrord's life comes to us through the Venerable Bede's *An Ecclesiastical History of the English People*. Born in Northumbria in about 658, he was brought up and educated in a monastery at Ripon. Along with 12 others, Willibrord set out for Holland in 690 to be a missionary. With the help of the Frankish royalty, he established his base of operations at Utrecht and was later named bishop. He founded a monastery near Trier and continued to attempt to convert the pagan Frisians. His work is credited with making Boniface's later efforts successful.

Samuel Seabury – 14 November

After we'd kicked out the British in the Revolutionary War, there was a void in the Episcopal Church: we had no bishops. Without bishops, we could have no new deacons or priests. Many had already fled to Canada. The problem was compounded because, in order to be ordained by an English bishop, a loyalty oath to the monarch was required. As a result, Seabury turned to non-juring bishops in the Episcopal Church of Scotland. He was consecrated bishop on 14 November 1784 in

Aberdeen. He was recognized as the Bishop of Connecticut on 3 August 1785. Seabury worked hard to persuade the American church to adopt Scotland's form for our celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

Kamehameha and Emma – 28 November

King and Queen of Hawaii in 1855, Kamehameha and Emma changed the people's attitude toward the royals in the wake of a smallpox epidemic that was especially brutal on the native peoples. With notebooks and seeking donations from rich and poor, they collected funds to build what is now the Queen's Hospital. In 1860, they requested that the Bishop of Oxford send missionaries to Hawaii to establish the church. The death of a son in 1863 took a huge toll on Kamehameha; he died only a year later. Emma, offered the role of ruler, declined and committed her life to good works for her people. St. Andrew's Cathedral was not finished until after Emma's death and is named in memory of her husband, the king. Emma is still referred to as "our beloved Queen."

Thanksgiving Day

Falling on 22 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. We will observe Thanksgiving at a 10 AM Mass on Thursday, 22 November.

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 this 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. We will commemorate Saint Andrew at a Said Mass on Friday, 30 November at 10AM.

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 15^h. We want to have **the boxes filled by Sunday, November 11th**. 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 11th)



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 25TH 4TH SUNDAY POTLUCK: "LET'S DO BRUNCH"

November's 4th Sunday Potluck will be held on Sunday, November 25, 2017. Our theme for November's 4th Sunday will be "Let's Do Brunch."

We thought we'd do something a little different since that's Thanksgiving weekend and many of us will have had many big meals: turkey dinner, turkey leftovers, turkey sandwiches, turkey, turkey, turkey..... maybe we'll be a bit "turkeyed out"! So **Let's Do Brunch!** Bring a brunch dish (yummy casseroles, egggy dishes , fruit salads, etc. etc. ...and of course desserts) and join us for fun, fellowship, and lots of good food. Bring your visiting guests or other friends and family too!



October Birthdays



Saint John's celebrates the October birthdays of Bob Anderson and Charlynn Will.

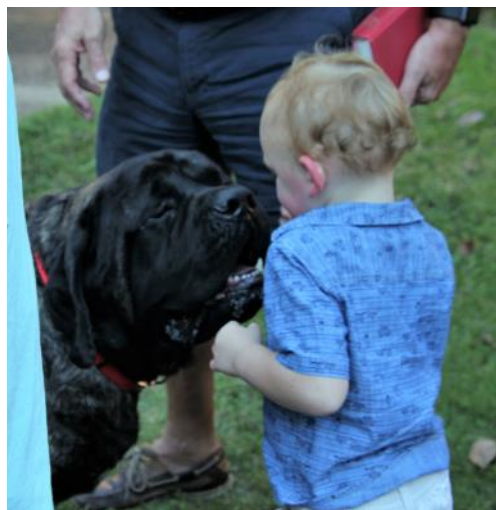
Photo by Irene Yeager.



Blessing of the Animals

October 7, 2018
Six Dogs & Two Cats!

Photos by Nikki Shaw



The regular meeting of the Wardens and Vestry of Saint John's Church was called to order at 11:30 AM on Sunday, 12 October 2018.



Vestry

Vestry members Jan Joseph and Ron Waites were not in attendance. The minutes of the 9 September meeting were approved as submitted. Connie McLean reviewed the financial reports. The \$25,000 from the Endowment fund has been received.

Janet Buckley gave the Outreach report: the fall food drive will collect for 12 food boxes to be distributed to low-income grandparents raising their grandchildren. Louis Daniel reported that the Garden is coming along; more plants have been purchased and installed.

Estimates for the replacement of the roof have been received. The cost will necessitate a loan and/or a capital campaign. The Vestry voted to take care of the

immediate leakage problem by contracting with Thomas Roofing to patch the Great Hall roof. Work days for clean-up and parking lot striping

will be scheduled.

Fr. Heard distributed information about three Diocesan events: Congregational Enrichment Venture: this is a two year training program. The Diocese would like teams from churches to attend. It is being held at St Jude's in Niceville, Fl. Some Vestry members expressed interest in attending. The Youth Ministry Fall Fling is being held at Trinity Church, Mobile and St. John's, Pensacola on Sunday, October 21, 2-5 pm. The Bishop has developed a 12 week curriculum "Praying the Collects," available on the diocesan web page www.diocgc.org.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer by Fr. Heard.

Elsewhere in the Diocese

RESTORE: MINDFULNESS WEEKEND RETREAT AT BECKWITH FRIDAY, NOV. 16 - SUNDAY, NOV.18

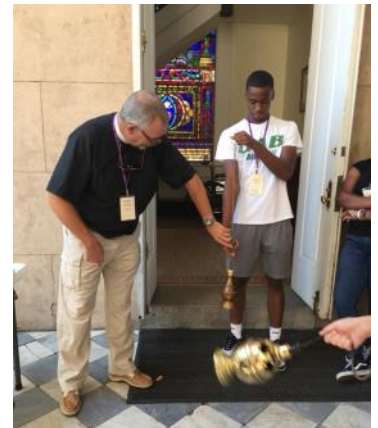
Silent retreat offers a time to rest and restore. The structure of this retreat is simple; it consists of sitting meditation, walking meditation and mindful movement. As we move into the holidays, allow these practice to keep you grounded in the present moment, calm in mind and body. Surrounded by the tranquil nature of Weeks Bay and Beckwith, return to your center before moving forward into the new year.

This retreat is open to beginners as well as those with an established meditation practice. Rebecca Washburn and Emily Sommerville will guide you in your practice. Meditation will be accompanied by talks and opportunities to share questions and reflections as a group.

Bring loose, comfortable clothing. Chairs will be provided; please bring your meditation cushion if you have one. \$375 weekend fee includes single lodging with private bath and all meals beginning with dinner on Friday evening and ending with breakfast on Sunday morning.

Call 251.225.4597 or register online at <http://www.thesoulshinelife.com/restore-mindfulness-retreat/>.

Fr. Thomas Heard participated in the diocesan Acolyte Festival on September 15 at Christ Church Cathedral.





RESPONDING TO DEADLY HURRICANE MICHAEL

Episcopal Relief & Development is working with affected Episcopal dioceses to provide critical support for local communities impacted by Hurricane Michael.

Through partnerships with the Episcopal Diocese of Georgia and the Episcopal Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast, the organization is providing emergency assistance to individuals and families affected by the storm, including food, shelter, generators and other basic supplies.

Hurricane Michael made landfall as a Category 4 storm on Wednesday, October 10, devastating areas of the Florida Panhandle and Georgia. The storm is responsible for at least 19 deaths in four states and destroyed homes and valuable infrastructure, particularly in Florida and Georgia. Over 140,000 Florida residents remained without power on Tuesday October 16th in the morning.

Episcopal Relief & Development's US Disaster team has conducted daily coordination calls with leaders from dioceses impacted by Hurricane Michael since last week to support their efforts to provide relief to affected communities. The team will meeting with clergy from affected dioceses to help them assess needs and mobilize to respond to the most vulnerable communities.

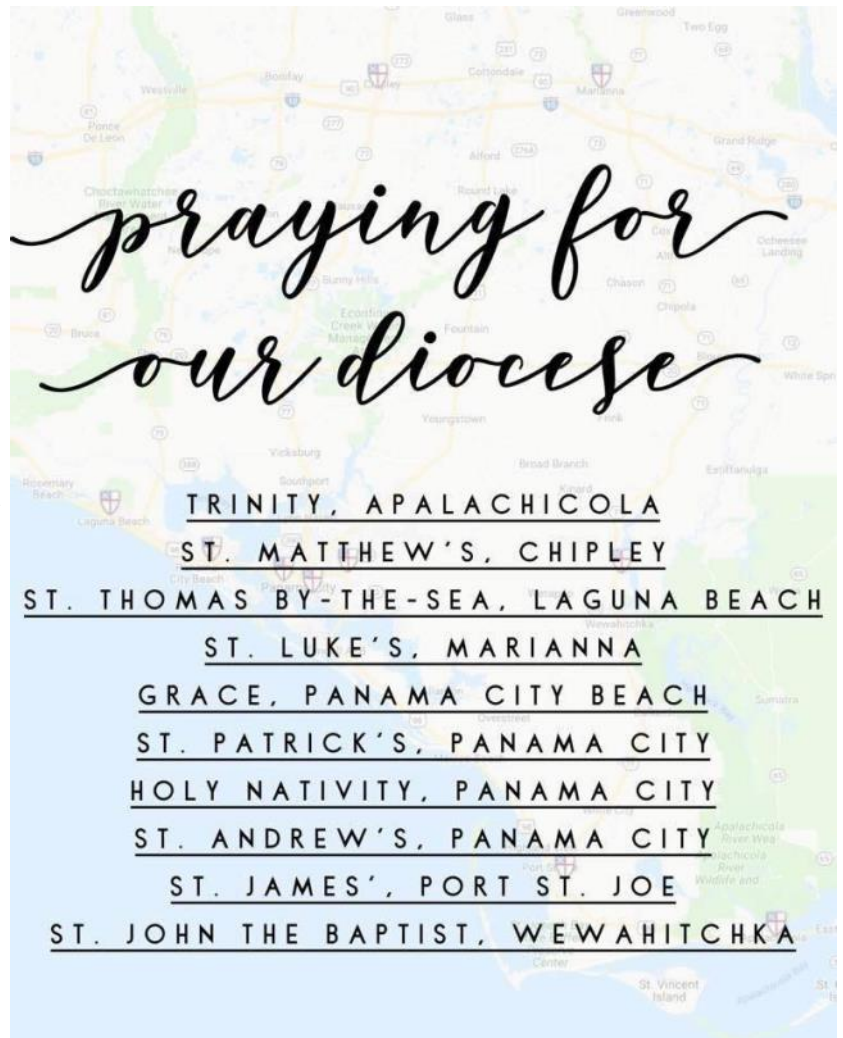
The Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast reports that Hurricane Michael caused damage affecting communities from Highway 331 to the Apalachicola River in Florida and from the coast to the Alabama state line. High winds and heavy rains knocked down power lines and trees, damaging at least 10 churches and schools as well as the communities surrounding them. The diocese is providing generators and gas to address power outages as well as cleaning supplies.

"I am encouraged to see how our local diocesan partners have mobilized in response to this devastating hurricane," said Katie Mears, Senior Director of Episcopal Relief & Development's

US Disaster Program. "They are deeply embedded in their communities, helping people access other networks and resources."

The Rt. Rev. Russell Kendrick and the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast have invited Mears to visit the affected areas in Florida this week to see the impact firsthand and plan how Episcopal Relief & Development can support ministry in the coming weeks and months.

Please continue to pray for those impacted by Hurricane Michael. Donations to the Hurricane Relief Fund will help Episcopal Relief & Development respond to this crisis P.O. Box 7058 Merrifield, VA 22116-7058.

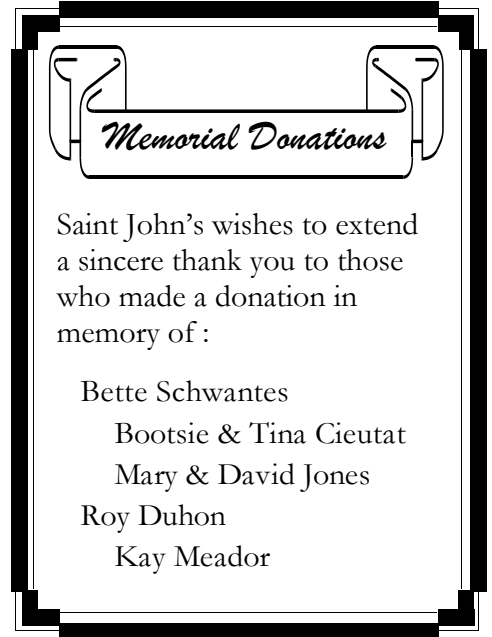




Rosalie Pritchard	11/04
Louis Daniel	11/09
Cindy Gass	11/11
Mayson Pritchard	11/12
Jennifer O'Rourke	11/19
Caitlin Bryan	11/22
Nikki Shaw	11/22
Kim Partsch	11/30



Eugene & Emily Johnston	11/05
Jerry & Pat Fulford	11/23



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

Max Stiber, Audrey Garner, Joyce Lee, Chick Wohlert, Mac Pearce, Neil McPhail, Marian Boykin, Ron Brown, Jayson Chestang, Budd McLean.

For our Homebound:

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

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

Jacob Hester-Heard, Marcus Rich, Ross Hussmann, Josh Vernor, Ellis Garner, Eric Mattoon.

For our Friends and Family:

April Willis, Kara Reynolds Hall, Ellen Green, Christina Morgret, Sue Sheffield, David Shippee, Abigail Harrison, Martha Pounds, Robert Levy, John Barnett, Bonnie Adler, Chris Christiansen, Connor, David Green, Laurie Williams, Tiffany Matthews, Augusta Wombaugh, Betty Williams, Kelley Lynd, Kay Barnes, Latecia Cushion Knight, Evia Daniel, Charles Geck, Mary Jo Vinson, Bonnie Jernigan, Kaye Turner, Britney Butler, Angie Leon, Neal Tourné, Sandy & Ray Michel, Connor Crist, Paul Nelson, Krystal Hiatt, 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, *junior warden*

Janet Buckley, *clerk*

James Christiansen

Cindy Gass, *senior warden*

Kathe Gieseler

Jan Joseph

Connie McLean, *treasurer*

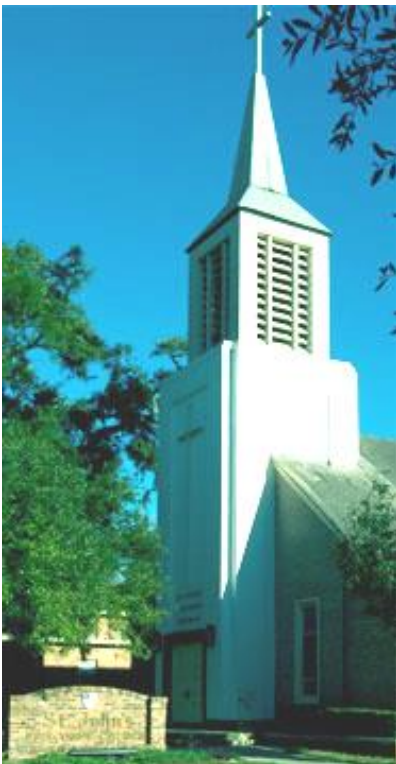
Nikki Shaw

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.