



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. XXIX, Issue 1

January 2019

FROM OUR PRESIDING BISHOP:

In the Third Chapter of John's Gospel, Jesus says at one point, "God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that all who believe in him should not perish but have everlasting life."

For years, I've often thought that that passage only referred to Jesus giving his life as a sacrifice on the cross. And to be sure, that is part of what it means. But some years ago I was reading a commentary by Raymond Brown, on the Gospel of John, and Professor Brown said that that passage not only speaks of Jesus willingly giving his life on the cross, but it actually speaks of Christmas, of God giving his very self, his very son to the world, not for anything God could get out of it, but for the good and the welfare and the well-being of the world. Of us.

Someone once said, in a Christmas poem, "Love came down at Christmas." That's what love is. To give, and not to count the cost. To give, not for what one can get, but for what the other can receive. That's what love is. God so loved the world, that he gave.

I realized recently how powerful that passage really is, when I saw an old poster from 1938. A poster produced by the Episcopal Church at that time, to encourage Episcopalians and other Christians, and other people of faith and good will, to do whatever they could to help Jewish refugees fleeing tyranny in Europe. To help people from all over Europe seeking refuge in America, this land of freedom. The poster depicts Mary, Joseph, and the baby Jesus. They're fleeing persecution in Palestine, as Matthew's Gospel says. And the poster depicting Mary, Joseph, and Jesus says in the tag line, "In the name of these refugees, help all refugees."

God so loved the world, that he gave, even to the point of risking his own son. And in the name of those refugees, in the name of that Jesus, help all refugees, all

people who suffer, anyone who's alone, everyone who is in need. That's what love does.

Love came down at Christmas, because God so loved the world, that he gave.

In those days, a decree went out from the Emperor Augustus, that all the world should be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem because he was a descendent from the House of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged, and who was expecting a child. While they were there, she gave birth to her first-born son, and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. Meanwhile, in that region, there were shepherds, living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then the angel of the Lord stood above them. And the glory of the Lord shone round about them, and they were terrified. The angel said unto them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all people. To you is born this day, in the City of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign. You will find the child wrapped in bands of cloth, lying in a manger." And suddenly, there was with the angels a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and peace to all people on earth." Luke 2:1-14

Have a blessed Christmas. Have a merry Christmas. Have a joyful Christmas.

God love you, God bless you, and may God hold us all in those almighty hands of love.

— The Most Reverend Michael B. Curry,

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE JANUARY LITURGICAL CALENDAR

The Holy Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ

This day we celebrate the naming of Our Lord on the eighth day after his birth, in accordance with Jewish custom. Naming is important to all of us; it establishes our identity. We will celebrate this feast on Tuesday, 1 January at 10:00AM

The Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ

10:00AM on Sunday, 6 January
“Epiphany” comes from a Greek word meaning to manifest or appear. This feast concludes the twelve days of Christmas and marks the discovery of God Incarnate by the Gentiles in the persons of the wise men. Join us to celebrate the visit of the Magi to the stable in Bethlehem.

Julia Chester Emery

10:00AM on Wednesday, 9 January
Julia Chester Emery served for forty years as Secretary of the Woman’s Auxiliary of the Board of Missions. During that time, she tirelessly helped the church to recognize and inhabit its call to proclaim the gospel throughout the world. Her work emphasized education programs, development of leadership and commitment to mission. Emery’s crowning achievement was the creation of the United Thank Offering.

Baptism of Our Lord

10:00AM on Sunday, 13 January
The First Sunday after the Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ is also known as The Baptism of Our Lord. On this day, we recount Jesus’ baptism in the Jordan by his cousin John the Baptizer. It is a particularly appropriate day for baptisms.

The Confession of Saint Peter

Friday, 18 January
On this occasion, we commemorate Peter’s confession of Jesus as the Christ. Of course, we also remember how human Peter is: often bumbling, stumbling, impetuous, intense, and with rough edges. This feast also marks the beginning of the annual Week for Christian Unity.

Phillips Brooks

10:00AM on Wednesday, 23 January
Phillips Brooks began his ministry in Philadelphia and after 10 years, returned to his native Boston to be rector of Trinity Church. Brooks was an eloquent preacher and possessed a charismatic personality that drew people to him. Brooks ministered with tenderness, understanding, and warm friendliness. He inspired men to enter the ministry, and taught many of them the art of preaching. He was conservative and orthodox in his theology; but his generosity of heart led him to be regarded as the leader of the liberal circles of the Church. He was elected Bishop of Massachusetts in 1891.

The Conversion of Saint Paul

Friday, 25 January
We mark Paul’s acceptance of Jesus as his Lord and Savior on this day. Even though it is referred to as his conversion, the Pauline position seems to be more of enlightenment to a new reality, rather than rejection of his heritage in favor of Christ. This feast concludes the Week for Christian Unity.

2019 PLEDGE SUMMARY

As this newsletter goes to print, we have received financial commitments from 34 pledge units for 2019 totaling \$103,974. In 2018, we received 38 pledges totaling \$137,468.

If you plan to pledge to the 2019 operating budget, please turn in a pledge card as soon as possible. Extra cards are available in the church office.



Vestry

The regular meeting of the Wardens and Vestry of Saint John's Church was called to order at 11:30AM on 9 December 2018. All members of the vestry were present. The proposed agenda was adopted without change. The minutes of the 11 November meeting and the 18 November meeting were approved as corrected.

Connie McLean reviewed the financial statements. A Pledge Status Report was reviewed, showing that we have received 32 pledges totalling \$98,514. This includes 13 pledges that have been increased over 2018. An additional 13 pledges are expected that will add another \$44,160 to the total.

Outreach reminded the vestry about the Azalea Gardens Nursing Home Giving Tree, to be completed on 16 December.

Parish Life reported that the Annual Christmas Luncheon will be held on 30 December; 23 December will be the greening of the church.

Physical Plant reported that the garden project is waiting for the ground to dry. The vestry voted to hire an arborist to trim the live oaks on Government Street.

Considerable discussion on the Roof Replacement occurred. Thomas Roofing has applied a urethane patch over the worst leak area, but we still have a problem. Fr. Heard will get with the roofer to investigate further. Fr. Heard will speak with the bishop about possible approaches. A meeting will be scheduled after the new year.

Fr. Heard reminded those participating in the Congregational Enrichment Venture program that the first meeting is in January at Saint Jude's in Niceville.

The vestry voted to form a new committee to concern itself with new members, attendance, and marketing for Saint John's. They will meet after Outreach on the 1st Sunday. Additional members will be sought from the congregation to join with Jan Joseph, James Christiansen, Connie McLean, and Janet Buckley.

A report was received from the Nominating Committee. The committee will present its report at the Parish Meeting on 16 December.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer by Fr. Heard.

OFFICER ELECTIONS

Congratulations to our new Vestry members and Convention Delegates who were elected at our meeting on 16 December.

Elected to three-year terms on the Vestry are Bootsie Cieutat, Mary Sheffield, and Kristen Turner.

Serving as Convention Delegates are Janet Buckley, James Christiansen, and Connie McLean. They will be backed-up by Alternate Delegate Eugene Johnston.

HELP SAINT JOHN'S SPREAD THE WORD

We all know what a great church Saint John's is, but how many people in Midtown and the rest of Mobile know?

Saint John's would like to change that with the formation of our newest group, whose goal is to Spread the Word about Saint John's!

Our first meeting is Sunday, January 6, after coffee time. We will discuss possibilities of advertising in print media and strengthening our presence on social media, as well as any other ideas you can bring to Spread the Word!

-Jan Joseph



SPREAD THE WORD

FLOWER CHART SIGN-UP

It's time to sign up for flowers for 2019! Please use the cards on the bulletin board to begin signing up to supply altar flowers for Sundays in 2019. As Sundays are covered we will update the flower chart and post it for all to see. Altar flowers cost \$55 per Sunday.





SAINT JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH OUTREACH COMMITTEE

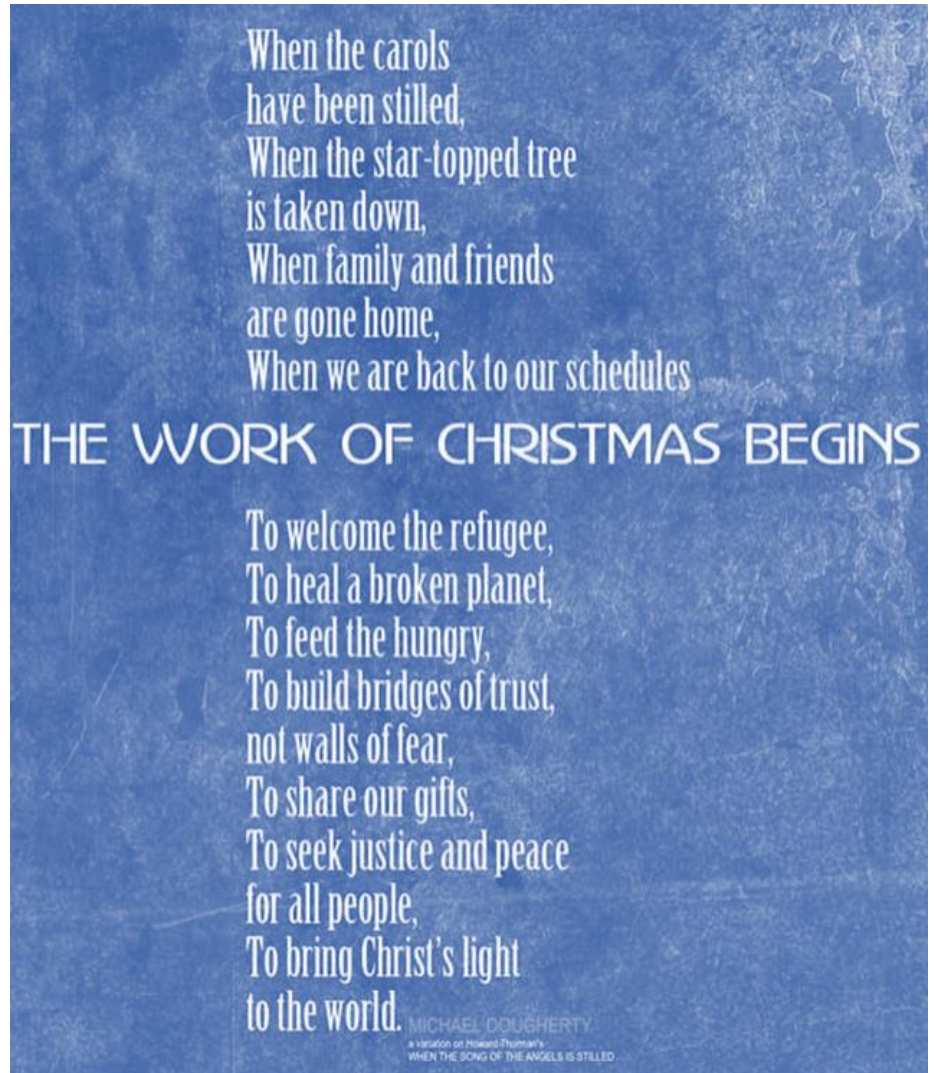
The St. John's Outreach activities and projects are funded as part of the annual church budget. The Outreach Committee represents the parish in determining what activities and projects we, as a parish, will do for the community and how we will spend the 3% of plate and pledge funds (\$4,410 in 2018). Here is what you and we did in 2018:

St John's supported McKemie Place every month by assisting Redeemer with dinner every fourth Thursday, we usually provide all the paper products, drinks and dessert (\$322)

A donation of \$550 went to Ozanam Charitable Pharmacy. St John's Outreach Committee funds matched the money donated for the Lenten Suppers. (\$275)

With donations of food from all of you, St John's Outreach Committee provided food boxes for 24 families (the additional 12 boxes were paid for by a special donation of \$500). The boxes were designated as "Spring Break Boxes" and went to low income families who had young children at home for the week of Spring Break. Outreach funds were used to purchase a ham, fruit, and bread to add to each box. (\$315).

St John's provided "take-home and keep" back-to-school books for 1,123 Head Start children and 48 Early Head Start children. The books came from FirstBook the National Book Bank. Outreach funds paid for the shipping (\$912). Parish member sorted the books and put stickers in the books.



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SAINT JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH OUTREACH COMMITTEE

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Leinkauf Elementary School received \$187 in School uniform clothing to help out families who cannot afford the cost of full uniforms.

St John's Outreach Committee sent \$500 to Episcopal Farmworker Ministry in North Carolina for flood relief after Hurricane Florence.

Responding to an appeal from the Diocese, Trinity Episcopal Church in Eastpoint, Florida received \$500 to assist with fire relief in the Eastpoint community.

St John's Outreach Committee sent \$500 to the diocesan Hurricane Michael relief fund.

Our second food drive provided food boxes for 12 families. The boxes went to low income families where grandparents are raising young children. The families were chosen by Mobile Community Action. Again Outreach funds were used to add a ham, fruit, and bread to the boxes (\$245).

St John's Outreach Committee coordinated the annual Parish Angel Tree: 45 residents at Azalea Gardens received gifts. Outreach funds were used to purchase a blanket/throw for each of our 45 angel recipients. (\$400).

Have some ideas for our 2019 ministries? Talk to an Outreach Committee member or attend an Outreach Committee meeting, we meet at 11:30 on the first Sunday of the month, everyone is welcome.

PARISH LIFE



4TH SUNDAY POTLUCK: "LET'S GET COZY"

This month's 4th Sunday potluck will be held on January 27th. Its January, the month to get comfortable and cozy after all the excitement of the holidays. Let's bring our favorite "comfort food" and enjoy a warm and cozy meal together. Invite family and friends to join us.



EPISCOPAL RELIEF & DEVELOPMENT UNVEILS NEW LOGO AND TAGLINE

You may have noticed a new Episcopal Relief & Development logo recently. I had intended to write an article on the new logo in October, but disasters kept occurring and needed the newsletter space. While I miss the old logo the new one is growing on me.

The logo features colors that reinforce a connection to the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion. The tagline, “Working Together for Lasting Change,” highlights the importance of collaboration, and achieving a measurable and sustained impact in all aspects of its global programs.

“I am excited about the fresh look. It is bold, forward-looking and energetic,” said Rob Radtke, President & CEO for Episcopal Relief & Development. “The new logo reflects our core values and commitment to our faith while conveying how we work together with partners and supporters to create lasting change for communities worldwide.” Episcopal Relief & Development launched its current strategic plan in 2017. Working closely with staff, board and stakeholders across the Church and the Anglican

Communion, the organization identified three signature program priorities where it is making a measurable difference: Women, Children and Climate

“In collaboration with our consultant, we explored the essence of who we are and the unique way Episcopal Relief & Development works in the world,” stated Malaika Kamunanwire, Sr. Director for Marketing & Communication. “The new look marks a strategic shift in our work, positioning the organization for significant growth and opportunities. In September, the new logo and tagline will debuted on the organization’s website and across online channels. Full adoption of the new logo will happen in phases throughout the fall of 2018.

“Since its founding over 75 years ago, Episcopal Relief & Development has continuously grown and evolved,” said Rob Radtke. “The new logo conveys how we remain connected and embedded in communities worldwide, listening, learning and working together to build upon local knowledge and existing strengths for lasting change.”

December Birthdays



Jan Joseph celebrated her birthday in December with her St. John’s family.

Photo by Irene Yeager.



Saint John’s wishes to extend a sincere thank you to those who made donations in memory of:

Tom & Marietta Ford
 Alice Mitchell
 Max Stiber
 Neil & Marie McPhail
 Chick Wohlert
 Jean & Cliff Brown
 Pam, Bill, Bahen & Bryce Privett
 James & Sandra Ladd
 Nellie Doyle
 Nell & Burkhard Dohm
 Patricia Dever Thomas
 Michael & Karen Keel



Bob Ross	01/08
Mary Jones	01/09
Curtis Gass	01/16
Nicholas Tarantole	01/17
Irene Yeager	01/19
Alexandria Harvey-Smith	01/20
Janet Buckley	01/24
Mary Frances Chestang	01/25
Bill Duke	01/31



Craig & Shirley Hall 01/31

CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATE

Mary and Kathe Gieseler:

Physical address—505 Bel Air Blvd., Apt. 150
Mobile, AL 36606

Mailing Address—P. O Box 9817
Mobile, AL 36691

Phone numbers remain the same.



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

Carolyn Pearce, Audrey Garner, Joyce Lee, 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:

Bambi Lynn Reynolds Marrow, Tyler Kimmons, Del Howatt,
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, 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

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Vestry:

Darren Anderson

Janet Buckley

Bootsie Cieutat

Kathe Gieseler

Jan Joseph

Connie McLean

Mary Sheffield

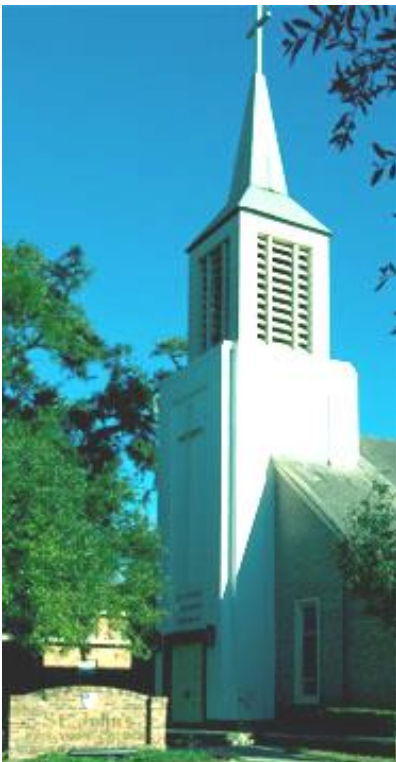
Kristen Turner

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.

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.