



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 2

February 2019

FROM THE RECTOR:

Dear Ones,

About a year ago, we started monthly birthday blessings at the announcement time during our Sunday service. Oh, yes, we have a communal birthday cake at Fellowship Time in the Great Hall after mass, too!

It's been a great time and I think it's a good thing to raise the visibility of these annual celebrations. At the same time, though, I wonder if we aren't celebrating the wrong dates. Perhaps we should be celebrating our "other" birthday. I mean, of course, the anniversary of our baptism!

Today, we live with the product of the 20th century liturgical renewal movement, enshrined in the 1979 Book of Common Prayer. Notice that I said "20th century". That is to distinguish it from what began in the 19th century. If you ask different people what these were all about, you'll get answers that reveal their particular biases. At the end of the day, though, the real answer has to do with active efforts to restore the active and intelligent participation of people in the liturgy of the church. It had the dual goals of bringing the church back to its roots and increasing its relevance to current society. We see these goals realized in different places in our liturgies. At the heart of this is a definitive shift from a eucharistic piety to a sacramental piety. This is most clearly seen in the clear focus of Baptism alongside Eucharist as the principle sacraments of the church.

Most people noticed the Rite I/Rite II change. Rite I preserved the 1928 approach to the liturgy as well as the Elizabethan language. Rite II offered 'contemporary' language, but actually did more. One obvious difference are the standing/sitting rubrics. Rite II prefers standing when praying, which is consistent with the practice of the early church. Deeper than that was the shift in the piety of the Eucharistic prayers. In 1928 BCP, the Eucharist has a

fundamental relationship to the Passion as a memorial and a participation within Christ. Rite I preserves this relationship with little change. In Rite II, Prayer A continues the 1928 approach, albeit softened somewhat. Prayers B, C, and D abandon it in favor of bringing the people to the table as worthy participants.

The most significant liturgical change is two-fold: the re-casting of the Holy Week liturgies (the "Triduum") as a reanimation of 4th century practices and moving the Rite of Holy Baptism to a central place in the life of the community. Recapturing the ancient practices for the Triduum lets us reframe the Maundy Thursday foot washing as a reflection or anticipation of baptism. Likewise, re-casting Lent as a preparation time for Baptism or Confirmation sheds much of the penitential character most often associated.

The key piece of placing baptism as a central point of a eucharist celebration is the recognition that the early church saw baptism as 'full and complete Christian initiation.' This is underscored in our admitting baptized-but-not-confirmed people to communion.

So, look in the Table of Contents of your BCP. Where does Holy Baptism appear relative to The Holy Eucharist? (It comes first!) If we delve into the baptism rite, (BCP p. 297 ff.) we can see much of the shift in importance played out in The Baptismal Covenant and the Thanksgiving over water:

"We thank you Father for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit." (BCP p. 306)

So, maybe we should be commemorating our baptism. It is, after all, our rebirth as disciples of Jesus Christ. Now, if we can just remember the date...

--Thomas

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FEBRUARY LITURGICAL CALENDAR

The Presentation of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple

We will celebrate the feast of the Presentation on Saturday, 2 February at a 5:30 PM Mass.

“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.

Absalom Jones

Born into slavery in 1746, young Absalom taught himself to read from the New Testament and other sources. He was sold to a shop owner who allowed him to attend a school at night and also earn money for his work. He married and purchased his freedom in 1784. An incident at Saint George’s church in Philadelphia fostered the formation of the Free African Society. Jones was elected overseer. In 1794, the

society built a church. It applied to the Diocese of Pennsylvania for membership, was accepted in 1794 as Saint Thomas African Episcopal Church. Jones was ordained deacon in 1795, and ordained priest in 1802.

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 Monday, 25 February at a Said Mass at 12:10 PM.

George Herbert

Famous for his poetry and prose, George Herbert was described by Izaak Walton as “a model of the saintly parish priest.” Born in 1593, Herbert began his divinity studies in his early twenties. In 1626, he was ordained and served parishes in Fugglestone and Bemerton. Herbert died at the age of 40. We commemorate George Herbert at our Said Mass on Wednesday, 27 February at 10:00 AM.



In Loving Memory

BEATRICE ROSE SHOBE BROWN

14 August 1926 – 12 January 2019

Our sister Bea entered new life a few weeks ago. For all the time I’ve been at Saint John’s, Bea was one of our shut-ins. In her working life, she was a realtor, working for Ladner & Company, as well as the Mitchell Company. Her husband, Don, died twenty years previously. Her world was turned upside down. She was a resident at Murray House until a stroke required her to move to Allen Memorial.



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

Bea Brown

James Christiansen
St. John's ECW

Chick Wohlert

St. John's ECW

Max Stiber

St. John's ECW



Vestry

The regular meeting of the Wardens and Vestry of Saint John's Church was called to order on 13 January 2019 at 11:30 AM by Fr. Heard. After adopting the agenda for the meeting, the vestry proceeded to election of its officers. Elected were:

Senior Warden: Kathe Gieseler
 Junior Warden: Darren Anderson
 Treasurer: Connie McLean
 Clerk: Janet Buckley

The minutes of the December 2018 meeting were approved as submitted.

Connie McLean reviewed the financial statements. The Vestry voted to continue our pledge to the diocese at 10% of combined actual plate and pledge.

Jan Joseph reported for Spread the Word. They are thinking about using print advertising, but will need a budget for it.

Janet Buckley reminded that the 4th Sunday Potluck theme is Comfort Food. February will be the Annual Meeting.

Fr. Heard reported on use of the property by other organizations. He reported that McKemie Place has hired a new Executive Director and that the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has expired. Fr. Heard reminded the Vestry of the visit of the Presiding Bishop to the Florida Panhandle.

Janet Buckley reported that the remnants from Thee Store will be taken to Diocesan Convention and a sale will be held at Saint John's on 16 March.

The Congregational Enrichment Venture has been postponed until 23 March.

Fr. Heard distributed the Vestry Teller Schedule and discussed the Safe Church Training requirements and process to the vestry.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer by Fr. Heard.

PARISH LIFE

THE BOOK SALE IS BACK ON!

ST. JOHN'S SALE OF BOOKS AND RELIGIOUS ITEMS SATURDAY, MARCH 16

Time to clean out those book shelves of your gently used paperbacks, hardbacks, and magazines: St. John's is having a books sale! We will be selling the last of the contents of *Thee Store* along with the books donated by the parish members. You can bring your book donations now. If you have religious items you would like to contribute to the sale we will be grateful for those too. Thank you to those who have already contributed.

MARK YOUR
CALENDARS: the sale will
be held **on Saturday,
March 16. We'll need
volunteers – a sign up
sheet will be on the
bulletin board.**



4TH SUNDAY POTLUCK: "MARDI GRAS"

Our fourth Sunday potluck dinner will be held on February 24, 2019. We will have a Mardi Gras theme since Mardi Gras season will be in full swing! In addition, this will also be our Annual Meeting of the Parish.

Wear your Mardi
Gras colors and we
will celebrate Mardi
Gras Saint John's
style: food and
fellowship!



FEBRUARY 2019 AT SAINT JOHN'S

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Omitted: 2/3 – Anskar, Archbishop of Hamburg, and Missionary to Denmark and Sweden, 865 2/17 – Janani Luwum, Archbishop of Uganda, and Martyr, 1977						
3 Epiphany 4 9A Formation 10A Mass 1130A Outreach 1145A Spread the Word	4 Cornelius the Centurion 830A MP	5 Martyrs of Japan 830A MP	6 830A MP 10A Mass 7P Choir	7 830A MP	8 830A MP	9 830A MP
10 Epiphany 5 9A Formation 10A Mass 1130A Vestry	11 830A MP	12 830A MP	13 Absalom Jones 830A MP 10A Mass 7P Choir	14 Cyril & Methodius 830A MP	15 Thomas Bray 830A MP	16 830A MP
17 Epiphany 6 9A Formation 10A Mass 1130 ECW	18 Martin Luther 830A MP	19 830A MP	20 830A MP 10A Mass 7P Choir	21 830A MP i	22 830A MP	23 Polycarp
24 Epiphany 7 9A Formation 10A Mass 1130A 4 th Sunday Potluck	25 Saint Matthias the Apostle 830A MP 12P Noontday 1210P Mass	26 830A MP	27 George Herbert 830A MP 10A Mass 7P Choir	28 Anna Julia Haywood Cooper 830A MP		

LECTIONARY AND ROTA FOR FEBRUARY 2019

Date Lectionary Day Color	Greeter	Lectors	Lay Eucharistic Ministers	Altar Guild	Vestry Teller
3 February Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany C Epiphany 4 RCL Green	Connie & Bob Anderson	Cheryl Winters-Heard Jan Joseph Budd McLean	Paula Ross Butch Yeager	Marie Brown Lee Dorsey	Jan Joseph Ron Waites
10 February Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany C Epiphany 5 RCL Green	Melissa Brown	Geri Moulton Landon Heavner Paula Ross	Mary Sheffield Ron Waites	Marie Brown Lee Dorsey	Ron Waites Bootsie Cieutat
17 February Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany C Epiphany 6 RCL Green	Connie & Budd McLean	Ron Brown Nikki Shaw Mary Sheffield	Connie Anderson David Thompson	Irene Yeager Neva Bache	Bootsie Cieutat Mary Sheffield
24 February Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany C Epiphany 7 RCL Green	Paula & Bob Ross	Ron Waites Connie Anderson Janet Buckley	Connie McLean Geri Moulton	Irene Yeager Neva Bache	Mary Sheffield Kristen Turner



2019 PLEDGE SUMMARY

As this newsletter goes to print, we have received financial commitments from 40 pledge units for 2019 totaling \$129,454. 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.

CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATE

Joan-Marie Elam:
8127 Gayfer Rd. Ext. #6
Fairhope, AL 36532
(251) 303-3933



The next Spread the Word meeting is Sunday, February 3. Please join the team to get out the good news about St. John's!



FEBRUARY SCRIP ORDERS

Orders will be taken on Sunday, February 10. The cards will be available the following Sunday. Try a gift card at your favorite grocery store or gas pump and see how easy they are to use. They also make great gifts. Ask Bootsie Cieutat for a retailer list and see just how many options you have with the St. John's scrip program!



EPISCOPAL RELIEF & DEVELOPMENT'S 2019 LENTEN MEDITATIONS

To help prepare for the Lenten journey, we encourage you to consider 2019 Lenten Meditations guide. Written by a collection of Episcopal Church leaders and published by Forward Movement, Episcopal Relief & Development's 2019 Lenten Meditations bring together the wisdom from the Lenten Meditations from the last decade. These Lenten meditations can help deepen your faith in the risen Christ and strengthen your connection to our neighbors and partners around the world. The Lenten Meditations reflect Episcopal Relief & Development's commitment to leveraging the resources of Anglican and ecumenical partners to deliver measurable and sustainable change in three signature program priorities: Women, Children and Climate.

Over the years, we have had wonderful feedback on our Lenten Meditations. That feedback has given us a sense of what readers find nurturing and life-giving on their Lenten journeys. In this book, we have returned to meditations from the last ten years that have touched our readers most deeply. In doing so, we were reminded that we have been fortunate to share reflections from many gifted writers, teachers, theologians and spiritual guides.

Sign up to receive our Daily Lenten Meditations by email. Hard copies will be available at St John's.

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
Amelia Broach	02/26



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



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

Jean Brown, Mary Bonner, Carolyn Pearce, Audrey Garner, Joyce Lee, Mac Pearce, Neil McPhail, Marian Boykin, Ron Brown, Jayson Chestang, Budd McLean.

For our Homebound:

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

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

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

For our Friends and Family:

Clay Graham, Gwen Crook, Glenda Evans, Ouida McNider, Rita Harper, Sean James, 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 .

Contact Us

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Darren Anderson, *junior warden*

Janet Buckley, *clerk*

Bootsie Cieutat

Kathe Gieseler, *senior warden*

Jan Joseph

Connie McLean, *treasurer*

Mary Sheffield

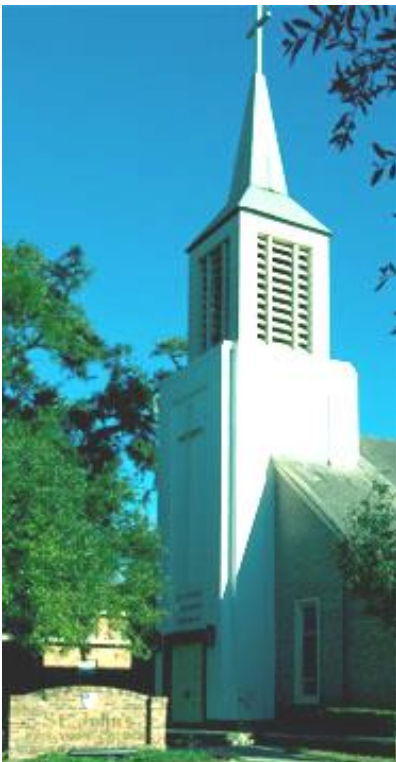
Kristen Turner

Ron Waites

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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.