



# 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 3

March 2019

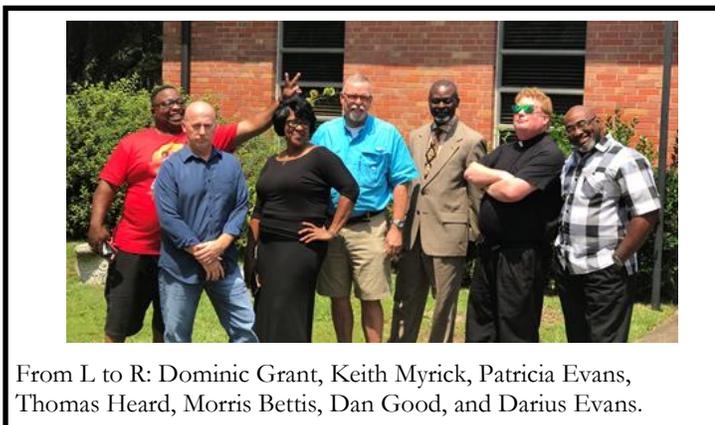
## FROM THE RECTOR:

Dear Ones,

I have a confession to make: I've taken on a responsibility outside of the parish. The Bishop knows because I had to ask him to write a letter confirming my position in the diocese and recommending me. I know of only two other priests in the diocese that are also doing this work. What are we doing? We are working as volunteer chaplains for our respective Public Safety divisions.

The Alabama Attorney General convened a group of clergy in Mobile to discuss the Opioid Epidemic. There were presenters from several agencies, talking about the extent of the problem, its history, and current efforts to curb its continued growth. It was a great seminar, and I met a number of other Mobile clergy. A fellow sitting behind me, at one of our breaks, introduced himself and asked where I served. His name is Ed Connick, a Roman Catholic deacon and chaplain for Mobile Public Safety.

So a few days after the seminar, I got a call from Chaplain Connick asking if I would be interested in joining the cadre of volunteer chaplains. I called him a couple of days later and said, "Yes." We had a training class for the 7 new chaplains at Saint John's on July 27 and 28. Our instructors were Percy Harris and Ed Connick. Here's our 'class photo':



From L to R: Dominic Grant, Keith Myrick, Patricia Evans, Thomas Heard, Morris Bettis, Dan Good, and Darius Evans.

Each of us is assigned to a Police Precinct and a Fire House or two. I'm assigned to 3rd Precinct, along with Dominic Grant, Patrician Evans, and Mike Cook. I also have Station 9 at 1000 Houston Street and Station 23 at 2711 Airport.

Police officers and firefighters are a tough lot. They see things that no one should ever have to experience and their occupation puts them at risk on a daily basis. They also don't open up or talk about things easily; we have to earn their trust.

I've been called out on two occasions. A firefighter was electrocuted rescuing kittens from an oven. He has returned to duty. The second call out was the night Ofc. Sean Tudor was killed. I joined five other chaplains at the Police Academy to work with the officers who were on shift. I spent a good deal of time with the officer who drove Tudor to the hospital. He'd only been in the department for about six months. Quite a baptism.

I think it is important for clergy, regardless of faith community, to be involved in their community. It necessarily needs to be in a way that can never be construed as proselytizing. Chaplaincy, whether in this particular capacity or any other is a perfect outlet. We are not there to 'convert' anyone; we're to be part of a coping mechanism for folks undergoing stressful circumstances. We serve everyone, whether they are persons of faith or not. Our service is not exclusive to our police and firefighters, but extends to the victims of crimes, fires, accidents, or other incidents. We are there to be present, to let them talk, to answer questions, and provide 'next steps' information when possible.

—Thomas

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MARCH LITURGICAL CALENDAR

### Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Season of Lent and is a fast day. It gets its name from the practice of the imposition of ashes, made from the palm branches from the previous year. We hold the ashes to be sacramental (not a Sacrament), which serve as reminders of our repentance or turning from old ways to the Lord. In ancient times, dusting with ashes was one way for a penitent to express sorrow and regret for sins and faults.

We will hold the Ash Wednesday liturgy twice on 6 March. The first will be a Said service at 10:00AM and the second a Sung service at 6:00PM.

Throughout the day, the church will be open for prayer, confession, and imposition of ashes.



### James Theodore Holly

We will commemorate the life and witness of James Theodore Holly on Wednesday, 13 March at our 10:00AM Said Mass. Holly was Bishop of Haiti and of the Dominican Republic. Holly was born in 1829, a free African American. He began his ministry as rector of St. Luke's, New Haven, CT. In 1861, he resigned to lead a group planning to settle in Haiti. Many of the group died in the first year. In 1874, Holly was consecrated Bishop of Haiti, the first black to be raised to the episcopacy. He had charge of the Diocese of the Dominican Republic as well as Haiti beginning in 1897. He died in 1911 and is buried on the grounds of St. Vincent's School for Handicapped Children in Port-au-Prince.

### Saint Joseph

We will remember Joseph at a Said Mass at 12:10PM on Tuesday, 19 March. Joseph was a pious Jew. He is counted as a descendent of King David and a carpenter by vocation. Joseph is considered to be the patron saint of working men and women. What we know of him is that he trusted in God, even when what God asked was to be a challenge to his daily life.

### Cuthbert

We will commemorate the life and ministry of Cuthbert, Bishop of Lindisfarne on Wednesday, 20 March at 10:00 AM. Cuthbert was the most popular saint of the Anglo-Saxon church prior to the arrival of William the Conqueror in 1066. Born in about 625, Cuthbert decided to enter a monastery. The Celtic monastic traditions were quite austere. As Bishop of Lindisfarne and later Hexham, Cuthbert made his visitations to remote parishes, sometimes not returning home for months at a time. He concurred with the Synod of Whitby, uniting the Roman and Celtic churches.

### The Annunciation

The Feast of the Annunciation will be celebrated at a 12:10PM Mass on Monday, 25 March. The Annunciation celebrates the visit of the angel Gabriel to a maiden named Mary. The Gospel reading includes *Magnificat* and Martin Luther said this in his sermon for this day:



“The ‘great things’ are nothing less than that she became the Mother of God, in which work so many and such great good things are bestowed upon her as pass man’s understanding. For on this there follows all honor, all blessedness, and her unique place in the whole of mankind, among whom she has no equal, namely, that she had a child by the Father in Heaven, and such a child.

She herself is unable to find a name for this work, it is too exceedingly great; all she can do is break out in the fervent cry: ‘They are great things,’ impossible to describe or define. Hence men have crowded all her glory into a single word, calling her the Mother of God.

No one can say anything greater of her or to her, though he had as many tongues as there are leaves on the trees, or grass in the fields, or stars in the sky, or sand by the sea. It needs to be pondered in the heart, what it means to be the Mother of God.”

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

### Charles Henry Brent

Charles Henry Brent was elected Bishop of the Philippines by the House of Bishops in 1901. He became a crusade against the opium trade, later expanding his efforts to the mainland. Brent had served as a chaplain in World War I and accepted election as Bishop of Western New York in 1918. He was a significant figure in the Episcopal Church, focusing his ministry on Christian Unity. He died in 1929. A man of prayer, one of his prayers for the mission of the church is in our prayerbook, at the top of p. 101.



The regular meeting of the Wardens and Vestry of Saint John's Church was called to order at 11:30 AM by Fr. Heard. Jan Joseph was absent due to illness. The minutes of the January meeting were approved with corrections.

Connie McLean reviewed the financial statements. Fr. Heard reviewed the status of the pledge campaign. Connie introduced the proposed budget for 2019. After some discussion, the vestry voted to give 3% salary increases to all employees as there have been no adjustments for several years.

Janet Buckley reported for Outreach which is planning a "Forty Days Forty Items" project for the entire parish. Lenten Suppers will happen again this year.

The minutes from the Spread the Word committee are to be incorporated in the minutes.

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Potluck will be Mardi Gras-themed and will be the Annual Meeting.

The Book Sale and Thee Store Liquidation will take place on 16 March.

The Vestry will be meeting in retreat for a planning session on 6 April, beginning at 8:30 AM with breakfast.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer by Fr. Heard at 12:45 PM.

## LENTEN STUDY AND SIMPLE SUPPER

As part of our observance of the Lenten season Saint John's will once again be having a study series and simple meal on Wednesdays during Lent.

We will begin with Stations of the Cross at 5:50 PM.

The **meal will start at 6 PM** and be followed by discussion led by Fr. Heard. This year we'll continue with "Lenten Madness". We will be reviewing the lives of saints and discussing how their lives and sacrifices relate to our lives today. In addition, we'll be looking at the components of our Baptismal Covenant. If you want to know more about the "Lenten Madness" series or to participate online: <https://www.lentmadness.org/>

Don't worry, choir members, we'll be finished in time for rehearsal at 7!

The meals will have a meatless entree and include salad, bread and dessert. There will be a sign up sheet on the bulletin for bringing meal items. We will need volunteers to bring/prepare parts of the suppers and help clean up. The sign up is on the bulletin board.

Cost for the meals will be \$5.00 each or, if you purchase them all at once, five meals for \$20.00. See Connie McLean for payment and meal tickets. The money raised will be matched by the Outreach Committee and donated to Murray House for furnishings for their dining room.

In order to make sure we have enough food for the meals we will have "I'm coming..." sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.

### 2019 Lenten Supper Schedule (Wednesdays)

March 13	April 3
March 20	April 10
March 27	



# OUTREACH

## FORTY DAYS – FORTY ITEMS

Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup> is the first day of Lent. This year, the Outreach Committee is asking you to participate in a different kind of Lenten activity. Instead of a “giving up” something for Lent, how about “giving away” something every day during Lent?

We all have more than we need and we know there are people in our community in need.

Once a day take something from your closet, cupboard, or storage bin and put it in the bag. Near the end of Lent, on Sunday April 14<sup>th</sup> (Palm Sunday), bring the bag to St. John’s; the Outreach Committee will get the items to the organization(s) that can distribute them to those in need.

You can put more than one item in per day but please remember: clothes need to be wearable and clean, household items cannot be broken or not working, and if an item has multiple parts, all the parts need to be included.

Reflecting on how much we have when others are in need can take us on a different journey through Lent this year.

The bags will be at the front of the church starting on Ash Wednesday.



# BOOK SALE

SATURDAY, MARCH 16

9 AM TO 2 PM

The St. John’s Book sale will be held 9 AM to 2 PM Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup>.

We need everyone to help spread the word and come purchase some new reading matter or items from *Thee Store*. We also need volunteers to help with either set-up and/or on the sale day.

We will be selling the last of the contents of *Thee Store* along with the books donated by the parish members.

We’ll be setting up the sale on Friday, March 15<sup>th</sup> starting at 10 AM. We need willing hands to put out the books and all the *Thee Store* items. We need volunteers on the day of the sale to keep the tables organized, answer customers’ questions, and be the cashier. **The sign-up sheet will be on the bulletin board.**

You can still bring your book donations. 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.

Remember: Get the word out to your family, friends and neighbors: BOOK SALE MARCH 16<sup>th</sup> !!



Please note that, starting in 2019, the cost of sponsoring altar flowers has increased to \$55.

## PRAYER PARTNERS

We have shared a year of Prayer Partners. It is time to reveal to our Partners who we are. You can either sign your card or greet them with a hug. This is your choice. We will draw partners on March 10<sup>th</sup> for next year. If you would like to be part of the prayer group see Bootsie.



## 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY POTLUCK: MARCH 24<sup>TH</sup>

It will finally, officially, be Spring when we have our 4th Sunday Potluck, so let's celebrate spring at our 4th Sunday Potluck. Let's bring spring veggies, pretty salads, and foods that celebrate the season. Of course, there will be lots of fellowship, laughter, and conversation. Bring a friend, invite some neighbors, the more the merrier!!



## HELP FACEBOOK SPREAD THE WORD!

Please "like" Saint John's Facebook page if you haven't already. In addition to the weekly service information, we will be adding additional posts each month. Perhaps you saw the one about Mr. Rogers, or the reminder about the Mardi Gras-themed potluck. If you will share the posts to your timeline, all your friends can see them. And maybe they will share them. That's the power of social media! Join us for our monthly meeting Sunday, March 3!

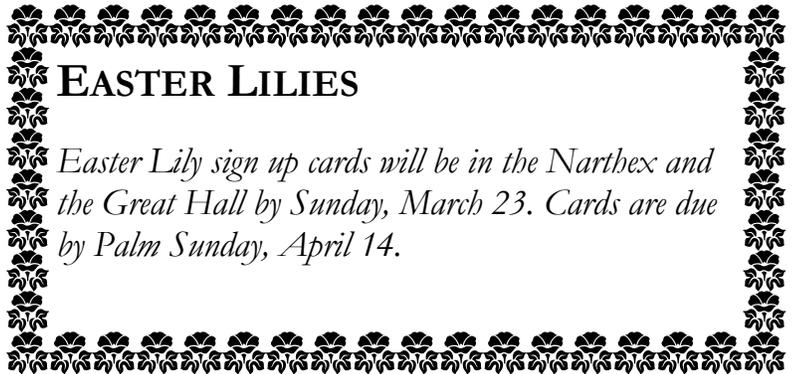


**SPREAD THE WORD**



## MARCH SCRIP ORDERS

Orders for Scrip will be taken on March 10 and will be back on the 17<sup>th</sup>. If you have not tried shopping with the gift cards, give it a try. See Bootsie Cieutat for more information.



## EASTER LILIES

*Easter Lily sign up cards will be in the Narthex and the Great Hall by Sunday, March 23. Cards are due by Palm Sunday, April 14.*



## DON'T FORGET —

Daylight Savings Time begins at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 10. Set your clocks forward one hour before you go to bed Saturday night.

## BECKWITH SUMMER CAMP

Register online at [www.BeckwithAL.com](http://www.BeckwithAL.com) or call 251-928-7844 for more information.



**Sr. High** (9th-12th Grade): June 2-6 \$400  
**Leaders-in-Training (LIT)**: June 6-7 \$160  
**Session 1** (6th-8th Grade): June 9-14 \$480  
**Session 2** (3rd-5th Grade): June 16-21 \$480  
**Session 3** (7th-9th Grade): June 23-28 \$480  
**Special Ministries**: June 30-July 3  
**Session 5** (5th & 6th Grade): July 7-12 \$480  
**Session 6** (6th & 7th Grade): July 14-19 \$480  
**Session 7** (3rd & 4th Grade): July 21-25 \$340  
**Family Camp** (1st Grade+): July 26-28 \$240 for 1 child & 1 adult; \$48 per additional adult, \$96 per additional child, or \$144 per additional 1 child & 1 adult

## 2019 Christus Annual Conference

March 14th and 15th

Gautrelet Room- Lucey Administration Building

**Presented by: The Rev. Dr. Kara Slade**

**Thursday March 14th, 7 PM:**

**"The Fullness of Time: Jesus Christ, Science, and Modernity"**

\$5 for guests

While human existence in time is determined by the time of Jesus Christ, by way of his incarnation, passion, resurrection, and ascension, the predominant accounts of time in the modern West have proceeded from a very different basis. This presentation will describe the problem posed by modern thought as well as Christological interventions into that problem.

**Friday March 15th, 10:15 AM:**

**"Political Theology, Progress, and Temporality"**

\$3 for guests

This lecture describes what anthropologist Johannes Fabian describes as the politics of temporal separation and distancing. Using this theoretical insight as a theological springboard, I hope to show how the politics of time are fundamentally a problem of salvation. In other words, the question that lies underneath is the question: "Who saves, and by what means?"

### About the Speaker

The Rev. Dr. Kara Slade is Associate Chaplain at the Episcopal Chaplaincy to Princeton University and Associate Rector of Trinity Church in Princeton. A native of Pensacola, Florida and lifelong Southerner, Kara received her PhD in Christian theology and ethics at Duke University in 2018, with research interests that include Karl Barth, Søren Kierkegaard, and the ethics of science, technology, and medicine. A former specialist in the dynamics of nonlinear and complex systems, she earned the BSE, MS, and PhD in mechanical engineering and materials science at the Duke Pratt School of Engineering (and served on the faculty there) before joining NASA as a research engineer. After leaving government service, she returned to Duke in 2009 as a student in the Divinity School, and stayed on for her second doctorate. At Princeton, she is a Fellow of Rockefeller College. She serves on the Committee for the Priesthood of the Diocese of New Jersey and the General Board of Examining Chaplains of the Episcopal Church, and is also the chair of the Society of Scholar-Priests.

# Happy Birthday

## February Birthdays

Howard Yeager	03/10
Marian Boykin	03/12
Darren Anderson	03/15
William Anderson	03/15
Budd McLean	03/18
Courtney Bryan	03/19
Jean Brown	03/20
Kristen Turner	03/22
Sandra Wilson	03/27
Rhonda Clark	03/28
Faith Velaski	03/28



Celebrating February birthdays at St. John's with Fr. Thomas Heard, Mary Sheffield, David Thompson and Lee Dorsey. (Photo by Irene Yeager)



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

Julia Heard, Jean Brown, 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:**

Karen Twilley, Jerry Wigfield, Clay Graham, Gwen Crook, Glenda Evans, Ouida McNider, Rita Harper, Sean James, Bambi Lynn Reynolds Marrow, Del Howatt, Kara Reynolds Hall, Ellen Green, Christina Morgret, Sue Sheffield, David Shippee, Abigail Harrison, Robert Levy, Bonnie Adler, Chris Christiansen, Connor, David Green, 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

**Staff:**

The Reverend Thomas Heard, *rector*  
[rector@stjohnsmobile.org](mailto:rector@stjohnsmobile.org)

Louis Daniel  
 Organist & Choir Director  
[music@stjohnsmobile.org](mailto:music@stjohnsmobile.org)

Lella Lowe  
 Financial Secretary  
[finance@stjohnsmobile.org](mailto:finance@stjohnsmobile.org)

Jack Ruppe  
 Sexton

**Vestry:**

Darren Anderson, *junior warden*

Janet Buckley, *clerk*

Bootsie Cieutat

Kathe Gieseler, *senior warden*

Jan Joseph

Connie McLean, *treasurer*

Mary Sheffield

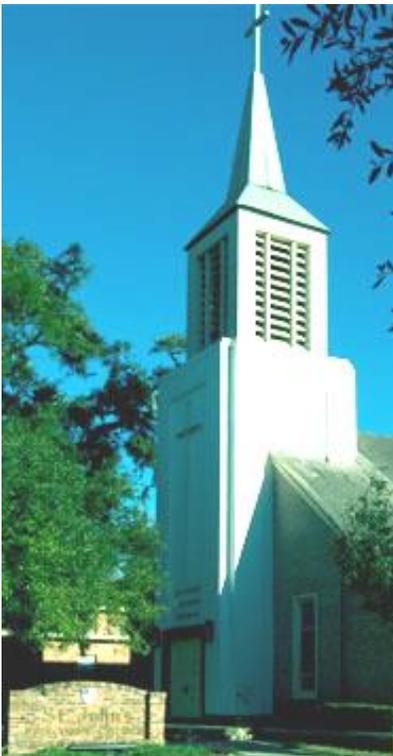
Kristen Turner

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 1<sup>st</sup>  
 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](http://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.