FROM THE RECTOR:

Dear Ones,

In the Vestry Summary column in this edition of the newsletter, you probably noticed that your Vestry decided to participate in two outside organizations: Alabama Arise and Believe Out Loud. This column is devoted to Alabama Arise.

Saint John’s will be the 12th Mobile Area organization to join Alabama Arise and the second Episcopal Church. All Saints’ has been involved with Alabama Arise for several years. Both the Diocese of Alabama and our own Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast are members.

The Alabama Arise website is https://www.alarise.org/ should you want to dive deeper into what they do.

Alabama Arise (Arise) is a statewide collection of congregations, organizations and individuals that have united in the belief that people in poverty are suffering due to state policy decisions. Through Arise, we join with many others across the state to promote policies that can improve the lives of low-income Alabamians. Predominantly, the members of Arise are faith communities and community organizations.

Arise states its mission as follows:

Arise is a statewide citizens’ organization composed of faith and community groups that promotes state policies that improve the lives of low-income people.

Arise uses three approaches to its work:

**Analysis:** Study current and proposed state policies and regulations to understand the impact that will be or have been imposed on people in poverty.

**Organizing:** Help low-income folks and members to effectively speak out on the policies that affect their lives.

**Advocacy:** Equip its members for effective participation in the democratic process, including legislative advocacy.

When you read their core values statements, you'll find a tremendous consonance with what we experience in Jesus’ teachings: unconditional love, social & economic justice, speaking truth to power, mutual respect. These are also the same ideals outlined in the Old Testament *Mitzvot*.

The long-term goals of Arise are reflective of the inequities and disenfranchisement embodied in our state systems.

1. Fair and transparent tax system
2. Restorative criminal justice system
3. New state constitution
4. State budget expenditures that adequately support state services
5. Wages, benefits, and policies that underpin economic security for all working people.
6. Safe, affordable, accessible, and adequate housing.

For 2019, Arise has established its priority issues, as follows:

1. Adequate funding for health care, childcare, education, and other human services
2. Tax Reform
3. State funding for the Alabama Public Transportation Trust Fund
4. Payday and title lending reform
5. Automatic voter registration
6. Criminal justice debt reforms
7. Death penalty reform

I will be inviting Arise staff to speak to us in the coming year.

—Thomas
HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MAY LITURGICAL CALENDAR

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.”

Julian of Norwich
The Lady Julian was born about 1342, and when she was thirty years old, she became gravely ill and was expected to die. Then, on the seventh day, the medical crisis passed, and she had a series of fifteen visions, or "showings," in which she was led to contemplate the Passion of Christ. These brought her great peace and joy. She became an anchoress, living in a small hut near to the church in Norwich, where she devoted the rest of her life to prayer and contemplation of the meaning of her visions. The results of her meditations she wrote in a book called Revelations of Divine Love. We will commemorate Dame Julian at our Said Mass on Wednesday, 8 May at 10:00 AM.

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 30 May at 12:10 PM. 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.

The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
We will celebrate the feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary at 12:15 PM on Friday, 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 called to order at 11:45 on Sunday, 14 April. Darren Anderson, Kathe Gieseler, and Ron Waites were absent.

Connie McLean reviewed the financial reports and noted that we have taken some of our earnings from the Scrip account into the Operating account.

Janet Buckley reported that Outreach, working with Spread the Word, has sent a Holy Week announcement to the newsletter recipients, excluding the churches.

Parish Life reported that there will be receptions following Easter Vigil and Easter Day services.

Fr. Heard reported that MEJAC used the Parlor for a meeting on 11 April.

He reviewed the history of our copier/printer, noting that it’s lease will end in December. Berney has a lightly used machine that they have offered at a monthly savings. DEX Imaging has also made a proposal. The Vestry voted to defer action on both proposals until the end of the year.

Owing to the cancellation of the Vestry Retreat, a couple of items have escaped consideration: Alabama Arise and Believe Out Loud. After discussion the Vestry voted to become a member of Alabama Arise, funding our membership from the Outreach Budget. After some additional discussion, the Vestry voted to pursue becoming a Believe Out Loud Episcopal Congregation.

The Vestry voted to drop the 1702 Church St. lease and rent item from the agenda.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 12:30 PM.
Evangelism 101 is a not-so-basic training designed to introduce a fresh, humble, effective and Episcopal approach to the spiritual practice of evangelism. Facilitated by the Rev. Canon Stephanie Spellers and members of the Episcopal Evangelism Team, this training includes a host of resources for understanding the Jesus Movement, redefining and reclaiming evangelism, organizing a revival, sharing our stories, walking the neighborhood, improving hospitality, and more. Join us as we seek, name, and celebrate Jesus' loving presence in the stories of all people.

Saturday, May 4, 2019 | 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
St. Jude's Episcopal Church
200 N Partin Dr, Niceville, FL

Event is free. Lunch provided. Donations accepted.
register online: www.diocgc.org/event-registration

Episcopal Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast
Easter 2019

Photos by Nikki Shaw
Faces We Love
Episcopal Relief & Development is partnering with the Episcopal Diocese of Nebraska in response to the severe flooding, devastating parts of the Central US. It was caused by snow melt, spring rain and levee breaches overflowing river banks last month.

People displaced by the flood damage will receive emergency supplies such as food, gas and clothing to people. Episcopal Relief & Development is providing logistical support to the affected diocese as they continue to assess the needs of their communities and to formulate response efforts.

Episcopal Relief & Development’s US Disaster team has been in close contact with diocesan staff in Nebraska and Iowa since the flooding first began. The Rev. Canon Carl Andrews and The Very Rev. Canon Michael Bamberger, trained volunteer members of Episcopal Relief & Development’s Partners in Response and Resilience, visited Nebraska and Iowa the week of April 7 to help diocesan leaders conduct assessments of the damage caused by the flooding and to identify both immediate and long-term needs of communities. They provided resources such as guidance on organizing a Diocesan Disaster Leadership Team to provide structure to the diocese’s response efforts in Nebraska. Leadership is continuing to evaluate and discuss long-term response plans in both Nebraska and Iowa. NB Partners in Response and Resilience visited the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast after Hurricane Michael.

“Carl and Michael were able to see firsthand the damage from and impact of the flooding on these communities and the church’s willingness to respond,” said Katie Mears, Senior Director, US Disaster Program, for Episcopal Relief & Development. “We are grateful to them for providing their expertise as we continue to partner with diocesan leadership to develop long-term response strategies to these floods.”

Episcopal Relief & Development is also supporting the Diocese of Nebraska through emergency supplies such as food, gas, gift cards and clothing. Additionally, with the organization’s support, the diocese is expanding existing food bank services to provide assistance to 200 households.

Please continue to pray for those impacted by this emergency. Donations can be made to the US Disaster Response Fund at P.O. Box 7058 Merrifield, VA 22116 to support Episcopal Relief & Development’s response to the flooding.

CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATE

Julia Heard
53 Highland Falls
Hiram, GA 30141


SUPPORTING THE RESPONSE TO THE FLOODING IN NEBRASKA

It’s time to print a new church directory for distribution. 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 19. New parish directories will be available by early June.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

SHOP WITH SCRIP

Powered by Great Lakes Scrip Center

Supporting the response to the flooding in Nebraska.
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
Bootsie Cieutat
Kathe Gieseler, senior warden
Jan Joseph
Connie McLean, treasurer
Mary Sheffield
Kristen Turner

April Birthdays

Celebrating April birthdays at St. John’s with Joyce Lee and Fran Barbour.
(Photo by Irene Yeager)

Tony Seymour 5/03  Zachary Anderson 5/16
Cookie Rich 5/09  Claire Cameron 5/18
Mike Barbour 5/11  Jeanne Velaski 5/18
Paula Ross 5/15  Pat Fulford 5/29

Kat & Chris Velaski 05/31

For healing grace and continued strength, we pray for our members:
Marie Brown, Neva Bache, Julia Heard, Carolyn Pearce,
Audrey Garner, Joyce Lee, 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, Ellis Garner, Eric Mattoon.

For our Friends and Family:
Peter Pearce, William Dorsey, Ann Blankenship, Mike Gibson,
Donna Pigg, Fred Lloyd, Robert & Dorothy Johnson,
Paul Kreamer, Karen Twilley, Jerry Wigfield, Clay Graham,
Glenda Evans, Ouida McNider, Bambi Lynn Reynolds Marrow,
Kara Reynolds Hall, 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, Évia Daniel, Charles Geck,
Mary Jo Vinson, Bonnie Jernigan, Kaye Turner, Britney Butler,
Neal Tourné, Sandy & Ray Michel, Connor Crist, Paul Nelson,
Krystal Hiatt, Mark Linder[priest], Arnold Bush[priest].
Saint John’s Episcopal Church
1707 Government Street
Mobile, Alabama 36604

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.