



# 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 6

Jaune 2019

## FROM THE RECTOR:

Dear Ones,

Last month, I wrote about Alabama Arise, a state-wide organization that promotes state policy to improve the lives of low-income folks. At our April meeting, your vestry decided to participate in supporting Alabama Arise.

At that same meeting, your vestry decided to investigate becoming a Believe Out Loud congregation. This is a process that can take us a month or two or a year or two. As is said about lots of things, "It all depends."

This is a process of discernment. I think we believe that we are a welcoming parish, but are there limits to our welcome? Are there characteristics that make us too uncomfortable to welcome newcomers into our community? It is necessary for us to be able to answer "no" to these questions if we are truly welcoming.

We'll start first to assess our inclusiveness. Do we really welcome all people? If not, what are the barriers to welcoming? Are we able to dismantle those barriers? If we find no barriers, then we move on to step 3.

I suspect we'll find some barriers. Here's where we'll explore them: What are the barriers? Where did they come from? Are they leftovers from a bygone era? Are they a result of being uncomfortable about something/someone?

This phase of the discernment will be the most difficult if there are substantial barriers. It wouldn't surprise me that we'll spend some time doing a little diving into the history of Saint John's and Mobile itself. That's OK. Understanding where we come from and why we're the way we are puts us in a much better place to be able to face the parts of us that we don't particularly like. It also makes it much easier for us to move in directions that address our discomforts and barriers.

So, once we get past all of what I've talked about so far, the next step is to craft and adopt a statement of welcome. It has to have specific welcoming language or reference to characteristics.

So far, my discussion has been about welcoming. It has touched on difference. It has touched on being inclusive. It has touched on barriers to being welcoming. Our Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry, has used the phrase, "The Way of Love", to describe who we, as Christians in the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement, are called to be.

No barriers. No divisions. Welcoming to all.

Believe Out Loud is a program of Integrity USA, an organization within the Episcopal Church working for full inclusion of LGBTQIA persons. In the State of Alabama, there are five Believe Out Loud congregations, four in Birmingham and one in Mobile. If we follow the process to adding our parish to the list of welcoming parishes of the Episcopal Church, we will be making a difference in the lives of folks outside our community. I think we'll also be making a difference in the life of our community.

So you might be asking yourself, "Why is this important?" Well, in spite of Jesus' words recorded in the Gospels, the church has been a leader in turning scripture on its ear. With implicit and explicit "I have no need of you" statements, the church has marginalized many people and many groups over its history. It is a history of which we can be anything but proud.

It is time for us to drive a stake in the sand and declare universal welcome to anyone who wants to be a follower of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

--Thomas

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE JUNE LITURGICAL CALENDAR

### Boniface of Mainz

Born Winfred in 675, the man we remember as Boniface was educated at Exeter and made his life profession as a monk and was ordained priest. His first missionary journey was to Frisia in 716. He sought the Pope's permission for another visit in 719, and Gregory the Second gave him the name "Boniface." Boniface spent the rest of his life planting, organizing, growing and reforming churches, monasteries, and diocese. He was ordained bishop in 722 and was given the see of Mainz in 743. On a missionary trip to Frisia in 754, he and his companions were murdered by a band of pagans. We will commemorate Boniface's life and work at our Said Mass on Wednesday, 5 June at 10:00 AM.

### Saint Barnabas

We will commemorate Saint Barnabas the Apostle on Tuesday, 11 June at 12:10 PM. Our first knowledge of Barnabas comes from Acts 4:36-37:

*Thus Joseph who was surnamed by the apostles Barnabas (which means Son of encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus, sold a field which belonged to him, and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.*

His missionary efforts earned him the title of Apostle. Barnabas was from Cyprus, a Jew of the Diaspora. It was Barnabas who brought Paul to the Apostles in Jerusalem, testifying to Paul's experiences. He later settled in Antioch and sent for Paul to assist in leading the church there.

### Enmegabowh

John Joseph Enmegabowh was raised in the traditions of his Ottawa Indian father and Christian mother. He came to the U.S. in 1832 as a Methodist missionary. With James Lloyd Breck, he founded the Saint Columba's Mission in 1852. Enmegabowh is recognized as the first Native American priest in the Episcopal Church. He was ordained deacon by Jackson Kemper in 1859 and priest by Henry Whipple in 1867. His name means "The One who Stands Before his People," and he served them until his death in 1902. We will commemorate his life at our Said Mass on Wednesday, 12 June at 10:00 AM.

### First Book of Common Prayer

As has been our custom over the last few years, we will commemorate the First Book of Common Prayer at our Wednesday, 19 May Said Mass. This commemoration is to be placed in an open day in the week following Pentecost. As has also been our custom, we will use the rite from the 1549 Book of Common Prayer.

### The Nativity of Saint John the Baptist

On Monday, 24 June, we will observe the Feast of the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist at 12:10 PM. John the Baptist, one of the "Johns" commemorated in the main window in the chancel, is chronicled in all four of the Gospels. The son of Elizabeth and Zechariah, John was destined to be the herald of Jesus' ministry. John had his own crowd of disciples that followed him, calling people to repentance and baptizing them as a symbol of their new lives. John is remembered in Advent as Prophet and in Epiphany as the baptizer of Our Lord. In the Gospel of John, John the Baptist is the figure who declares Jesus to be "The Lamb of God."

### Saint Peter and Saint Paul

On Saturday, 29 June at 5:30 PM, we will observe the Feast of Saint Peter and Saint Paul. While sometimes at odds with each other, their joint leadership of the church is commemorated in remembering their martyrdom at Rome. Tradition holds that Peter was crucified head downward and Paul was beheaded, as befitted a Roman citizen.





## Vestry

The regular meeting of the Wardens and Vestry of Saint John's Church was called to order at 11:30 AM by Fr. Heard.

All members of the Vestry were present. The proposed agenda was adopted. The minutes of the 14 April 2019 meeting were approved as corrected.

Financial reports were reviewed by Treasurer Connie McLean. The requested withdrawal from the Endowment has arrived and is in the operating account.

Janet Buckley reported that the Outreach book project benefitting the Mobile County Head Start program will be prepared for distribution in July.

Jan Joseph reported that Spread the Word has been reviewing postcard marketing. Facebook updates for other than weekly schedules are garnering more interactions with the page.

Parish Life reported that the picnic will be in July, at Saint John's.

Darren Anderson brought up the need to have a workday to do clean-up and parking lot striping. It was decided that Saturday, 8 June 2019 will be that day, beginning at 7:30 AM.

Fr. Heard reported that the McKemie Place Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is under review. He added that McKemie has signed a lease for a 24-hour shelter, but it requires renovation.

The Vestry decided to hold a planning retreat on Saturday, 8 June beginning at noon. Fr. Heard will arrange for lunch.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 12:19 PM.

## PARISH LIFE

### SUMMER WORK DAY AT ST. JOHN'S SATURDAY, JUNE 8TH 8AM TO NOON

Work will include light gardening, exterior clean up, and other exterior summer spruce ups for the church. Remember, many hands make light work! Bring your favorite gloves and tools and join us! Contact Darren Anderson 401-1016 or [ande3754@yahoo.com](mailto:ande3754@yahoo.com) to volunteer or with questions.



Thank you and hope to see you there!  
-Darren Anderson

### 4TH SUNDAY POTLUCK: JUNE 23RD

...and now for something completely different.

The theme this month is "Bring Something Different". If you usually bring a salad... bring a dessert. If you usually bring an entrée...bring a veggie... If you usually bring a dessert...bring an entrée... get the picture? Let's mix it up and see what we get. No matter what you bring we know we will have delicious food and great fellowship.



### PENTECOST SUNDAY IS JUNE 9TH

Pentecost Sunday celebrates the descent of the Holy Spirit on the disciples of Jesus after his Ascension. It is celebrated on the seventh Sunday after Easter. In keeping with the joyous celebration of Pentecost and the beginning of the Pentecost season wear RED on Sunday, June 9th.



Do you remember when it was called Whitsunday?

# JUNE 2019 AT SAINT JOHN'S

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Omitted: 06/02 - Martyrs of Lyons, 177 06/09 - Columba, Abbot of Iona, 597 06/16 - Joseph Butler, Bishop of Durham, 1752						
<b>2 Easter 7</b> 9A Formation 10A Mass 1130A Outreach 1145A STW	3 Martyrs of Uganda 830A MP	4 830A MP	<b>5 Boniface</b> 830A MP 10A Mass+Unction 7P Choir	6 830A MP	7 830A MP	8 730A Workday 12P Vestry Planning
<b>9 Pentecost</b> 9A Formation 10A Mass	10 Ephrem of Edessa 830A MP	<b>11 Saint Barnabas the Apostle</b> 830A MP 12P Noontday 1210P Mass	<b>12 Enmeghbowh</b> 830A MP 10A Mass 7P Choir	13 830A MP	14 Basil the Great 830A MP	15 Evelyn Underhill
<b>16 Trinity</b> 9A Formation 10A Mass 1130 ECV	17 830A MP	18 Bernard Mirzeki 830A MP	<b>19 First Book of Common Prayer</b> 830A MP 10A Mass 7P Choir	20 830A MP <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b>	21 830A MP	22 Alban of Britain
<b>23 Corpus Christi</b> 9A Formation 10A Mass 1130A 4th Sunday Podluck	<b>24 Nativity of Saint John the Baptist</b> 830A MP 12P Noontday 1210P Mass	25 830A MP	26 830A MP 10A Mass 7P Choir	27 830A MPss	28 Irenaeus of Lyons 830A MP	<b>29 Saint Peter and Saint Paul, Apostles</b> 530P Mass
<b>30 Pentecost 3</b> 9A Formation 10A Mass						

# LECTIONARY AND ROTA FOR JUNE 2019

Date Lectionary Day Color	Greeter	Lectors	Lay Eucharistic Ministers	Altar Guild	Vestry Teller
2 June 7th Sunday of Easter White	Melissa Brown	Connie Anderson Janet Buckley David Thompson	David Thompson Connie Anderson	Marie Brown Lee Dorsey	Janet Buckley Bootsie Cieutat
9 June Pentecost Red	Connie & Budd McLean	Kathe Gieseler Cheryl Winters-Heard Jan Joseph	Geri Moulton Connie McLean	Marie Brown Lee Dorsey	Jan Joseph Mary Sheffield
16 June Trinity White	Paula & Bob Ross	Budd McLean Geri Moulton Landon Heavner	Butch Yeager Paula Ross	Irene Yeager Neva Bache	Ron Waites Kristen Turner
23 June Corpus Christi White	Thelma Lomers	Paula Ross Ron Brown Nikki Shaw	Ron Waites Mary Sheffield	Irene Yeager Neva Bache	Bootsie Cieutat Darren Anderson
30 June Pentecost 3 Proper 8 Green	Irene & Butch Yeager	Mary Sheffield Ron Waites Connie Anderson	David Thompson Connie Anderson	Cindy Gass Pat Fulford	Mary Sheffield Kathe Gieseler





Updated Church directories are ready. Pick up your copy in the church office.



June orders due Sunday, June 9. Gifts cards available by Sunday, June 16.



## EPISCOPAL RELIEF & DEVELOPMENT AWARD \$250,000 GRANT TO THE DIOCESE OF THE CENTRAL GULF COAST TO ASSIST CONGREGATIONS RECOVER FROM HURRICANE MICHAEL

In mid- May the staff from the Duvall Center met with clergy in the Panama City area Convocation for an update on recovery efforts after Hurricane Michael. They shared an update regarding our recent grant of \$250,000 from Episcopal Relief and Development and how they can obtain funding from the grant. We talked about insurance issues and heard about construction progress at affected churches.

Nine Episcopal churches in the Central Gulf Coast were impacted by Hurricane Michael are actively working with their communities to continue the recovery process. The Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast was able to provide some assistance to their efforts by way of two separate money sources that became available from the generosity of Episcopal Relief and Development, and various individuals and organizations in and out of the diocese.

Hurricane Michael made landfall Oct. 10 at Mexico Beach with an estimated wind speed of 155 mph. Some residents of Florida's Panhandle lost everything or nearly everything – trees gone, homes damaged or destroyed, businesses darkened, schools closed, jobs up in the air and the uncertainty of how to press on.

Until federal aid arrives, Central Gulf Coast congregations are extending a helping hand in a variety of ways, now with financial backing from the diocese's newly approved grant from Episcopal Relief & Development.

In Apalachicola, for example, Trinity Episcopal Church was not damaged by Hurricane Michael, but some of its neighbors were hit hard by the storm, diocesan disaster

relief coordinator Chris Heaney said. Since then, Trinity has offered a day care ministry to assist families with children who aren't in school and need care while their parents are at work.

A variety of other ministries also will receive part of the grant money, including food pantries in communities struggling after the hurricane. Those ministries existed before the storm but are in greater demand now, Heaney said. The same goes for Suppers at Grace, a continuing ministry at Grace Episcopal Church in Panama City Beach that has grown to serve storm victims.

Per another clergy who asked for our diocesan churches to continue to pray, Bishop Kendrick has directed all of congregations to add, into your Prayers of the People, a petition for those still recovering from Hurricane Michael.





Connie Anderson	06/03	Emily Johnston	06/10
Neva Bache	06/05	Ron Waites	06/12
Joan-Marie Elam	06/05	Connie McLean	06/16
Jerry Fulford	06/07	Taylor Helmick	06/22



David & Kim Partsch	06/06
David & Mary Jones	06/12
Bob & Mary Sheffield	06/28
Neil & Marie McPhail	06/30



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

LaVerne Foster, 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, 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, Kara Reynolds Hall, Christina Morgret, Sue Sheffield, David Shippee, Abigail Harrison, Robert Levy, Chris Christiansen, Connor, David Green, Tiffany Matthews, Betty Williams, Kay Barnes, Latecia Cushion Knight, Evia 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*].

## May Birthdays



Celebrating May birthdays at St. John's with Cookie Rich, Paula Ross and Pat Fulford. (Photo by Irene Yeager)

## Contact Us

### Staff:

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Jack Ruppe  
 Sexton

### Vestry:

Darren Anderson, *junior warden*

Janet Buckley, *clerk*

Bootsie Cieutat

Kathe Gieseler, *senior warden*

Jan Joseph

Connie McLean, *treasurer*

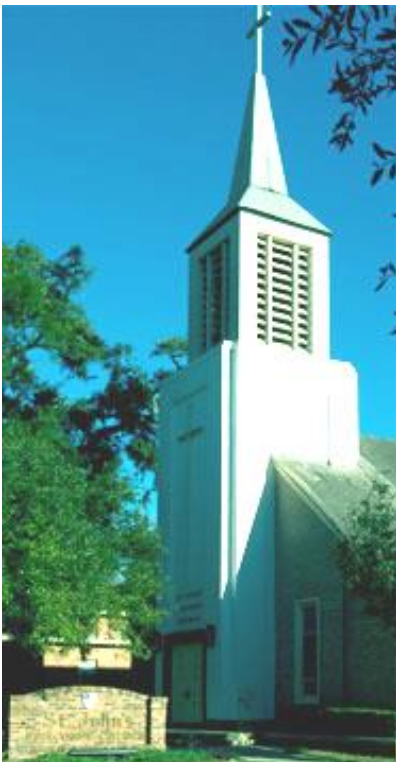
Mary Sheffield

Kristen Turner

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**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

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[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.