



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 7

July 2019

FROM THE RECTOR:

Dear Ones,

For space reasons, I'm sharing my column area with my reflection on Neil McPhail. Usually these obits are found later in the newsletter. Timing necessitated a different approach this month.

In June, your Vestry met in retreat for conversation and planning. This was on the heels of our workday at the church, doing outdoor clean-up. We did get a great deal accomplished. It would have gone faster if we'd had more help.

One of the concerns raised in our conversation was about participation. This pertained to our clean-up project, Sunday School, and Sunday and Wednesday attendance. We observed that it is simply a lack of participation rather than folks that have gone away. (There was a not-so-tongue-in-cheek suggestion that we take attendance on Sunday mornings.) It was also observed that there seem to be more things competing with Sunday mornings. While we're not susceptible to youth soccer/baseball/football scheduling, it was noted that SEC Football has a much broader appeal. Did we come up with any solutions? No, but I'm not sure we expected to. We did recognize the each of us needs to be taking a more active role following up on our absent sisters and brothers.

The really hard topic that we took up had to do with the property. The roofs on the Great Hall and the 2nd story of the Education Wing are shot. They have been for years, and that can be seen in the collateral damage to the soffits and ceiling tiles. The roof over the Parlor isn't far behind. While it would be best to strip and re-roof, that approach is much too costly for us to consider. (If anyone knows where to find \$250,000, we can talk about it.) As you'll see in the Vestry Summary, we did come to a decision. We're refreshing numbers and verifying information. Stay tuned.

--Thomas



*In
Loving
Memory*

**THOMAS NEIL MCPHAIL, JR.
(1934-2019)**

Neil entered new life on 25 June 2019 as a result of a cancer that returned. Neil was part of Saint John's almost from his birth. Born on 20 September 1934, he was baptized at Saint John's on 7 April 1935 by The Rev. Dr. Gardiner C. Tucker. Out of high school he became a U.S. Marine, of which, he was very proud. He served for 5-1/2 years and, to his disappointment, never saw combat. He was confirmed at Saint John's by Bishop Carpenter on 8 November 1959. He worked as a millwright at Scott Paper until retirement. He was longtime member of the Spanish Fort Water Board. Neil had friends from all over. He loved music and singing. In earlier years, he sang in operettas, and always around the house. He retired from the choir a few years ago; I'm not sure that's what he really wanted to do. Neil was a record keeper. His hymnal contains the dates for each time a hymn was used in the service. These past couple of years, Neil fought valiantly against some unique cancers. I know he didn't want to leave us, but I also know he was confident of his future and faced it without fear. He will be missed by many.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE JULY LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Independence Day

Independence Day is one of the “Other major feasts”, which include apostles, evangelists, Saints Mary the Virgin, Joseph, Mary Magdalene, James of Jerusalem, Stephen, and Michael and All Angels, as well as The Holy Innocents and Thanksgiving Day.

Independence Day entered the calendar with the proposed prayer book of 1786. It didn’t make it into the 1789 Prayer Book, due to concerns of appropriateness since most of the clergy of the church had been British loyalists. Independence Day finally entered our calendar with the 1928 Prayer Book. We will observe Independence Day at our 10:00AM Said Mass on Thursday, 4 July.

William White

William White was the first Bishop of Pennsylvania and Presiding Bishop of the organizing General Convention of The Episcopal Church in 1789. Interestingly, White was the principal architect of the Constitution of the church, very proud of the new United States, and yet opposed the inclusion of Independence Day in the calendar of the church. This is thought to have been because the majority of the clergy had been loyal to the crown. William White will be commemorated at our Wednesday Said Mass on 17 July at 10:00AM.

Saint Mary Magdalene

We will celebrate the feast of Saint Mary Magdalene on Monday, 22 July at a 12:10PM Said Mass. Surnames were not a feature of Palestine in the first century, so it was customary to use genealogical and geographical annotations to differentiate between people of the same name. Saint Mary Magdalene features prominently in the Gospels of Luke and John. In Luke, she was healed by Our Lord who cast out seven demons from her. She became a follower immediately. In John’s Gospel, Mary Magdalene is the “Mary” at the tomb who recognizes the resurrected Jesus and tells the disciples, “I have seen the Lord.” In the Eastern tradition, Mary is held as equal to the apostles.

Thomas à Kempis

Thomas à Kempis lived from about 1380 to 1471. He was an Augustinian monk, ordained priest in 1415 and became sub-prior of the abbey in 1425. The Order of the Brethren of the Common Life cultivated a practical biblical piety, stressing the inner life and practical virtues. The abbey was seen by many as precursors of the Reformation. Thomas is known especially for his book *The Imitation of Christ*, which has been translated into more languages than any other book except the Bible. We will commemorate Thomas à Kempis at our Said Mass on 24 July at 10:00AM.

Saint James the Apostle

James is sometimes called “the Greater”, to differentiate him from James the brother of our Lord, and the other apostle named James. With his brother John, the sons of Zebedee were also known as the “Sons of Thunder”, due to their dispositions. James is accorded the honor of being the first of the apostles to be martyred for Our Lord. We will celebrate James at a Said Mass on Thursday, 25 July at 12:10PM.

Ignatius of Loyola

We will commemorate the life and work of Ignatius of Loyola on Wednesday, 31 July at our 10:00AM Said Mass. Ignatius grew up in a Basque family of nobility. The first 26 years of his life were marked by worldliness and self-gratification. He was wounded in the Battle of Pamplona in 1521 and during his recovery he found himself being called to be a “soldier for Christ.” He is best known as the founder of the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits). His *Spiritual Exercises* are still widely used today.





Vestry

The regular meeting of the Wardens and Vestry of Saint John's Church was held on Saturday, 8 June. The meeting was conducted at the conclusion of the Vestry Planning Retreat.

Fr. Heard called the meeting to order at 1:45 PM. The Agenda was adopted.

Jan Joseph and Ron Waites were excused.

Connie McLean (Treasurer) reviewed the financial reports. Deficit for May was \$10,800.

Janet Buckley (Outreach) reported that the books for Head Start are in hand and will be stickered beginning on 30 June.

Kristen Turner (Spread the Word) reported that research into media costs continues. So far, it seems much too expensive to consider. The Facebook page is being regularly updated and we are seeing higher interaction

Janet Buckley (Parish Life) reminded everyone that the theme for the June 4th Sunday Potluck is "Bring Something Different", and that the picnic will be 28 July.

Darren Anderson (Jr. Warden) reported that the clean-up day (held earlier in the day) was quite successful. He added that work in the garden and around the church is progressing. Concerning the roof of the Parish House, the Vestry voted to seek a loan from the Congregational Loan Fund to permit us to re-roof the Great Hall, repair window sills, and waterproof the west wall of the second story; and to begin work on a capital campaign.

Fr. Heard reported that MEJAC and McKemie Place continue to utilize our facilities. McKemie Place has acquired a property to become its 24-hour space. They hope to be in it by October. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between McKemie Place and Saint John's has been updated. The Vestry voted to approve it.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 2:34 PM.

PARISH LIFE

JULY'S FOURTH SUNDAY POTLUCK: PARISH PICNIC

St. John's annual inside-outside Parish Picnic will be held on Sunday, July 28nd. Our "grill master" Junior Warden Darren Anderson has volunteered to do the duties on the grill again this year. The rest of us have the task of providing all the traditional picnic "fixings".

The sign-up sheet will be on the bulletin board. So let's dress for a picnic and eat picnic foods but we'll leave the bugs outside!



St John's Outreach Committee will be inviting all parishioners to help put stickers into the books purchased for children in Mobile and Washington counties Head Start programs, beginning Sunday, June 30.

CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATE

Please make the following changes to your 2019 St. John's church directory:

William (Bill) Duke

8730 Water Fowl Flyway
Chesterfield, VA 23838

LaVerne Foster

1257 Government St., Apt. 109
Mobile, AL 36604

Emily Johnston

ejohnsto@southalabama.edu

Carolyn Pearce

The phone number listed as the house number is actually her cell phone number.

Howard (Butch) & Irene Yeager

Butch: hyeager42@comcast.net
Irene: iby19@comcast.net

JULY 2019 AT SAINT JOHN'S

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 830A MP	2 830A MP	3 830A MP 10A Mass+Unction	4 Independence Day 10 Mass	5 830A MP	6
7 Pentecost 9A Formation 10A Mass 1130A Outreach + Spread the Word	8 830A MP	9 830A MP	10 830A MP 10A Mass	11 Benedict of Nursia 830A MP	12 830A MP	13
14 5 Pentecost 9A Formation 10A Mass 1130A Vestry	15 830A MP	16 830A MP	17 William White 830A MP 10A Mass	18 830A MP	19 Macrina 830A MP	20 Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Amelia Bloomer, Sojourner Truth, and Harriet Ross Tubman
21 6 Pentecost 9A Formation 10A Mass 1130 ECW	22 Saint Mary Magdalene 830A MP 12P Noonday 1210P Mass	23 830A MP	24 Thomas a Kempis 830A MP 10A Mass	25 Saint James the Apostle 830A MP 1210P Mass NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	26 Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary 830A MP	27 William Reed Huntington
28 7 Pentecost 9A Formation 10A Mass 1130A 4 th Sunday Potluck	29 Mary & Martha of Bethany 830A MP	30 William Wilberforce	31 Ignatius of Loyola 830A MP 10A Mass	Omitted: None		

LECTIONARY AND ROTA FOR JULY 2019

Date Lectionary Day Color	Greeter	Lectors	Lay Eucharistic Ministers	Altar Guild	Vestry Teller
7 July 4th Sunday after Pentecost Proper 9 Green	Connie & Bob Anderson	Janet Buckley David Thompson Kathe Gieseler	Geri Moulton Connie McLean	Pat Fulford Cindy Gass	Kristen Turner Connie McLean
16 July 5th Sunday after Pentecost Proper 10 Green	Melissa Brown	Cheryl Winters-Heard Jan Joseph Budd McLean	Butch Yeager Paula Ross	Pat Fulford Cindy Gass	Darren Anderson Jan Joseph
21 July 6th Sunday after Pentecost Proper 11 Green	Connie & Budd McLean	Geri Moulton Landon Heavner Paula Ross	Ron Waites Mary Sheffield	Connie Anderson LaNeisha Anderson	Kathe Gieseler Ron Waites
28 July 7th Sunday after Pentecost Proper 12 Green	Paula & Bob Ross	Ron Brown Nikki Shaw Mary Sheffield	David Thompson Connie Anderson	Connie Anderson LaNeisha Anderson	Connie McLean Bootsie Cieutat



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



July orders due Sunday, July 14. Gifts cards available by Sunday, July 21.



DIOCESE OF THE CENTRAL GULF COAST RECEIVES GRANT FROM EPISCOPAL RELIEF & DEVELOPMENT

Episcopal Relief and Development has given a grant of \$250,000 to the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast. Nine churches were impacted by Hurricane Michael and have been submitting grant applications for the past several weeks. Determinations for distributing the funds will be made in the coming days. These grant monies are to be used to build or strengthen important community ministries like Room 6 for LGBTQ+ teens, Backpack Buddies for food insecure children, Supper at Grace which helps feed community members, an extended version of Vacation Bible School for local children, and more.

Hurricane Michael was the first Category 5 hurricane to strike the contiguous United States since Andrew in

1992 with peak winds of 160 mph. It caused an estimated \$25.1 billion (2018 USD) in damages including U.S. fighter jets with a replacement cost of approximately \$6 billion at Tyndall Air Force Base, and at least \$6.23 billion in insurance claims in the U.S. Losses to agriculture alone exceeded \$3.87 billion.

Donations can be made to the **US Disaster Fund** at *Episcopal Relief & Development P.O. Box 7058 Merrifield, VA 22116-7058*. Your donation will help Episcopal Relief & Development respond to this and other natural disasters.





HAPPY
HAPPY!

Caroline Chestang	07/08
Catherine Warren	07/08
Tina Cieutat	07/13
Regina Harvey-Molyneux	07/20
Cheryl Winters-Heard	07/21
Carolyn Pearce	07/26
Mike Bonner	07/31



Bob & Paula Ross	07/12
Darren & LaNeisha Anderson	07/15
Lavelle & Debbie Ollhoft	07/20



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

Mary Gieseler, Bill Duke, Marie Brown, Carolyn Pearce, Audrey Garner, Joyce Lee, Marian Boykin, Ron Brown, Jayson Chestang, Budd McLean.

For our Homebound:

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

For our Family and Friends:

Lewis Johnston, Peter Pearce, William Dorsey, Ann Blankenship, Mike Gibson, Donna Pigg, Fred Lloyd, Robert & Dorothy Johnson, Paul Kreamer, Jerry Wigfield, Clay Graham, Glenda Evans, Ouida McNider, Kara Reynolds Hall, Christina Morgret, Sue Sheffield, David Shippee, Abigail Harrison, Robert Levy, 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, Arnold Bush [*priest*], Margaret Shephard [*priest*].

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 those who have entered new life: Neil McPhail.

June Birthdays



Celebrating June birthdays at St. John's with Jerry Fulford, Ron Waites, Connie Anderson, and Connie McLean. (Photo by Irene Yeager)

Contact Us

Staff:

The Reverend Thomas Heard, *rector*
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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

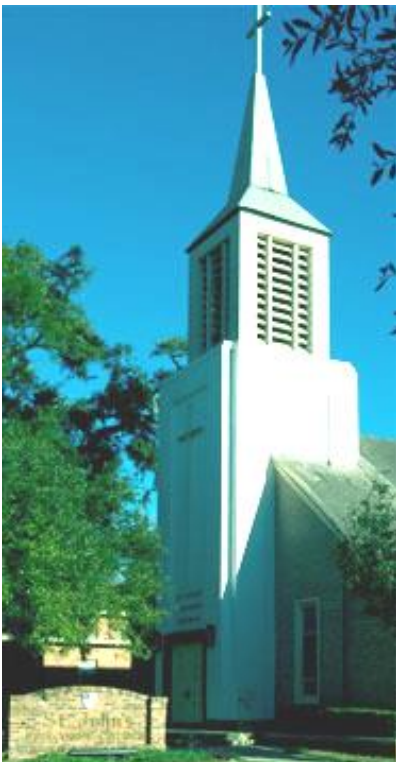
Kristen Turner

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.