



# 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

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## FROM THE RECTOR:

Dear Ones,

As I've noted previously, the 1979 BCP changed what The Episcopal Church required for admission to communion. In recovering the early church's practice of baptism being full and complete Christian initiation, we expanded those who could receive communion to anyone who was baptized. Interestingly enough, architectural changes lagged behind and presented their own set of challenges.

In the original Saint John's at Dearborn and Monroe Streets, the baptismal font was located near the chancel, close to the pulpit. This was a time, though, when baptisms were primarily young children and done in 'private' ceremonies. By 'private' I simply mean that it was generally family and not something that happened in the construct of corporate worship.

Saint John's moved to its current location in 1956. While the church was saved from most of the architectural disasters of the late 50s and 60s, one significant change was made. The Baptismal Font was relocated to a small, semi-enclosed area in the church, away from and out of view of the congregation. The Baptistery was an appropriate size space for the way that baptisms were done at Saint John's, and most of the rest of the Christian church.

There was another effect in the relocation of the Baptismal Font. In the old church, the font was plumbed to the ground. Another way to say this would be that the drain from the font bowl discharged to the ground. Traditionally, any consecrated elements (water, wine, or bread) are given back to the earth. They don't just get washed down a drain. In some parishes, you might find a special sink, called a *piscina* that drains to earth. The Sacristans or Altar Guild would rinse the sacred vessels at the *piscina* before washing them. Any breadcrumbs or leftover wine or water would go down the *piscina* to the earth.

When Saint John's moved to its current location, much of the architectural furnishing came with it. For me, that keeps us connected to the 1853 congregation and all that have followed.

One thing changed. The relocated Baptismal Font no longer drains to earth. The way this building is constructed made this a difficult proposition. A glass bowl now rests in the font to hold the Water of Baptism.

On a lark, I went searching for metal spinning companies, to inquire about having a bowl made and an estimate of what it might cost.

I found Wenzel Metal Spinning, with facilities in Freemont, Indiana and in Scottsboro, Alabama. I called and told my contact what I was looking for. I sent him pictures of the font and a sketch of what I thought I wanted. After a few weeks and emails, I received an email offering to throw a bowl for us that would be their gift to us. We will bless it in the near future.

*Soli Deo gloria*

-- Thomas



A preview of the new bowl for the Baptismal Font.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE AUGUST LITURGICAL CALENDAR

### The Feast of the Transfiguration

We will celebrate the Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord Jesus Christ on Tuesday, 6 August at 12:10 PM. This will be a Said Mass commemorating Jesus' physical and spiritual re-manifestation. The Roman calendar didn't include the Transfiguration until just before the Reformation, and in The Episcopal Church, we didn't include it until the 1892 Prayer Book. It has, however, been in the Eastern Church's calendar for a very long time. In their theology, the Transfiguration prefigures Jesus' resurrection and ascension.

### John Mason Neale

Some of your favorite hymns, both tunes and texts, have John Mason Neale's fingerprints on them. He provided over 30 translations of texts in our Hymnal 1982, as well as a number of hymn tunes. Besides these contributions to the Christian life, Neale was also a humanitarian, founding the Sisterhood of Saint Margaret to benefit women and girls who were suffering. Neale was born in 1818 and ordered priest in 1842. He died at the age of 46 on the Feast of the Transfiguration. Surely his work has left a lasting mark on our worship. We will commemorate John Mason Neale at our Said Mass on Wednesday, 7 August at 10:00 AM.

### Jonathan Myrick Daniels

If you don't know about **Jonathan Myrick Daniels**, you really need to attend the commemoration of his martyrdom on Wednesday, 14 August at 10:00 AM. Daniels was a seminarian at the Episcopal Theological School in Cambridge, MA. In response to a television appeal to support a voting rights campaign made by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Daniels petitioned the seminary to take a leave so that he could work for the campaign. In Selma, Daniels and companions were arrested for picketing. Unexpectedly released, they walked to a nearby store. On reaching the top step, the door suddenly opened. Daniels interposed himself and took the shotgun blast intended for one of his companions. Daniels is a 20<sup>th</sup> century American, martyred for his belief that God calls all of us to unity and brotherhood.

### Saint Mary the Virgin

The Feast of Saint Mary the Virgin is known in the Roman church as The Assumption and in the Eastern tradition as The Dormition of the *Theotokos*. Perhaps the Greek *Theotokos* gets us to a place where we can truly grasp Mary's importance. It means "God bearer", that is the one who was mother to Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The tradition for this day cannot be supported by scripture, but is older than any surviving texts: Mary, for her service to God as *Theotokos* did not suffer earthly death, but "fell asleep in God" and was taken to heaven. One of the Major Feasts of the Church, we will commemorate Saint Mary the Virgin on Thursday, 15 August, at a Said Mass at 12:10 PM.

### Saint Bartholomew

One of the Twelve, Bartholomew is known only by his inclusion in the list of disciples in the Gospels of Mark, Matthew, and Luke. Some sources credit Bartholomew with the writing of a Gospel that was known to Saint Jerome and the Venerable Bede. Eusebius reports the existence of a copy of the Gospel of Matthew in Hebrew that was purportedly given to the church by Bartholomew. We will celebrate Saint Bartholomew on Saturday, 24 August, with a Said Mass at 5:30 PM.

### Augustine of Hippo

Perhaps the greatest theologian of Western Christianity, Augustine was born in North Africa in about 354. He tracked various popular philosophies of the time, eventually surrendering to Christianity in 386. His life before becoming a Christian was a source of scandal for him and is likely part of the influence leading him to write *Confessions* around 400. His greatest work, *The City of God*, was written because of the sack of Rome in 410. Augustine wrote, "Two cities have been formed by two loves: the earthly by love of self, even to the contempt of God; the heavenly by the love of God, even to the contempt of self. The earthly city glories in itself, the heavenly city glories in the Lord." His words still ring true today. We will commemorate his life and witness at our Wednesday Said Mass on 28 August at 10:00 AM.



## Vestry

The regular meeting of the Vestry and Wardens of Saint John's Church was called to order by Fr. Heard at 11:36 AM on Sunday, 14 July 2019.

Bootsie Cieutat and Mary Sheffield were absent. The minutes of the 12 May meeting were approved. The Proposed Agenda was adopted.

Connie McLean reviewed the financials. For May, we operated at a \$6,300 deficit. Connie also noted that Plate and Pledge income was down for the month.

Outreach has started the Head Start Book project; it will take another Sunday to finish.

Spread the Word is planning to send postcards to new residents of 36604 and 36606. Hopefully, we will be able to gauge the impact of the program in a couple of months.

Parish Life reminded that the July 4th Sunday Potluck will be the annual Parish Picnic. Darren Anderson will be grillmaster. A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board to coordinate other offerings.

Physical Plant: The workday accomplished a great deal, not including the striping of the parking lot.

Fr. Heard reported that we have received an updated proposal for the Great Hall roof. To apply an additional layer of roof membrane, repair the soffits and fascia, and waterproof the west wall of the 2nd story will cost \$69,862. The Vestry voted to apply to the diocese for a \$70,000 loan from the Congregational Loan Fund. This will be presented to the Standing Committee on 8 August. Terms of the loan are 4% simple interest on a 15-year amortization, with a balloon payment or refinancing at 5 years.

Fr. Heard reported that the Mobile Christian-Jewish Dialogue held its board meeting at Saint John's on 13 June.

Fr. Heard showed the Vestry a copper bowl to fit inside the baptismal font. A long-term project finally came to fruition. The vendor donated the bowl to Saint John's in exchange for pictures and a letter from the parish. The bowl will be installed and dedicated at a future time.

The Vestry approved the sale of the fixtures from Thee Store, with proceeds to go to the Roof fund.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:22 PM with prayer.

## PARISH LIFE

### RE-CYCLE, RE-USE, SUSTAIN



*"For the good earth which God has given us, and the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord."*

We pray those words in the Prayers of the People every Sunday, what are we, at St. John's, doing to carry those words out?

You may have noticed we are using less throw-away products. Paper plates and napkins are smaller and we have been using "real" plates at some fellowship hours.

When we do use throw-away products they are paper not Styrofoam. We recycle plastics and cardboard. When we do use plastic tablecloths, we use them more than once. Do you have some ideas for helping make St. John's more "green"?

### 4TH SUNDAY POTLUCK: AUGUST 25 SOUTH OF THE BORDER!

We are going "international" for the potluck lunch in August! Mexican, Tex-Mex, spicy or not spicy; we're doing something a little different. If you still want to bring what you always bring, that's good too. We'll all enjoy good food, good company, and good fellowship. And, as always: desserts!!



# AUGUST 2019 AT SAINT JOHN'S

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Joseph of Arimathaea 830A MP	2 830A MP	3
Omitted: 8/11, Clare, Abbess at Assisi, 1253 8/18, William Porcher DuBose, Priest, 1918 8/25, Louis, King of France, 1270				8 Dominic 830A MP	9 830A MP	10 Laurence
<b>4 8 Pentecost</b> 9A Formation 10A Mass 1130A Outreach + Spread the Word	5 830A MP	<b>6 Transfiguration</b> 830A MP 12P Noonday 1210P Mass	<b>7 John Mason Neale</b> 830A MP 10A Mass + Junction			
<b>11 9 Pentecost</b> 9A Formation 10A Mass 1130A Vestry	12 Florence Nightingale 830A MP	13 Jeremy Taylor 830A MP	<b>14 Jonathan Myrick Daniels</b> 830A MP 10A Mass	<b>15 Saint Mary the Virgin</b> 830A MP 12P Noonday 1210P Mass	16 830A MP	17
<b>18 10 Pentecost</b> 9A Formation 10A Mass 1130 ECW	19 830A MP	20 Bernard 830A MP	21 830A MP 10A Mass	22 830A MP <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b>	23 830A MP	24 <b>Saint Bartholomew the Apostle</b> 530P Mass
<b>25 11 Pentecost</b> 9A Formation 10A Mass 1130A 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday Potluck	26 830A MP	27 Thomas Gallaudet & Henry Winter Syle 830A MP	<b>28 Augustine of Hippo</b> 830A MP 10A Mass	29 830A MP	30 830A MP	31 Aidan

# LECTIONARY AND ROTA FOR AUGUST 2019

Date Lectionary Day Color	Greeter	Lectors	Lay Eucharistic Ministers	Altar Guild	Vestry Teller
4 August 8th Sunday after Pentecost Proper 13 Green	Thelma Lomers	Ron Waites Connie Anderson Janet Buckley	Geri Moulton Connie McLean	Marie Brown Lee Dorsey	Janet Buckley Mary Sheffield
11 August 9th Sunday after Pentecost Proper 14 Green	Irene & Butch Yeager	David Thompson Kathe Grieseler Cheryl Winters-Heard	Paula Ross Butch Yeager	Marie Brown Lee Dorsey	Jan Joseph Kristen Turner
18 August 10th Sunday after Pentecost Proper 15 Green	Connie & Bob Anderson	Jan Joseph Budd McLean Geri Moulton	Mary Sheffield Ron Waites	Neva Bache Irene Yeager	Ron Waites Darren Anderson
25 August 11th Sunday after Pentecost Proper 16 Green	Melissa Brown	Landon Heavner Paula Ross Ron Brown	Connie Anderson David Thompson	Neva Bache Irene Yeager	Bootsie Cieutat Kathe Grieseler



# OUTREACH

## BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS!!

Once again the St John's Outreach Committee is providing books to the Head Start and Early Head Start children in Mobile and Washington counties. We've already started putting stickers into the books. 1,200 books are a lot of books!! We will finish the task on the first Sunday in August. The stickers read: *"A gift from St. John's Episcopal Church with hopes you will become a lifetime learner."*

Head Start is a federally funded, comprehensive school readiness program that serves low income three and four year old children and Early Head Start serves 100 children ages 0-3. The purpose of the program is to get



the children, no matter what age, ready for school. These books will be provided to the children to take home and keep.

The books come from First Book the National Book Bank, which receives the books from publishers and then distributes them to organizations that will provide them to low income children and their families. Although the Book Bank gets the books at no cost from the publishers, organizations have to pay shipping and handling to receive the books. St John's Outreach Committee paid for the books to get to Mobile to be distributed to the 1,123 Head Start children and 100 Early Head Start children here in Mobile.

## SHINING OUR LIGHT

Stewardship season usually begins in the fall of each year, and this year will be no exception. If you would like to help with the 2019-2020 stewardship program, please contact Father Thomas.



August orders due Sunday, August 11. Gifts cards available by Sunday, August 18.

Don't forget the students in your life, or even those students you may be willing to help who are unknown to you. Order OfficeMax, WalMart and Target gift cards to help with those purchases.



Mac Pearce	08/01
Julia Heard	08/03
Andrew Lee	08/03
Kat Velaski	08/03
Kathe Gieseler	08/07
James Christiansen	08/11
Eugene Johnston	08/21
Erin Nelson	08/25
Bootsie Cieutat	08/26
David Rich	08/27
Marion Wallace	08/27
David Jones	08/29



Michael & Mary Bonner	08/07
Robert & Charlynn Will	08/10
Curtis & Cindy Gass	08/19



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

James Christiansen, Cookie Rich, Bill Duke, Marie Brown, 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:**

J.E. Ryland, Nancy Payne, Lewis Johnston, Peter Pearce, William Dorsey, Donna Pigg, Fred Lloyd, Robert & Dorothy Johnson, Paul Kreamer, Jerry Wigfield, 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.

## July Birthdays



Celebrating July birthdays at St. John's with Caroline Chestang, Tina Cieutat, Mike Bonner, and Cheryl Winters-Heard. (Photo by Irene Yeager)

## Contact Us

**Staff:**

The Reverend Thomas Heard, *rector*  
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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

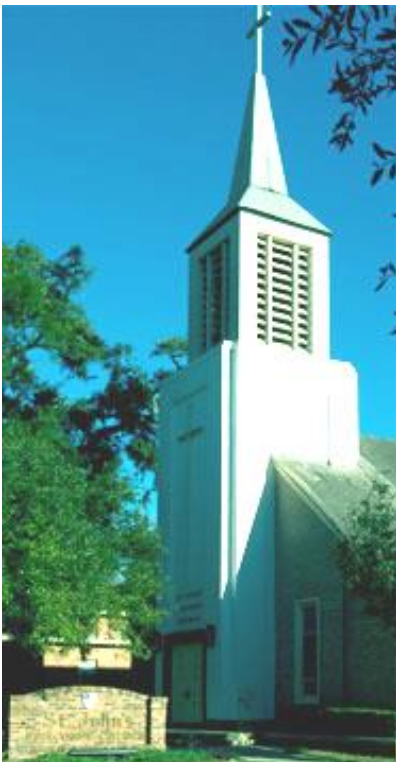
Kristen Turner

Ron Waites

Saint John's Episcopal Church  
 1707 Government Street  
 Mobile, Alabama 36604

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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 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.