



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,

I flew to Tucson on October 1st to attend the Annual Conference of The Society of Catholic Priests of North America. Our theme for this conference was "On the Border of Holiness." The SCP invites clergy and religious in the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Church of Canada to a rule of life that includes praying the Daily Office, a pledge to support our members, and to center our spiritual life on the Eucharist. All in all, we're a pretty mainstream bunch. I'm a founding member.

On Wednesday, we boarded a bus at 7:30 AM for a trip to the borderlands, to Nogales, AZ. Back in the 80s, Cheryl and I visited Tucson frequently. A favorite was a trip to Nogales.

Nogales is a town that has existed before there was a border. The establishment of the southern border of Arizona literally cut the town in half. There is Nogales, AZ and Nogales, Sonora. Back in the day, it was a favorite shopping venue. Crossing the street or crossing a bridge were the only evidence of a change of country.

That changed after September 11, 2001. Bollards were installed at the border and crossing over and back passed through a central location. It wasn't a big deal. A couple of questions and some instructions. Life in Nogales didn't change very much. Sure the border now separated families, but that wasn't new. The formality of going from one to the other added structure and time to the process, but it wasn't a big deal. Families crossed from one side to the other for gatherings and celebrations.

Three years ago, it all changed. The construction of the slat border wall physically separated the U.S. from Mexico. All through Nogales, the wall became a barrier to families, to trade, to access to healthcare.

It changed again about 18 months ago. Diamond wire mesh was welded to the slats on the U.S. side, running from the ground up to eight feet. No more touching through the wall, no more communion shared with family on the 'other' side.

On election day last year, another change was made: Razor wire was installed on the U.S. side. At the top, in the middle and at the bottom. It is ugly and dangerous and it reminds me of the eastern side of the Berlin Wall, without the guard towers. Here's what it looks like:



If you go up to the top of a hill, you see nothing but this ugly scar running across the land. It goes on as far as the eye can see.

Our initial plans had been to visit the Sonora side and see some of the relief work that is going on. Crossing into Mexico would be a non-event, but it would take us 4+ hours to return to the U.S. As it was, we were stopped at a checkpoint on our way back to Tucson.

There are at least a half dozen places in the Bible where we're reminded of our obligation to the stranger and foreigner. "You shall not wrong a stranger or oppress him, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt" (Ex.22:20) is but one example. Jesus tells us over and over to love our neighbor.

The border wall stands as the antithesis of who we are called to be and what we are called to do.

-- Thomas

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NOVEMBER LITURGICAL CALENDAR

All Saints' Day

Adopted by the church in the 9th century, the Feast of All Saints' might have originated in Ireland and spread through the British Isles and to the continent. A commemoration of all who had professed faith in Christ and had given their lives for it and were felt to be in communion with Christians everywhere is found in the writings of Gregory Thaumaturgus from about 270. All Saints' is a Principal Feast of the church, one of only seven that takes precedence over a Sunday. The 1979 Prayer Book recommends All Saints' as one of four days that are particularly appropriate for the administration of the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. We will observe All Saints' on Friday, 1 November at 12:10PM.

All Faithful Departed

The day following All Saints' is known as All Souls' or All Faithful Departed. This day recalls the body of all faithful Christians who have risen to new life in Christ. It is a day for remembering family and friends and members of a parish who have died in the preceding year. All Souls' lost favor in the Reformation due to the abuses connected with the practice of saying Masses for the dead. A renewed understanding of All Souls' led to its acceptance amongst Anglicans. We will commemorate all who have died in the past year at a Said Mass on Saturday, 2 November at 5:30PM.

William Temple

Born into a clergy family with a father who was Bishop of Exeter and Archbishop of Canterbury, it's no great surprise that the church was close to William's heart. Temple studied at Oxford and after graduation, became headmaster of Repton School and subsequently rector of Saint James, Piccadilly, Bishop of Manchester, Archbishop of York, and Archbishop of Canterbury. Temple had an acute passion for social justice, which can be seen as a strong influence in his life. We will commemorate William Temple at our Said Mass on Wednesday, 6 November at 10:00AM.

Edmund of East Anglia

Edmund ruled East Anglia for 14 years, beginning when he was just 15 years old. During his reign, Danish armies were attacking England, plundering and destroying everything in their path. Upon arriving in East Anglia, they offered Edmund a shared rule if he would acknowledge them and forbid the practice of Christianity. He refused. His army fought valiantly but was defeated and Edmund was captured, tortured, beaten and killed. A cult following grew rapidly and Edmund's remains were enshrined at a Benedictine abbey at a place now known as Bury St. Edmund. We will commemorate Edmund at our Said Mass on Wednesday, 20 November at 10:00AM.

Thanksgiving Day

Falling on 28 November this year, Thanksgiving shares the commonality of agricultural festivals with many religions. None of these feasts were included in our Prayer Book until the Continental Congress established the Day of National Thanksgiving. Its roots are found in the observances of the Massachusetts and Virginia colonies. We will observe Thanksgiving Day at a Said Mass at 10:00AM.

Saint Andrew

The Feast of Saint Andrew is the first feast in the liturgical year, most often falling after the First Sunday of Advent. Andrew is most commonly remembered as the brother of Simon Peter, but overlooks his special gifts to Jesus' companions. Andrew was first a disciple of John the Baptist, one of two who left to follow Christ after John pointed out Jesus with the words, "Behold the Lamb of God." Andrew, the first missionary, sought out his brother and brought him to Jesus. He was the disciple who brought the boy with the fishes and loaves to Jesus for the feeding of the multitude. Eusebius' writings tell us that Andrew went to Scythia. Legend holds that he was martyred by pagans and crucified on an X-shaped cross. This is seen in the flag of Scotland, honoring its patron saint. We will celebrate the feast of Saint Andrew at 5:30PM on Saturday, 30 November.

OUTREACH

FOOD DRIVE: THANKSGIVING FOOD BOXES FOR FAMILIES IN NEED

Our this fall food drive goal is **to fill sixteen boxes with non-perishable food**. The boxes will be delivered to sixteen families who are in need. The Outreach Committee will be providing a ham and fresh fruit to go in each box. The families have been chosen by Mobile Community Action, a social services agency that serves low income families. All of the families have young children; many are grandparents raising their grandchildren.

The MCA social workers will be picking up and delivering the boxes to the families on Wednesday, November 20th. We want to have **the boxes filled by Sunday, November 17th**. You can start bringing your contributions to the church any time during the next two weeks.

Our goal is to provide a box of food that will help them out for the week of Thanksgiving when children are not receiving school breakfast and lunch. Take this shopping list to remind you what we want to provide in each box.

Thank You
Outreach Committee

Saint John's Fall Food Drive

(bring to the church by Sunday, November 17th)



Dry cereal
Canned peas or corn
Canned fruit cocktail
Pudding cups
Fruit or applesauce cups
Grits
Cookies or snack cakes
Canned peaches
Dried Beans
Rice
Boxed macaroni and cheese

NOVEMBER 24th 4TH SUNDAY POTLUCK: “LET’S DO BRUNCH”

November’s 4th Sunday Potluck will be held on Sunday, November 24, 2019. Our theme for November’s 4th Sunday will be “Let’s Do Brunch.”



We thought we’d do something a little different since that’s the **Sunday before** the Thanksgiving weekend. Many of us will have meals to prepare and family/friends to entertain during the next week. So, let’s do something different: **Let’s Do Brunch!** Bring a brunch dish (yummy casseroles, eggy dishes, fruit salads, etc. etc. ...and of course desserts!). Join us for fun, fellowship, and lots of good food. Bring your family, visiting guests or other friends too!

October Birthdays



Celebrating October birthdays at St. John’s with Charlynn Will. (Photo by Irene Yeager)

SHINING OUR LIGHT

When I saw the back of this year's pledge cards, it reminded me of a stewardship article that I wrote about 15 years ago for Redeemer. I updated that article and am sharing it here for your consideration as you complete your pledge card this year.

Lella Lowe

FAITH IN ACTION - PROPORTIONAL GIVING

We are commended, by biblical writers as well as by our own Vestry, to adhere to the biblical tithe, or 10% of income, as the standard of giving to the church. Did you know that there is also something called the "modern tithe"? The modern tithe is the commitment to give 5% to the church and 5% to other charitable causes, so that total giving comes to 10% of income.

Today's stewardship literature also refers to a concept of "proportional giving", and it is to this subject that I will devote the remainder of this article. Proportional giving means that an individual donor is committed to giving a certain proportion of their income to the church. Of course, that also means that the individual donor has taken the time to determine exactly what their current level of giving is. There is a very simple method of doing this, and I commend it to you before you fill out your pledge card for 2020.

To determine the proportion of your income that you gave to the church in 2018, simply take the total amount from your year-end pledge statement (If you're like me, this is filed with your tax records. If you can't find it, give me a call.), and divide that by your adjusted

gross income, or line 7 on your 1040 tax form. That's it! And the results will probably surprise you (as they did me). Makes the biblical tithe look faaaaaar away - doesn't it?

The next step in proportional giving is to decide (through prayer) what percent of your income you would like to give to the church. Multiply THAT number by your expected income for 2020, and divide by 12 (for monthly pledges) or 52 (for weekly pledges), and that's the number that goes on your pledge card. Simple! Now you're a proportional giver.

Give this exercise a try - it will provide a fresh perspective as you work through your annual decision-making about giving to God's work through the church.

Annual Commitment Campaign

Pledge cards have been mailed.

Ingathering will be Sunday , 10 November.



The Saint John's Altar Guild is looking for a few good women or men to help with this ministry.

The Altar Guild is a lay ministry to assist the clergy by preparing the church for worship, maintaining and caring for the sacred vessels, altar linens, and vestments, and otherwise serving the clergy and the parish. If you would like to learn more, please speak with Fr. Thomas or Cindy Gass.



ONE THOUSAND DAYS OF LOVE

ST. JOHN'S SELECTED FOR ONE THOUSAND DAYS OF LOVE PILOT PROJECT

One Thousand days of Love is a \$3 million grassroots Church-wide fundraising campaign dedicated to expanding the organization's global programs improving the lives of children up to age six. The campaign started on Sept. 4, 2019, and will run for 1,000 days, ending May 31, 2022.

Research shows that the first 1,000 days for children are critical in setting a foundation that affects their ability to grow, learn and thrive over their entire lives. Around the world, 155 million children under five are stunted due to inadequate nutrition and health care. Episcopal Relief & Development works with communities to ensure that children have access to food, clean water, and quality health care.

One example of how the organization is changing the lives of children is through *Moments That Matter*, a program partnership of Episcopal Relief & Development and the Integrated Early Childhood Development (ECD) Program of the Zambia Anglican Council, that works directly with mothers, fathers and other primary caregivers to improve the growth and development of children up to age three. The program also links families with available health, nutrition and critical services provided by government and other stakeholders that strengthens the community's early childhood development capabilities.

St John's has been selected as a pilot parish for the **One Thousand days of Love**. Our goal is to raise \$1,000 during the month of November.



**Mobile Community Action Head Start children say
"Thank you St. John's for the books."**



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS 2019





Rosalie Pritchard	11/04	Jennifer O'Rourke	11/19
Courtney Sullivan	11/07	Caitlin Bryan	11/22
Louis Daniel	11/09	Nikki Shaw	11/22
Cindy Gass	11/11	Kim Partsch	11/30
Mayson Pritchard	11/12		



Eugene & Emily Johnston	11/05
Jerry & Pat Fulford	11/23



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

Caitlyn Bryan, Jerry Fulford, Mary Bonner, Bootsie Cieutat, James Christiansen, Bill Duke, Audrey Garner, Joyce Lee, Marian Boykin, Ron Brown, Jayson Chestang, Budd McLean.

For our Homebound:

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

For our Family and Friends:

Donnie Chestang, Georgia Morrison, Katelynn Tillman, Solomon Thompson, Karen Twilley, Lucas Hembree, J.E. Ryland, Nancy Payne, Lewis Johnston, William Dorsey, Donna Pigg, Fred Lloyd, Robert & Dorothy Johnson, Sue Sheffield, David Shippee, Robert Levy, Connor, David Green, Tiffany Matthews, Betty Williams, 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.

For victims of war and their families, and members of our Armed Forces and their families:

Ryan Hurt, Alicia Logan, Jacob Hester-Heard, Marcus Rich, Ross Hussmann, Ellis Garner, Eric Mattoon.

Contact Us

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Bootsie Cieutat

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Jan Joseph

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Mary Sheffield

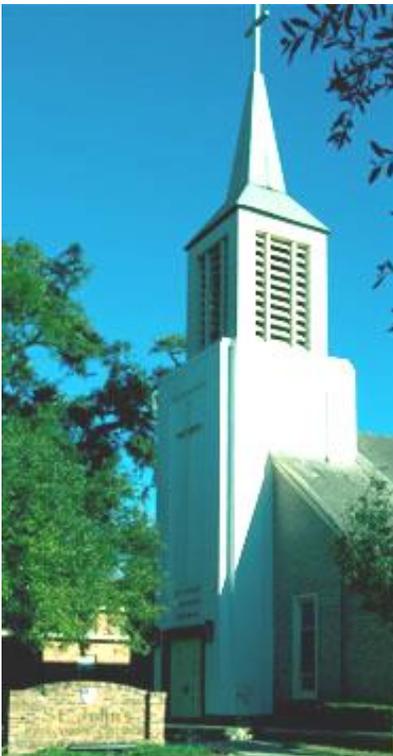
Kristen Turner

Ron Waites

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 1707 Government Street
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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

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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.