



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. XXX, Issue 3

April 2020

FROM THE RECTOR:

Dear Ones,

This is The Fourth Epistle for April 2020. I hope this is a temporary change, but we'll have to wait and see how long the Novel Corona Virus impacts our parish, city, state, nation, and world. For me, this is a completely new experience. I didn't face hard times in the Depression, nor did I experience rationing during World War II. I suspect that the 'social distancing' and suspension of public worship is not something that any of you have experienced either. If I'm wrong about that, please tell me about it.

We've now been worshipping apart for two Sundays. I don't see that this will change in the near future. Since then, we've started using Facebook to 'broadcast' our services: Sundays and Wednesdays at 10:00 AM, Morning Prayer weekdays at 8:30 AM. There have been some regular viewers as well as some non-parishioners tuning in. I plan to continue this, perhaps even after we're back together.

Something that I didn't consider was members of the parish not having a Book of Common Prayer at home. I confess it never occurred to me. Without a prayerbook it is difficult to fully participate; remotely, I would guess is more difficult. If you don't have a prayerbook at home and would like to borrow one from the church, please get in touch with me to arrange a pickup.

Since we are not coming together on a weekly basis, keeping up with your pledge is more difficult. Please feel free to drop a check in the mail to the church and we'll be sure to get it credited to your pledge. It will also help us to keep up with our ongoing expenses.

Because we're not regularly together, it is important for all of us to make efforts to keep in touch with each other. Telephone calls are a great way to keep in touch.

I'm trying to figure out how to make Holy Week a "remote attendance" event. We had over 900 priests

and bishops on a webinar this week to discuss exactly how it might be done. I'm working on a booklet for Palm Sunday and the Triduum (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Great Vigil of Easter) that will let us share our Holy Week time. Be on the lookout for that next week.

A little more practical information:

Our Facebook page is "Saint John's Episcopal Church - Mobile, Alabama". If you are not a Facebook user, you can still access our page:

<https://www.facebook.com/Saint-Johns-Episcopal-Church-Mobile-Alabama-349597065159312>

Another tool we can use is Zoom. We will use it to hold our vestry meeting for April, and we can use it for other things as well. Go to <https://zoom.us> and download the app for computer, phone, or tablet.

I hope to be able to provide an audio-only connection for those of you who are not internet connected nor have smartphones. It will likely be a telephone call you place to a specific number. With a code that we'll give you, you'll be able to connect in and listen.

I am also working on some better technology for our livestream broadcasts. It is something I've thought about for a while, but never had the reason to do it — until now, that is. From what I've seen, we are reaching some folks that are not part of our parish, so maybe it is a bit of an evangelism tool.

Stay tuned for other developments. If you're not email capable, please let me know so that I can get in touch to let you know what is happening.

Faithfully,

—Thomas



In Memoriam

LAVERNE FOSTER 15 OCTOBER 1926—25 APRIL 2020

Our sister, LaVerne, entered new life early in the morning of 25 April. She had been hospitalized for some time and was recently moved to hospice care. LaVerne was born in Johnson, TN in 1926 and baptized in 1936 in a Baptist church there. I don't know when she came to Saint John's, but she officially became and Episcopalian on 24 April 1988. She was presented for confirmation by The Rev. Sam Mason and confirmed by The Rt. Rev. Charles Duvall. Her daughter, Leah, was also confirmed on that day. I am grateful that I go to see her and give her last rites before the no-visitor policies happened in healthcare facilities.



Episcopal Relief & Development Responds to Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)

Episcopal Relief & Development believes the role of churches, dioceses and compassionate Christians responding to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) is to:

- Combat fear with knowledge in order to encourage preparedness and decrease stigma.
- Maintain operational continuity and continue worship life in the case of potential quarantine and disruption.
- Show God's compassion and care to those in our communities who are affected.

During disasters and epidemics, remember this acronym: **C.I.A.—Community, Information and Agency**. As church and community leaders, support your community and maintain connection throughout the event, provide your community with verified information about the health and safety implications of the event and then allow them to decide what's best for them.

Maintain community, whether safely in person or online. Learn more ways to connect using remote tools.

Bolster outreach ministries to prepare to help low-income hourly workers who call out of work. Encourage those who may consider going to work for the sake of income to stay home because you can offer assistance.

Donations to Episcopal Relief & Development's [COVID-19 Pandemic Response Fund](#) will support the organization's efforts to respond to this crisis. To send a contribution by mail: Episcopal Relief & Development P.O. Box 7058 Merrifield, VA 22116-7058.



Our Sunshine Chairman reminds us that these are stressful times. She asks that we send a card or note to friends and church family. Better yet a quick phone call can add a little sunshine to their day. We will be together soon sharing stories and lots of hugs.

We're all in God's hands.

APRIL 2020 AT SAINT JOHN'S

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Omitted: 04/07 – Tikhon, 04/08 – William Augustus Muhlenberg, 04/09 - Dietrich Bohoeffter; 04/10 – William Law, 04/11 - George Augustus Selwyn, 04/19 – Alphege						
5 Palm Sunday 10A Mass	6 Monday in Holy Week 830A MP	7 Tuesday in Holy Week 830A MP	8 Wednesday in Holy Week 830A MP 10A Mass	9 Maundy Thursday 830A MP 6P Maundy Thursday	10 Good Friday 830A MP 6P Good Friday	11 Holy Saturday 730P Great Vigil of Easter
12 Easter 1 10A Mass 1130A Vestry via Zoom	13 Monday in Easter Week 830A MP	14 Tuesday in Easter Week 830A MP	15 Wednesday in Easter Week 830A MP 10A Mass	16 Thursday in Easter Week 830A MP	17 Friday in Easter Week 830A MP	18 Saturday in Easter Week
19 Easter 2 10A Mass	20 830A MP	21 Anselm 830A MP	22 830A MP 10A Mass	23 830A MP	24 830A MP	25 Saint Mark the Evangelist 530P Mass
26 Easter 3 10A Mass	27 830A MP	28 830A MP	29 Catherine of Siena 830A MP 10A Mass	30 830A MP		

March Birthdays



Celebrating March birthdays at Saint John's with Julie Garner, Budd McLean, Butch Yeager, and Kristen Turner. (Photo by Irene Yeager)



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

David Thompson, Lisa Chestang, Jean Brown, Ashley Garris, 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, Mary Catherine Warren.

For our Family and Friends:

Sara Lansang, Lynn Serafinn, Frank Thompson, Helon Jones, Helen Guthrie, Ouida McNider, Peggy Sheffield, Eddie Hun, David Clothier, Donnie Chestang, Katelynn Tillman, Solomon Thompson, Karen Twilley, Lucas Hembree, J.E. Ryland, Nancy Payne, Lewis Johnston, William Dorsey, Donna Pigg, 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, Britney Butler, Neal Tourné, Sandy & Ray Michel, Connor Crist, Paul Nelson, Krystal Hiatt, Peter Lee [*bishop*].

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

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:

Janet Buckley

James Christiansen, *junior warden*

Bootsie Cieutat, *treasurer*

Jan Joseph

Geri Moulton

Nikki Shaw, *clerk*

Mary Sheffield

Kristen Turner

Ron Waites, *senior warden*