



# 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. XXXI, Issue 4

April 2021

## FROM THE RECTOR:

Dear Ones.

All of us know that Saint John's has a long history in the City of Mobile. It is a fascinating story.

In 1852, at diocesan convention, the rectors of Christ Church and Trinity Church asked for a missionary to be sent to Mobile as the needs of the city were too great for the two of them to supply. The Rev. Mr. Flower was sent and began his work in the southwest part of the city. At that time, the western edge of the city was just past Monterey Street. A Sunday School was started at Warren and Palmetto streets and had about 30 students. Mr. Flower was discouraged at the response and left Mobile after only three months.

The Sunday School was restarted by Mr. Emmanuel Jones of Christ Church, ably assisted by his wife, the wife of the rector of Christ Church, and six others, all from Christ Church and Trinity parishes. They soon had 50 children enrolled. This was foundational to the idea of planting a third Episcopal church in Mobile. (It seems like I should point out that there was a sense that the area to be served was what they called "destitute." I'm not exactly sure what was meant by that.)

A meeting of about a dozen folks including the rectors of the two existing parishes gathered to talk about the future of the Sunday School and formation of new parish. They turned down the offer of a lot because of its location. Three men from Christ Church decided to purchase a suitable lot for this new church, at the southeast corner of Dearborn and Monroe streets.

A second meeting was held at the home of the rector Christ Church, It was there, in February of 1853, that the parish of "Saint John's Church, Mobile" was officially organized with the support of Trinity and

Christ Church. Money was pledged to get things rolling. The Ladies of Trinity Church donated \$500 and several gentlemen pledged \$1,340 for a new building. David Cumming, Jr. was the architect of the building; construction began in March and was completed in August. Total cost was \$4,250 for the structure, plus \$800 for furnishings. The entire property was deeded to the Diocese of Alabama as "a Free Church forever."

That designation, "free church", was novel in the 1850s. Other churches covered their expenses through rent or sale of pews on an annual basis. (I suppose that's where the idea of "That's my pew" comes from, though it was never the case at Saint John's.) The "Free Church" system depended on the offerings collected to cover the expenses of the parish. That's pretty much the standard in Christian churches these days. It is certainly how we operate today.

It was not without its problems. For the first several years, Saint John's was supported by some gentlemen from Christ Church. Funds were solicited to build a rectory on the adjacent lot which was completed in 1855. By that time, the congregation had grown significantly, with over 100 confirmations and 350 baptisms in its first years. Saint John's served a part of the city that housed about 3000 folks and there was quite a boom in residential building in the area around the church. In that same time, the rector (The Rev. Joseph Holt Ingraham) had assisted over 700 families from what would become the Rector's Discretionary Fund. All was not rainbows, glitter, and unicorns.

Saint John's was also the originating point of the Female Benevolent Society, providing relief for widows and orphans in Mobile.

*(Continued on page 2)*

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE APRIL LITURGICAL CALENDAR

# Easter Triduum



Thursday, 1 April 2021

### **Maundy Thursday**

Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper at 6:00 PM  
Sermon by the Rector

Friday, 2 April 2021

### **Good Friday**

The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ  
Said Liturgy at 12:00PM  
Sung Liturgy at 6:00PM  
Sermon by the Rector

Saturday, 3 April 2021

### **Holy Saturday**

Holy Saturday Liturgy at 12:00 PM  
The Great Vigil of Easter at 7:30 PM  
Sermon by the Rector

Sunday, 4 April 2021

### **The First Sunday of Easter**

Solemn Mass at 10:00 AM  
Sermon by the Rector

### **Saint Mark the Evangelist**

We will commemorate the life and work of Saint Mark the Evangelist on Monday, 26 April at 12:00 PM. Mark, as the author of the Gospel bearing his name, is not precisely identified. Various traditions have him filling roles ranging from being one of Jesus' disciples to being the cousin of Barnabas in Paul's letters. The Church of Alexandria claims that Mark was its first bishop and a martyr, killed while on a missionary journey. It is Mark's Gospel that gives us the shortest account of Jesus' ministry, but we must be careful not to equate short with simple. Mark's Gospel leaves us with many questions, but gives us many clues to the answers.

### **Anselm of Canterbury**

We will commemorate Anselm, Archbishop of Canterbury at our Wednesday Said Mass at 10:00 AM on 21 April. Anselm served as Archbishop from 1093 to 1109. It was a stormy time as conflict between the King and the Church raged. His great gifts were in theology and spiritual direction. As theologian, Anselm is most remembered for the "Satisfaction theory" of the atonement. In short, Jesus' offer of his life was done in satisfaction of his bond to God. It isn't very popular anymore, but in his day, in feudal England, it seemed to make sense.

*(Continued from page 1)*

Other notable things about Saint John's in its earliest days can be learned from reading the parish register. We are very fortunate to have the original register, as well as high quality images of its pages. On 9 April 1854, a 5-week old infant named Harriet was baptized by Fr. Ingraham. Harriet was a slave of George W. Harrison. Harriet's baptism is the first in a long line of baptisms of non-whites at Saint John's. After 1865, the entries changed to the "colored" designation. Saint John's was also the first church in Mobile to bring non-white folks into the church, out of the oppressive heat of Mobile's summers and cold of the winters for Sunday services.

When we look back on the very beginnings of Saint John's Church, it is easy to see the difficult times that it encountered, while simultaneously being at the forefront of organization, ministry, and inclusion. What an incredible legacy our forebears forged. That legacy calls us to the same in our day and time.

— Thomas

# OUTREACH

## Outreach Plans for 2021

The Outreach Committee met and put together some plans for 2021 projects. We have some already under way:

March: Spring Food Drive  
 April/May: *50 Days of Alleluia*  
 June/July: A small item Angel Tree for the nursing home residents  
 August: Books for Head Start children  
 October/November: Food drive  
 December: Nursing Home Angel Tree

In addition, the Outreach Committee will continue to provide support to McKemie Place, Ozanam Charitable Pharmacy, Murray House, Episcopal Relief and Development, disaster relief funds (we pray these won't be needed) and we plan to adopt a local low-income school and provide resources for them. If you have other ideas for projects or organizations that may benefit from Saint John's support, please let an Outreach Committee member know.

*Christ has no body but yours.  
 No hands, no feet on earth but yours,  
 Yours are the eyes with which he looks  
 compassion on this world,  
 Yours are the feet with which he walks to do  
 good,  
 Yours are the hands, with which he blesses  
 all the world.  
 Yours are the hands, yours are the feet.  
 Yours are the eyes, you are his body.  
 Christ has no body now but yours.  
 No hands, no feet on earth but yours,  
 Yours are the eyes with which he looks  
 compassion on this world.  
 Christ has no body now on earth but yours.*

*St. Teresa of Ávila*



The regular meeting of the Wardens and Vestry of Saint John's Church was called to order at 11:46 by Fr. Heard.

The proposed agenda was approved.

James Christiansen and Geri Moulton were absent.

The minutes of the 14 February meeting were approved as submitted.

Connie McLean reviewed the financial statements for February. She stated that we have qualified for the second round of PPP.

Connie presented the proposed 2021 Budget. It contains a three percent increase for all employees. It also contains a reduction of the Outreach allocation from five percent to three percent of plate and pledge income due to direct contributions. The budget proposed has a \$100,000 shortfall of expenses over income. The budget was approved as presented, with the shortfall being funded by principal from the endowment.

Outreach is preparing Lenten food boxes for families in need. They are also considering a "Christmas in July" project for Azalea Gardens.

Bootsie Cieutat reported that the ECW is sending Easter Cards to the residents of Murray House.

Fr. Heard reported that active Formosan termites have been found in the church, in the same areas that have been treated and repaired twice before. The Vestry directed Fr. Heard to file a complaint with the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industry and to seek assistance in making a monetary claim against Terminix.

Fr. Heard reported that Saint John's was not funded in the most recent Alabama Coronavirus Relief Fund grants due to the fund being depleted.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 12:37 PM.

# APRIL 2021 AT SAINT JOHN'S

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Omitted: 04/01 – Frederick Denison Maurice, priest, 1872; 04/02 – James Lloyd Breck, priest, 1876 04/03 – Richard, Bishop of Chichester, 1253; 04/07 – Tikhon, Patriarch of Russia, Confessor and Ecumenist, 1925; 04/08 William Augustus Muhlenberg, priest, 1877; 04/09 – Dietrich Bonhoeffer, 1945; 04/10 – William Law, Priest, 1761; 04/11 – George August Selwyn, Bishop of New Zealand, and of Lichfield, 1878</p>				<p>1 <b>Maundy Thursday</b> 830A MP 6P Mass</p>	<p>2 <b>Good Friday</b> 830A MP 12P Good Friday 6P Good Friday</p>	<p>3 <b>Holy Saturday</b> 12P Holy Saturday 730P Great Vigil of Easter</p>
<p>4 <b>Easter Day</b> 10A Mass</p>	<p>5 <b>Monday in Easter 1</b> 830A MP 12P Mass</p>	<p>6 <b>Tuesday in Easter 1</b> 830A MP 12P Mass</p>	<p>7 <b>Wednesday in Easter 1</b> 830A MP 10A Mass</p>	<p>8 <b>Thursday in Easter 1</b> 830A MP 12P Mass</p>	<p>9 <b>Friday in Easter 1</b> 830A MP 12P Mass</p>	<p>10 <b>Saturday in Easter 1</b></p>
<p>11 <b>Easter 2</b> 10A Mass 1130A Vestry</p>	<p>12 830A MP</p>	<p>13 830A MP</p>	<p>14 830A MP 10A Mass</p>	<p>15 830A MP</p>	<p>16 830A MP</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18 <b>Easter 3</b> 10A Mass</p>	<p>19 <b>Alphege</b> 830A MP</p>	<p>20 830A MP</p>	<p>21 <b>Anselm of Canterbury</b> 830A MP 10A Mass</p>	<p>22 830A MP 12P Mass</p>	<p>23 830A MP</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25 <b>Easter 4</b> 10A Mass</p>	<p>26 <b>Saint Mark</b> 830A MP 12P Mass</p>	<p>27 830A MP</p>	<p>28 830A MP 10A Mass</p>	<p>29 Catherine of Siena</p>	<p>30</p>	

# LECTIONARY AND ROTA FOR APRIL 2021

Date Lectionary Day Color	Reader	Intercessor	Altar Guild	Vestry Teller
4 April Easter Day B Easter 1 RCL White	Br. Jacob Taylor	Janet Buckley	Cindy Gass Pat Fulford	Cindy Gass Burch Yeager
11 April Second Sunday of Easter B Easter 2 RCL White	Cheryl Winters-Heard	Nikki Shaw	Kristen Turner Lee Dorsey	Connie McLean Bootsie Cieutat
18 April Third Sunday of Easter B Easter 3 RCL White	Mary Sheffield	Br. Jacob Taylor	Kristen Turner Lee Dorsey	Burch Yeager Mary Sheffield
25 April Fourth Sunday of Easter B Easter 4 RCL White	Janet Buckley	Cheryl Winters-Heard	Irene Yeager Marie Brown	Bootsie Cieutat James Christiansen





## EPISCOPAL RELIEF & DEVELOPMENT RECEIVES SPOTLIGHT INITIATIVE GRANT

Episcopal Relief & Development has received a \$188,436 three-year grant from the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women (UN Trust Fund), in partnership and with funding through the European Union and United Nations Spotlight Initiative. The grant will focus on strengthening the organization's existing program partnership with the Episcopal Church of Liberia Relief & Development (ECLRD) to address violence against women and girls in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

With prior funding from UN Trust Fund, Islamic Relief USA and the Laura Ellen & Robert Muglia Family Foundation, Episcopal Relief & Development, in partnership with ECLRD, is implementing an interfaith program in Liberia to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls. The partnership mobilizes faith leaders, community members, local government and children to change behaviors and attitudes, reducing violence and providing support to survivors of violence. The program was originally launched in 2015 and has reached 41,067 women and girls with outreach, advocacy and direct care.

"Physical distancing measures put in place in response to COVID-19 hampered faith leaders and program

staffs' abilities to respond to incidents of violence and reduced the capacity of services such as domestic violence shelters," said Chiseche Mibenge, Director, Gender Initiatives, Episcopal Relief & Development. "This grant will enable us to adapt existing gender-based violence prevention and response programming to address the new challenges created by the pandemic and other crises as they arise."

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Church of Liberia has continued to focus on the rights and dignity of women in their development work. The organization elevates the voices of women and youth advocates in community mobilization. ECLRD has deepened its collaboration with state agencies and service providers, which has improved its ability to partner with survivors as the survivors define their needs and priorities for restoration and healing.

To send a contribution by mail: Episcopal Relief & Development P.O. Box 7058 Merrifield, VA 22116-7058. Please note on the check if supporting COVID-19 Response or work to prevent and respond to gender-based violence.



Featuring the film "Kiss the Ground", with three different ways to watch:

Thursday, April 22 at 11:00AM  
The Crescent Theater  
208 Dauphin St.  
Mobile, AL 36602

**Free admission at all venues!**

Friday, April 23 at 7:30PM  
Outdoor Movies at Main  
Movie Night  
Join us for movie night in the parking lot of Ben May Main Library! Bring a chair, blanket, or sit in the comfort of your car. Listen on your car radio or phone for audio.

You will be able to view the film at home between April 10-26.

Starting April 1, registration for free online home viewing will be available at [www.faithclimateactionweek.org/featured-film-kit/](http://www.faithclimateactionweek.org/featured-film-kit/)

## March Birthdays

Happy  
Birthday

Joyce Lee	04/18
Frances Barbour	04/22
Laura Barbour	04/24
Hayzlynn Greer	04/28



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:

Lisa Chestang, David Rich, Bob Anderson, Carolyn Pearce, Mary Jones, Connie Anderson, Cookie Rich, Bob Ross, Jean Brown, Ashley Garris, Jerry Fulford, James Christiansen, Bill Duke, Audrey Garner, Joyce Lee, Marian Boykin, Ron Brown, Jayson Chestang, Budd McLean, Mary Catherine Warren.

### For our Family and Friends:

Lynn Strange, Peggy Sheffield, Logan Ross, Cliff Federle, Dorothy Johnson, George Lee, Jr. David Sheffield, Patrick Henry, Patsy Christiansen, Gwendolyn Carey, Helon Jones, Helen Guthrie, Eddie Hun, Katelynn Tillman, Karen Twilley, Nancy Payne, Donna Pigg, Robert Levy, Tiffany Matthews, Betty Williams, Latecia Cushion Knight, Bonnie Jernigan, Britney Butler, Neal Tourné, Sandy 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, Jacob Hester-Heard, Marcus Rich, Ross Hussmann, Ellis Garner, Eric Mattoon.

## Contact Us

### Staff:

The Reverend Thomas Heard, *rector*  
[rector@stjohnsmobile.org](mailto:rector@stjohnsmobile.org)

Louis Daniel  
 Organist & Choir Director  
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Lella Lowe  
 Financial Secretary  
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Jack Ruppe  
 Sexton

### Vestry:

James Christiansen, *junior warden*

Bootsie Cieutat

Cindy Gass, *senior warden*

Connie McLean, *treasurer*

Geri Moulton

Nikki Shaw, *clerk*

Mary Sheffield

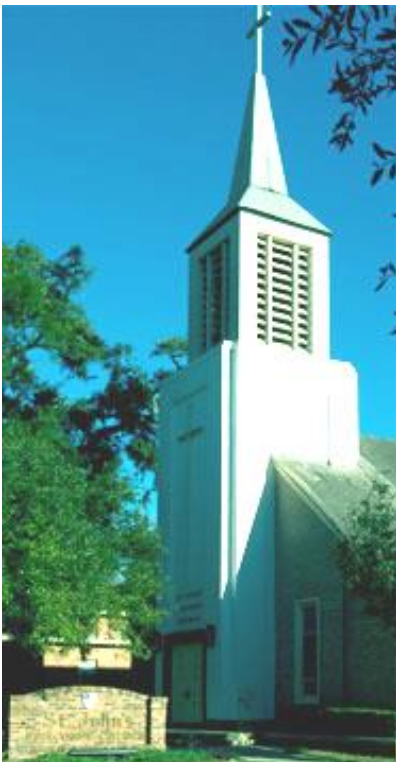
Kristen Turner

Butch Yeager

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.