



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 7

July 2021

FROM THE RECTOR:

Dear Ones,

As we have partially reopened in the wake of this phase of the Coronavirus Pandemic, we've actually spent some time with each other in meetings and social settings. It feels like such a relief! Please see the article on page 4 for details as we begin a new normal.

One of the things that has surfaced during these moments is that there appears to be an incomplete picture of what's happening with the church property. I believe all the individual items have been presented in the newsletter's Vestry Summary column. Perhaps not everyone reads that column, or perhaps it doesn't paint a clear enough picture of the issues that your Wardens and Vestry have been wrestling with.

We began dealing with roofing issues on the parish house and over the parlor in the spring of 2019. We had previously applied a urethane coating to a 30 x 30 section of the Great Hall roof to buy us some time. Eventually, we did what needed to be done: tear off and re-roof the Great Hall. This was the worst problem and demanded the first action.

The Great Hall section cost \$71,248. We took a loan from the Diocesan Congregational Loan Fund for \$70,000.

The Parlor Roof, Education Wing Roof, and Front Porch Roof need the same treatment.

Y'all know about the chiller problem if you've been to church in the last three weeks. Our 43-year-old chiller was installed by Eddy Velaski, Larry Wilkinson, and Shelton Dewberry. It has reached the end of its life. Over my years with you we have replaced both of the compressors, one electrical connection box, and completely refilled it a couple of times. It is past time to replace it.

But wait! There's more! We sustained damage to the roof of the church and the bell tower in Hurricane Sally. We're still trying to make sure that the settlement we have from our insurance is sufficient to cover what has to be done. Our problem is our deductible; because it was a named storm, it is \$73,644!

The chilled water circulating pump motor burned up after a power outage two weeks ago. Critical parts are no longer available to be able to rebuild it again, so a new one is being built for us. Its price tag is \$7,600.

Most recently, the Traulsen refrigerator has presented with a failing expansion valve and corroded hot gas loop. Both need to be replaced for the unit to work.

So here's a summary of our current needs:

Roofing	Parlor Roof	\$29,248
	Education Wing	\$51,541
	Great Hall Porch	\$15,805
	Great Hall Loan Balance	\$63,000
Chiller	Replace chiller	\$45,000
Hurricane Repairs	Deductible for Interior and Exterior Repairs	\$73,644
Pump	New circulating pump	\$7,600
Refrigerator	Traulsen Repair	\$1,000
Total		\$286,838

All of us know that age takes its toll on our bodies. Buildings and equipment are no different. Our buildings are 65 and 63 years old. They have maintenance and repair costs that grow as they age.

I suspect that there are those among you that will be

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE JULY LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Saint Mary Magdalene

We will commemorate Saint Mary Magdalene on 22 July at 12:00 PM with a 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 Apostle to the Apostles.

Saint James the Apostle

James is sometimes called "the Greater", to keep him separate 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. A Said Mass will be offered on Monday, 26 July at 12:00 PM.

CONNIE ANDERSON RETIRES AS ADMINISTRATOR AT MURRAY HOUSE

Murray House saw a big change at the beginning of June: Connie Anderson retired as Executive Director! Connie had been Executive Director for over eleven years. During her tenure as director, her standards of excellence and professionalism have made Murray House an outstanding example of quality and nurturing care for the residents and a safe, healthy environment for the staff.

The Board of Directors of Murray House held a small reception honoring Connie's service and wishing her well in her retirement. Murray House is a ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast. Board members are appointed by the bishop.





Vestry

The regular meeting of the Rector, Wardens, and Vestry of Saint John's Church was called to order by Fr. Heard at 11:15 AM on Sunday, 13 June 2021.

Geri Moulton was absent.

The agenda was adopted as written. The Minutes of the 11 May meeting were approved as submitted.

Connie McLean reviewed the financials for May. The insurance payment for Hurricane Sally damage and the PPP loan funds have been moved to a separate account, with 25% invested to afford some growth. We are still waiting for notification to begin the forgiveness process.

Changing the name of the Spread the Word committee produced no consensus. There was also discussion about advertising to the neighborhood.

Bootsie Cieutat reported that the parish has resumed coffee hour and cake on Birthday Sunday (1st Sunday of the month), as well as continuing to send 'Thinking of You' cards for Murray House residents. Bootsie also reported that the Scrip program will be restarted.

Fr. Heard reported that the report of the termite inspection by the state has not yet been received. He added that a Mechanical Breakdown claim has been filed with our insurance carrier and he is expecting Business Interruption coverage to pay for a temporary chiller. In addition, as a result of a power interruption, the chilled water pump motor burned up. We will attempt to have Alabama Power cover part of its replacement expense. The Lathan Company is working on validating the adjuster's estimates for Hurricane Sally repairs.

Fr. Heard stated that the Praesidium System is being upgraded in the next few weeks. This is the training system used by the diocese for all leadership and staff training. We will revisit the training topic once the system is in operation.

McKemie Place is slowly removing its supplies and records from our property.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:25 PM.

(Continued from page 1)

shocked that we have close to \$300,000 of work that needs to be done to protect the building and make necessary repairs. This isn't an exhaustive list. Our stained glass windows need some TLC. Repairs and protection activities will run \$57,000. That puts us at nearly \$350,000.

As I think on our parish, I am hard pressed to see that there is either appetite or resources for a Capital Fund Drive of this magnitude. Maybe I'm not correct about this; please let me know if you disagree. On the other hand, if you have other ideas, please don't be silent!

So, what do we do?

We start by prioritizing the list. At this time, the windows can wait. The Front Porch roof can wait. We're not having water intrusion in the church, so that can wait for a while.

We look for other sources of funding. Maybe there is a grant for historic preservation. Perhaps we should revisit our program of planned giving. None of these will have an immediate return, if at all. We spend a fair amount of money to operate our buildings; maybe we can find a tenant for part of the building. It would mean that we might lose the use of it, but it is something to consider. As a last resort, maybe we could try to find a bank that would make us a loan.

As I have said before and will likely say again, we need to rebuild the parish to balance our budget and begin to plan for and save toward these kinds of capital expenses. There's no time like the present to start.

-- Thomas

SAINT JOHN'S SCRIP PROGRAM SET TO RESUME

We are restarting our "Scrip" program at Saint John's! Now that we are all back together, it's time to resume our easiest fundraiser ever.

With the Saint John's scrip program, all you do is order gift cards to shop at your usual retailers. That's it! It doesn't cost you anything...just a little planning ahead to have the gift cards on hand when you shop. Saint John's benefits when the scrip program pays them a percentage of all gift card sales. See Bootsie Cieutat for more information about how you can participate, and visit www.shopwithscrip.com for a complete list of all 700+ participating retailers.



Elsewhere in the Diocese

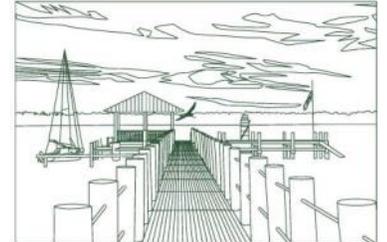
BECKWITH 2021 GETAWAY BY THE BAY

Join us this summer for a fun, new opportunity to gather for a relaxing escape at God's Front Yard

Getaway by the Bay is an opportunity for friends, families, couples, and individuals to join us at Beckwith for a 4 day/3 night retreat July 8-11. Your getaway will begin with dinner Thursday evening though breakfast Sunday morning. Come enjoy a change from your own home, and experience the peace and beauty of God's front yard and Weeks Bay. Make it your own special retreat! Walk our grounds, read a book on the porch, swim, canoe and kayak on the bay, fish, get creative in arts and crafts, play Pickle ball, etc. There will be group meals, cookouts, opportunities to picnic, and more.

We will be practicing and encouraging social distancing from other groups for the health and safety of all.

There will be new practices and procedures implemented in order to be in compliance with CDC and ACA guidelines. We hope you will embrace a willingness for change and adaptability as we learn a new way together.



Getaway by the Bay



Mid-Summer Pentecost: The Gift of Rest

In the final two Sundays of July, we get an interplay of the Gospel of Mark and the Gospel of John as they continue the story of Jesus and the many crowds that throng him whenever and wherever he shows up. Whether on this side of the sea or the other, on a hill or on a plain, the crowds find him. Jesus' words invite us to engage the work we are given to do, but also to rest so that we may keep doing our important work in God's vineyard.

We read Mark 6:30-34, 53-56 on the Sunday closest to July 20. To me, in mid-summer, the fascinating thing about this passage from the lectionary is that it skips the famous part of this story, and just recounts the movement of Jesus. It is as if we are reading the travel log, but without the historical points of interest. We do not read about the feeding of the five-thousand. Instead, we learn that Jesus moved around a lot, that crowds followed him, and that his disciples were exhausted.

Jesus, having compassion on his disciples, extends an invitation. "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while."

Certainly, we did not experience a year of multitudes gathering. Even so, the many virtual meetings, webinars and online-classrooms, and socially-distant Zoom gatherings of friends and family extended our screen-time, lengthened our workdays, increased our burdens to communicate. We need rest. Getting away to a deserted place and being with the ones we have not been able to see in so many months feels like just the right thing we need. And it is essential. The work, whether our jobs, our educations, and our families; or our ministry, our volunteering, and our social work must go on. In order to fully engage it, we must have some refreshment.

This month offers us the gift of rest. | ☪☪☪



THE EPISCOPAL NETWORK FOR STEWARDSHIP



EPISCOPAL RELIEF & DEVELOPMENT WORKS TO ADDRESS CHANGES IN CLIMATE

The number of climate-influenced disasters has doubled in the past 20 years. Floods, hurricanes and other events can devastate communities. Our work with local Church and ecumenical partners is designed to help communities prepare for these disasters and recover as quickly as possible. We focus on five key areas to address issues related to climate:

Improving Food and Nutrition

In underserved areas, we work with community members to expand food access and availability, creating long-term strategies that help families feed themselves while protecting the environment and generating new forms of income. In our work with small-scale farmers, crops and livestock are often vulnerable to erratic rainfall, droughts, floods, pests and diseases. To ensure enough healthy and nutritious food, we support small-scale and family farms with tools and seeds, as well as training on climate-smart agriculture, animal management techniques and crop diversification.

Creating Economic Stability

It's very difficult to recover from climate-influenced disasters if communities do not have the resources needed to get back on their feet. Our programs strengthen communities and empower individuals and families to find creative ways to maximize their earning power and potential. We provide management and financial training to help people start and expand small businesses and build partnerships that offer loans and insurance products. Gaining access to local markets and participating in Savings with Education (SwE) groups enables families to pay school fees, save money and plan for unanticipated emergencies.

Providing access to Clean Water, Hygiene and Sanitation

Clean water, proper sanitation and hygiene education are critically important to prevent the spread of disease, as well as protect communities when climate-influenced disasters occur. Our work to create clean and safe water for drinking and other household use includes building wells and piping systems to prevent waterborne illnesses and installing water stations and

systems like rainwater catchment tanks. We also empower local community health workers to train residents in safe garbage and waste disposal.

Reducing the Impact of Disasters

If communities are prepared and ready to adapt when a climate-influenced disaster occurs, they are much more likely to successfully recover. Our work is designed to help communities anticipate, resist, cope with and recover from climate-influenced hazards and events. In all of our programs, we provide critical assistance to help alleviate suffering, restore dignity, build resilience and jump-start economic recovery. Using a wide network of Episcopal dioceses and other church institutions in the US, we offer resources and training to help people prepare for disasters and provide emergency support so vulnerable communities can make a full and sustained recovery.

Managing Environmental Preparedness

The best defense against climate-influenced disasters is to be as prepared as possible before disaster strikes. Our staff and partners are committed to properly safeguarding land and other natural resources to protect the environment, lessen the impact of disasters and minimize suffering and damage that often hinder the recovery process. We also train communities to understand and identify where they are most vulnerable and how to protect themselves in advance of disasters.

To support Episcopal Relief & Development's **Disaster Fund**, please mail checks to **Episcopal Relief & Development P.O. Box 7058 Merrifield, VA 22116-7058** or call **1.855.312.4325 Monday – Friday, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm EST**.



When families and communities work together, they can better prepare for and recover from climate-influenced events.



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:

Eugene Johnston, Carolyn Pearce, Mary Jones, Cookie Rich, Bob Ross, Jean Brown, Ashley Garris, Jerry Fulford, James Christiansen, Audrey Garner, Joyce Lee, Marian Boykin, Ron Brown, Jayson Chestang, Budd McLean, Mary Catherine Warren.

For our Family and Friends:

Donnie Chestang, Daniel Day, Steven Garner, Jeff Pelham, David Partsch, Carol Wiggins, Shirley Cochran, Lynn Strange, Peggy Sheffield, Cliff Federle, David Sheffield, 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:

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

June Birthdays



Celebrating June birthdays with Neva Bache, Ron Waites, Connie Anderson and Connie McLean. (Photo by Irene Yeager)

Contact Us

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Bootsie Cieutat

Cindy Gass, *senior warden*

Connie McLean, *treasurer*

Geri Moulton

Nikki Shaw, *clerk*

Mary Sheffield

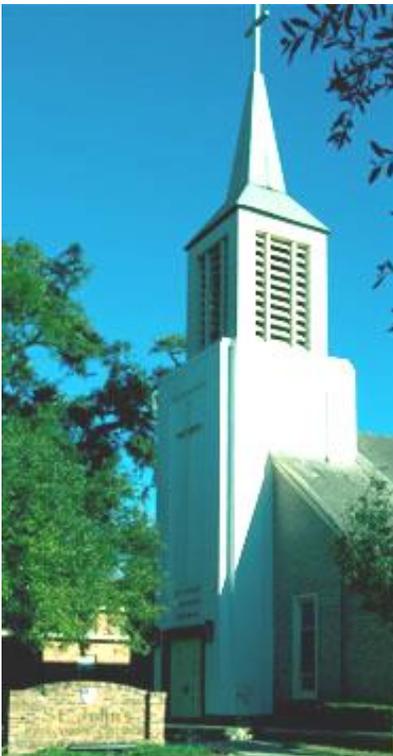
Kristen Turner

Butch Yeager

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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.