



# 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 8

August 2021

## FROM THE RECTOR:

Dear Ones,

This is a story about a man who was a believer in God. This man lived in a place that was experiencing an outbreak of a disease. Public Health Officers told everyone to keep distance from each other and to wear masks. The man thought that infringed on his rights of freedom of expression, and besides, God would protect him.

Day by day, the outbreak became more widespread. The doctors recommended staying home as much as possible, but the man thought that infringed on his rights to do what he wanted, so he continued to go to his favorite watering hole and restaurants. Besides, God would protect him.

The outbreak continued, unabated. The scientists had been working to find a vaccine to prevent the spread of the disease. They tested their most promising ones on volunteers. It worked. There were minimal side effects. The authorities made the vaccine available to anyone that fit the age criteria and told folks to get vaccinated. The man said he wouldn't do that, because no one could tell him what to do with his body. Besides, God would protect him.

The man caught the disease and died. When he arrived in heaven, he asked God why he hadn't been saved. God scratched his head and said, "I'm confused. I sent you personal protection methods, quarantining, and vaccines. What else did you want me to do?"

Last week, our governor had some pretty strong words for the people in Alabama that are choosing not to receive the COVID vaccine. She is correct that the vaccine is the one sure way for us to stop the spread of COVID and its continued mutation.

I saw a cartoon with a very pointed message. It is an exchange between a mother and her young daughter.

Daughter: Mom, what's that mark on your arm?  
Mom: That's my Smallpox vaccination scar.  
Daughter: Why don't I have one?  
Mom: Because it worked.

Yes, being vaccinated protects you. More importantly, it protects those around you. There are folks who have medical conditions that prevent them from being vaccinated. There are folks that aren't old enough to be vaccinated. In the last fourteen days, we've had 153 children under 5 that have contracted COVID-19, and another 531 cases among the 5-17 age group. The big bunch is in the 25-49 range, with 1,597 cases.

Alabama has finally beaten Mississippi at something: The State with the Worst Vaccination Rate in the Nation. Our infection rates confirm it.

We talk about the church being a community. It is, but we also live in a wider community. Part of our call as followers of Jesus Christ is to share the love of God for us with all people. I've researched the New Testament writings and can't find anywhere that suggests that our neighbor isn't important. Likewise, in the TANAKH, I can't find a *Mitzvot* that tells us to be self-centered and selfish. Instead, we're told to love our neighbor, to care for the sick, orphaned, widowed, and lonely.

If you are not vaccinated, please consider receiving it. Please encourage others to be vaccinated. It is how we win over COVID-19.

Otherwise, we'll be back to empty pews and worse.

— Thomas

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE AUGUST LITURGICAL CALENDAR

### The Transfiguration of Our Lord

We will celebrate the Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord Jesus Christ on Friday, 6 August at 12:00 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.

### Clare of Assisi

Clare of Assisi's life was changed after she heard Saint Francis preach to his new order of Franciscans. Raised in a wealthy family, Clare found her calling as a monastic, dedicated to works of mercy for the poor and committed to absolute poverty. Clare became the superior of the Poor Ladies of St. Damian of Assisi, a position she held for forty years. We will commemorate Clare at our Said Mass on Wednesday, 11 August, at 10:00 AM.

### 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 remember Saint Mary the Virgin on Monday, 16 August, at a Said Mass at 12:00 PM.

### William Porcher DuBose

William Porcher DuBose was probably the most original thinker of the Episcopal Church. Born in South Carolina in 1836, DuBose studied at The University of Virginia and the Episcopal seminary at Camden, SC. He was ordained in 1861 and served as a chaplain to the Confederate Army. DuBose taught at the University of the South and his writings brought him great respect as a theologian in the US, as well as England and France. We will remember William Porcher DuBose at our Said Mass on Wednesday, 18 August, at 10:00 AM

### 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 copy of the Gospel of Matthew in Hebrew that was purportedly given to the church by Bartholomew. We will celebrate Saint Bartholomew on Monday, 24 August, with a said mass at 12:00 PM.

### Louis of France

Louis IX of France was born in 1214 and crowned king of France in 1226. A crusader king, Louis never wavered from the ethics that Christianity brought him. As a reminder of humility and suffering, Louis wore a hair shirt under his royal attire. Louis was killed while on a crusade in Tunis in 1270 and was canonized by the church in 1297. La Sainte Chapelle in Paris was built by Louis as a shrine for the relics of Our Lord's passion; it serves as Louis' final resting place. We will commemorate Louis of France at our Said Mass on Wednesday, 25 August, at 10:00 AM.



Saint John's wishes to extend a sincere thank you to those who have made donations in memory of:

Joan-Marie Elam  
Thelma Lomers  
George Seymour Lee, Jr.  
Thelma Lomers  
Helon Jones  
Jones & Cieutat Families





## Vestry

The regular meeting of the Rector, Wardens, and Vestry of Saint John's Church was called to order at 11:30 AM on Sunday, 11 July 2021 by Fr. Heard. The meeting was held in the Parlor

The proposed agenda was approved, Bootsie Cieutat was excused, and the minutes of the 13 June meeting were approved as submitted.

Connie McLean reviewed the financial reports, noting that the PPP and Hurricane Sally Damage monies have been moved to an account with Benjamin F. Edwards. During the month, \$20,000 was moved from the Endowment Fund to the checking account. Connie also noted that the PPP Forgiveness portal is now operational.

The parish has resumed coffee hour following the Sunday service and the ECW is coordinating sign-ups to contribute to the snacks.

Fr. Heard supplied the Vestry with a written report of all of the repairs and issues facing Saint John's.

Fr. Heard raised a question concerning how to do budgeting and stewardship this year. After discussion a Budget Committee was named, consisting of the Rector, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Treasurer, and Geri Moulton. Mary Sheffield stepped up to the Stewardship role and a committee was named, including Kristen Turner, Bootsie Cieutat, Lee Dorsey, and Fran Barbour. Tentative plan is to run the campaign in September.

Fr. Heard reported that a new platform for Safe Church training is almost ready. It appears that retraining will occur on an annual basis.

The meeting was adjourned at 12: 43 PM.



# Every Perfect Gift

## THE GIFT OF BREAD

All through August we depart from Mark's gospel in the Lectionary and explore the analogy of Bread and Body with John the Evangelist. The more Jesus asserts that he is the Bread of Life, come down from Heaven, the more urgent the opposition to this teaching becomes. Even his disciples begin to question it. "This teaching is difficult," they observe, "who can accept it?"

Why is it that the disciples, who just a short while earlier witnessed and accepted a miracle that caused Jesus to bring forward abundance from a few scant loaves of bread, now cannot accept that Jesus compares himself with that heaven-sent miracle? Jesus offers himself to be miraculously created, broken, and shared to the nourishment of the whole world, and this is the teaching that we, his disciples, find "too difficult."

The temple authorities and the Pharisees object to this on theological grounds, as they perceive Jesus to be coming too close to blasphemy as he compares himself with the manna that sustained their forebears in the wilderness, but what excuse do we have? We are not concerned with the theological argument of sacrifice and miracle; I believe we are disturbed by a more personal and more complicated truth. If Jesus offers himself to be broken and shared, what does that mean for those who follow him? What is our role in feeding, caring for, saving the world?

Deep down we know the answer: that we also must be willing to be blessed, broken, and shared in order to accomplish God's saving work in the world, and this is, in fact, a difficult teaching. When Jesus asks us "Do you also wish to go away?" how will we answer?

### QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

**How do you decide what you are willing or unwilling to share in doing God's work?**

**Where do you draw your lines?**



THE EPISCOPAL NETWORK FOR STEWARDSHIP

# AUGUST 2021 AT SAINT JOHN'S

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 <b>Pentecost 10</b> 10A Mass 1130A Outreach	2 830A MP	3 830A MP	4 830A MP 10A Mass + Healing	5 830A MP	6 <b>Transfiguration</b> 830A MP 12P Mass	7 John Mason Neale
8 <b>Pentecost 11</b> 10A Mass 1130A Vestry	9 830A MP	10 Laurence of Rome 830A MP	11 <b>Clare of Assisi</b> 830A MP 10A Mass	12 Florence Nightingale 830A MP	13 Jeremy Taylor 830A MP	14 Jonathan Myrick Daniels
15 <b>Pentecost 12</b> 10A Mass 1130A ECW	16 <b>Saint Mary the Virgin</b> 830A MP 12P Mass	17 830A MP	18 <b>W. P. DuBose</b> 830A MP 10A Mass	19 830A MP	20 Bernard of Clairvaux 830A MP	21
22 <b>Pentecost 13</b> 10A Mass	23 830A MP	24 <b>Saint Bartholomew</b> 830A MP 12P Mass	25 <b>Louis of France</b> 830A MP 10A Mass	26 830A MP	27 Thomas Gallaudet & Henry Winter Syle 830A MP	28 Augustine of Hippo
29 <b>Pentecost 14</b> 10A HE	30 830A MP	31 Aidan of Lindisfarne 830A MP	Omitted: 08/01 – Joseph of Arimathea			

# LECTIONARY AND ROTA FOR AUGUST 2021

Date	1 August	8 August	15 August	22 August	29 August
Lectionary Day Lections Color	Pentecost 10 B Proper 13 RCL GC Green	Pentecost 11 B Proper 14 RCL GC Green	Pentecost 12 B Proper 15 RCL GC Green	Pentecost 13 B Proper 16 RCL GC Green	Pentecost 14 B Proper 17 RCL GC Green
Greeters	Connie & Budd McLean	Melissa Brown	Connie & Budd McLean	Paula Ross	Thelma Lomers
Lectors	Br. Jacob Taylor Janet Buckley	Cheryl Winters-Heard Budd McLean	Paula Ross Nikki Shaw	Br. Jacob Taylor Janet Buckley	Cheryl Winters-Heard Budd McLean
Intercessor	David Thompson	Geri Moulton	Mary Sheffield	David Thompson	Geri Moulton
Eucharistic Ministers	Mary Sheffield Geri Moulton	David Thompson Connie McLean	Br Jacob Taylor Butch Yeager	Paula Ross Mary Sheffield	Geri Moulton David Thompson
Altar Guild	Irene Yeager Marie Brown	Irene Yeager Marie Brown	Connie Anderson Bootsie Cieutat	Connie Anderson Bootsie Cieutat	Kristen Turner Lee Dorsey
Vestry Tellers	Nikki Shaw Bootsie Cieutat	Cindy Gass Mary Sheffield	Connie McLean Kristen Turner	Butch Yeager James Christiansen	Bootsie Cieutat Nikki Shaw



## CELEBRATING NATIONAL CHILDREN'S DAY EVERY DAY WITH ONE THOUSAND DAYS OF LOVE

National Children's Day, celebrated each year on the second Sunday in June, is a special day dedicated to ensuring that our children are given faith, hope and love and that we demonstrate a tangible commitment to our children's future. The day is a good reminder that what we sow today will be harvested in the world for years to come.

This year, children everywhere are experiencing the effects of a devastating pandemic. Those who are already vulnerable have been made more so, and those teetering on the margins have slipped entirely into that place. It would be easy to allow despair to take hold of our hearts and to succumb to apathy. However, we are called by Jesus to feed the hungry, care for the sick and welcome the stranger.

While the most substantial influence on our children is often family, good schools and nurturing communities also play a vital role in helping children reach their full potential. We all must work to promote an environment of hope and love for children.

In this way, Episcopal Relief & Development has committed to helping communities nurture children to their full potential. We know that the first years of a child's life are the most important for brain development and overall health.

We also know that when we work to ensure that children have access to necessities like food, healthcare,

clean water and most importantly, caregivers who have economic opportunities and nurture and love them, that they have the very best chance for a whole and healthy life. Data supports the fact that when we focus on lifting children in communities, we raise their families and indeed their whole community as well.

Our work with children contributes significantly to the growth of healthy and vibrant communities, and Episcopal Relief & Development's campaign, ONE THOUSAND DAYS OF LOVE, is helping to support the expansion of our work with children. Not only are we giving the youngest and most vulnerable in our world a chance to thrive, but we are also working to build the world around them so that their success supports the great village that it takes to raise a child. What we sow today will be the great gift that leads to a better tomorrow.



It's time for a church directory update. So that we may get the best information to you, please make sure that we have all the latest in address, e-mail and telephone changes turned in to the church office by Sunday, August 15. New parish directories will be available by the end of August.



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 Delaporte	08/25
Bootsie Cieutat	08/26
David Rich	08/27
Marion Wallace	08/27
David Jones	08/29



Robert & Charlynn Will	08/10
Curtis & Cindy Gass	08/19

## July Birthdays



Celebrating July birthdays with Cheryl Winters-Heard and Tina Cieutat. (Photo by Irene Yeager)



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

Butch Yeager, Connie Anderson, Carolyn Pearce, 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:**

Randy Dunn, Sharon Lee Nolan, Willie Douglas, Gail Savage, Donnie Chestang, Daniel Day, Jeff Pelham, David Partsch, Carol Wiggins, Shirley Cochran, Lynn Strange, Peggy Sheffield, Cliff Federle, Patsy Christiansen, Gwendolyn Carey, 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.

## Contact Us

### Staff:

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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

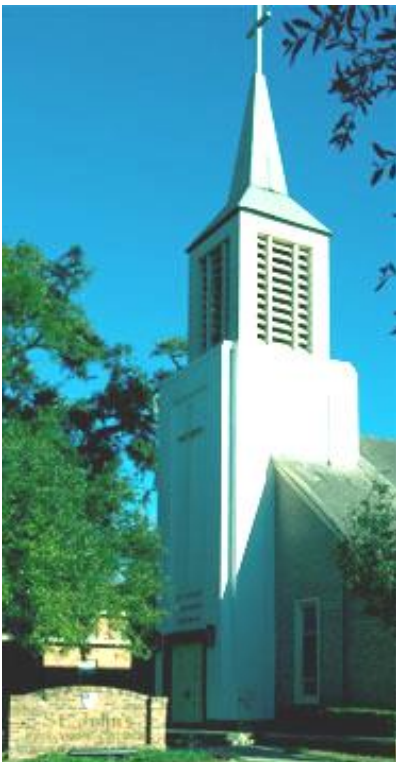
Kristen Turner

Butch Yeager

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 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.