



# 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 10

October 2021

## FROM THE RECTOR:

Dear Ones,

It's the end of September 2021. It is eighteen months since the "official" start of the Coronavirus Pandemic. I never dreamed that we'd still be dealing with it this far out. I was so wrong!

I think that the epidemiologists understand why we're back to rising cases: Herd Immunity was not achieved on a world wide scale. It's not just about folks refusing to be vaccinated. It's actually more about not insuring that every part of the world had the opportunity to be vaccinated. In that sense, the failure to supply other countries with vaccine is our failure to live within Jesus' Great Commandment.

From a biological point of view, what has happened is normal and natural. Viruses mutate. It is not a sentient action, though it may seem like it. They mutate all the time. A virus cannot survive on its own, it must have a host. Once in a host, the virus replicates. In its replication process, a mutation occurs if there is a "mistake" in the copy of DNA or RNA. When enough mutations are present in an infection, it graduates to being a variant. When a variant has enough new biological characteristics, it then becomes a strain.

So a virus within a host, replicates. If a mistake is made there is a mutation. If that mutation is replicated enough, it becomes a variant. There have been Beta and Gamma variants that didn't affect us much. Now we have Delta.

That's what we've been dealing with recently, a variant called "Delta." It appears to be able to get a foothold in vaccinated folks and replicate. It sometimes makes the host sick, sometimes not. It also appears to be transmittable by vaccinated folks. That's a difference over the Alpha strain we saw previously as dominant in the United States.

So, why have I gone through all this? To give you a foundation for making decisions about how you will comport yourselves.

We no longer have a mandate from the Bishop to mask during indoor worship. In his letter, he quotes a phrase that is familiar to many Episcopalians, "All may, some should, none must." You may view that as pertaining to either wearing a mask or not wearing a mask.

At first, everyone masked, we maintained distance, and didn't partake of the elements of communion. Later, we shared only the Body of Christ. At the next phase, we continued to maintain distance, but required masks only for the unvaccinated. We also began to share the Blood of Christ. That was predicated on vaccinated folk not being able to spread the virus. Then with Delta, we returned to universal masking and communion in one kind.

So we're at a new point: Masking will not be required. We will return to singing and communion in both kinds. This does, however, place the responsibility on you to decide how to navigate. My primary focus during the pandemic has been to keep you all safe. We've been successful, with no transmission within the church. We have had many cases within the parish, almost all folks able to identify the source.

We are a vulnerable community. Nonagenarians, Octogenarians, and those that are the youngest have the greatest risk. The Great Commandment demands our love for God and for each other. It is the oldest of the Old Testament *Mitzvot*, the one from which all the others are derived.

Choose wisely.

--Thomas

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE OCTOBER LITURGICAL CALENDAR

### William Tyndale

We will commemorate the life and ministry of William Tyndale at our said mass on Wednesday, 6 October at 10:00 AM. Tyndale, a priest of the late 15<sup>th</sup> and early 16<sup>th</sup> centuries is best remembered for his personal campaign to render the Old and New Testaments in English, so they could be understood by common folks. Tyndale was ahead of his time. At his death in 1536, he had completed and revised a translations of the New Testament, as well as translations of the Books of Moses (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy), the book of Jonah, and Joshua, Judges, I & II Samuel, I & II Kings, and I & II Chronicles. His passion to do this work led him to a cloak-and-dagger existence that eventually led to his betrayal and death. Of his work, more than 80 percent of it survives intact in the Authorized Version of 1611, known familiarly as “the King James Version.”

### Edward the Confessor

Saint Edward the Confessor was born in about 1003, son of Ethelred II and Emma. At about 10, he was sent to Normandy to live with his grandfather, Duke Richard of Normandy. He lived a quiet life, and was never happier than serving at Mass. In 1042, Edward was called back to England to take the throne of the West Saxons. He was a king who cared deeply for his subjects and peace in the land. His only military forays were to aid Malcolm of Scotland against Macbeth and to repel the threatened invasion by Sweyn of Norway. Edward died in January 1066. Edward was responsible for the rebuilding of St. Peter’s Abbey at Westminster which we know better as Westminster Abbey. The Abbey was dedicated only a week before his death and is his final resting place. We will commemorate Saint Edward the Confessor at our Said Mass on Wednesday 13 October at 10:00 AM.

### Saint Luke

We will celebrate the life and ministry of Saint Luke the Evangelist at a said mass on Monday, 18 October, at 12:00 PM. Luke, the self-identified author of the Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles, brings his own perspective on the person and ministry of Jesus and Jesus’ continuing effect on the world. Luke’s account of the spread of the early church and the ministry of Saint Paul helps us to craft a picture of the world in the first century. His portrayal of the radical hospitality and inclusion that Jesus manifested still stands today as a standard by which we can judge our ministries.

### Saint James of Jerusalem

We will remember Saint James of Jerusalem, the brother of Our Lord, at a said mass on Saturday, 23 October, at 12:10 PM. Sometimes called “James the Just”, James supported the inclusion of Gentiles in the church. According to a second-century chronicler, James provoked the ire of some factions in Jerusalem because of his success at bringing new converts into the church. Taking James to the pinnacle of the Temple, they commanded him to recant his faith and Jesus. When he refused, James was thrown from the roof and then cudged to death.

### Saint Simon & Saint Jude

Saint Simon and Saint Jude, Apostles will be remembered at a said mass on Thursday, 28 October at 12:00 PM. Sadly, our knowledge of these two original apostles is quite lacking. Simon is referred to as “a Zealot” and Saint John mentions Jude in his account of the Last Supper. Tradition associates both with the region of Persia, now Iran. Some accounts call them martyrs, some say that both died peaceful deaths in Edessa or Beirut. The Epistle of Jude brings us a unique doxology:

*“Now to him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you without blemish before the presence of his glory with rejoicing, to the only God, our Savior through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and for ever. Amen.”*



## Vestry

The regular meeting of the Rector, Wardens, and Vestry of Saint John's Church was called to order at 11:30 AM by Fr. Heard on Sunday, 12 September 2021.

The proposed agenda was adopted. Bootsie Cieutat and Geri Moulton were excused. The minutes of the August meeting were approved as submitted.

Treasurer Connie McLean reviewed the financial statements. She noted that the church has signed up for email statements from Alabama Power because of the unreliability of U.S. Mail service. She is pursuing the PPP repayment with folks at Regions Bank.

Fr. Heard presented the 2020 Audit Report. Connie McLean noted that our auditor's report should have cost \$1200. She moved that we pay her the additional \$400 to make up the difference. The motion was approved.

Mary Sheffield reported the books for Head Start are in process of being stickered.

Mary also reported that 2022 pledge cards have been mailed to the parish.

Fr. Heard reported that the HVAC unit for the Choir Loft is leaking freon.

Fr. Heard reported that the proposal from The Lathan Company has been forwarded to Gina Walcott. She has expressed concerns over the short lifespan of a composition shingle roof versus slate. She is also concerned that the appraiser's estimates are not sufficient for the repairs that must be made.

Fr. Heard reported that Terminix has inspected the frame of the altar window and confirmed the presence of Formosan termites. The contractor they intend to use is working on a proposal for mitigation and repairs.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 12:15 PM.

# PARISH LIFE

## PINK SUNDAY

St. John's will be holding **Pink Sunday** on Sunday, October 17th to acknowledge the need for more awareness, research, and treatment for breast cancer. Even though you may not be worshipping in-person, you can still **wear pink** to show your support for those fighting cancer; to admire the survivors; and to honor those taken. You could even take a picture to show -off your pink and post it on the Saint John's Facebook page before or after the service!

We will have information, discussion, and prayer. Please join us and WEAR PINK!!

October is  
Breast  
Cancer  
Awareness  
Month

## BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS



Please join us at Saint John's on Sunday, 3 October at 4:00PM in the courtyard for a blessing of all of our furry, feathered and finned friends. All types of animals are welcome, but please respect others and leash or restrain your pets.

## September Birthdays

Celebrating September birthdays at St. John's with Thelma Lomers and Thomas Creel. (Photo by Irene Yeager)



# Every Perfect Gift

*“Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above...”*  
– James 1:17 NRSV

During our month of Stewardship we have reflected on the gifts God has given us and what we can give in return. As the “official” campaign wraps up at the end of September, please continue to keep stewardship as a year round reflection and not just a month long event. Your time, talents and treasure reach out into the community beyond our church doors.

Thank you for your generosity and for turning in your pledge cards so we can continue sharing our gifts.

Stewardship committee



### FOOD DRIVE: THANKSGIVING FOOD BOXES FOR FAMILIES IN NEED

This fall’s food drive will have a specific goal: we are going to **fill twelve boxes with non-perishable food** and have them delivered to twelve 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 clients. 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 17<sup>th</sup>. We want to have **the boxes filled by**

**Sunday, November 14<sup>th</sup>.** You can start bringing your contributions to the church any time in the next weeks. If you don’t have time to shop or are still not comfortable going to the grocery store, members of the Outreach Committee will shop for you. Please send a check in to the church office, made payable to Saint John’s, with “Food Boxes” in the memo line. You may also put cash in an envelope marked “Food Boxes,” and drop it into the collection plate.

We’re not providing a Thanksgiving meal but providing a box of food that will help them out for the week their children will be home for Thanksgiving holiday. 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

dry cereal  
pudding cups  
fruit or applesauce cups  
grits  
canned tuna  
snack cakes  
granola bars

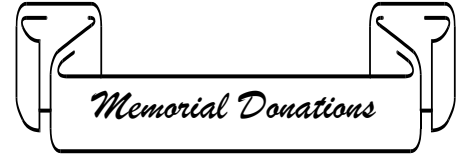
canned peaches  
dried beans  
rice  
boxed macaroni and cheese  
peanut butter  
jelly

## *In Memoriam*

### **PATRICIA DURELL (MOORE) PRITCHARD**

4 December 1959 – 27 August 2021

Pat Pritchard was baptized at Saint John's on 31 December 1959. She loved this parish and the church was a significant place in her life. Pat took over running Thee Store for years, until she went to work for Mobile Police Department as a 911 Dispatcher. That was a hard job; we talked about it many times. It was hard to leave it at work, particularly when how the call ended wasn't known. But, she loved it; it was doing something to help people. Pat was the anchor in her family, so full of life and so down to earth. One of the things I cherished most about Pat was her honesty. I could always count on her to tell me what she thought – and she'd volunteer it if I didn't ask. I miss that.



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

Pat Pritchard

James Christiansen

St. John's ECW

Connie & Bob Anderson

Connie & Budd McLean

Irene & Butch Yeager

Bootsie & Tina Cieutat

Eli Babb

St. John's ECW

Connie & Budd McLean

Irene & Butch Yeager

## *Elsewhere in the Diocese*

### **DIOCESE PROCLAIMS OCTOBER 24, 2021 MURRAY HOUSE SUNDAY**

Bishop Russell Kendrick has proclaimed Sunday, October 24 to be Murray House Sunday across the Diocese. The bishop will be visiting Murray House on that day. Churches across the diocese will be offering special prayers for Murray House residents and staff on October 24<sup>th</sup>.

Murray House is an agency of the Diocese and has been for over 25 years. As an Assisted Living Facility, Murray House seeks to serve many of the most vulnerable of society with dignity and respect.

Murray House traces its history back to 1829 as the Benevolent Home for Aged Women with the idea of providing comfortable living quarters for dependently elderly woman. This was a ministry of Government Street Presbyterian Church and later it became known as "Widows Row".

Fast forward to 1994 and the facility was

gifted to the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast. After three years of construction, the facility was brought up to modern standards, while meeting the historical requirements of the neighborhood in which it sits.

The staff works tirelessly to ensure that all residents (women and men) are safe, comfortable and active. Murray House continues to maintain a healthy environment and has had no COVID-19 cases. Residents participate in a variety of activities such as arts and crafts, birthday parties, and game activities. The Rev. Ken Cumbie, the Murray House chaplain, continues to provide support to residents, staff, and family members.



Murray House currently has units available for those who meet Assisted Living criteria. Information can be obtained by calling Sharon Phillips, Administrator at 251-432-2272.



## EPISCOPAL RELIEF & DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS WITH EPISCOPAL DIOCESES TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE AFTER HURRICANE IDA

Episcopal Relief & Development is partnering with the Episcopal dioceses of Louisiana and Western Louisiana to provide aid such as temporary housing, food, gas money and other emergency supplies to communities in storm-damaged areas and to people who have evacuated their homes due to the flooding and power outages.

Hurricane Ida made landfall in Port Fourchon, Louisiana on August 29. As of September 8, over 320,000 people remain without power in Louisiana. Experts estimate the total damage from Ida will exceed \$50 billion. The lack of power, particularly given the heat and humidity, makes many homes uninhabitable, even if they were not damaged by the storm.

With Episcopal Relief & Development's support, the **Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana** is meeting urgent needs in three different ways. First, the diocese is providing emergency relief, such as personal care items and food, to people in storm-damaged areas throughout the state. Diocesan leaders are also assisting evacuees who are unable to return to their homes by supplying gift cards and cash to help evacuees with gas, food, rental assistance and emergency supplies. Finally,

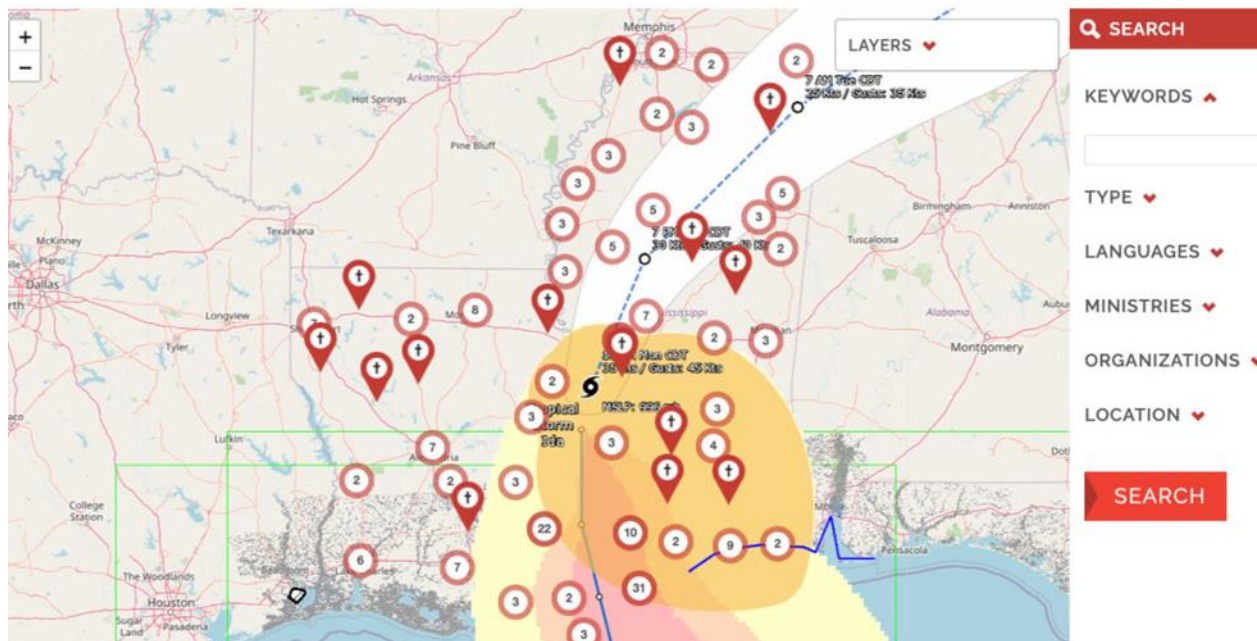
staff are distributing tents and tarps to provide shelter for vulnerable people who had already been experiencing homelessness and have lost their belongings in the storm.

The **Episcopal Diocese of Western Louisiana** is also supporting evacuees who are unable to return home yet. With Episcopal Relief & Development's support, diocesan leaders are distributing gift cards and personal care items to evacuees at shelters and local motels. The diocese is proactively visiting motels to provide evacuees with assistance for lodging costs and utilities.

Episcopal Relief & Development US Disaster Program staff are working closely with partners throughout the Gulf Coast as they continue to identify ways to collaborate in meeting needs created by the hurricane.

Please continue to pray for everyone who has been affected by Hurricane Ida. Donations can be sent to **Episcopal Relief & Development, P.O. Box 7058 Merrifield, VA 22116-7058 or call 1.855.312.4325.** This will provide additional emergency relief in communities impacted by storms such as Ida.

### HURRICANE MAP GULF





Charlynn Will	10/04
Meagan Clanton	10/08
Bob Anderson	10/11
Kay Meador	10/11
Marjorie Duhon	10/13
Shirley Hall	10/14

Pam Sheffield	10/24
Chris Velaski	10/24
Madison Hughes	10/25
Jeweliana Barbour	10/27
Audrey Garner	10/30



Ron & Marie Brown	10/07
Budd & Connie McLean	10/22

## CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATE

August 2021 Directory correction:

**Thelma Lomers**

Cell phone: 251-270-0025

Delete home phone number



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

Jeff Anderson, Jennifer O'Rourke, Tina Cieutat, Carolyn Pearce, 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:**

Sarah Sheffield, Keith Matthews, John Ike Atchison, Randy Dunn, Sharon Lee Nolan, Willie Douglas, Gail Savage, Donnie Chestang, Daniel Day, Jeff Pelham, Carol Wiggins, Shirley Cochran, 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.

### **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:

The Reverend Thomas Heard, *rector*  
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Louis Daniel  
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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*

Gerri Moulton

Nikki Shaw, *clerk*

Mary Sheffield

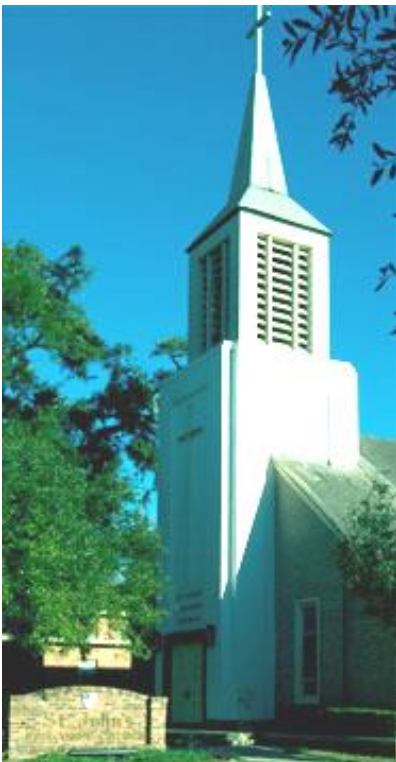
Kristen Turner

Butch Yeager

Saint John's Episcopal Church  
 1707 Government Street  
 Mobile, Alabama 36604

Nonprofit Organization  
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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.