



# 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 11

November 2021

## FROM THE RECTOR:

Dear Ones,

November always brings with it All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day. Those are immediately followed by the feast day for Richard Hooker, a priest who died in 1600.

Hooker was a theologian. In most lists of Anglican theologians, he will be near, if not at, the top of the list. He wrote *The Laws of Ecclesiastical Polity*, a multi volume treatise covering scriptural revelation, tradition, reason, and experience. It came to be as a defense of the Elizabethan Settlement from attacks by the Puritans. Hooker's fifth volume is a defense of the *Book of Common Prayer* itself. Hooker wrote:

“The Church is always a visible society of men[*sic*]; not an assembly, but a Society.”

The incorporated name of The Episcopal Church is the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society.

November 1 and 2 are always All Saints' and All Souls' (sometimes called “All Faithful Departed”). If November 1 is a Sunday, it is All Saints' Day, and that's what we celebrate. If it is another day of the week, we can (and do) celebrate it on that day, but we're permitted to also celebrate it on the first Sunday after November 1. (I'd be willing to bet that some parish in this diocese will celebrate All Saints' Day on 31 October, even though that makes no sense.)

All Saints' and All Souls' might seem like the same thing - but they are quite different.

On All Saints' Day, we commemorate those who have given the lives for the church, whether as martyrs or as particularly dedicated to the spread of the Church. This is also known as the Church Triumphant, those who have the beatific vision and are in heaven. Patriarchs and Matriarchs, Prophets, Apostles, Martyrs, Missionaries, and others that loved Jesus. When we speak of the Communion of the Saints, this is who we are talking about. Even though we are separated from

them by the barrier of death, we are united with them in the Church and are supported by prayer. It is the Church Triumphant that makes our lives in the Church possible; without them, the Church would have ceased to be.

All Souls' are those of the Church Militant that have died and passed on to eternal life. Church Militant is exactly what it sounds like: Christians on earth who struggle as soldiers of Jesus against sin, wickedness, evil, and the rulers of this world, to bring the Kingdom of God into reality here on earth. You and I are part of the Church Militant. Some of us may go on to be recognized by the Church as “capital-S saints”, but all of us will join the Church Triumphant at our deaths.

It's not uncommon to hear clergy say that funerals are for the living. While that's true to some extent and the visible impacts of the service are manifest there, it is also for the member of the Church Militant that has died to this life. In a burial office liturgy that includes eucharist, I almost always remind my listeners of the proper preface to the eucharistic prayer:

“... For to your faithful people, O Lord, life is changed, not ended; and when our mortal body lies in death, there is prepared for us a dwelling place eternal in the heavens.”

So when we gather and bless the bread and cup in thanksgiving to God, we are simultaneously giving thanks for the life of the person who has died and sharing the eucharist with them in their new life for the first time.

At our All Souls' Day mass, we will, as in past years, remember by name all of our number who have entered into new life in the preceding year. This year, we will remember those of the past two years.

— Thomas

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NOVEMBER LITURGICAL CALENDAR

### All Saints' Day – 1 November

Adopted by the Roman Catholic Church in the 9th century, the Feast of All Saints' might have originated in Ireland and spread through the British Isles and to the continent. A commemoration of all who had professed faith in Christ and had given their lives for it and were felt to be in communion with Christians everywhere is found in the writings of Gregory Thaumaturgus from about 270. All Saints' is a Principal Feast of the church, one of only seven that takes precedence over a Sunday. The 1979 Prayer Book recommends All Saints' as one of four days that are particularly appropriate for the administration of the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

### All Souls' Day – 2 November

The day following All Saints' is known as All Souls' or All Faithful Departed. This day recalls the body of all faithful Christians who have risen to new life in Christ. It is a day for remembering family and friends and members of a parish who have died in the preceding year. All Souls' lost favor in the Reformation due to the abuses connected with the practice of saying Masses for the dead. A renewed understanding of All Souls' led to its acceptance amongst Anglicans.

### Richard Hooker, priest – 3 November

Richard Hooker was a priest in the late 16th century. Of the many cures he held, Hooker was Master of the Temple in London beginning in 1856. To remember him simply as a parish priest is wholly insufficient – any list of Anglican theologians would prominently display his name. Hooker is best known for his defense of the Elizabethan Settlement in a five volume set of books entitled "The Laws of Ecclesiastical Polity." Book Five is entirely devoted to defending the Prayer Book.

### Leo the Great, Bishop of Rome – 10 November

Leo was born in about 400 in the midst of the crumbling Western Roman Empire. He managed to receive a good education and entered the service of the church. In 440, he was elected Pope even though he was on a mission to Gaul. A clear thinker and strong willed bishop, Leo was an effective leader of the church in a difficult time. His explanation of the human and divine natures of Christ, known as The Tome of Leo, became the doctrine adopted by the Council of

Chalcedon in 451. For three years, he paid tribute to the Huns to avoid the sacking of Rome. The Vandals could not be dissuaded, yet Leo did convince them not to burn the city nor kill its inhabitants.

### Hugh of Lincoln, Bishop of Lincoln – 17 November

Born to a noble family in the Burgundy region of France, Hugh joined the Carthusian order in about 1160. Henry II of England convinced him to come to England to be prior of a new foundation in Somerset. Reluctantly, he accepted Henry's appoint to the See of Lincoln in 1186 and died in 1200. Hugh maintained his monastic discipline throughout his life. His cheerful disposition and self-effacing way made him a difficult opponent. Hugh always found his way to champion the poor, the oppressed and outcasts and maintained his independence from secular interests.

### Thanksgiving Day

Falling on 25 November this year, Thanksgiving shares the commonality of agricultural festivals with many religions. None of these feasts were included in our Prayer Book until the Continental Congress established the Day of National Thanksgiving. Its roots are found in the observances of the Massachusetts and Virginia colonies.

### Saint Andrew – 30 November

The Feast of Saint Andrew is the first feast in the liturgical year, most often falling after the First Sunday of Advent. Andrew is most commonly remembered as the brother of Simon Peter, but overlooks his special gifts to Jesus' companions. Andrew was first a disciple of John the Baptist, one of two who left to follow Christ after John pointed out Jesus with the words, "Behold the Lamb of God." Andrew, the first missionary, sought out his brother and brought him to Jesus. He was the disciple who brought the boy with the fishes and loaves to Jesus for the feeding of the multitude. Eusebius' writings tell us that Andrew went to Scythia. Legend holds that he was martyred by pagans and crucified on an X-shaped cross. This is seen in the flag of Scotland, honoring its patron saint.



## 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, 10 October 2021, Fr. Heard presiding.

The proposed agenda was adopted and the minutes of the 12 September meeting were approved as written.

Connie McLean reviewed the financial reports, noting that we received a gift of \$27,000 to complete our funding for the new chiller. She also reported that we have fulfilled our obligations for the Payroll Protection Program loan.

Mary Sheffield, reporting for Outreach, said that the books for Head Start have been stickered. The committee is gathering donations for Thanksgiving food boxes and they will be doing the Angel Tree for Azalea Gardens Nursing Home again this year.

Reporting for Stewardship, Mary reported that there are eight more pledge cards expected, which will bring us to 37 pledges for the year.

Bootsie Cieutat reported that the ECW continues to send cards to parishioners and is supplying cards for the residents of Murray House.

The 4th Sunday Potluck will restart on the 4th Sunday of November; the theme will be "Anything but turkey."

Fr. Heard continues to work the chiller, termite, roofing, and sound system problems.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 PM with prayer.



## VESTRY NOMINATIONS

The election for Saint John's Vestry and Convention Delegates will be coming up soon.

We plan to have the election on Sunday, 5 December, at the end of mass. If you know that you'll not be present, please contact Fr. Heard.

If you would like to serve, or if you would like to nominate someone to serve (please ask their permission before putting their name forward), email or call a member of the Nominating Committee with the information. How about some new faces on the Vestry? Maybe someone new might like to experience Diocesan Convention.

The Saint John's Vestry meets monthly.

Nominating Committee:

Bootsie Cieutat  
Mary Sheffield  
Kristen Turner

## October Birthdays

Celebrating October birthdays at St. John's with Audrey Garner. (Photo by Irene Yeager)



## PARISH LIFE

### 4TH SUNDAY POTLUCK

Potluck Sunday is back! It will be held on the 4th Sunday, November 28. As in prior years, our theme for November is NO TURKEY. Bring your favorite dishes and desserts.





Joyce Lee



A busy fellowship time putting Saint John's stickers on the books that are going to the Head Start children. Every first Friday is Family Literacy Day at Mobile Community Action Head Start and Early Head Start: the children get a book to take home and keep. November 5<sup>th</sup> is the day the books donated by Saint John's will go to the families.



James Christenson and Mary Sheffield



Cindy Gass



Cheryl Winters-Heard and Connie McLean

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

**We will be filling the food boxes Sunday; November 14<sup>th</sup>.** This year's fall food drive has the goal of filling twelve boxes with non-perishable food and have them delivered to twelve families who are in need.

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, payable to Saint John's with "Food boxes" in the information line, or put cash in an envelope into the collection plate marked "Food Boxes".

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>, which is why we want to have the boxes filled by Sunday, November 14<sup>th</sup>. You can bring your contributions to the church any time in the next weeks.

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 the shopping list at the top of the next page to remind you what we want to provide in each box.

Thank You  
Outreach Committee







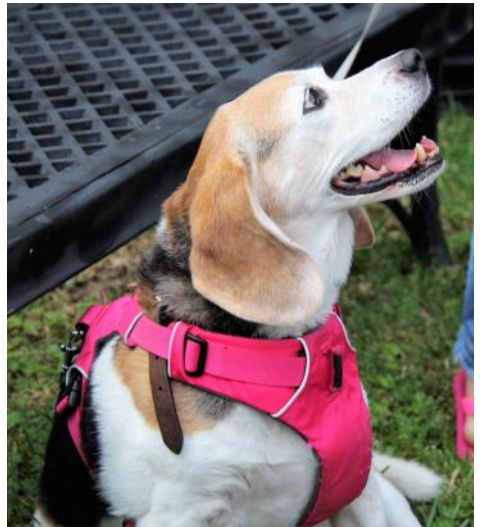
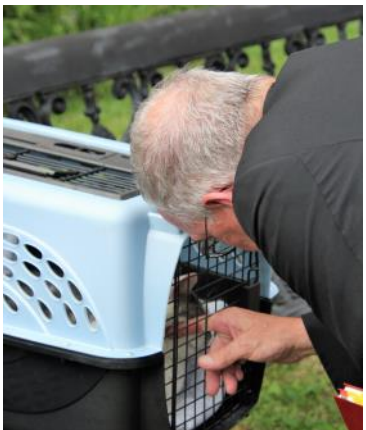
# Thanksgiving Food Drive

## 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

### 2021 BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS



OCTOBER 3, 2021

PHOTOS BY NIKKI SHAW







## EPISCOPAL RELIEF & DEVELOPMENT

### GIFTS FOR LIFE CATALOG 2021

This holiday season, Episcopal Relief & Development invites supporters and congregations to sow seeds of resilience in communities around the world by giving a gift! This holiday season, Episcopal Relief & Development invites supporters and congregations to sow seeds of resilience in communities around the world by giving a gift from [Gifts for Life](#), the organization's alternative gift catalog.

*Gifts for Life* enables individuals and groups to transform lives in communities worldwide through the purchase of a wide range of gift offerings to support those communities. The 2021 catalog features new [offerings](#) such as the [ONE THOUSAND DAYS OF LOVE package](#), which supports the organization's campaign to expand its work with communities and families to help children up to age six so they can thrive and achieve their full potential. The package includes:

- care for five moms and their newborns,
- nurture and nourishment for 12 children,
- bicycles for three community volunteers,
- mosquito nets and training for 10 families
- four savings and loan group memberships.

Also new this year is a special [COVID-19 relief kit](#). This gift will equip partners with the resources and knowledge to assist their communities in effectively

preventing and reducing coronavirus transmission and to respond to cases as they arise.

Episcopal Relief & Development encourages both individuals and congregations to participate.

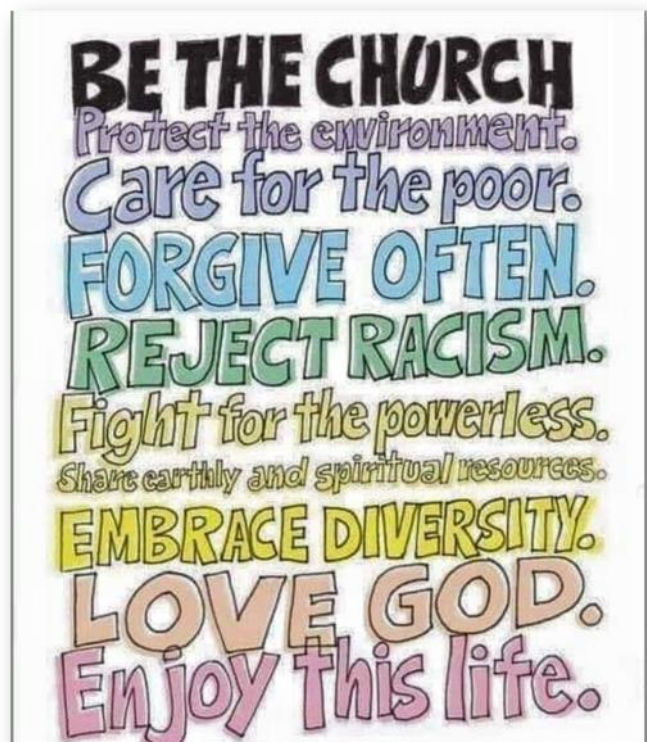
In addition, Episcopal Relief & Development has created [Advent resources](#) to help families and congregations engage meaningfully with the ONE THOUSAND DAYS OF LOVE campaign and its work with children. These resources include *Gifts for Life* Advent Calendar, a DIY Advent Wreath, Saint Nicholas Day materials and a DIY Creche that celebrates the Holy Family and those who gathered at the manger – as well as the gifts that nurture little ones.

With each gift sent, supporters will receive a complimentary printed card or e-card telling loved ones about the life-changing gift made in their honor. Orders can be made online at [www.episcopalrelief.org/gifts](http://www.episcopalrelief.org/gifts), over the phone by calling 1.855.312.4325 or via mail through the instructions on the catalog or brochure, the organization's alternative gift catalog.



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

Eli Babb  
James Christiansen  
Joyce Lee





Michael Burnham	11/07
Courtney Sullivan	11/07
Louis Daniel	11/09
Cindy Gass	11/11
Jennifer O'Rourke	11/19

Caitlin Bryan	11/22
Nikki Shaw	11/22
Kim Partsch	11/30
Jacob Taylor	11/30



Eugene & Emily Johnston	11/05
Jerry & Pat Fulford	11/23

## CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATE

November 2021 Directory correction:

### Thelma Lomers

12878 Saddlebrook Circle  
Fairhope, AL 36532  
(251) 517-9076



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

Marie Brown, David Rich, Jeff Anderson, 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:**

Kathy Tatum, Alice Robbins, Karl Gieseler, 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, John Hicks (priest), Andrew St. John (bishop).

**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*  
rector@stjohnsmobile.org

Louis Daniel  
Organist & Choir Director  
music@stjohnsmobile.org

Lella Lowe  
Financial Secretary  
finance@stjohnsmobile.org

Jack Ruppe  
Sexton

### Vestry:

James Christiansen, *junior warden*

Bootsie Cieutat

Cindy Gass, *senior warden*

Connie McLean, *treasurer*

Geri Moulton

Nikki Shaw, *clerk*

Mary Sheffield

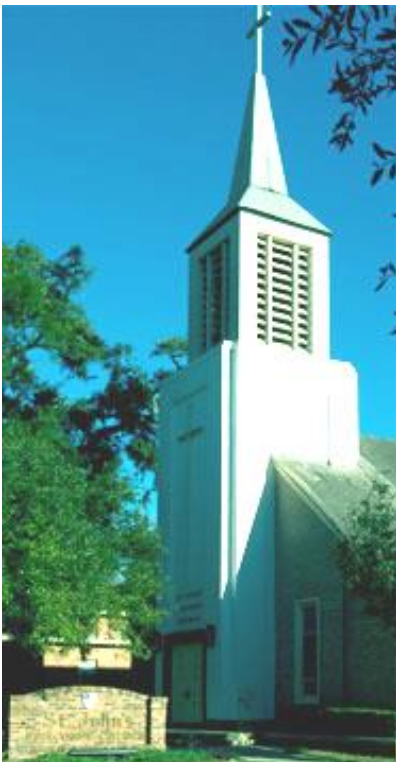
Kristen Turner

Butch Yeager

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

Nonprofit Organization  
 U.S.POSTAGE PAID  
 Mobile, Alabama  
 Permit No. 607

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.