



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. XXXII, Issue 2

February 2022

FROM THE RECTOR:

Dear Ones,

So this month, I'm writing to help myself, and a lot of my classmates and friends. You see, someone who was instrumental in the formation of priests has died.

The Reverend Canon Dr. John Robert Wright entered new life on 12 January. He had returned home from the hospital, having been treated for COVID and subsequent pneumonia.

Father Wright, as all of us knew him was the Patristics and Medieval Church History professor. He was at General Theological Seminary (GTS) forever. He retired in 2010, the longest tenure of any faculty in the institution's history. A good friend of mine who's been a priest for 43 years had him when he was at GTS.

Fr. Wright was nicknamed "J. Bob" by students many years ago. No one ever addressed him as that: it was always "Fr. Wright" or "Professor". He did his undergraduate work at the University of the South in Sewanee, TN, with a major in history. He was editor of the university paper, and involved in athletics. That last is something that those of us that knew him in later life would never have guessed!

Fr. Wright enrolled at GTS to prepare for the priesthood. In his day, it was a Bachelor of Divinity program. He was ordained priest in the Diocese of Indianapolis on 29 June 1964, the Feast of Saint Peter and Saint Paul. That's something that he and I share.

Following GTS, Fr. Wright studied at Emory University and Wadham College, University of Oxford. His D. Phil. was awarded after he completed and defended his thesis devoted to the church, the crown, and the papacy during the 14th century. It became his area of particular interest.

Fr. Wright devoted his whole self to the task of forming priests for many generations.. He was a hard taskmaster, but he knew what his students would face in their ministries.

Beyond his duties at the seminary, Fr. Wright was a devoted ecumenist. He is widely know in The Episcopal Church (TEC) because of his work in this area. Among other things, this took him to many countries and exposed him to other perspectives on what it means to be the church. He was a longtime member of ARCUSA, a dialog between TEC and the Roman Catholic Church in the United States. On the world stage, he was instrumental in the formation of the World Council of Churches 1992 statement on "Baptism, Eucharist, and Ministry." He also served for eight years on ARCIC, the Anglican/Roman Catholic International Conference. His ecumenical understanding and knowledge was key to the full communion relationship we have with the ELCA.

Fr. Wright was an ardent supporter of the ordination of women. He was an unapologetic Anglo-Catholic. When so many other Anglo-Catholics stood in strong opposition, Fr. Wright mounted an unassailable defense of his position citing St. Blandina, one of the Martyrs of Lyons. Eusebius reported seeing "the very image of Our Lord" as she hung on the cross at her own crucifixion. Fr. Wright pointed to Florence Li Tim-Oi, the first woman ordained as priest in the Anglican Communion in 1944. He opined that "the Church didn't crumble when she was ordained out of necessity, so it shall not when others are likewise raised to full ministry."

I had the privilege of being one of his students. He was my advisor during my seminary years. His class notes were largely hand-typed and handed out through the courses. We jokingly called "St. Xeroxius" Fr. Wright's personal patron. Another student and I took on the task of scanning and organizing Fr. Wright's notes for electronic distribution on CDs and saving countless trees. Of all my notes from my seminary classes, Fr. Wright's are the only ones to which I regularly return.

-- Thomas

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FEBRUARY LITURGICAL CALENDAR



The Presentation of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple

We will celebrate the feast of the Presentation on Wednesday, 2 February 2021 at our weekday 10:00 AM Mass. "Presentation" is a new name for what's previously been known as "The Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary" and "Candlemas." In the Easter tradition, this feast is called "the meeting of Christ with Simeon." In Jewish tradition, first born sons were to be dedicated to God in remembrance of the sparing of the first born of Israel and the exodus from Egypt. In Christian tradition, this marks the recognition by Simeon and Anna that the Messiah, long promised by God, has appeared.

Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr of Smyrna

According to Irenaeus, Polycarp was a student of John the Apostle and Evangelist. Further, Polycarp was appointed bishop by "the Apostles in Asia." He was born around 70CE, about the time we suppose the *Gospel According to Luke* was composed. We possess one complete set of letters written by him to the church in Philippi and a detailed account of his martyrdom. In addition, he is often cited and quoted in documents of the period. From these we know that Polycarp was a man of firm faith and was a strong pastoral force. When the Roman proconsul tried to get Polycarp to curse Christ, he said, "Eighty-six years I have served him, and he never did me any wrong. How can I blaspheme my King who saved me?" We will celebrate Polycarp at a Said Mass on Wednesday, 25 February at 10:00 AM.

Saint Matthias

After Judas' death, the disciples met and decided that they must replace him. They met, prayed and finally chose Matthias as the new twelfth disciple. We know nothing more of Matthias, where his mission field was, what he was like, or where he came from. We commemorate his life on Thursday, 24 February at a Said Mass at 12:00 PM.

The regular meeting of the Rector, Wardens, and Vestry of Saint John's Church was called to order by Fr. Heard at 11:34 AM on Sunday, 9 January 2022.

The proposed agenda was adopted without change.

James Christiansen and Geri Moulton were absent.

The minutes of the 12 December 2021 meeting were approved as submitted

The Election of Vestry Officers was next on the agenda. Fr. Heard nominated Nikki Shaw to be Senior Warden; the Vestry concurred. The Vestry elected Howard Yeager as Junior Warden, Cindy Gass as Treasurer, and Eugene Johnston as Clerk.

Connie McLean reviewed the financial reports for December, noting that our abnormally high balance was due to funds for the chiller.

Cindy Gass reported for the budget committee, and proposed the 2022 budget. She pointed out that it is presumed that Fr. Heard will go to half-time in July. The Letter of Agreement will have to be renegotiated in light of this change. The Vestry voted to adopt the proposed 2022 budget.

Janet Buckley reported that the Angel Tree for Ashland Place Nursing Home was completed and successfully delivered.

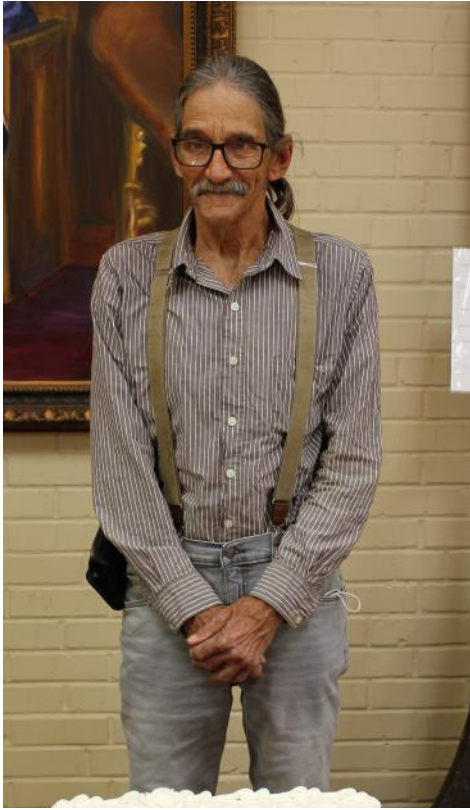
Stewardship reported that we have received pledges totaling \$130,000, which is up from last year.

Fr. Heard recapped his report.

- Thomas Roofing has updated their proposal for the Parlor Roof to \$57,000. We also have a proposal from Centimark for \$41,927.
- Thompson Engineering has acquired samples of the church roof for asbestos testing.
- On 15 December, inspectors for Campbell Law were on-site to develop a detailed estimate of repairs. They found active termites in the floor in front of the pulpit.
- Modern Sound will do the speaker replacement.

Howard Yeager moved for adjournment. Fr. Heard closed the meeting with prayer at 12:38 PM.

PARISH LIFE



**JACK RUPPE RETIRES
DECEMBER 31, 2021
AFTER 23 YEARS OF LOYAL
SERVICE TO SAINT JOHN'S**



FEBRUARY 2022 AT SAINT JOHN'S

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Brigid 830A MP	2 Presentation 830A MP 10A Mass	3 Anskar of Scandinavia 830A MP	4 Cornelius the Centurion 830A MP	5 Martyrs of Japan
6 Epiphany 5 10A Mass 1130A Outreach	7 830A MP	8 830A MP	9 830A MP 10A Mass	10 830A MP	11 830A MP	12
13 Epiphany 6 10A Mass 1130A Vestry	14 Cyril & Methodius 830A MP	15 Thomas Bray 830A MP	16 830A MP 10A Mass	17 Janani Luwum 830A MP	18 Martin Luther 830A MP	19
20 Epiphany 7 10A Mass 1130A ECW	21 830A MP	22 830A MP	23 Polycarp of Smyrna 830A MP 10A Mass	24 Saint Mathias 830A MP 12P Mass	25 830A MP	26
27 Epiphany Last 10A HE 1130A 4th Sunday Podluck	28 Anna Julia Haywood Cooper 830A MP	Omitted: 02/13 – Absalom Jones, Priest, 1818 02/27 – George Herbert, Priest, 1633				

LECTIONARY AND ROTA FOR FEBRUARY 2022

Date	6 February	13 February	20 February	27 February
Lectionary Day Lections Color	5 th Sunday after the Epiphany C Epiphany 5 RCL Green	6 th Sunday after the Epiphany C Epiphany 6 RCL Green	7 th Sunday after the Epiphany C Epiphany 7 RCL Green	Last Sunday after the Epiphany C Epiphany Last RCL Green
Hosts	Melissa Brown	Connie & Budd McLean	Irene & Butch Yeager	Connie & Budd McLean
Lectors	Br. Jacob Taylor Janet Buckley	Nikki Shaw Geri Moulton	Mary Sheffield Paula Ross	Paula Ross Br. Jacob Taylor
Intercessor	Cheryl Winters-Heard	David Thompson	Br. Jacob Taylor	Janet Buckley
Eucharistic Ministers	Mary Sheffield Butch Yeager	Geri Moulton David Thompson	Connie McLean Br. Jacob Taylor	Connie McLean Br. Jacob Taylor
Altar Guild	Connie Anderson Bootsie Cieutat	Kristen Turner Lee Dorsey	Kristen Turner Lee Dorsey	Cindy Gass Martha Jones
Vestry Tellers	Connie McLean Butch Yeager	Butch Yeager Janet Buckley	Janet Buckley Eugene Johnston	Eugene Johnston David Jones



YEAR-ROUND STEWARDSHIP

When we think of stewardship, we generally think of a month long financial campaign to gather funds for the church's budget. Certainly, this is important to the life of the church and its continuation.

Year-round stewardship is what we do with all that God has given us all the time. We recognize and use these gifts to give back to God and to his people.

For the month of February, let us consider the stewardship of the body. In Corinthians 6:19-20, Paul calls our bodies the temple of the Holy Spirit and urges us to glorify God through our bodies. To do God's work, our bodies need to be healthy and work properly. So let's take some small steps toward that or add to what we are already doing.

Here are some ideas:

- Get up and go! Even a small amount of exercise can improve your overall health.
- Keep an eye on what your eating- lots of fruit and veggies are always a good idea.
- Consider having a meatless day once a week.

-Mary Sheffield
Stewardship Chair



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

Rossie Laffiette
John & Ann Phillips
Carol Adams-Davis



OUR WORK WITH ANGLICAN AND ECUMENICAL PARTNERS CREATES SUSTAINABLE, TRANSFORMATIONAL CHANGE IN CLOSE TO 3 MILLION LIVES AROUND THE WORLD EACH YEAR

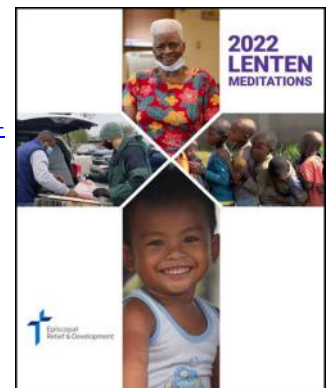
This year, the Lenten Meditations will focus on that transformation. These reflections are organized into Episcopal Relief & Development's priorities: Women, Children and Climate, and include a focus on our Disaster Resilience & Response work. We invite you to read them throughout Lent and share with those close to you. As a part of our goal to become a carbon-neutral organization, Lenten Meditations are now delivered only via email and as downloadable PDFs.

We hope that the 2022 Lenten Meditations will give you a glimpse into our meaningful work happening across the globe. May we continue to work together for

lasting change in the lives of those most vulnerable.

You can get the Lenten Meditations sent directly to your email address by going to [2022 Lenten Meditations - Episcopal Relief & Development](#).

If you need a hard copy please contact Eugene Johnston at 251-591-4328.





Geri Moulton	02/01
Bob Sheffield	02/05
Mary Sheffield	02/08
LaNeisha Anderson	02/10
Alison Stoker	02/12
Lee Dorsey	02/15
Thomas Heard	02/15
Debbie Ollhoft	02/15
Lisa Chestang	02/17
David Thompson	02/23

CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATE

Email Correction:

Irene Yeager: iby19@comcast.net

Address Update:

Geri Moulton
3983 Wimbledon Park
Mobile, AL 36608

Prayer List

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

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

For our Family and Friends:

Allie Barker, Bill Cutts, Dave Snow, Pam Garner, Karl Gieseler, Keith Matthews, Randy Dunn, Sharon Lee Nolan, Willie Douglas, Gail Savage, Daniel Day, Shirley Cochran, Peggy Sheffield, Cliff Federle, Helen Guthrie, Eddie Hun, Katelynn Tillman, Karen Twilley, Nancy Payne, Donna Pigg, Tiffany Matthews, Betty Williams, Latecia Cushion Knight, Bonnie Jernigan, Britney Butler, Neal Tourné, Sandy Michel, Connor Crist, Paul Nelson, Stephen Campbell (*priest*), Andrew St. John (*bishop*)

For victims of war and their families, and members of our Armed Forces and their families:

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

January Birthdays



Celebrating January 2020 birthdays at St. John's with Mary Jones, Bob Ross, Irene Yeager and Janet Buckley. (Photo by Irene Yeager)

Contact Us

Staff:

The Reverend Thomas Heard, *rector*
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Louis Daniel
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Lella Lowe
Financial Secretary
finance@stjohnsmobile.org

Vestry:

Janet Buckley

James Christiansen

Cindy Gass, *treasurer*

Eugene Johnston, *clerk*

David Jones

Connie McLean

Geri Moulton

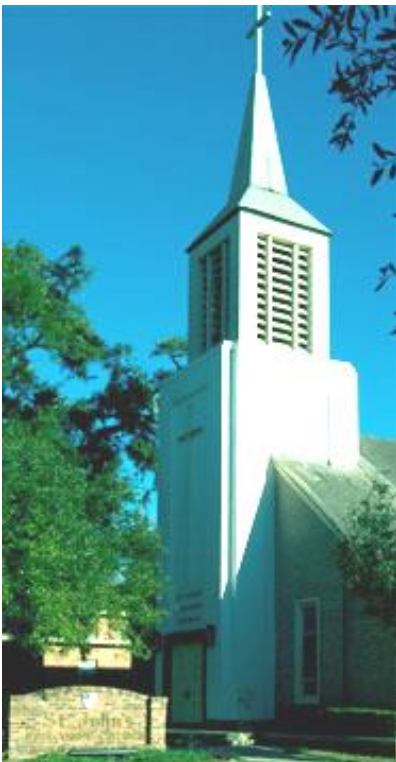
Nikki Shaw, *senior warden*

Butch Yeager, *junior warden*

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 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.