



# THE FOURTH EPISTLE SAINT JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH MOBILE, ALABAMA

The Protestant Episcopal Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast  
The Right Reverend James Russell Kendrick, Bishop  
Reverend John Talbert— Priest-in-Charge

Vol. XXXIII, Issue 3

March 2023

## A MESSAGE FROM FATHER JOHN

.Hello St John's Family,

I hope this letter reaches you in a format that you are comfortable reading. Thank you for your patience as we adjust from our full print format to a more ecological and economical system of communication.

**Please mark your calendars for April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023.**

Each year St. John's is designated a time for any bishop-specific liturgical tasks. For the Episcopal Church, these include ordination, installation (of priests and rectors), confirmation, reaffirmations, and receptions.

We are thankful to welcome this year The Rt. Rev. George Young. I joyfully call George my friend through the time we have spent in shared ministry with Happening, a Diocesan Youth-Led retreat. Bishop Young is among three Bishops living within our Diocese that are assisting Bishop Kendrick so that he is able to find room for a sabbatical.

***This means we will have a big Palm Sunday, especially if you'd like to be confirmed or reaffirmed!***

**Have you been confirmed in the Episcopal Church? If not, would you like to know more about being presented?**

As a part of our Christian development in the Church, adults able to make mature public affirmations of their faith and affirm the commitments they made in baptism are presented to receive Confirmation. It is sacramental. As Confirmed members of the church, you are expected to vote in church meetings, serve as delegation to Diocesan convention (from time to time), and participate in the leadership of parish ministries such as Outreach, Hospitality, and Worship.

However, before being presented to the bishop, it is important that the topics of church governance,

doctrine, authority and theology are presented and discussed; that way with confidence, your Priests can present you to the Bishop for Confirmation into the Episcopal Branch of God's one holy Church.

However, this all requires a Christian Formation program; and Christian Formation is an essential part of our development and renewal over the course of our life in Faith. Right now, it's missing.

**Beginning Feb.26<sup>th</sup> and running through May 28<sup>th</sup>,** Brother Jacob, Myself and Brad Clark will be rekindling a habit of gathering for study and prayer **prior to Sunday services each week.** Topics will be based on the lectionary cycle and/or liturgical season.

**Coffee will be ready at 8:30, discussion starts at 8:45am. We will wrap up by 9:30am for service preparations. Please join us if you are able.**

Our effectiveness during Lent and Easter will help us make decisions about future formation classes.

If you are interested in confirmation or checking your confirmation status send me an email to [frjohn@stjohnsmobile.org](mailto:frjohn@stjohnsmobile.org). We've still got time to prepare!

Have a blessed Lent,

Fr. John Talbert





# Vestry

St. John's February meeting was held on Tuesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>.

. Absent Vestry members: Jan Joseph and Connie Anderson. Additional individuals in attendance: Louis Daniel and Brad Clark. Fr. Talbert led the Vestry in the opening prayer and Bible study.

The January 2023 Vestry meeting minutes were presented and reviewed. Nikki Shaw motioned and Mary Sheffield seconded that the minutes be accepted. The motion passed.

Reports: **Vestry Treasurer:** Cindy Gass presented the Financial Report. In the month of January, income from all sources was \$10,932.00; we had expenses of \$16,443.78. This reflects a deficit of \$5,511.78 for the month of January. The endowment had \$115,891.44 at the end of January. The Vestry reviewed and discussed the budget for 2023. Cindy also presented the Balance Sheet regarding St. John's assets and liabilities. There was discussion regarding the restricted accounts/funds and how they could be better incorporated into the overall budget.

**Junior Warden:** Eugene Johnston reported on the physical plant. The repairs to the parking lot are finished. It's still blocked off to allow the ground to settle. The final cost was \$3900. Eugene received two bids for repairing the soffits on the two-story building. Since the bids were quite different in price, the Vestry asked Eugene to get another bid for comparison. James Christiansen, Louis Daniel and Eugene are still meeting regarding priority projects. Jerry Boykin has offered to pay for the light bulbs for the lighting upgrade.

**Outreach:** Janet Buckley gave the report. The Outreach committee has voted to support the Clothesline Ministry by paying for an awning to go over the south stairwell door; a combination of Outreach budget moneys and Outreach Fund moneys will be used for this project. In addition, the Clothesline Ministry is in need of new (packaged) underwear for adults (men and women) and children. As a congregational Lenten "project" the Outreach Committee is asking St John's parishioners to donate packages of underwear to the Clothesline Ministry. Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup> will be the collection date. St. John's Outreach will be sending \$250 in answer to the Bishop's appeal to support the Selma tornado recovery efforts.

**ECW:** Connie McLean gave the report. ECW sent Valentine's Day cards to the residents of Murray House. Birthday cards and "sunshine" cards continue to be sent to members of the congregation. The ECW has been providing cookies and tea for funeral receptions held at St. John's. The March 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Potluck will be March 26<sup>th</sup>.

Fr. Talbert gave the schedule for March:

March 5<sup>th</sup> Holy Communion – Fr. Talbert

March 12<sup>th</sup> Morning Prayer - Deacon Terry Goff

March 19<sup>th</sup> Holy Communion (reserved sacraments) – Brad Clark

March 26<sup>th</sup> Holy Communion –Fr. Talbert

Fr. Talbert explained to the Vestry that our collaboration with MCPSS 's *Royal Closet* project (formerly called the "Cinderella Project") will start with their move in on March 7<sup>th</sup> - they will be using half of the great Hall for the clothing racks and two of the office/classrooms as changing rooms and an alterations rooms. The tables and chairs will be moved to the Government Street side of the hall.

Mary Sheffield reminded the Vestry about the changes in the distribution of the monthly newsletter: The newsletter will go out to all of the members who have an email (using the email list we use for announcements) in addition, anyone who wants to receive a paper copy through the USPS has to notify the office or sign up on the sheet that is in the Great Hall.

Fr Talbert led the Vestry in the closing prayer.



In memory of Marian Boykin  
Budd and Connie McLean  
Jerry Boykin  
James Christianen

In memory of Joyce Baker  
Paula Ross

In memory of Marilyn Harvey Crabtree  
Frank Harvey  
Laurie Harvey

# PARISH LIFE

## February Birthdays



Celebrating February birthdays with: Bill Cutts, Geri Moulton and Brad Clark ( photo by Janet Buckley)

## COOK'S CORNER



Gertrude Dixon's Broccoli and Rice Casserole

- 1 cup cooked rice
- 1 pkg. frozen chopped broccoli
- 1/2 onion chopped
- 1/2 cup chopped celery
- 1/2 cup chopped green pepper
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup
- 1 cup grated cheddar cheese

Sauté onion, celery and green pepper in butter.

In a bowl, mix broccoli, mushroom soup and Cheese. Add sautéed vegetables.

Place in a casserole dish and bake for 30 minutes at 350 degrees.

## WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

The Women of the Church sent Valentine's cards to the residents of Murray House. They continue to send birthday cards and sunshine cards to members of the congregation.



## POTLUCK SEND OFF FOR LELLA

Thank you to all involved for the lovely reception featuring vegetarian and vegan foods on Sunday, February 26. It was such a sweet and personal way to tell me goodbye. I also appreciate the donation made in my honor by the ECW to Gulf Coast Creation Care, as well as the designation of that Sunday's loose plate offering to the organization. I will miss you all and hope to not be a stranger going forward. Thanks for the friendship and support the entire 15 years that I was financial secretary at St. John's!

Thanks, Lella



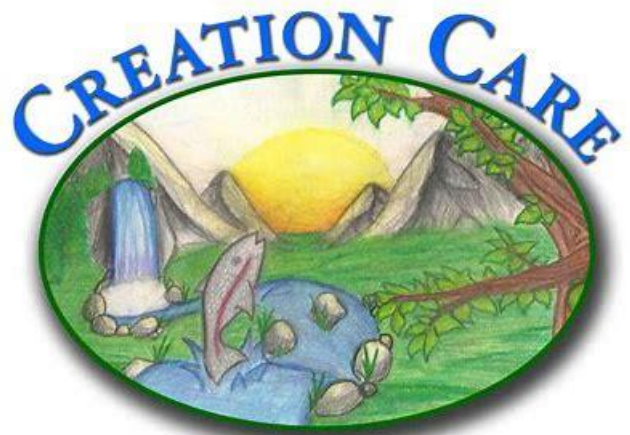
Enjoying fellowship with Lella Lowe, Irene Yeager and Cindy Gass.



<b>Lectionary and Rota for March 2023</b>				
Date	March 5	March 12	March 19	March 26
	HOLY EUCHARIST RITE I	MORNING PRAYER RITE I	SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION	HOLY EUCHARIST RITE I
Lectionary Day	Lent 2	Lent 3	Lent 4	Lent 5
Color	Purple	Purple	Rose	Purple
Officiant	Fr. John Talbert	Terry Goff	Brad Clark	Fr. John Talbert
Lectors/ Intercessor	Nikki Shaw David Thompson Br. Jacob Luke	Janet Buckley Geri Moulton Paula Ross	Nikki Shaw David Thompson Br. Jacob Luke	Janet Buckley Geri Moulton Paula Ross
Eucharistic Ministers	Connie McLean Mary Sheffield		Lee Dorsey Br. Jacob Luke	Connie McLean Mary Sheffield
Altar Guild	Lee Dorsey Kristen Turner	Cindy Gass	Irene Yeager Br. Jacob Luke	Connie Anderson Bootsie Cieutat
Vestry Tellers	Charlynn Will Cindy Gass	Eugene Johnston Jan Joseph	Connie McLean Nikki Shaw	Mary Sheffield Connie Anderson

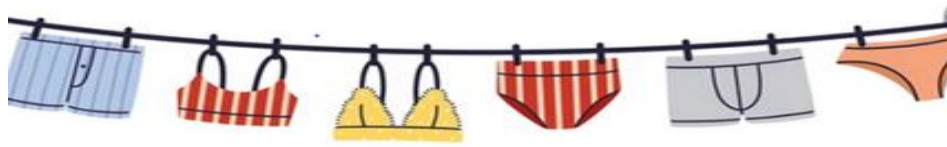
### **A Prayer for the Care of Creation**

God of all creation,  
 At the beginning of time  
 You placed a single mandate on humankind –  
 To be stewards of creation  
 To replenish and nurture through all generations  
 What you have made.  
 We kneel today amid that same creation –  
 A world that is, in many ways, more splendid than ever  
 But, in too many ways, scarred beyond recognition.  
 Turn us from our unmindfulness  
 Help our touch be light  
 Help us renew the world that supports us  
 So that we may once more know creation  
 As it was in the beginning. Amen.



# OUTREACH

## Undie Sunday—March 19th



**The Clothesline Ministry** is in need of new (packaged) underwear for adults (men and women) and children. As a congregational Lenten “project” the Outreach Committee is asking St John’s parishioners to help meet this need. Men’s tee shirts, men’s underwear, women’s sports bras, women’s underwear, and/or children’s underwear are all needed. All must be in original packaging. Sizes medium and up would be a good choice. Don’t want to shop or don’t come to in-person church: the Outreach Committee is providing “shopping service”; just send a check to the office (don’t forget to note “Underwear” or “Undie Sunday” on the check) and an Outreach Committee member will do your shopping for you. Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup> will be the collection date.

## THE ROYAL CLOSET

HELPING LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO GO TO PROM



PRESENTED BY:



Mobile County  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

HOSTED BY:

Saint John’s Episcopal Church  
The Episcopal Church in Midtown  
Mobile, AL

EVENT IS OPEN TO ALL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS (MALE & FEMALE) WHO ATTEND:  
AREA HIGH SCHOOLS

Dates	Time
March 13th-16th	4:00pm-6:30pm
March 18 (Saturday)	10:00am-4:00pm
March 20th-23rd	4:00pm-6:30pm

1707 Government St, Mobile AL 36604

\*Field Trips are available during school hours. Please call Social Services or your schools assigned Social Worker.\*

Must Present Student ID or Recent report card

St. John’s is delighted to host The Royal Closet this year! This event is sponsored by MCPSS and allows high school students to “shop” for prom clothing that has been donated by local stores and individuals. They have already \ collected over 500 dresses and many suits. The set-up will be March 9th and 10th and the location is the Great Hall. The room at the end of the hall will be used as a dressing area. As you can see by the flyer, there are structured times for students to come and find their perfect fit. Some volunteers will be needed to welcome the shoppers to St. John’s.





## Episcopal Relief & Development Partners with the ACT Alliance to Support Earthquake Survivors in Syria

Episcopal Relief & Development is partnering with [Action by Churches Together \(ACT Alliance\)](#) to provide emergency relief to people affected by the 7.8- and 7.5-magnitude earthquakes in [Türkiye](#) (Turkey) and Syria. Working through the [Middle East Council of Churches \(MECC\)](#) and other local organizations, the ACT Alliance is providing shelter, supplies and support to families and local hospitals.

More than 40,000 people have been killed in Türkiye (Turkey) and Syria following the earthquakes and thousands of buildings have been destroyed or deemed unusable. Cold weather combined with rain and snow has complicated conditions for those without shelter. In Syria, an estimated 10.9 million people have been affected and up to 5.3 million may have lost their homes.

MECC is responding in Syria by sheltering 10,000 families in open-air or structurally sound facilities; providing survivors with hot meals, blankets, medicine and trauma support; supplying body bags and other necessities to hospitals; and helping children return to school to bring more stability. Additionally, local organizations are providing winterization and hygiene kits, cash transfers and emotional support for people in Syria.

“We have been partnering with the ACT Alliance for over 20 years,” said Abigail Nelson, Executive Vice President and Chief Strategy Officer, Episcopal Relief & Development. “Most recently, we’ve worked together to support families affected by the war in Syria. Partners had pre-positioned supplies in the area. This has allowed us to respond quickly to those who need assistance due to this devastating earthquake.

Episcopal Relief & Development continues to talk with partners working in Türkiye (Turkey) and Syria to assess the medium- and long-term needs.

Please continue to [pray](#) for those who have been affected by the earthquake. Donations to the [Türkiye \(Turkey\)-Syria Earthquake Response Fund](#) will help the organization to continue to respond to communities impacted by this disaster.







Darren Anderson	03/15
William Anderson	03/15
Budd McLean	03/18
Courtney Bryan	03/19
Jean Brown	03/20
Kristen Turner	03/22
Julie Garner	03/26
Sandra Wilson	03/27
Faith Velaski	03/28



Ron &amp; Susan Waites

03/31

**Do you receive our Friday e-mails?**

If not, e-mail Paula at  
**bobpaulaross@aol.com**  
 or call her at 251-626-6988

## Prayer List

**For healing grace and continued strength, we pray for our members:** Mary Jones, Bootsie Cieutat, Marie Brown, Bob Anderson, Neva Bache, Kathe Gieseler, Mike Barbour, Fran Barbour, Irene Yeager, Carolyn Pearce, Ashley Garris, Jerry Fulford, James Christiansen, Audrey Garner, Joyce Lee, Jayson Chestang, and Budd McLean.

**For our Homebound:**

Mary Catherine Warren.

**For our Family and Friends:** Lenora Cadden, Donna Lathan, Sheila Cassity Granger, Barbara Bonner, Betty Boudreaux, EvinaValera, David Brunner, Mary Horner, Darrell Thaxton, Susan Hansen, Karl Gieseler, Keith Matthews, Randy Dunn, Sharon Lee Nolan, Willie Douglas, Peggy Sheffield, 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, Paul Nelson, John Switzer (*priest*).

**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.

## Contact Us

Staff:

Fr. John Talbert  
 Priest-in-charge  
 205-354-3699

Louis Daniel  
 Organist & Choir Director  
 music@stjohnsmobile.org

Wendy Wheeler  
 Financial Secretary  
 finance@stjohnsmobile.org

Vestry:

Connie Anderson

Janet Buckley, *clerk*

Cindy Gass, *treasurer*

Eugene Johnston, *junior warden*

Jan Joseph

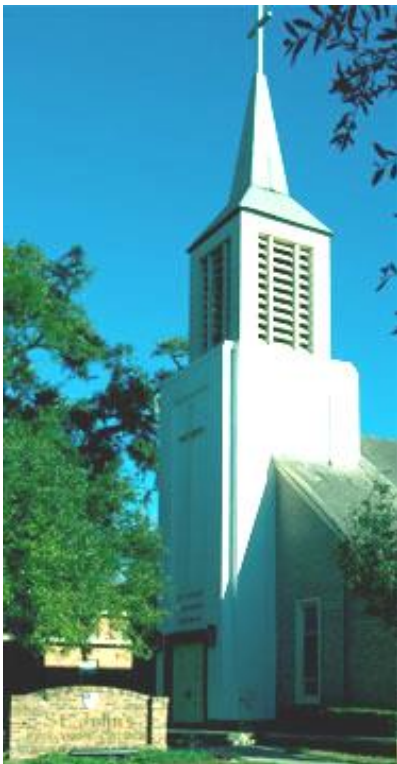
Connie McLean

Nikki Shaw, *senior warden*

Mary Sheffield

Charlynn Will

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



**Come Worship With Us!**

Sunday:

8:45 AM Adult and Youth Christian Formation

10:00AM Holy Eucharist

Other Feasts and Holy Days are observed throughout the year; please see our website for the latest schedule.

**Parish Office**

Telephone: 251-479-5474

Fax: 251-473-1230

Email: [office@stjohnsmobile.org](mailto:office@stjohnsmobile.org)

[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.