



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 Philip Duncan, Bishop

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August 2011

FROM THE RECTOR:

Dear Ones,

Over the past decades, throughout the United States, we have seen a growing number of Americans who rely on public resources to sustain their existence. The overwhelming number of these recipients are children, the elderly and the differently-abled. This does not account for a major portion of government spending, and includes such programs as WIC, school lunch subsidies, meals-on-wheels, and so on.

Over a much shorter period, a very different movement has been growing in our communities: quiet resentment and vocal opposition to these same programs. It propels itself along with the idea that every person is capable of carrying his/herself with out assistance from anyone, especially the government.

And so, in a time of tight money in every quarter, these voices are raised that we have to cut expenditures, and the first place we seem to look is education. Why? It's low-hanging fruit, easy to pluck because the ones that it really affects don't have a voice to raise in opposition.

When that's not enough, then we go for the welfare programs. I'm no economist, nor epidemiologist, but I'm pretty sure that taking away support from children, the elderly and differently-abled doesn't do anything about their continued need. I'd even go so far as to say that their problems become worse and eventually end up costing more for greater medical care.

I think what we've recently witnessed in the U.S. Congress and Executive Branch are symptomatic of what's at the root of all of this. Each side of the aisle in Congress is so concerned with not giving in, making no compromise, and sticking to their ideology like glue that they've completely lost sight of their role in our society. I don't think they're paying much attention to what their constituents are saying.

At the end of the day, however, the responsibility ultimately falls back on us:

We're the ones who elected our senators and representatives in D.C.;

We're the ones who elected our senators and representatives in Montgomery.

We cannot avoid our own responsibility in the events that are unfolding. We are part of the problem because we the ones who do the electing. We can also be part of the solution.

Some in Washington and Montgomery might be called ideologues. I think that label might also apply to me, too. I do think there is a difference, however. I, along with many others profess to believe in Jesus Christ and want to live my life according to his teachings. Instead of politics, I look to Jesus' Great Commandment:

Love God, Love Each Other

Jesus was usually seen hanging around with 'sinners': tax collectors, mentally ill, frail, destitute, widows, orphans, lepers - a long and distinguished list of the people that society had cast aside. Yet, they were worthy of Jesus' love and care.

God calls us into community with God and each other. We are called by our baptism to "strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being." We are called to build a world where we will act as Jesus' hands and live into what we have been called to be -- the Body of Christ in a broken and hurting world.

--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 Saturday, 6 August at 12:10PM. 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.

Laurence of Rome

Our regular Wednesday Mass on August 10 will commemorate Laurence of Rome, deacon and martyr. Laurence was martyred during the persecutions initiated by Valerian in 257. In this program, all properties of the Church were confiscated and assemblies of Christians were banned. Laurence, in replying to interrogation about the church's treasure is said to have replied that "the sick and the poor are the treasures of the Church." Laurence was among seven deacons and Pope Sixtus II who were captured in the catacombs outside Rome. The pope and six of the deacons were executed on the spot. Six days later, tradition holds that Laurence was roasted alive on a gridiron. Perhaps that makes him the patron saint of football?

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 commemorate Saint Mary the Virgin on Monday, 15 August, at a Said Mass at 12:10PM.

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 a copy of the Gospel of Matthew in Hebrew that was purportedly given to the church by Bartholomew. We will celebrate Saint Bartholomew on Wednesday, 24 August, with a said mass at 10:00AM.

Aidan of Lindisfarne

Aidan was the head of a new mission in the north of England in the early 600s. It was located not at York, but on an island off the northern coast – Lindisfarne, which reminded him of his monastery home on Iona, off the northwestern coast of Scotland. With his monks, Aidan restored Christianity to Northumbria and throughout the midlands and as far south as London. A tireless worker for the Gospel, Aidan died in 651. We will commemorate his life at 10:00AM on Wednesday, 31 August.

A MESSAGE FROM THE BISHOP

"Jesus wept." (St John 11:35) As a child I learned that "Jesus wept" was the shortest sentence in the Gospels. I grew to understand that it is also one of the most powerful. I wept not long ago when I learned that the State of Alabama (the lower part of which is within my episcopal jurisdiction) passed legislation that would put me in violation involuntarily with State law because of my faith and religious convictions. With the implementation of HB56, we face one state's edict to limit assistance and ministry only to those who can produce certain documentation.

I believe, and The Episcopal Church teaches, that all people are loved and valued by God and that none are disposable and that we are to respect the dignity and worth of every human being. I am saddened by this recent action and I pledge my ongoing support to those who continue to share the love of God with all people. As a person of faith this is my Christian duty.

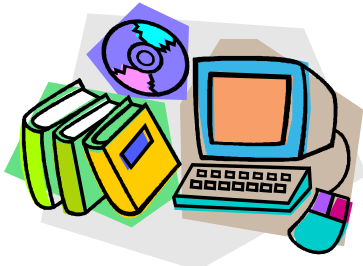
My hope and prayer is for a reasonable solution in which these unfortunate consequences may be addressed and the infringement upon our religious civil liberties be relieved as we continue to live out our faith.

The Rt. Rev. Philip M. Duncan, II
Bishop of the Central Gulf Coast



Our Outreach Focus for August is “Pool for School”. Pool for School is a concept that has caught on in Mobile to provide teachers with classroom items that aid in their ability to be effective educators. Teachers no longer receive money for anything much beyond bare basics of paper and pencils, and generally this means that anything extra, like markers, poster board, printers, ink and age appropriate reading books are purchased by the teachers themselves, out of their own pockets. This is a sad commentary on the value that our society places on the education of our children, and for this reason, we want to reach out to help. In specific, we will be supporting Jessica Dennis and her 2nd grade class at Hutchens Elementary School. Jessica has given us a wish-list of things that she needs to continue her personal tradition of excellence in teaching, and some ideas from her list are given below. In keeping with Outreach’s usual practice of providing visual aids, silly posters, and paper reminders, we have placed a small wading pool in the Great Hall, empty and waiting to receive wish-list items, and the posters have lists for you to take with you when you shop. We ask that you have all items into the pool by Sunday, August 14 so that we can get them to Jessica before school starts.

- * Gift cards for Davies (a teacher store on Azalea), Staples, Office Depot, WalMart, Target, Big Lots, etc.
- * At Hutchens the teachers have to buy their own classroom printers, ink, burnable CDs, memory cards, USB sticks, classroom cameras, so purchasing anything technological or gift cards from Best Buy is great.
- * 2nd grade level books for the kids to read in the classroom library
- * New or used book shelves
- * Seamstresses needed who can sew some curtains
- * Bean bag seats or floor pillows



READY TO SERVE

One of the goals of the Disaster Preparedness Initiative of Episcopal Relief & Development’s U.S. Disaster Program, is to assist dioceses in utilizing volunteers to respond to disasters. “Ready to Serve” is an online database that maintains information about individuals willing to serve in future disaster response programs. In addition to basic contact information, the database will include information about volunteer skills and training. This list will be available for Diocesan Disaster Coordinators post-disaster to see what human resources are available locally (and regionally) to use in implementing programs. The sign-up form is available at: <http://www.er-d.org/VolunteerForm> or provide the information below and turn it in to the church office:

Contact Information

Name, Address, Email, Phone

Church Information

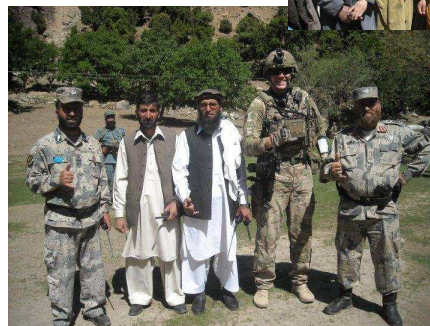
Church/Parish, Diocese

Skills

Expertise, Other Skills, Certifications, Credentials, Languages Spoken

MICHAEL BRABNER VISITS WITH LOCALS IN AFGHANISTAN

Thanks for your gifts in support of St. John’s efforts to win hearts in Afghanistan.



24 boxes of goodies are on their way!



AL HADLOCK GRADUATES EFM

Saint John's Education for Ministry (Efm) study group gathered for its year-end Graduation Celebration on 28 June 2011 at Joan-Marie Elam's home. Al received his Certificate of Completion from Father Thomas, mentor of the group. Communion was celebrated and supper was served by Joan-Marie and her hardworking relatives, Lia and Dug Frederick.

Efm is a 4-year extension program of the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee in which students study the Old and New Testaments, Church History, and Theology.

Al and Pat Hadlock formerly attended Saint John's and Al was a member of the choir. They now attend Saint Matthew's on Overlook Road; Al is the Junior Warden.

Efm grads attending were Bootsie Cieutat, Leah Betts, Eugene Johnston, Mary Rodning, David Thompson, Ron Waites and Joan-Marie Elam. Current students attending were The Reverend Jayne Carson and Nikki Shaw.

Efm meets from September through May on Tuesdays at 5:30PM. There is a tuition fee for the course and there are openings for next year. Please see Father Thomas for more information.



Vestry

The July meeting of The Wardens and Vestry of Saint John's Episcopal Church was called to order at 11:24 on Sunday, 10 July.

The minutes of the 12 June meeting were approved as distributed. A reminder that the May minutes had not been reviewed and approved was given to the Rector.

Connie McLean (Administration) reviewed the financial statements and observed that we are in better shape than we had projected, being at less of a deficit than budgeted. Fr. Heard reported that several increases in pledges from the parish have been received.

Butch Yeager (Outreach) reported receiving a letter of thanks from Episcopal Relief & Development for Saint John's contribution to aid the victims of the tornados in north Alabama. 24 'Winning Hearts in Afghanistan' boxes have been packed and will be shipped very soon.

Janet Buckley reported that Parish Life in cooperation with Outreach have taken on support for our own Jessica Dennis' classroom.

Nikki Shaw requested that the vestry assist in recruiting new students for Education for Ministry (Efm).

Fr. Heard reported that Sue Dyess' transfer from Trinity Mobile has been received.

Fr. Heard reported that he is ready to extend an offer to one of the applicants for Organist/Choir Director. He asked and the vestry approved a very small budget increase for the position for the 2012 budget year.



AUGUST 2011 AT SAINT JOHN'S

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Ramadan Begins 830A MP 1130A Loaves & Fish	2 830A MP 6-8P Winners	3 830A MP 10A HE+Uction 11A WOC	4 830A MP	5 830A MP	6 Transfiguration 1210P HE
7 Pentecost 8 10A HE 1130A Outreach	8 830A MP	9 830A MP 6P Winning Solutions	10 Laurence of Rome 830A MP 10A HE	11 830A MP	12 830A MP	13 830A MP
14 Pentecost 9 9A Choir 10A HE	15 Saint Mary the Virgin 830A MP 1210P HE	16 830A MP 6P Winning Solutions	17 830A MP 10A HE	18 830A MP	19 830A MP	20 830A MP
21 Pentecost 10 9A Choir 10A HE	22 830A MP	23 830A MP 6P Winning Solutions	24 Saint Bartholomew 830A MP 10A HE	25 830A MP	26 830A MP	27 830A MP
28 Pentecost 11 9A Choir 10A HE 1130A Fourth Sunday Potluck	29 830A MP	30 830A MP 6P Winning Solutions	31 Aidan of Lindisfarne 830A MP 10A HE	MP = Morning Prayer HE = Holy Eucharist/Communion		

LECTIONARY AND ROTA FOR AUGUST 2011

Date Service	7 August HE-II	14 August HE-II	21 August HE-II	28 August HE-II
Lectionary Day	A Pentecost 8 Proper 14	A Pentecost 9 Proper 15	A Pentecost 10 Proper 16	A Pentecost 11 Proper 17
Lessons	1 Kings 19:9-18 Psalm 85:8-13 Romans 10:5-15 Matthew 14:22-33	Isaiah 56:1(2-5)-8 Psalm 67 Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32 Matthew 15:(10-20) 21-28	Isaiah 51:1-6 Psalm 138 Romans 12:1-8 Matthew 16:13-20	Jeremiah 15:15-21 Psalm 26:1-8 Romans 12:9-21 Matthew 16:21-28
Greeters	Connie & Bud McLean	Joan-Marie Elam	Melissa Brown	Irene & Butch Yeager
Lectors	Bud McLean Janet Buckley	Kathe Gieseler Scott Escobio	Pat Fulford Geri Moulton	Bud McLean Bud McLean
Eucharistic Ministers	Ron Brown Connie McLean	Butch Yeager Mary Sheffield	Paula Ross Ron Waites	Connie McLean Ron Brown
Eucharistic Visitor	Paula Ross	Ron Brown	Eugene Johnston	Ron Waites
Altar Guild	Marie Brown Lorraine Murray	Pat Fulford Cindy Gass	Pat Fulford Cindy Gass	Mary Sheffield Janet Buckley
Vestry/Tellers	Janet Buckley Butch Yeager	James Christiansen Bill Duke	Chris Gass Connie McLean	Nikki Shaw Bill Sundie
Preacher	Thomas Heard	Jayne Carson	Thomas Heard	Thomas Heard
Nursery	Connie Anderson Butch Yeager	Jessica Dennis Denise Dunham	Jennifer Tarantole Marie Brown	Cheryl Winters-Heard Connie Anderson



Mac Pearce	08/01
Andrew Lee	08/03
James Christiansen	08/11
Eugene Johnston	08/21
Bill Sundie	08/22
Alberta Cieutat	08/26
David Rich	08/27
Mazie Cleveland	08/29
David Jones	08/29



Curtis & Cindy Gass 08/19



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

Joyce Lee, LaVerne Foster, Alice Schablinski, Bob Ross, Ashley Garris, Alice Walker

For our Homebound:

Ray Campbell, Ping Duke, Mae Dunn, Will Elam, Corinne Faust, Gwen Johnson, Nell Kirk, Violet Kosko, Margie Mattoon, Audrey Meador, Angela McGuire, Jane Tate Moore, Betty Plash, Catherine Warren, Dot & Chick Wohlert

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

Ellis Eugene Garner, Eric Mattoon, Cheryl Garner, Michael Brabner

For our Friends and Family:

Pam Sullivan, Cavin Balaster, Ronald Raines, Irene Barrow, Emily Steiner, Karen Mullen, Mary Fournier, The Jeff Green Family, Shawn Felps, David Jones, Wayne Brignac, Tom Dabney, Kit Caffey, Anna Marie Brown, Jim Owens, John McCormick, Keith Malick, Gloria Berry, Travis McBride, Vernon Faulk, Velma Pearson, Betty & Gayle Chenoweth, Mark Stiber, Maddie West

Directory Update

Please make the following change to the directory you received in May:

Alice Walker
Southland Health &
Rehabilitation
Room #410A
P. O. Box 5747
Peachtree City, GA 30269

(770) 486-1359

Contact Us

Staff:

The Reverend Thomas Heard, *rector*
rector@stjohnsmobile.org

The Reverend Jayne Carson, *deacon*
deacon@stjohnsmobile.org

Lella Lowe
Financial Secretary
finance@stjohnsmobile.org

Jack Ruppe
Sexton

Vestry:

Ron Brown

Janet Buckley

James Christiansen

Bill Duke

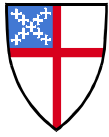
Chris Gass

Connie McLean

Nikki Shaw

Bill Sundie

Howard 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

5:30PM Evening 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

Thee Store Episcopal Books

Monday

Wednesday

Friday

10 a.m.-2 p.m.

and by appointment

Telephone: 251-479-5086

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.