



# 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

Vol. XXI, Issue 2

February 2011

## FROM THE RECTOR:

Dear Ones,

As promised last month, I will talk this month about our new deacon.

Deacons are arguably the oldest order in the church. We take the name 'deacon' from the Greek '*diakonos*' which means servant, minister, or waiter. In the 1<sup>st</sup> century church-specific view, a deacon was one who ministered to the widows and orphans, something that was necessary since society wouldn't care for them. In Acts, we hear of the Apostles gathering to select men to fulfill exactly this mission for the very early church. Also in Acts, we hear of Deacon Stephen's untimely demise at the hands of a crowd, making him the first martyr in the church.

These days, deacons have a very special place in the church: they bridge the gap between the church and the world. They have several distinct roles. First, they interpret the situation in the world outside for us in the church, helping us to understand the needs and to formulate a response. Second, they lead us out into the world, to be the hands of Christ in fulfillment of our Baptismal Covenant. Third, deacons bring the Gospel to the world, telling the Good News of Jesus.

On Thursday, 10 February, something new will happen in the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast. During the Opening Eucharist of our Diocesan Convention, the Bishop will ordain eight people to the Sacred Order of Deacons. (The announcement is on page 7.)

"Wait a minute," you say, "he ordains deacons all the time, doesn't he?" Well, yes and no.

During Sam Mason's time with you, Saint John's had a fellow by the name of Bill Winter who served as curate. Bill started with you as a Deacon and was later ordained Priest. This is part of a long-standing Church tradition of ordaining "by step": a person is ordained deacon before being ordained priest. When Bill was a deacon,

he was referred to as a "transitional" deacon. This term (which doesn't appear in the Canons or the Prayer Book) points to the fact that this is a step in the person's journey to the order to which they are called.

What happens on the 10<sup>th</sup> will be different. Yes, it is the same presentation, examination and consecration. The liturgy comes straight from the Prayer Book; it is the only way that we make deacons. This is different because these eight people are called to be Deacons.

Deacons belong to the diocese and report directly to the bishop. That's a really good reason for ordaining them at our Diocesan Convention: recognition that Deacons are a diocesan resource.

I believe Saint John's is very fortunate to be one of the parishes to which the Bishop has assigned a deacon. I've gotten to know the eight candidates for ordination pretty well over the last couple of years. I think we are ordaining some very committed and capable folks.

Jayne Carson is being assigned to Saint John's. She is a native Alabamian, born in Blue Creek, raised in Selma and a resident of Mobile since 1970. Jayne is the Program Coordinator for the Helping Families Initiative within the Mobile County Prosecuting Attorney's office. (We'll schedule her for a Sunday School time to let her tell you about this wonderful program.) Jayne is also a Licensed Professional Counselor and a Certified Trauma Therapist.

You will see her on Sundays proclaiming the Gospel, bidding the Prayers of the People and Confession, setting and clearing the table, and issuing the Dismissal. She will also preach on a regular basis.

There will be changes in the way we do things because we have a deacon. Life is about change and growth and I look forward to growing and changing along with you.

– 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 2011 at our weekday 10:00AM 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 12:10PM.



**Episcopal  
Relief & Development**

Healing a hurting world

### EPISCOPAL RELIEF & DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

This is a very busy time in the ministries of Episcopal Relief & Development. The following has happen recently or will happen in the near future:

- The six-week-long Matching Gifts Campaign raised a total of nearly **\$1.8 million**. This includes \$1,295,385 in donations that were received during the campaign, and the \$500,000 matching gift, which will benefit the Global Needs Fund. St. John's made a \$1,000 donation.
- In early January, a sixteen page report was released summarizing activities and achievements in two phases of the recovery. Phase III programs (ongoing from January 2011) will center on recovery and sustainable development. Go to [Haiti: One Year Later](#) to see the report.
- The 2011 Lenten Devotional which contains meditations for each day of Lent. They have been ordered and will be distributed at church.

To receive more information please visit <http://www.er-d.org> or call 1-800-334-7626 ext 5129.



## Vestry

The Vestry of Saint John's met in retreat on Saturday, 22 January. During the course of its time together, conversation about the role of the Vestry was supplemented with a discussion of an article entitled "The End to Business as Usual".

Flowing out of these discussions, the Vestry decided that we need to formally define our identity to differentiate Saint John's from the other Episcopal churches in Mobile and aggressively market and advertise it in the Mobile area. The programs that we offer and consider for the future need to be sustainable, while being flexible and versatile enough to react and adapt to changing circumstances. Our programs should have a broad appeal, not catering exclusively to Saint John's folks or Episcopalians and offer some benefit to the community. In everything that we undertake, we must be committed to it and will to support it by our presence and efforts.

So the Vestry doesn't get bogged down in minutiae, the committee structure employed last year will again be used to deal with day-to-day operations. Members of the Vestry will participate with the committees and function as liaisons to the Vestry.

The Administration Committee will have the authority to handle issues within the budget in areas relating to Audit, Buildings & Grounds, Finance, Personnel, Insurance, PR/Advertising. James Christiansen will serve as chair of the committee and will be assisted by Bill Duke, Connie McLean, Nikki Shaw, and Bill Sundie.

Special interest subcommittees or

workgroups will be organized around the Garden and Building projects.

The Outreach Committee is already a free-standing and functioning committee. This year, Butch Yeager will be the liaison to the committee and Janet Buckley, Bill Duke, Chris Gass, and Connie McLean will also work with the committee.

Parish Life will be organized around a nucleus of Ron Brown, Janet Buckley, James Christiansen, Chris Gass, and Bill Sundie. This committee will be seeking additional members from the congregation at-large to participate.

The Stewardship Committee will be made up of Butch Yeager, Ron Brown and Thomas Heard. Here, too, additional members will be sought from the congregation.

During its official meeting, the Vestry elected the following to be its officers for the year

Janet Buckley	Senior Warden
James Christiansen	Junior Warden
Nikki Shaw	Clerk
Connie McLean	Treasurer
James Christiansen Cindy Gass Eugene Johnston	Assistant Treasurers



## Outreach

### VOLUNTEERING AT THE FOOD BANK SATURDAY FEBRUARY 19<sup>TH</sup>

St John's is scheduled to **volunteer** at the Food Bank on Saturday, February 19th (8:30 to Noon). Our volunteer work will involve sorting, cleaning and categorizing food donations. There is a **sign up sheet on the bulletin board**.

If you haven't been part of this activity before you need to know that this is a fun activity but it does involve standing (comfortable shoes a must!) and it is not a particularly clean activity (warm work clothes recommended: the food warehouse is cool). We'll have lots of conversation and fellowship to keep us busy, too!

The Food Bank will be providing snacks, coffee and juice for our morning break. Everyone is invited to come back to Janet Buckley's house for lunch (7481 Bay Rd). Maybe the weather will cooperate and we can eat our lunch on the deck and enjoy the view of the bay.

The Bay Area Food Bank is located at 5248 Mobile South Street in Theodore. We will organize a car pool from the church (8 AM) or you can meet us out there. Please sign up if you plan be part of this activity.

In order to give EVERYONE a chance to be part of St. John's support of the Bay Area Food Bank, we're rolling out the (food) barrels again! **Starting Sunday, January 30th and continuing through Sunday, March 6th, the food barrels will be out in the church and in the great hall.** Although the food barrel in the Great Hall has quietly filled up this past month we'd really like to see it fill again.

Our last food drive generated 300 pounds of food: we'd like to increase that amount this time! Remember: food donations need to be nonperishable, and in unbreakable containers (no glass). ... one can, two cans, a bag of rice or a case of cans...it **will** make a difference in the lives of families in our community and demonstrate our stewardship to the community.

Janet Buckley



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

Audrey Garner, Mary Lou Varnes, Caitlin Bryan, LaVerne Foster, Bessie & Bill Southall, Shannon Newberry

#### **For our Homebound:**

Ray Campbell, Alice Cieutat, 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, Alice Walker, Catherine Warren, Dot & Chick Wohlert

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

Jeffery Yeager, Ellis Eugene Garner, Eric Mattoon, Cheryl Garner

#### **For our Friends and Family:**

John McCormick, Bill Jones, Keith Malick, Lella Lowe, Myrle Benson, Judi Waldrop, Gloria Berry, Travis McBride, Vernon Faulk, Mickey Benson, Velma Pearson, Martha Morget, Christina Morget, Betty & Gayle Chenoweth, Steve Weinstein, Mark Stiber, Mary Hoeberechts, Maddie West, Jandy Watkins [priest], Dot Douglas [priest], Robert Graves [priest]

## Directory Update

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

Leslie & Jeremy Lundberg  
16111 Mansion St.  
Foley, AL 36535

# FEBRUARY 2011 AT SAINT JOHN'S

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>MP = Morning Prayer HE = Holy Eucharist SS = Sunday School EfM = Education for Ministry</p>		<p>1 8:30A MP 5:30P EfM</p>	<p>2 <b>Presentation of Our Lord Jesus Christ</b> 8:30A MP 10A HE+Uction 11A ECW 7P Choir</p>	<p>3 8:30A MP</p>	<p>4 8:30A MP</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>6 <b>5 Epiphany</b> 9A SS 10A HE</p>	<p>7 8:30A MP 1130A Loaves &amp; Fish</p>	<p>8 8:30A MP 5:30P EfM</p>	<p>9 8:30A MP 10A HE 7P Choir</p>	<p>10 8:30A MP</p>	<p>11 8:30A MP</p>	<p>12</p>
<p>13 <b>6 Epiphany</b> 9A Breakfast 10A HE 1130A Vestry</p>	<p>14 8:30A MP</p>	<p>15 8:30A MP 5:30P EfM</p>	<p>16 8:30A MP 10A HE 7P Choir</p>	<p>17 8:30A MP</p>	<p>18 8:30A MP</p>	<p>19 8:00A Meet to Carpool 8:30-Noon Food Bank</p>
<p>20 <b>7 Epiphany</b> 9A SS 10A HE 5P Evensong</p>	<p>21 8:30A MP</p>	<p>22 8:30A MP 5:30P EfM</p>	<p>23 <b>Polycarp of Smyrna</b> 8:30A MP 10A HE 7P Choir</p>	<p>24 <b>Saint Matthias</b> 8:30A MP 12:10P HE</p>	<p>25 8:30A MP</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>27 <b>8 Epiphany</b> 9A SS 10A HE</p>	<p>28 8:30A MP</p>					

# LECTIONARY AND ROTA FOR FEBRUARY 2011

Date Service	6 February HE-II	13 February HE-II	20 February HE-II	20 February Evensong	27 February HE-II
Lectionary Day	A Epiphany 5	A Epiphany 6	A Epiphany 7	1 Epiphany 7	A Epiphany 8
Lessons	Isaiah 58:1-9a(9b-12) Psalm 112:1-9(10) 1 Corinthians 2:1-12(13-16) Matthew 5:13-20	Deuteronomy 30:15-20 Psalm 119:1-8 1 Corinthians 3:1-9 Matthew 5:21-37	Leviticus 19:1-2,9-18 Psalm 119:33-40 1 Corinthians 3:10-11,16-23 Matthew 5:38-48	Psalm 145 Proverbs 1:20-33 John 10:7-16	Isaiah 49:8-16a Psalm 131 1 Corinthians 4:1-5 Matthew 6:24-34
Greeters	Connie & Bud McLean	Melissa Brown	Joan Marie Elam		Irene & Butch Yeager
Lectors	Pat Fulford Paula Ross	Connie Anderson Geri Moulton	Janet Buckley Eugene Johnston	Ron Waites	Bud McLean Pat Fulford
Intercessor	Ron Brown				
Eucharistic Ministers	Connie McLean Eugene Johnston	Ron Waites Paula Ross	Geri Moulton Butch Yeager		Mary Sheffield Ron Brown
Eucharistic Visitor	Paula Ross	Ron Waites	Eugene Johnston		Ron Brown
Alar Guild	Betty & George Taylor	Marie Brown Lorraine Murray	Marie Brown Lorraine Murray		Pat Fulford Cindy Gass
Vestry Tellers	James Christiansen Chris Gass	Chris Gass Nikki Shaw	Nikki Shaw Butch Yeager		Butch Yeager Bill Duke



Geri Moulton 02/01  
 Bob Sheffield 02/05  
 Jason Connell 02/06  
 Jane Tate Moore 02/08  
 Mary Sheffield 02/08

Bill Southall 02/12  
 Betty Dunn 02/15  
 Thomas Heard 02/15  
 Debbie Ollhoft 02/15



Bessie & Bill Southall  
 02/18  
 Jennifer & Samuel Tarantole  
 02/23

By the grace of God  
 and with the affirmation of the people  
 The Right Reverend Philip M. Duncan, II, D.D.  
 Bishop of the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast  
 will ordain

*Betty Jo Brenemen*

*Bobby Wayne Dean*

*Clara Mae Hewis*

*Edward Thomas Richards*

*John Lyvon Brewer*

*Raymond Douglas Wishart*

*Rebecca Jayne Carson*

*Susan McKee Douglas*

to the Sacred Order of Deacons  
 in Christ's, one, holy catholic, and apostolic church

on Thursday, the tenth of February  
 in the year of Our Lord two thousand and eleven  
 at six o'clock in the evening; during the opening service of  
 the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Diocesan Convention

St. James Episcopal Church  
 860 N. Section Street  
 Fairhope, AL 36532

Your prayers and presence are requested  
*Clergy: cassock, surplice, red stole*

## Contact Us

### Staff:

The Reverend Thomas Heard  
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 rector@stjohnsmobile.org

John L. Hobbs, Jr.  
 Organist/Choirmaster  
 music@stjohnsmobile.org

Lella Lowe  
 Financial Secretary  
 finance@stjohnsmobile.org

Jack Ruppe  
 Sexton

### Vestry:

Ron Brown

Janet Buckley

James Christiansen

Bill Duke

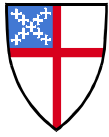
Chris Gass

Connie McLean

Nikki Shaw

Bill Sundie

Howard Yeager



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

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**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; 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)

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