



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

Vol. XXXII, Issue 7

July 2022

A MESSAGE FROM BISHOP RUSSELL ON THE TRAGEDY AT SAINT STEPHEN'S IN VESTAVIA HILLS

Dear friends,

“Love endures all things, bears all things. Love never ends.” I Corinthians 13:7

It is because of the power of that eternal love, that this morning my heart is fractured, and my soul is numb. Those involved in last night's tragedy at Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church in Vestavia Hills were my people; for eight years, I was their priest. I still love them. The Bishop's crozier I carry was a gift to me from the people of Saint Stephen's.

Two weeks ago while serving as dean of the senior high session of summer camp, I confessed to the teenagers that there have been times in my life when I tried to not believe in God - times in my life that I was driven into the breathless abyss of suffering.

Little did I know then that this morning I would feel once again that terrifying and numbing vacuum of despair.

Of the three victims of this atrocity, I buried the husband of one, married the daughter of another and baptized the grandchild of the third. I spent every Tuesday morning in Men's Bible Study with one. He always brought his King James Version of the Bible. All three volunteered their time in our church office. One of the three washed and ironed the altar linens every week. She would do so next to the altar. She told me, “This is where and when God and I really talk.” Such holy moments are the intimate privilege of being a priest. I could go on, but the point is that these three children of God loved their church, and they loved their Lord.

At summer camp, I also told the teens that in those troubled times, as much as I tried to not believe, I

cannot not believe in God. This morning I opened up the Daily Office on my iPad [because that is how we pray these days] and the psalm appointed for today is Psalm 88. I urge you to find The Book of Common Prayer and read that particular translation. Here is a portion:

11 Do you work wonders for the dead? *
will those who have died stand up and give you thanks?
12 Will your loving-kindness be declared in the grave? *
your faithfulness in the land of destruction?
13 Will your wonders be known in the dark? *
or your righteousness in the country where all is forgotten?
14 But as for me, O LORD, I cry to you for help; *
in the morning my prayer comes before you.

The psalm ends with this, “And darkness is my only companion.”

Along with those words, there are the many messages of love and hope so many of you have sent me. One person wrote, “I have no words adequate to the tragedy.” Words may not be adequate, but in every word shared in love, there is also the Word. And that Word, which is God's love, is powerful.

So, in the darkness, I believe. I am grateful for your expressions of love and hope for the people of Saint Stephen's. I am humbled by the number of people from all over the world that are praying for them. Let us continue to hold the light of Christ for them.

Peace be with you.

+Russell





Vestry

The regular meeting of the Vestry of St. John's Church was called to order at 11:10 AM on June 12, 2022 by Nikki Shaw, Sr. Warden.

James Christiansen was not present.

The minutes of the May meeting were approved.

Treasurer Cindy Gass presented the financial reports for May. She noted that we have a \$3,000 budget surplus because Fr. Thomas Heard's salary and benefits are no longer being paid. The vestry reviewed Investments Accounts to protect funds due to volatility of stock market.

Stewardship Committee reported that they will be conducting an electronics recycling drive. Information about the drive will be in the newsletter.

ECW reported the theme for the 4th Sunday potluck will be "let's have a summer picnic."

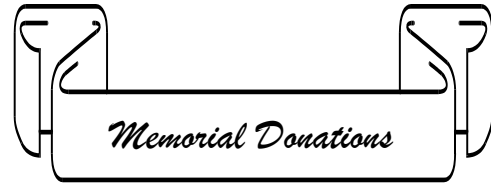
In the Sr. Warden's report, Nikki Shaw is monitoring the St. John's campus for more termite damage. With the amount of construction due to termite damage it is very likely that the services will be held in the Great Hall. The property located behind the church and owned by the church has some trees that need to come down. There is one bid and David Jones will get another.

The vestry voted to discontinue St. John's Zoom subscription.

The Episcopal Church has mandated that all active volunteers (that includes all vestry members) must do training sessions about keeping people safe. All vestry members agreed to do the training sessions by next vestry meeting.

McKemie Place still has a number of things at St John's. They came by and got much of it. They are coming again and after that things left will be kept for parish use, donated to another organization or thrown away.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15pm.



St. John's extends a sincere thank you to those who made memorial and honor donations last month:

In memory of Howard Yeager

Bob & Paula Ross

Budd & Connie McLean

Bob & Connie Anderson

James Christiansen

Joyce Lee

Sherry Vellianitis

Gregory & Jamie Saad

Neva Bache

Mike Bonner

Alberta Cieutat

Sue Dyess

Audrey Garner

David & Mary Jones

St. John's ECW

Mark & Jan Joseph

Bob & Mary Sheffield

Mike & Fran Barbour

Dominick & Mary Stratas

John & Katherine Vallas

Curtis & Cindy Gass

Lee Dorsey & Kristen Turner

John & Patsy Christiansen

In memory of Jordan M. Sanders

Budd & Connie McLean

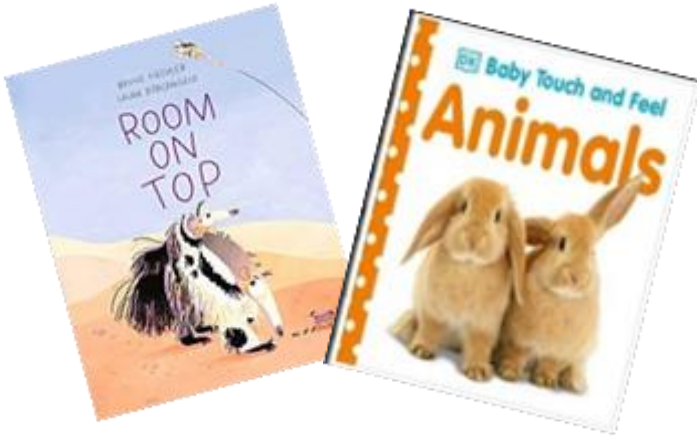
In honor of Emily Johnston

Madeline Johnston Pearce

For you have been called
to live in freedom...
Use your freedom to
serve one another in
love.

Galatians 5:13

OUTREACH



Once again, the Outreach Committee has ordered books for Saint John's to distribute to the Head Start children in Mobile and Washington counties. We will start putting the Saint John's "stickers" into the books on Sunday, July 31, 2022. Depending on how many willing hands we have, we may finish that day or we may carry the project over to the next Sunday.

The books will be going to the children enrolled in Mobile Community Action's Head Start and Early Head Start programs. Head Start is a federally funded, school readiness program for low income 3 - and 4-year-old children and their families. Early Head Start serves infants and toddlers. 971 Head Start children and 140 Early Head Start children will be receiving these books.

Our books come from the National Book Bank division of FirstBook, a national non-profit organization that works with publishers to provide low cost or non-cost books to organizations, schools, and churches that provide services to low-income children. The books from the Book Bank are provided for just the cost of shipping.



Mark your calendars to be present Sunday, July 31st to be part of this Outreach project. See you there!!

-Outreach Committee



MORE THAN ENOUGH

STEWARDSHIP OF ABUNDANCE

In Paul's second letter to the Corinthians, he says "And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work."

We usually think of abundance in terms of material things, but what does it look like from a spiritual point of view? What blessings has God given you? God provides us with so many gifts- love, friendship, strength, and joy. We are called to share this abundance with others. We can adjust the way we think about abundance by living a life that is grateful and generous, and using our resources to fulfill God's purpose for us.

Here are some ideas:

- Start each day with a prayer of thanksgiving
- Donate items and time to local charities
- Reach out to the shut-ins in our congregation

Don't forget that our own Lee Dorsey has hung her shingle out at St. John's as an extension of our outreach. Referrals gratefully accepted.



Lee Dorsey
1701 Government St.
Mobile, AL 36604
Phone: 251-422-6592

ldorsey@tree-of-life-counseling.org

PARISH LIFE

JULY'S FOURTH SUNDAY POTLUCK: PARISH PICNIC

St. John's annual inside-outside Parish Picnic will be held on Sunday, July 24th. We are still looking for a volunteer "grill master" for this year. The rest of us have the task of providing all the traditional picnic "fixings". The sign-up sheet will be on the bulletin board. So let's dress for a picnic and eat picnic foods, but we'll leave the bugs outside!



June Birthdays



Celebrating June birthdays at Saint John's with Connie McLean. (Photo by Mary Sheffield)

ST. JOHN'S ELECTRONIC RECYCLING EVENT

Are you ready to part with those old monitors, printers, telephones etc. that have been cluttering up your home? St. John's has contracted with Advanced Technology Recycling (ATR) to come and take our unwanted electronics for recycling. ATR will come in August to haul them away and, best of all, reuse and recycle any electronics you no longer have need of. The church will pay the hauling fee and we are asking that you contribute a small amount to the \$0.15 per pound fee.

You are asked to bring your electronics during the month of July and place them in the EFM room in the hall. Please help out with this project. When you donate, you are helping the environment, protecting people from hazardous materials, and donating to the needy!

Here is a partial list of acceptable items: computers, monitors, keyboards, mice, cables, printers, televisions, VCRs, radios, stereo equipment, telephones, Walkman, scanners, and the list goes on and on.

I am also including ATR's website so you can check on your own, or email me or ask me when you see me in church.

<https://www.atrecycle.com/accepted-items/>
maryroseshf@yahoo.com

-Mary Sheffield



Lectionary and Rota for July 2022					
Date	JULY 3	JULY 10	JULY 17	JULY 24	JULY 31
Lectionary Day Lections: Color	MORNING PRAYER Fourth Sunday after Pentecost C Proper 9 RCL Green	MORNING PRAYER Fifth Sunday after Pentecost C Proper 10 RCL Green	MORNING PRAYER Sixth Sunday after Pentecost C Proper 11 RCL Green	HOLY EUCHARIST Seventh Sunday after Pentecost C Proper 12 RCL Green	MORNING PRAYER Eighth Sunday after Pentecost C Proper 13 RCL Green
Hosts	Irene Yeager	Connie & Bob Anderson	Melissa Brown	Connie McLean	Irene Yeager
Lectors/Intercessor	Geri Moulton Mary Sheffield Janet Buckley	Nikki Shaw David Thompson Br. Jacob Taylor	Janet Buckley Geri Moulton Mary Sheffield	Nikki Shaw David Thompson Br. Jacob Taylor	Geri Moulton Mary Sheffield Janet Buckley
Eucharistic Ministers				Connie McLean Mary Sheffield	
Altar Guild	Cindy Gass Martha Jones	Irene Yeager Br. Jacob Taylor	Connie Anderson Bootsie Cieutat	Lee Dorsey Kristen Turner	Cindy Gass Martha Jones
Vestry Tellers	Janet Buckley Nikki Shaw	Eugene Johnston David Jones	James Christiansen Geri Moulton	Connie McLean Cindy Gass	Janet Buckley Nikki Shaw



Elsewhere in the Diocese

Beckwith 50th Anniversary Celebration Weekend

Friday, August 5, 2022 at 4:00 PM CDT
-to-
Sunday, August 7, 2022 at 10:00 AM CDT
Beckwith Camp and Retreat Center
10400 Beckwith Lane
Fairhope, AL 36532

Contact

Rachel Gilliam
Beckwith
251-928-7844
rachel@beckwithal.com



EPISCOPAL RELIEF & DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS WITH THE ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF CENTRAL TANGANYIKA

Each week in the Prayers of the People we pray for a different diocese in the Anglican Communion. On July 3rd this year, we pray for the Anglican Church of Tanzania.

Episcopal Relief & Development has partnered with the Anglican Diocese of Central Tanganyika, in Tanzania, to work on the following projects:

- Development Services Company (DCT-DSC) to build climate-resilient communities
- Integrate a climate resilience program to conservation agriculture and improved crop storage leading to stronger food security
- Begin a microfinance program that creates affordable financial products and services that meet the needs especially of women and marginalized groups
- Strengthen community-based water committees and supports their investments in water infrastructure development that helps smaller communities get water during periods of drought

- Partner with the Anglican Church of Tanzania's Mothers' Union (women of the church group) to leverage their network to spread accurate information about the COVID-19 virus and how to reduce its transmission

Recent evaluations show over 5,000 people were directly reached by emergency disaster response programs and over 61,000 people reached by long term development projects.

As we pray for the people of the Anglican Church of Tanzania on July 3rd, know that your donations to Episcopal Relief & Development are helping people there.





Caroline Chestang	07/08
Catherine Warren	07/08
Tina Cieutat	07/13
Regina Harvey-Molyneux	07/20
Carolyn Pearce	07/26
Mike Bonner	07/31



Bob & Paula Ross	07/12
Darren & LaNeisha Anderson	07/15
Lavelle & Debbie Ollhoft	07/20

Prayer List

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

Mitchell Schlegel, Irene Yeager, Carolyn Pearce, Ashley Garris, Jerry Fulford, James Christiansen, Audrey Garner, Joyce Lee, Jayson Chestang.

For our Homebound:

Marian Boykin, Bob and Paula Ross, Ron & Marie Brown, Budd McLean, Mary Catherine Warren.

For our Family and Friends:

David Brunner, Mary Horner, Doug Turner, Darrell Thaxton, Bob Sheffield, Steve Wood, Carol Unsworth, Susan Hansen, Karl Gieseler, Keith Matthews, Randy Dunn, Sharon Lee Nolan, Willie Douglas, Daniel Day, 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, Steven Campbell (*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:

Louis Daniel
Organist & Choir Director
music@stjohnsmobile.org

Lella Lowe
Financial Secretary
finance@stjohnsmobile.org

Vestry:

Janet Buckley

James Christiansen

Cindy Gass, *treasurer*

Eugene Johnston, *clerk*

David Jones

Connie McLean

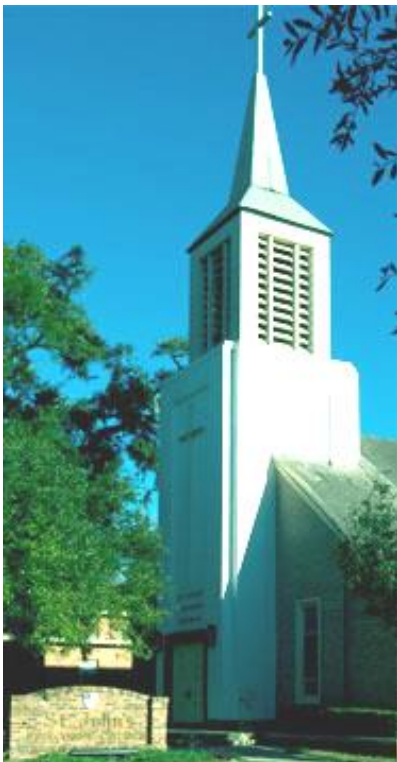
Geri Moulton

Nikki Shaw, *senior warden*

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!

Sunday:

9:00AM 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

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.