



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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FROM THE RECTOR:

In our Adult Sunday School class, we've been using a program called "Living Islam" to help us increase our understanding of what Islam is and some of the challenges that being a Muslim in the United States carries with it.

We've only been at it a few weeks. Even in that short time, we're beginning to see beyond the stereotypic depictions that have become so commonplace and developing an understanding of some of the practices of the faith.

For example, the *hijab* or head scarf that some Muslim women wear and the *kufi* that some men wear have analogues in Judaism and Christianity. Orthodox and some Conservative Jewish women cover their hair as a sign of their humility before God. In Christianity, nuns wear veils for the same reason. For Jewish men, wearing a *yarmulke* corresponds to the *kufi* and is a mark of devotion to God. In Christianity, it is usually only clergy that wear a *zucchetto*, which is similar to a *yarmulke*. Sadly, the *zucchetto* has only very practical origins: a monk had a tonsure and the *zucchetto* kept the top of his head warm!

It seems to be very easy for us to make judgments about people based on their attire. It is not limited to religious observances; think of the people you see at the mall. Think about what your thoughts were. How did you react?

This past week, Juan Williams was fired from NPR because he said things in an interview on Fox that were felt to be inappropriate for an NPR News Analyst to say because they were personal opinions or reflections. Briefly, he said that his anxiety rises when he sees passengers on an airplane that are in 'traditional Muslim attire.' Do you see what happened here? He has equated those passengers with the Islamic

extremists who claim responsibility for all sorts of terrorist attacks.

Sadly, we all do it -- including me. While most of us might not equate 'traditional Muslim attire' with terrorism, we do react to people around us. We unwittingly equate that religious identification with terrorism and tar the overwhelming majority of the faith with that same brush. I'm not sure it could possibly be more unfair or unwarranted.

Now, there are radical fundamentalist factions within Islam that seem to be at the root of many terrorist acts. These factions do not represent the majority of Muslim believers. There are also radical fundamentalist Jews and radical fundamentalist Christians. Some of these may deserve to be called terrorists, but they, too, are only a small part of the Jewish or Christian community worldwide.

I think what has happened to us is that we have let media and political rhetoric condition us to respond to the appearance of a woman in *hajib* as something to be feared. Again, this is prejudice.

Maybe we've forgotten Jesus' words and continue to judge others and let our prejudices obscure our vision.

Maybe we've forgotten another part of Jesus' teaching:
"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; even as I have loved you, that you also love one another." (John 13:34)

Jesus placed no conditions nor made any qualifications. He seems to have wanted to make it easy for us; no judgment is required on our part. Piece of cake.

Now, if we can just put all our prejudices aside...

-Thomas

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NOVEMBER LITURGICAL CALENDAR

All Saints' Day – 1 November

Adopted by the Roman Catholic Church in the 9th century, the Feast of All Saints' might have originated in Ireland and spread through the British Isles and to the continent. A commemoration of all who had professed faith in Christ and had given their lives for it and were felt to be in communion with Christians everywhere is found in the writings of Gregory Thaumaturgus from about 270. All Saints' is a Principal Feast of the church, one of only seven that takes precedence over a Sunday. The 1979 Prayer Book recommends All Saints' as one of four days that are particularly appropriate for the administration of the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

All Souls' Day – 2 November

The day following All Saints' is known as All Souls' or All Faithful Departed. This day recalls the body of all faithful Christians who have risen to new life in Christ. It is a day for remembering family and friends and members of a parish who have died in the preceding year. All Souls' lost favor in the Reformation due to the abuses connected with the practice of saying Masses for the dead. A renewed understanding of All Souls' led to its acceptance amongst Anglicans.

Richard Hooker, priest – 3 November

Richard Hooker was a priest in the late 16th century. Of the many cures he held, Hooker was Master of the Temple in London beginning in 1856. To remember him simply as a parish priest is wholly insufficient – any list of Anglican theologians would prominently display his name. Hooker is best known for his defense of the Elizabethan Settlement in a five volume set of books entitled "The Laws of Ecclesiastical Polity." Book Five is entirely devoted to defending the Prayer Book.

Leo the Great, Bishop of Rome – 10 November

Leo was born in about 400 in the midst of the crumbling Western Roman Empire. He managed to receive a good education and entered the service of the church. In 440, he was elected Pope even though he was on a mission to Gaul. A clear thinker and strong willed bishop, Leo was an effective leader of the church in a difficult time. His explanation of the

human and divine natures of Christ, known as *The Tome of Leo*, became the doctrine adopted by the Council of Chalcedon in 451. For three years, he paid tribute to the Huns to avoid the sacking of Rome. The Vandals could not be dissuaded, yet Leo did convince them not to burn the city nor kill its inhabitants.

Hugh of Lincoln, Bishop of Lincoln – 17 November

Born to a noble family in the Burgundy region of France, Hugh joined the Carthusian order in about 1160. Henry II of England convinced him to come to England to be prior of a new foundation in Somerset. Reluctantly, he accepted Henry's appoint to the See of Lincoln in 1186 and died in 1200. Hugh maintained his monastic discipline throughout his life. His cheerful disposition and self-effacing way made him a difficult opponent. Hugh always found his way to champion the poor, the oppressed and outcasts and maintained his independence from secular interests.

Thanksgiving Day

Falling on 25 November this year, Thanksgiving shares the commonality of agricultural festivals with many religions. None of these feasts were included in our Prayer Book until the Continental Congress established the Day of National Thanksgiving. Its roots are found in the observances of the Massachusetts and Virginia colonies.

Saint Andrew – 30 November

The Feast of Saint Andrew is the first feast in the liturgical year, most often falling after the First Sunday of Advent. Andrew is most commonly remembered as the brother of Simon Peter, but overlooks his special gifts to Jesus' companions. Andrew was first a disciple of John the Baptist, one of two who left to follow Christ after John pointed out Jesus with the words, "Behold the Lamb of God." Andrew, the first missionary, sought out his brother and brought him to Jesus. He was the disciple who brought the boy with the fishes and loaves to Jesus for the feeding of the multitude. Eusebius' writings tell us that Andrew went to Scythia. Legend holds that he was martyred by pagans and crucified on an X-shaped cross. This is seen in the flag of Scotland, honoring its patron saint.





Vestry

The Vestry of Saint John's met on Thursday, 14 October at 7:00PM

Ron Waites reported that the Outreach Committee has been asked to partner with Redeemer to provide dinner service at McKemie Place one night per month. Ron also reported that 340 pounds of non-perishable food items were contributed by parishioners and delivered to the Bay Area Food Bank.

Eugene Johnston, reporting for Parish Life, suggested that the Men of the Church breakfast begin at 9:00AM and that Sunday School be skipped. The Vestry agreed, so on the 14th of November there will be no Sunday School and Breakfast will be served at 9:00AM.

Eugene reminded the vestry of the following events:

- November 5th John Hobbs Organ Recital at 7:00PM
- November 28th Lessons and Carols at 5:00PM
- December 12th Parish Meeting
- December 19th St. John's Christmas Party and Decorate the Church for Christmas

Cindy Gass walked the vestry through the financials for the month and year-to-date. She observed that we are operating better than anticipated, but cautioned that this is still at a significant deficit.

James Christiansen reported that repairs to roofing and interior spaces will soon begin. Church Insurance is honoring a claim for damage to the steeple, the church roof and ceiling, the Great Hall roof, the parlor and the women's restroom.

The Vestry voted to hold a Parish Meeting on 12 December 2010 for the purpose of electing vestry and convention delegates. They also voted that the nominating committee will be made up of the retiring vestry members and two additional persons from the parish.

Janet Buckley presented her suggestions for the Vestry's response to the Diocesan 5-year Plan. With a few revisions, the report will be forwarded to the diocesan office.

Janet also reported that the Audit Committee has completed its work. The report will recommend the development of written procedures to document what we do.

The meeting adjourned at 8:16PM.

PARISH PORTRAIT PAULA MCCOOL ROSS



Whatever is going on at Saint John's, you will usually find Paula Ross' hand in it. She is a Lay Reader, Chalice Bearer, Eucharistic Visitor, Brunch and Supper Instigator, ECW you-name-it. A well-put-together person probably from an old

privileged Mobile family, right? Read on...

Paula's mother died from cancer when Paula was 11 years old. Her sister was 13 and her brother nine. Their father tried to work and keep the family together, but there were times when there was literally no food nor electricity. Neighbors and relatives tried to fill in, but since the three children begged not to be separated, it became a serious situation. The Mobile "Welfare Department" stepped in and Paula and her siblings were placed at Wilmer Hall, a residential child-care facility run by the Alabama Diocese of the Episcopal Church. It is located halfway up Spring Hill on Old Shell Road in Mobile.

Paula remembers her first day there like it was yesterday. "It was a cold day and I was scared. I was in the middle of the 8th grade. My Wilmer Hall 'brother', Bobby Harrison, to whom I am still very close, gave me a flower. I think he could sense how scared I was. I remember my first dinner, not so much the food but how wonderful it was. I had not had a meal like that in a long time, certainly not since my mother died."

Paula and her sister lived in the middle building, big girls' side, right next to each other. They had a bed and a wall locker. Their brother was in another building but they saw him at meals and other times.

(Continued on page 4)

PARISH PORTRAIT, CONTINUED

(Continued from page 3)

Each child at Wilmer Hall had a church in the diocese as their sponsor. They furnished a special child with clothes, always remembered them on their birthday and Christmas and other times during the year. Her sponsor was Saint John's in Decatur, Alabama. "They were absolutely wonderful. I believe to this day that I had the best sponsor of all. Every season I would get a large box - new clothes, new shoes, and always an envelope of money. After my Junior year in high school, I went to Decatur on the bus and spent a week with them, and I was entertained!"

She also recalls great times she would share with the Catholic Boys' Home and the Protestant Children's Home on visits to Grandview Park on Dog River. She attended Camp McDowell in the summer, riding the Greyhound bus with lots of other campers from Mobile.

The "church homers" (as they were called) attended Saint Paul's in Spring Hill...practically next door.

Sadness continued to hound this family when Paula's brother died of pneumonia when he was only 12 years old, and her sister and father died a few years later.

Paula did a lot of babysitting in her teen years and worked part time at Goldstein's Jewelry and Quigley Auto Dealership.

Bob Ross came into Paula's life when she was a junior in high school. Bob was from Foley and they met "at the Gulf". They dated for over a year, eloped to Pascagoula, and were married at Saint John's there. They have been married over 55 years and have three children: Robin, who is a nurse, and two sons, Robert

and Byron of Xanté, plus five grandchildren.

Paula's involvement with the Episcopal Church continued as she became the first employee of the newly formed Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast. She began as the first Financial Secretary and then the Administrative Assistant...all in all 32 years. She worked under three different bishops and received the Distinguished Service Award at the 2002 Diocesan Convention when she retired. Paula says, "Working for the diocese was absolutely the greatest thing in the world that ever happened to me except marrying Bob and having our family."

"I will always think of Wilmer Hall as my home. I was fortunate to serve on the Wilmer Hall Board of Directors for five years, starting as Secretary and moving up as the Chairman of the Board. I am and always have been proud to say that Wilmer Hall was my home growing up and truly believe that God sent us to Wilmer Hall and He had His loving arms around us. I believe my mother and Wilmer Hall helped form my life, and gave me direction and love that helped me to be the wife, mother, grandmother, and friend that I hope I am today. Wilmer Hall was and still is a vital part of my life. It literally fed me when I was hungry and gave me a bed to rest my head, doctors and dentists to take care of my health needs, a loving caring home, and much, much more."

There is another parishioner at Saint John's who was raised at Wilmer Hall. We will hear his story in a month or two.

-Joan-Marie Elam

NOMINATIONS FOR VESTRY & CONVENTION DELEGATES

Please contact a member of your nominating committee—Cindy Gass, Eugene Johnston, and Ron Waites—or Fr. Thomas if you are interested (or know someone who is interested) in running for vestry or diocesan convention delegate. Elections will be held at a parish meeting on Sunday, December 12 in the Nave after Mass.

REMEMBER
to set your Clocks



Sunday, November 7

FALL BACK

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Sunday, October 3

Anticipating the Feast of Francis of Assisi, 21 two-legged folks and 13 four-legged folks gathered in the garden at Saint John's for a brief service and Blessing of the Animals last month. It was a glorious day to be surrounded by God's creation. As our pets were blessed, we realized how much we are blessed by them each and every day.





For the six weeks from October 19 through November 30, any donation made to Episcopal Relief & Development will be matched dollar-for-dollar up to \$500,000. This means a total of up to \$1 million for relief and development programs in the places that need them most.

Any size gift to any of Episcopal Relief & Development's funds - online, by mail or by phone - will be matched in full until November 30, or as long as matching funds are available. The matched gift amount will be donated to the Global Needs fund, which sustains the organization's work toward alleviating hunger, promoting health, creating economic opportunities and overcoming disaster.

"Donors this year have made generous contributions to our disaster relief funds," said Rob Radtke, President of Episcopal Relief & Development, "but we also need to fulfill our ongoing commitments to people struggling against poverty, malnutrition and disease around the world. We hope that this year's appeal, twice the size of last year's, will help us to do that." More info is available at www.er-d.org/matchinggiftchallenge.

To support Episcopal Relief & Development's work, please visit www.er-d.org or call 800.334.7626, ext. 5129. Gifts can be mailed to Episcopal Relief & Development, PO Box 7058, Merrifield, VA 22116.

Special Music

REMEMBER, REMEMBER THE FIFTH OF NOVEMBER ...

The Honor of Your Presence is Requested
on November Fifth, Two Thousand Ten
at Seven O'clock In The Evening

ORGAN RECITAL

John Lewis Hobbs, Jr. B. M.

Saint John's Episcopal Church
1707 Government Street
Mobile Alabama
Reception Immediately Following
The Great Hall

This program that I have been preparing for over the past three months is presented for TWO occasions. First, the date was chosen to honor Fr. Heard on the third anniversary of his institution as the Sixteenth Rector of Saint John's Mobile since 1853. Secondly, to Celebrate THE ONE HUNDRED TWELTH BIRTHDAY of the 1898 Kimball Organ. In doing so, the Program is built around organists and composers that were born prior to 1898 and lived beyond 1898. So tell all of your family, friends, and neighbors as we celebrate together.

On Sunday, November 28 we will have an Advent Service of Lessons and Carols at 5:00 p.m. Please plan on making this service the start of your preparation for The Christ Child.

-- John Hobbs

ELSEWHERE IN OUR DIOCESE

Wilmer Hall—Wilma's Rummage Sale on November 13th

We'll be open from 7 am until 3 pm on campus. You'll find bargains on winter clothes, household items, books, toys, misc. Everyone is welcome. Support our children!

Trinity, Mobile—Arts, Crafts and Gumbo Sale

Trinity Episcopal Church will host its annual St. Anne's Guild Arts, Crafts & Gumbo Sale, Saturday, November 13th, 2010, from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m., in the church's

Parish Hall. Nearly 20 artists and vendors from across the region will offer everything from fine art paintings to jewelry, wood carvings, pottery, candles, garden art and more. Gumbo will be for sale by the pint. Free parking and free admission.

All Saints, Mobile—"Bayou Bash"

All Saints in Mobile announces its annual Bayou Bash to be held Saturday, November 13, beginning at 6:00 p.m. Tickets will be \$25 each and are available in advance. Call the church office 251-438-2492 for information. There will be lots of great food and beverages, music, silent & live auctions...lots of fun.



Addison Fairley	11/04	Brian Pearce	11/21
Rosalie Pritchard	11/04	Caitlin Bryan	11/22
Violet Kosko	11/07	Christopher Gass	11/22
Cindy Gass	11/11	Nikki Shaw	11/22
Betty Plash	11/12	Ray Campbell	11/28
Mayson Pritchard	11/12	Mildred Hamby	11/28
Denise Dunham	11/18	Kim Partsch	11/30
Jennifer Tarantole	11/19		



Emily & Eugene Johnston	11/05
Jessica & Jeff Dennis	11/10
Joan Marie & Will Elam	11/16
Gillian & John Hobbs	11/21
Marjorie & Roy Duhon	11/22



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

Lorraine Murray, LaVerne Foster, Alice Schablinski,
Bessie & Bill Southall, Leah Betts, Shannon Newberry

For our Homebound:

Alice Cieutat, Ping Duke, Mae Dunn, Will Elam,
Corinne Faust, Gwen Johnson, Violet Kosko, Margie Mattoon,
Audrey Meador, Angela McGuire, Jane Tate Moore,
Betty Plash, 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:

Gloria Berry, David Yeager, Travis McBride, Mary Garner,
Sonny Blackwell, Lester Taylor, Jesse Ferguson, Vernon Faulk,
Walter Mayson, Mickey Benson, Velma Pearson,
Martha Morget, Christina Morget, Betty & Gayle Chenoweth,
Steve Weinstein, Mark Stiber, Mary Hoeberechts,
Karen Twilley, Maddie West, Robert Graves [priest]

For those who have died:

David Dabney

Contact Us

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Ron Brown
Janet Buckley
James Christiansen
Bill Duke
Cindy Gass
Eugene Johnston
Connie McLean
Bill Sundie
Ron Waites



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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 1st
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.

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Fax: 251-473-1230

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to be the hands of Our Lord.