



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 9

September 2022

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRIEST

St. John's Family,

I keep you all in my heart daily as we step further along in this path of shared ministry. It is with great joy that I call you my family and it is a posture of the heart that I hope we all share together. Throughout the scriptures we are reminded of our calling to become *children of God*, that we live in one *household of faith*, and that we are to share in *brotherly-sisterly love*. We call this kind of shared love among a body of believers *philadelphia* (φιλαδελφία). Of *φιλαδελφία* Paul wrote in his letter to the Romans, "Love one another in brotherly-sisterly love; outdoing one another in showing honor." In Hebrews, the author emphasizes the importance of making sure that we "Let brotherly-sisterly love continue". It not only should continue but it must.

The importance of *φιλαδελφία* continuity is twofold. Firstly, it is to draw our focus away from a believer simply resting in the celebration of its achievement. That is, to find ourselves in a place where we believe the time for faith in action has passed. Secondly it is to fuel our desire for its expression, and not only by us but also by those whom we have expressed it too. Yes, we are brothers and sisters through love, but we must remain vigilant to remain brothers and sisters that are actively loving one another. The author of Hebrews stresses how important this point is toward keeping a family together: the mutual active expression of *φιλαδελφία* among brothers and sisters through Christ. This essential message has been a balm for generations of believers as the church (all churches) have struggled during periods of disruption, disagreement, and rivalry.

How then is *φιλαδελφία* expressed actively as a central part of our daily lives? I am grateful to the author of Hebrews for allowing us an immediate example: "*Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.*" (Heb 13:2)

In its First-century context this call toward "loving hospitality" was in part for practicality. The earliest Christian travelers often found themselves in environments where the Gospel message had not become a central ideal for neighboring communities. In his exposition on the scripture, New Testament scholar Raymond Brown explains that "first-century inns were notoriously immoral, unhygienic and expensive," and that, "Christian travelers had to know that they could count on a warm welcome at the home of a fellow believer." Through this expression of love through hospitality the boundaries of the Christian home were pushed beyond the horizon. What a beautiful picture to consider how through the recognition of fellow Christians as their brothers and sisters that a believer's home itself became a sanctuary for all followers of Christ!

Does that seem unattainable today? Does the world we live in today prohibit us from opening our doors to a stranger after no more than a greeting in the name of Christ?

This is a difficult challenge to the modern Christian, both individually and corporately. Often, we find ourselves afraid to step out faithfully in this way; expecting that such an act of radical hospitality and love would be met with those that seek to do us harm, which want to steal or destroy the resources that we offer up.

I am grateful to those of you that have already opened your homes to me. For those of you that continue to open your homes to each other. The spirit of *φιλαδελφία* is present among us and is continuing through us. But how is it leading us?

In this new season of ministry for us at St. John's I

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hope we may prayerfully consider how we can be a beacon of *φιλαδελφία* in our city. That we may consider how our common home can be a sanctuary to strangers, and how as a faithful family of the Body of Christ we can seek to find those brothers and sisters that have yet to step through our doors. For when we seek to find the face of Christ in all those around us – we may be quite surprised to find who comes and joins us for a meal at the table of the Lord.

Grace and Peace,

Fr. John Talbert



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

Ron Brown
Thelma Lomers

Howard Yeager
Thelma Lomers



As summer draws to a close, we invite you to mark your calendars for several upcoming events.

The first is an electric vehicle "show up" at the Gulf Coast Motor Show on September 3rd, 10 am to 5 pm at the Grounds, 1035 North Cody Rd. Admission is \$15. Come check out Tesla, Rivian, and Kia EVs! If you would like to be a part of Drive Electric Alabama and find out about future showcases, please visit <https://alabamacleanfuels.org/drive-electric-alabama/>. We will also try to organize future EV showcases that are free and not part of a larger auto show.

The second is Gulf Coast Creation Care's effort to engage our youth at LoDa Artwalk on September 9 in downtown Mobile for the 2022 Season of Creation. Please stop by our GCCC table from 6-9 pm in Cathedral Square

The third is an **Energy Efficiency Workshop** October 19-22 at All Saints Episcopal. Participants can sign up for one or more 3-hour sessions to receive instruction and hands-on training in how to save 10-30% on your home energy costs. For more information, visit <https://bit.ly/GCCCEnergyworkshop>.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS RESOURCES



As we head into hurricane season, now is the perfect time to review your church's emergency preparedness plan and procedures. It is critical to have updated contact information readily available for church leadership and to identify your church's most vulnerable population in the event of a local emergency situation - like extreme weather. . Equally important is to have checklist of how to secure your church facility and property or prepare for unexpected issues such fire, potential violence, active shooter. The diocese has curated a list of helpful resources, available at www.diocgc.org/emergency-response.

August Birthdays



Celebrating August birthdays at Saint John's : Eugene Johnston, Bootisie Cieutat, David Jones, David Rich, James Christiansen and Kathe Gieseler. (Photo by Irene Yeager)



MORE THAN ENOUGH

STEWARDSHIP OF LABOR

In September, we celebrate Labor Day and pay tribute to the contributions and achievements of America's workers. How does work fit into stewardship? Let's consider our relationship to work and how it reflects our love of God .

In her article *The Place of Work in Life*, Sr. Joan Chittister says, " Work is our gift to the future. It is our sign that God goes on working in the world through us." I love this idea that through work, God continues to need **us** to complete his work!

When we realize that we can use our work to show God's love to the world through our relationships at work, the decisions we make, and the effort we put into doing a good job, we transform our everyday labor into something blessed.

Mary Sheffield



Lectionary and Rota for September 2022				
Date	September 4	September 11	September 18	September 25
	MORNING PRAYER	MORNING PRAYER	HOLY EUCHARIST	MORNING PRAYER
Lectionary Day Lections: Color	Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost C Proper 18 RCL Green	Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost C Proper 19 RCL Green	Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost C Proper 20 RCL Green	Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost C Proper 21 RCL Green
Hosts	Connie & Bob Anderson	Melissa Brown	Connie McLean	Irene Yeager
Lectors/ Intercessor	Nikki Shaw David Thompson Br. Jacob Luke	Janet Buckley Geri Moulton Mary Sheffield	Nikki Shaw David Thompson Br. Jacob Luke	Geri Moulton Mary Sheffield Janet Buckley
Eucharistic Ministers			Connie McLean Mary Sheffield	
Altar Guild	Irene Yeager Br. Jacob Luke	Connie Anderson Bootsie Cieutat	Lee Dorsey Kristen Turner	Cindy Gass Martha Jones
Vestry Tellers	Eugene Johnston David Jones	James Christiansen Geri Moulton	Connie McLean Cindy Gass	Janet Buckley Nikki Shaw



Outreach

BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS!!

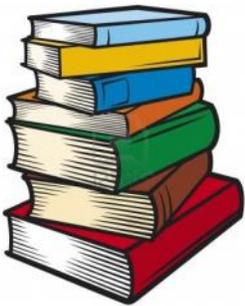
The St John's Outreach Committee is providing 1000 books to the Head Start children in Mobile and Washington counties. St John's members spent fellowship time putting stickers into the books. The stickers read: *"A gift from St. John's Episcopal Church with hopes you will become a lifetime learner."*

Head Start is a federally funded comprehensive school readiness program that serves low income three and four year old children. The purpose of the program is to get the children ready for kindergarten no matter how old they are. Being familiar with books; being read to; looking at the pictures and describing them and telling the story back to someone else are all school readiness skills children need to succeed in school. These books will help them on their school readiness journey because these books are given to the children to take home and keep.

The Outreach Committee says a big thank you to all the members who participated in unloading the books from the boxes, putting the St. John's stickers on the books and then replacing the books back in the boxes. Many willing hands made a big job fun and fast!

The books come from First Book the National Book Bank which receives the books from publishers and then distributes them to organizations that will provide them to low income children and their families. Although the Book Bank gets the books at no cost from the publishers, organizations have to pay shipping and handling to receive the books. St John's Outreach Committee budget paid for the books to get to Mobile to be distributed to the Head Start children.

-Janet Buckley



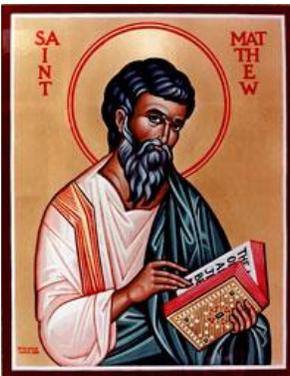


Episcopal Relief & Development has received a \$3 million grant from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation to grow the organization's *Moments That Matter*® early childhood development program partnership in Kenya and start up the program in the Nampula Province of Mozambique.

“We are extremely grateful for the continued partnership of the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation and its commitment to early childhood development and vulnerable children up to age 3, especially in our *Moments That Matter*® program,” said Geraldine Sicola, Director of Early Childhood Development, Episcopal Relief & Development. “This generous 32-month grant will support the program’s expansion into the Western Region of Kenya and formalize our new partnership in Mozambique.”

Since 2012, *Moments That Matter*® (MTM) has been mobilizing communities and empowering caregivers in Africa so that vulnerable children reach their full developmental potential. The program, which is Episcopal Relief & Development’s flagship integrated early childhood development partnership, is a community-led approach based on the Nurturing Care Framework.

Local partners such as Anglican Development Services-Nyanza (ADS-Nyanza) and the Anglican Diocese of Nampula equip volunteers, faith leaders and local stakeholders while empowering caregivers with parenting knowledge and skills, thereby helping children reach their cognitive, language, social, emotional and physical developmental milestones.



ST MATTHEW APOSTLE, FEAST DAY – SEPTEMBER 21

St Matthew the Apostle is also known as Levi. He was one of the twelve apostles of Jesus. Before being called by Jesus, he was a tax collector. He is the author of The Gospel of St Matthew. He preached the Gospel to the Jewish community in Judea and later went to other countries. We celebrate his feast day on September 21 every year in the Episcopal Church.

EPISCOPAL RELIEF & DEVELOPMENT HAS RECEIVED A \$3 MILLION GRANT FROM THE CONRAD N. HILTON FOUNDATION

In Kenya, this new grant will support and strengthen the capacity of existing MTM infrastructure while expanding into two new counties and supporting program evaluation. In Mozambique, this grant will support Episcopal Relief & Development’s onboarding of a new partner, the Anglican Diocese of Nampula, to launch the MTM Program in Monapo County.

“More vulnerable children will now receive care that supports their health and development,” said Priscilla Amuah, Senior Program Officer, Episcopal Relief & Development. “Children and their families are much better served when we work within the family unit ...”

In total, this two-country project will support close to 10,000 Primary Caregivers and over 11,800 children between the ages of 0 and 3. Learn more about Episcopal Relief & Development’s integrated early childhood development programs go to www.episcopalrelief.org.





Thomas Creel 09/02
 Mallory Stoker 09/06
 Martha Jones 09/06
 Jayson Chestang 09/08
 Barbara Meador 09/12
 Lavelle Ollhofs 09/19
 Jeremy Anderson 09/20
 Thelma Lomers 09/22
 Rhett Barbour 09/23
 Ashley Garris 09/26



Jan & Mark Joseph 09/02
 Regina & John Molyneux 09/02
 Jeanne & Eddy Velaski 09/08
 Erin & Chris Delaporte 09/12

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, hhBudd McLean, Mary Catherine Warren.

For our Family and Friends:

Mallory Tew, David Brunner, Mary Horner, Doug Turner, Darrell Thaxton, Bob Sheffield, Steve Wood, 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

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Janet Buckley

James Christiansen

Cindy Gass, *treasurer*

Eugene Johnston, *clerk*

David Jones

Connie McLean

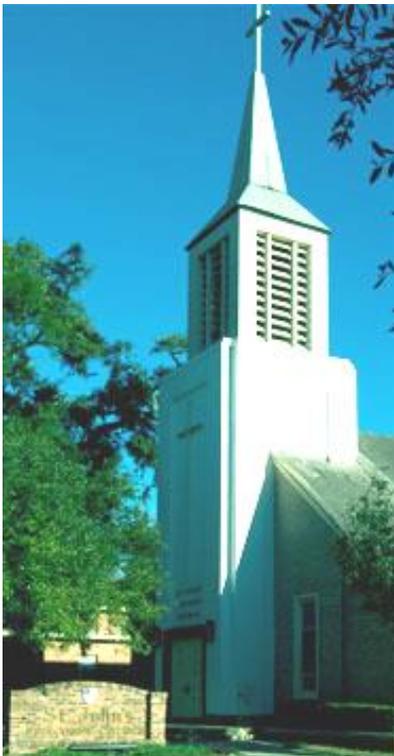
Geri Moulton

Nikki Shaw, *senior warden*

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Mobile, Alabama 36604

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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

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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.