



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
Reverend John Talbert— Priest-in-Charge

Vol. XXXV Issue 8

August 2025

RSV **Luke 10:40** But Martha was distracted with much serving; and she went to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me." (Lk. 10:40 RSV)

Martha's Plea

A few Sunday's ago, we considered the distractions that Martha suffered from that had kept her from being present with her guests instead of alone to her work.

Martha perceives Jesus's abstention addressing her absence as a lack of compassion, challenging rhetorically whether he "cared" (*μέλει*) about her or felt compelled in any way to respond to her suffering; that she had been left to do her work alone, possibly even work she was unable to finish by herself.

Martha's plea to Jesus that day was for her sister to "help me" (*συναντιλαμβάνομαι*). This kind of request is unique to this story (*plus once in Romans 8:26*) and implies not only that someone gives their attention to the work, but that they **grasp ahold of it with you**. Let it be burden be "**taken up together**" and become our work.

In the weeks since, I have considered how Martha's Plea is felt by many of our family and friends at St John's. Whether any of us identify as a "Martha" or not, there are tasks required for the basic keeping of our bed, our diet, and our spiritual and physical wellness. However, for a growing number of our community – it can be too difficult (or dangerous) for them to complete some tasks alone.

My hope... is that among us, "brothered" and "sistered" to them there may be a handful of folks (who may or may not identify as a "Mary") willing to **grasp ahold of the task with them**, offering their time to **take up their burdens** for a couple hours every once in a while, and experience the togetherness which is truly the better part.

These "helping relationships" are meant for simple responsibilities to be shared, creating more opportunities for us to co-operate with each other in neighborly ways.

I encourage you to pray about it. I hope you will reach out to me (frjohn@stjohnsmobile.org) if you feel you would benefit from providing help to others in ministry, or if you recognize that you are in need of help from others for simple errands.

Additionally, after services on August 10th I invite you to stay and discuss your thoughts on this kind of hospitality ministry. I will share what I've heard to that point and explore how we can live deeper into our sisterly and brotherly love.

Blessings,

Fr. John



Episcopal Relief & Development is partnering with the Diocese of West Texas to help those impacted by catastrophic flooding in early July.

Episcopal Relief & Development is partnering with the Episcopal Diocese of West Texas to provide spiritual, financial and logistical support in the aftermath of the catastrophic Texas Hill Country flooding event in early July. The response will focus on the Kerrville, Texas area.

The partnership between Episcopal Relief & Development and the Diocese of West Texas will include support for locally-led responses by ecumenical groups in Kerrville, including disaster relief coordination by [St. Peter's Episcopal Church and School](#). The Diocese will also be working with a trauma-informed children's mental health organization to help children and families process the impact of recent events.

"Kerrville is a small city where access to healthcare, especially mental health support, is limited," said Race Hodges, Program Officer at Episcopal Relief & Development. "Our response is designed to reach those most deeply impacted, including young people, people with limited resources, and individuals facing housing insecurity, to help ensure that recovery is equitable and compassionate."

Search and rescue teams are still searching for hundreds of people in Kerr County and beyond. The lasting impact of this disaster is unknown as events still unfold. Episcopal Relief & Development and the Diocese of West Texas remain in close contact and are monitoring emerging needs. Episcopal Relief & Development is also in touch with other faith and community-based partners throughout the impacted areas.

"We are grateful for all of the prayers, messages of support, and generous contributions we have received, and for the support offered by Episcopal Relief & Development. It is at such a time as this that the relationships we share are most valuable," said the Rt. Rev. Dr. David G. Read, D.D., Bishop of West Texas. "Jesus tells us the world will know we are his followers if we have love for one another. Let us reach out in love and continue big prayers for those who are hurting."

Please [pray](#) for the communities affected by the Texas Hill Country flash flooding event. Donations to the [Flood Response Fund](#) or send a check to Episcopal Relief & Development PO Box 5121 Boone, IA 50950 – 0121.

Update: St. John's Church Building Renovations and Repairs

Update: St. John's Church Building Renovations and Repairs

We are still anticipating and planning to be back in the church for All Saints Sunday. Coordinating the various contractors (the general contractor, stained glass window contractor, and the organ contractor) is the work of the Building Committee. Things are progressing!!

If you haven't "peeked" into the church to see how things are coming along; ask a member of the Building Committee for a guided tour.

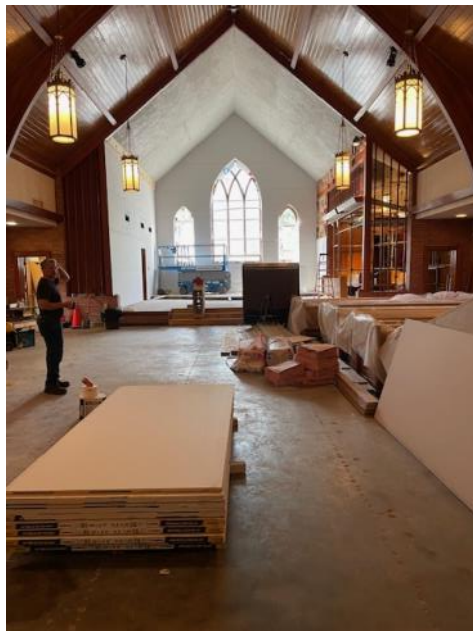
The ceiling in the nave is complete –the new wooden ceiling looks lovely. The walls in the sanctuary and altar area have been finished and painting is the next step –we chose "Ethereal White" as the color for all of the painted areas –the lighter color will really accentuate the altar and the windows.

The beautiful altar stained glass windows have been repaired and cleaned and new frames are being milled – when they are installed, they will look like new.

The floor, which is one of the very last things to be installed, will no longer be the brown and beige tiles we had previously but will be vinyl tile with a medium grey border around the walls of the church and a light grey under the pews. The darker color will come down the middle and stop at the steps.

There will be a slightly different configuration of the pews: removing two rows in the front will give us more space in front of the altar steps; wheelchair accessibility is going to be accommodated; there will be more space around the baptismal font which will be moved to the back of the nave (more about that next month).

St. John's Building Committee: Charlynn Will, Eddy Valaski, Janet Buckley, Gerri Moulton, Louis Daniel.



Ministries at St. Johns



Outreach is teaming up with the Clothes Line Ministry and planning an “Undie Sunday “ Please bring **new, packaged men’s underwear**—boxers, briefs, t-shirts— in all sizes and place in the collection boxes in the Great Hall by **August 17th**. The Outreach committee is happy to do your shopping for you if you are unable to get out to the store. Terry Goff, director of the ministry, says they are also in need of men’s casual clothing for distribution to their clients. Those donations can be brought to the church anytime and placed in the hallway by the stairs.



The Outreach Committee met on July 27th and discussed projects for August thru December of this year. Please mark your calendars with the following dates:

August 17th– Undie Sunday

September 21st— One Meal Bags

October (TBA) Books for Head Start if they are in

November– (dates TBA) Food boxes for families

December– Angel Tree - Gifts in by December 21st.



ToLC July recap: From June 30th to July 25th, ToLC had a total of 87 client sessions in 25 working days, with 16 sessions at no cost to the client and 58 at a reduced cost or no copay charged. That adds up to \$3581.23 given back to our community in July as an outreach of Saint John’s, the “Little Church that Could”! We keep going because, since the pandemic, reports of anxiety, depression, trauma responses, and fear have risen dramatically. Daily news is filled with war, disaster, and division, which leaves deep emotional and physical effects. In our corner of Mobile County, Tree of Life and Saint John’s are actively working to make our community better. “Preach the Gospel. If necessary, use words,” is attributed to Saint Francis of Assisi. We strive to do this every day! If you or anyone you know needs us, please don’t hesitate to call or text at (251)422-6592, or find more information at www.tree-of-life-counseling.org

| Lectionary and Rota for August 2025 | | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|--|---|
| Date | August 3 | August 10 | August 17 | August 24 | August 31 |
| | HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II | HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II | HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II | MORNING PRAYER RITE II | HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II |
| Lectionary Day Color | Eighth Sunday After Pentecost Proper 13 Green | Ninth Sunday After Pentecost Proper 14 Green | Tenth Sunday After Pentecost Proper 15 Green | Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost Proper 16 Green | Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost Proper 17 Green |
| Officiant | Fr. John Talbert | Fr. John Talbert | Fr. John Talbert | Eugene Johnston | Fr. John Talbert |
| Lectors/ Intercessor | Leslie Talbert Janet Buckley Jan Joseph | Br. Jacob Luke Nikki Shaw Geri Moulton | Kathe Gieseler Paula Ross Eugene Johnston | Helen Guthrie Leslie Talbert Janet Buckley | Jan Joseph Br. Jacob Luke Nikki Shaw |
| Eucharistic Ministers | Lee Dorsey Br. Jacob Luke | Connie McLean Mary Sheffield | Lee Dorsey Br. Jacob Luke | | Connie McLean Mary Sheffield |
| Altar Guild | Irene Yeager Br. Jacob Luke | Connie Anderson Bootsie Cieutat | Lee Dorsey Kristen Turner | Cindy Gass | Irene Yeager Br. Jacob Luke |
| Vestry Tell- ers | Kathe Gieseler Connie McLean | Mary Sheffield Eddy Velaski | Charlynn Will Connie Anderson | Bootsie Cieutat Kathe Gieseler | Connie McLean Mary Sheffield |

Wednesday August 6– Transfiguration Service at Noon

Transfiguration of Our Lord Jesus Christ

This feast celebrates Jesus' radical change of appearance while in the presence of Peter, James, and John, on a high mountain (Mt 17:1-8; Mk 9:2-8; Lk 9:28-36). The Gospel of Matthew records that "he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his garments became white as light." At this moment Moses and Elijah appeared, and they were talking with Jesus. Peter, misunderstanding the meaning of this manifestation, offered to "make three booths" for Jesus, Moses, and Elijah. A bright cloud overshadowed them and a voice from the cloud stated, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." The disciples fell on their faces in awe, but Jesus encouraged them to arise and "have no fear." The Transfiguration revealed Christ's glory prior to the crucifixion, and it anticipated his resurrection and ascension. It may have given strength and comfort to his disciples in the difficult times that followed. It also prefigures the glorification of human nature in Christ.



| | |
|-----------------|-------|
| Andrew Lee | 08/03 |
| Kat Velaski | 08/03 |
| Kathe Gieseler | 08/07 |
| Hugh Tomlin | 08/19 |
| Eugene Johnston | 08/ |
| 21 | |
| Bootsie Cieutat | 08/26 |
| David Rich | 08/27 |
| Marion Wallace | 08/27 |
| David Jones | 08/29 |



Thelma Lomars

St. John's ECW

Marie Brown

Steven Garner

Connie Anderson

Connie McLean

Nikki Shaw



Bob & Charlynn Will



Paula Ross phone #
251-490-6988

July Birthdays



Celebrating July birthdays with Tina Cieutat and Carolyn Pearce.



For healing grace and continued strength, we pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ:

Bootsie Cieutat, Eddy Velaski, Julie Garner, Pat Fulford, Marie Brown, Emily Johnston, Neva Bache, David Rich, Bob Anderson, Helen Guthrie, Mike Barbour, Ashley Garris, Carolyn Pearce, Audrey Garner, Jayson Chestang, Mary Catherine Warren

For our Family and Friends:

Calvert Johnson, William Cutts, Bob Will, Scott Lenoir (priest) Harriet Lenoir, Brenda Goosby, Larry De Bert, Anne Redd, Donnie Chestang, Louis Bell, Lester Taylor, Emily Brown, Dennis Clardy, Sarah Guthrie Morris Levy, Joey Adams, Judy Lynch, John Knight, Adam Strong, David Hamilton, Sheila Cassity Granger, Barbara Bonner, David Brunner, Mary Horner, Susan Hansen, Karl Gieseler, Randy Dunn, Sharon Lee Nolan, Peggy Sheffield, 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, Paul Nelson.

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

Nicholas Boykin, Marcus Rich, Ross Hussmann, Ellis Garner, Bryant Andrews



Contact Us

Staff:

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Dr. Nikki Shaw
Office Volunteer
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Vestry:

Connie Anderson

Bootsie Cieutat

Cindy Gass, *treasurer*

Kathe Gieseler *clerk*

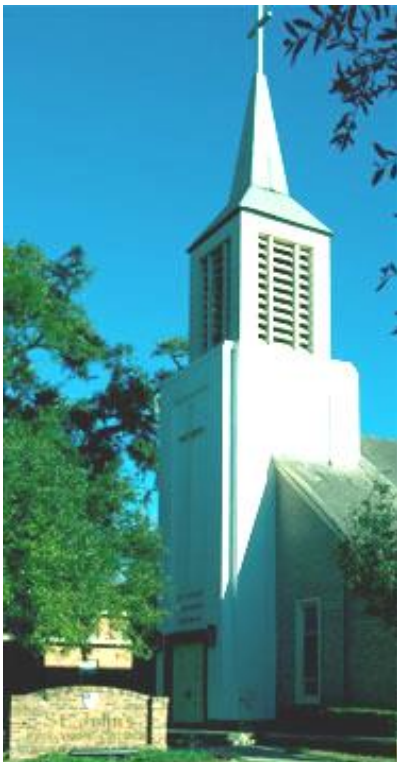
Connie McLean

Mary Sheffield

Eddy Velaski, *Junior Warden*

Charlynn Will, *Senior Warden*

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



Come Worship With Us!

Sunday:

8:45 AM 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.