



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— Rector

Vol. XXXV Issue 11

November 2025

Hello St. John's Family,

Thank you to everyone who came and participated in the Parish Meeting this past Sunday. We had a lot of great information to share about the ongoing ministries at St. John's. It has been a blessing to me serving as your parish priest for the past 3 years. I love our family here at St. John's and am honored to be your Rector.

If you didn't make it to the meeting and would like to review any of the information that was shared, you can find a copy of the reports on our website with the 4th Epistle.

A few important highlights:

Attendance year over year is up! We have welcomed around 3-4 new members over the past few years. Thank you for continuing to invite your family and friends to church!

The Church Budget for 2026 is projected to be around \$250,000. In the past 12 months we had expenses of \$244,893 and income of \$238,105. Each and every pledge makes an impact on our financial health. Pledge cards will be in the mail this coming week, please prayerfully consider how you will support the ministries of St. John's in the coming year and return them to the church by **December 7th**.

The ECW, Altar Guild, and Choir all enhance our fellowship and worship throughout the year they welcome new members and would love to have your help!

Outreach Sundays continue on the third Sundays of every month. A list of items being collected for our November Food Drive can be found further in the newsletter.

Thank you Charlynn Will for your faithful service to the church as our Senior Warden!

Thank you Eddy Velaski for helping us stay on top of our church grounds and repairs!

We will have a Christmas Pageant as a part of our Christmas Eve service this year, joyful participants of all ages are welcome to sign up on the bulletin board!

Lastly, during the meeting we elected two new members to the vestry and two delegates to convention. Congratulations to **Janet Buckley** and **Hugh Tomlin** on their election as our vestry class of 2028. Thank you to **Eugene Johnston** and **Jeannie Velaski** for their upcoming services as our 2026 delegates to the 55th Convention of the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast to be held in Gulf Breeze, FL February 26th-28th.

I look forward to discovering the joy and wonder that is in store for us in the coming year.

Thank you for your continued support of the life and ministries of St John's Mobile!

In faithful service,

Rev. John Talbert, Rector



Call to Order: The St. John's Vestry meeting on October 17, 2025, was called to order at 11:14 am.

Adoption of Agenda: The agenda was reviewed and a motion was made and seconded to accept the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

Request for Excuse: Cindy Gass.

Opening Prayer: Fr. John Talbert led the Vestry in the opening prayer.

Presentation and Review of Minutes: Motion made to approve previous minutes as written. Motion passed unanimously.

Financial Report : Financial Secretary Update: All Regions bank accounts have been reconciled and adjusting entries made to the General Ledger to reflect correct balances. Script bank account is inactive and will no longer be used. Motion to close Script bank account and move the remaining balance to the Operating bank account was made and seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Senior Warden's Report: Update Construction Committee

Organ: Portions physically back in; however, additional damage estimated at \$17,000.00 came to light during reinstallation. Thomas Construction to file on their insurance? CPG will not file claim due to damage occurring during construction.

Windows themselves are ready; however, frames have been cut but not milled. Willett hopes to have frames completed and windows installed by Thanksgiving. Check for possible discount due to delay on their

Sewer Line. Repairs have been completed for \$2,500.00.

Lighting and Sound. Need to get Bob Sheffield to come in and reinstall and position lighting. Perhaps he can suggest someone for sound system work.

Services resume in Church. Original date of 11/2/25 moved back to hopefully 12/6/25 or Christmas

Junior Warden's Report: Water Heater Replacement. New water heater has been installed by Brim for \$1,200.00, and we have hot water.

Ministry Reports

Outreach/ECW

Thanksgiving Boxes. Food donations to augment meals for children home during the week of Thanksgiving to be completed by 11/16/25.

Angel Tree. Wrapped gifts for Angel Tree recipients due by 12/21/25.

Murray House. Gifts of soaps, Kleenex, etc. requested by ECW for Murray House residents.

6.e. **Priest's Report:** i. Fr. John will be off on 10/12/25.

7. Old Business:

New billing and payment system live. Payments will be used to download all diocesan clergy pension and insurance invoices and to pay same invoices online. CPG will no longer send out invoices or accept check b. payments.

Loan Payment Update. Fr. John spoke to John Griffin who is in favor of forgiving interest on roof loan. Will bring request to Standing Committee.

8. New Business:

Online payments for recurring bills: Financial Secretary proposed cease issuing checks to Vendors to pay monthly bills and make all future payments online, or as many as possible. Brief discussion on proposal. Proposal amended to allow online payments up to \$2,000.00 using debit card. Any payment more than \$2,000.00 must be approved by Warden of Church. Motion made and seconded. Passed unanimously.

Safe for Altar Guild: Altar guild requests a larger safe be purchased to secure communion vessels. Check with Lee Dorsey or Cindy Gass for size and get quote from Liberty Safe.

Facilities Use:

Need to establish clear guidelines and fees for use of Church and Parish Hall for 2026 brought to attention of Vestry. Fr. John to make enquiries to other churches in our area for reasonable fees.

Closing Prayer (read in unison).

Meeting adjourned.



An Investment in Rural Women is an Investment in Long-Term Resilience

Women play a vital role in agriculture globally. In communities supported by Episcopal Relief & Development, women work alongside men in the fields, maintain home gardens, and raise livestock, contributing significantly to household income and community development. In Angola, women like Laura represent over 60% of the agricultural workforce.

Farmers in the region face significant climate-related challenges, including unpredictable weather, droughts, and flooding. Women farmers encounter additional barriers such as limited access to financial resources, land, livestock, and climate-adaptive farming information.

Through collaboration with the Anglican Church of Angola and the Diocese of Cristo Rei, Episcopal Relief & Development provides resources and training to help rural farmers build climate and economic resilience. In 2023 and 2024, women comprised more than 61% of program participants.

Arminda, a resident of Sassa, was among the first to participate in livestock breeding training. She expressed satisfaction with the program, noting her success in raising and breeding pigs. With the income from animal husbandry, she can meet her family's needs and invest in further entrepreneurial activities.

“As part of the program, I received a couple of pigs,” Arminda said. “I’ve been taking good care of them according to the training and coaching from the group supervisor. My animals have reproduced and I already have 6 piglets. That’s a total of 8 animals under my control.” With the money she earns from the new animal breeding venture, she can purchase necessities like food, clothes and school supplies for her children with some remaining to reinvest in growing her entrepreneurial venture.

“The earnings will help me acquire seeds for the gardening that I also carry out,” she explained. “In the future, I plan on being a supplier of animals to meat sellers.”

Community-led Savings with Education groups enable participants to contribute to a loan fund, repay loans with minimal interest, and share profits. Inspired by the program’s focus on community, she exceeded expectations by returning piglets to her group and donating livestock to neighboring communities, fostering broader impact and support.

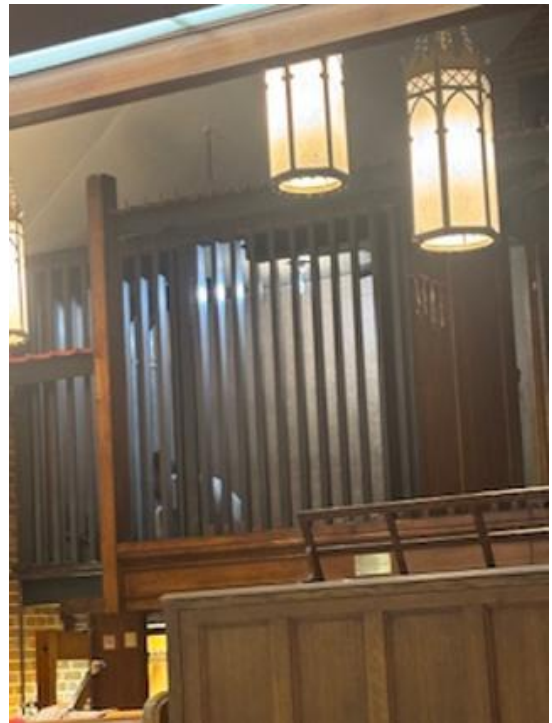
Episcopal Relief & Development and its partners are committed to empowering rural women as leaders and agents of change within their communities and beyond.

To support these and other Episcopal Relief & Development programs send a check to Episcopal Relief & Development PO Box 5121 Boone, IA 50950 – 0121 or [donate on-line](#).

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

We are rapidly approaching the conclusion of the renovation of the church! It has been a very productive year and we have accomplished so much! The committee recommended to Fr. John we wait to move back to the church. We want to have a grand reopening with everything complete.

We are moving items back into the sacristy and parlor. Please come out on Tuesdays to help walk items from storage back to their home in the church.



Ministries at St. Johns



Members of St. John's came together on October 19th after worship to "sticker" books for children in the Head Start/ Early Head Start Centers. Over 900 books were stickered! As always, many hands make light work. Thanks to all who participated.



Food Drive: Thanksgiving Food Boxes for Families in Need

This fall's food drive will have a specific goal: we are going to **fill thirteen boxes with non-perishable food** and have them delivered to thirteen families who are in need.

The Outreach Committee will be providing sandwich "making" sandwich bread, lunch meat cheese and fresh fruit to go in each box. The families have been chosen by Mobile Community Action, a social services agency that serves low income clients. All of the families have young children; many are grandparents raising their grandchildren. One box will go to a family at each of the thirteen Head Start/Early Head Start Centers in Mobile and Washington counties. The MCA social workers will be picking up and delivering the boxes to the families on Wednesday, November 19th. We want to have **the boxes filled by Sunday, November 16th**. You can start bringing your contributions to the church any time in the next weeks. If you don't have time to shop or are not able to go to a grocery store: members of the Outreach Committee will shop for you. Please send a check into the church office, make the check out to Saint John's but put "Food boxes" in the information line or put cash in an envelope into the collection plate marked "Food Boxes".

We're not providing a Thanksgiving meal but providing a box of food that will help them out for the week their children will be home for Thanksgiving holiday. Take this shopping list to remind you what we want to provide in each box. **(Con't on next page)**

Thank You ! Outreach Committee

Shopping list for food boxes:

pudding cups
 fruit or applesauce cups
 grits
 cereal
 peanut butter
 jelly
 canned tuna
 Ramen noodle cups
 dry cereal
 canned peaches
 dried beans
 rice
 macaroni and cheese (cups)
 granola bars
 Snack cakes
 Pop Tarts



December Outreach: We will once again sponsor an Angel Tree for Ashland Place Health and Rehabilitation Center residents this year. The “angels” will be on the tree the first Sunday of Advent which is **November 30**.



ToLC October recap: From September 26th to October 24th, ToLC had a total of 101 client sessions in 21 working days, with 11 sessions at no cost to the client and 56 sessions at a reduced cost or no copay charged. 67 therapy sessions for individuals, some in crisis, who would not have otherwise been able to receive treatment. That also adds up to \$2966.94 given back to our community in October as an outreach of Saint John’s, The Little Church That Could! The holidays are fast approaching, a time of joy for some, but also a difficult time for others. We are always here if you need us, call us (or text) at (251)422-6592 or find more information at www.tree-of-life-counseling.org. Thanksgiving thought: “To be grateful is to recognize the love of God in everything.” - Thomas Merton



The Clothesline Ministry serves an average of 20 people every Tuesday and so in 2025 has welcomed approximately 765 guests who come from all walks of life.

The gifts of clothing come mostly from local Episcopal Churches and friends of volunteers. Many churches in our Diocese also organize an “Undie Sunday” collecting new undergarments to support the ministry.

The Clothesline Ministry is open every Tuesday from 10—2 and volunteers are always welcome!



Becky Tomlin	11/01
Courtney Sullivan	11/07
Louis Daniel	11/09
Cindy Gass	11/11
Jennifer O'Rourke	11/19
Caitlin Bryan	11/22
Nikki Shaw	11/22
Kim Partsch	11/30
Jacob Taylor	11/30

October Birthdays



Celebrating October birthdays with—Charlynn Will and Bob Anderson



Eugene & Emily Johnston 11/05



For Tom Hammitte

From Paula Ross



November 23



If I have missed a birthday , anniversary, prayer list update or change of address, please email me!

Maryroseshef@yahoo.com



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 and Frances Barbour, Ashley Garris, Carolyn Pearce, Audrey Garris, Jayson Chestang, and Mary Catherine Warren

For our Family and Friends: Jeff Bishop, Colin Guthrie, Alilee Pilmen, Sheila Velaski, Andy Williams, Nadine **Evans**, Calvert Johnson, 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, Angie Leon, 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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Vestry:

Connie Anderson

Cindy Gass, *treasurer*

Kathe Gieseler *clerk*

Helen Guthrie

Connie McLean

Mary Sheffield

Eddy Velaski, *junior warden*

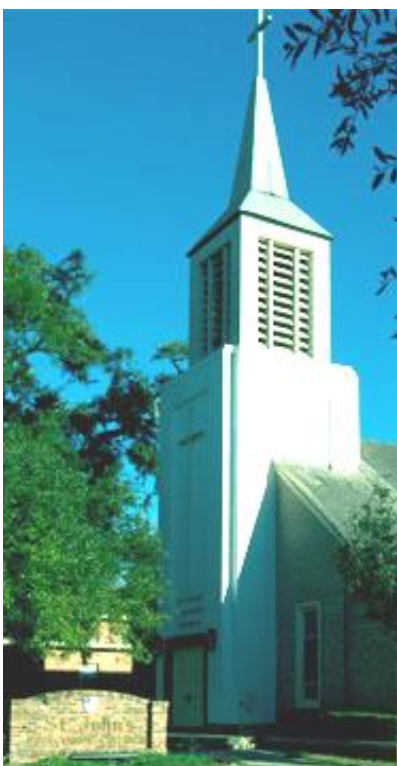
Charlynn Will, *senior warden*

Lectionary and Rota for November 2025

Date	November 2	November 9	November 16	November 24	November 31
	HOLY EUCCHARIST RITE II	HOLY EUCCHARIST RITE II	HOLY COMMUNION	HOLY EUCCHARIST RITE II	HOLY EUCCHARIST RITE II
Lectionary Day Color	All Saints Sunday Proper 26 Red	Twenty-second Sun- day After Pentecost Proper 27 Green	Twenty-third Sunday After Pentecost Proper 28 Green	Twenty-fourth Sunday After Pentecost Proper 29 Green	Twenty-fifth Sunday After Pentecost Proper 30 Green
Officiant	Fr. John Talbert	Fr. John Talbert	Nikki Shaw	Fr. John Talbert	Fr. John Talbert
Lectors/ Intercessor	Helen Guthrie Janet Buckley Jan Joseph	Leslie Talbert Nikki Shaw Geri Moulton	Kathe Gieseler Paula Ross Helen Guthrie	Janet Buckley Jan Joseph Leslie Talbert	Nikki Shaw Geri Moulton Kathe Gieseler
Eucharistic Ministers	Connie McLean Mary Sheffield	Lee Dorsey Kathe Gieseler	Lee Dorsey	Connie McLean Mary Sheffield	Lee Dorsey Kathe Gieseler
Altar Guild	Connie Anderson Bootsie Cieutat	Lee Dorsey Kristen Turner	Cindy Gass	Irene Yeager	Connie Ander- son Bootsie Cieutat
Vestry Tellers	Connie Anderson Bootsie Cieutat	Kathe Gieseler Con- nie McLean	Mary Sheffield Eddy Velaski	Charlynn Will Connie Anderson	Bootsie Cieutat Kathe Gieseler



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.