



# 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. XXXVIII, Issue 5

May 2026



The **GLORIA DEI CHORALE** shared an incredible evening of music in the Nave on Friday, May 1st. This was the first concert held in the church since the hardwood ceiling, tile chancel, and new floors were installed. The acoustics in the room were fantastic! We look forward to hosting more musical events in the coming years! St. John's surely has one of the finest performance halls in the city!





## From Subsistence to Entrepreneurship in Angola

“The savings and loan system has changed our lives,” Elsa said.

In 2023, Elsa, a mother of seven, took a loan from her community’s Savings with Education group. With moral support from her husband, Elsa used the loan—the equivalent of \$220 USD—to start an artisanal bakery in her village.

“Before this,” she explained, “we relied on subsistence farming which brought in very little income. Now, both my husband and I dedicate ourselves to the bakery.”

It wasn’t easy to shift from farming to running a full-time business, but the impact has been transformative.

Subsistence farmers like Elsa grow food primarily for the family table. Whatever surplus remains can be sold, but the income this generates often isn’t reliable or sufficient. Elsa reports that her monthly income from baking, even during slow periods, frequently triples what she earned as a farmer.

This steady income enables the family to pay rent and cover daily expenses. Perhaps most important to Elsa, the bakery has proven to be an investment in the future of her children.

“Without that initial loan,” she reflected, “we wouldn’t have what we have today, and we couldn’t have afforded our children’s education.” Proudly, Elsa explained that her youngest four children are thriving in secondary school, while her eldest three—two sons and a daughter—are attending university.

“Invest in entrepreneurship,” Elsa said. “It’s a path to self-employment that can uplift many families, just as it has uplifted mine.”

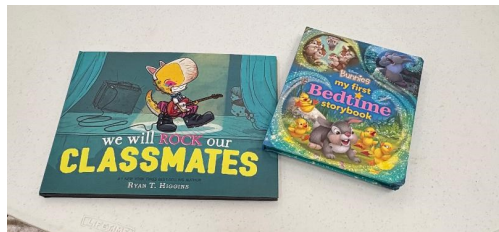
Honor the dignity of women and girls by reducing violence, fostering economic stability and enabling leadership by supporting Episcopal Relief & Development’s [Work with Women and Girls](#) or send a check to Episcopal Relief & Development PO Box 5121 Boone, IA 50950 – 0121.



# Ministries at St. John's

## Outreach

Members of St. John's gathered in the Great Hall on April to "sticker" books for children in the Head Start program in Mobile. Each child will receive a book to take home with them and enjoy. It was a great team effort to get all of the books done and when finished, over 800 books were ready to be distributed. Thanks to all who took the time to participate in this ministry!



# Ministries at St. John's



May is time for pretty flowers, unfortunately also time for love bugs and termite swarms! Ah, Mother Nature... ToLC April recap: From March 30th to April 30th, Tree of Life Counseling had a total of 144 client sessions (6 clients a day on average), with 28 sessions at no cost to the client and 88 sessions at a reduced cost or no copay charged. That adds up to 81% of clients for the month of April continued receiving mental health care regardless of their ability to pay. Thank you again for allowing us to be an outreach to our community on behalf of Saint John's. We could not do this work without your support. If you need us, we are just a call or text away @ (251)422-6592. Or, you can find more information about everything we do at [www.tree-of-life-counseling.org](http://www.tree-of-life-counseling.org).



## Undie Sunday" May 31, 2026 Men's Boxers and Socks



St. John's Outreach Committee will be "celebrating" **Undie Sunday** on June 21, 2026. We need your participation! No, you don't have to come to church in your undies!! the Outreach Committee will be collecting men's boxer shorts and men's socks for the Clothesline Ministry.

Clothesline Ministry is in need of **boxer shorts for men (sizes medium and large) and men's socks**. Both items need to be in the original packaging. Clothesline volunteers will repackage the items into individual packs.

We will have a large box in the Great Hall for your donations. You can bring the packages any time. Our goal is to fill it to overflowing!!

Don't like to shop? or not sure of what to purchase? the Outreach Committee is providing "shopping service"; just send a check to the office (don't forget to note "Underwear" or "Undie Sunday" on the check) and an Outreach Committee member will do your shopping for you.



On Sunday, April 26th, Father John baptized Cooper and Madeline Stoker. They are the Great-grand children of Mary and David Jones.



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## Elsewhere in the Diocese

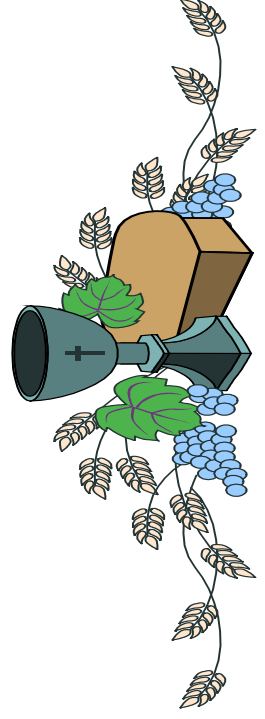
**A WALK THROUGH THE SEVEN DAYS OF CREATION**  
*with The Rev. Bob Donnell*  
**Saturday, May 16**  
**10:00 AM**  
**Mobile Japanese Garden**  
**700 Forest Hill Drive**  
**Mobile, AL**

**GULF COAST**  
Creation Care  
A faith-based climate action alliance

The poster features a scenic background of a pond surrounded by lush green trees and a wooden bridge. The text is overlaid on the image in white and green. The Gulf Coast Creation Care logo is in the bottom left corner.

## Lectionary and Rota for May 2026

Date	May 3	May 10	May 17	May 24	May 31
	HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II	HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II	HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II	HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II	HOLY COMMUNION
Lectionary Day	Fifth Sunday Of Easter	Sixth Sunday Of Easter	Seventh Sunday Of Easter	Pentecost	First Sunday After Pentecost
Color	White	White	White	Red	White
Officiant	Fr. John Talbert	Fr. John Talbert	Fr. John Talbert	Fr. John Talbert	Dr. Nikki Shaw
Lectors/ Intercessor	Nikki Shaw Geri Moulton Kathe Gieseler	Paula Ross Helen Guthrie Janet Buckley	Jan Joseph Leslie Talbert Br. Jacob Luke	Leslie Talbert Nikki Shaw Geri Moulton	Kathe Gieseler Paula Ross Helen Guthrie
Eucharistic Ministers	Mary Sheffield Lee Dorsey Br. Jacob Luke	Eugene Johnston Kathe Gieseler Connie McLean	Mary Sheffield Lee Dorsey Br. Jacob Luke	Eugene Johnston Kathe Gieseler Connie McLean	Lee Dorsey
Altar Guild	Cindy Gass	Irene Yeager Br. Jacob Luke	Connie Anderson Bootsie Cieutat	Lee Dorsey Kristen Turner	Cindy Gass
Vestry Tellers	Janet Buckley Kathe Gieseler	Helen Guthrie Connie McLean	Hugh Tomlin Eddy Velaski	Janet Buckley Kathe Gieseler	Helen Guthrie Connie McLean





Celebrating April birthdays with Jane Sawyer

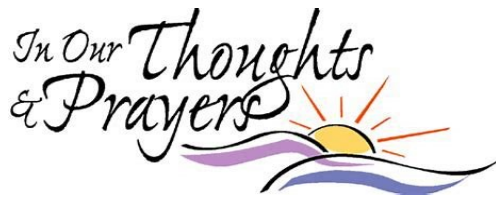


Tony Seymour	5/03
Collin Velaski	5/07
Cookie Rich	5/09
Mike Barbour	5/11
Paula Ross	5/15
Claire Cameron	5/18
Jeanne Velaski	5/18
Igatherine Taylor	5/23
Pat Fulford	5/29



Lester and Igatherine Taylor

May !8



**For healing grace and continued strength, we pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ:** Geri Moulton, Cookie & David Rich, Bootsie Cieutat, Eddy Velaski, Julie Garner, Pat Fulford, Marie Brown, Bob Anderson, Helen Guthrie, Mike and Frances Barbour, Carolyn Pearce, Ashley Garris, Jayson Chestang, Mary Catherine Warren

**For our Family and Friends:** David Bryars, Todd McGill, Chris Velaski, Stee and Janice Garner, Frank Brown, JoAnn McPhearson, Cokin Guthrie, Alilee Pillman, Sheila Velaski, Andy Williams, Nadine Evans, Brenda Goolsby, Larry DeBert, Louis Bell, 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, Nancy Payne, Donna Pigg Betty Williams, Latcia Cushion Knight, Bonnie Jernigan, Britney Butler, Neal Tourne, Sandy Michel, Paul Nelson, Frances LeBlanc (*priest*)

Our sisters and brothers serving in the Armed Forces:  
Nicholas Boykin, Ryan Hurt, Marcus Rich, Ross Hussmann, Ellis Garner, Bryan Andrews and Austin and Beka Denigan

## Contact Us

### Staff:

Fr. John Talbert  
Rector  
205-354-3699  
Louis Daniel  
Organist & Choir Director  
music@stjohnsmobile.org  
Kathe Gieseler  
Financial Secretary  
finance@stjohnsmobile.org  
Dr. Nikki Shaw  
Office volunteer  
office@stjohnsmobile.org

### Vestry:

Janet Buckley ( clerk)  
  
Cindy Gass ( treasurer)  
  
Kathe Gieseler  
  
Helen Guthrie  
  
Connie McLean ( Senior Warden)  
  
Hugh Tomlin ( Junior Warden)  
  
Eddie Velaski

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



**Come Worship With Us!**

Sunday:  
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](mailto:office@stjohnsmobile.org)  
[www.stjohnsmobile.org](http://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.