



# 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. XXXIV, Issue 6

June 2026

## *Canterbury Tales*

Janet Buckley, Mary Sheffield, Eugene Johnston

Janet:

**We were pilgrims;** if one can call an Uber and a train ride a pilgrimage...we went to Canterbury to see the Cathedral: The oldest cathedral in England; the “mother church” of the Anglican Communion; the seat of the archbishop of Canterbury.

It was awe inspiring.

It's old: centuries old. The guide spoke of the “new” section of the cathedral as being built in the 14<sup>th</sup> century! People have been worshipping in that space for centuries.

The Great West Window has stained glass that dates back to 1130. The stain glass windows were taken down and stored during World War II –Canterbury was significantly bombed but the Cathedral survived in part because of volunteers who climbed up on the roofs to put out the fires from the incendiary bombs.

There were a lot of people in the Cathedral the day we were there: clergy, visitors, tourist groups, school groups but it was surprisingly quiet - the grandeur and wonder of a place that has stood as a symbol of faith for so long made us all into pilgrims.



Mary:

**Lift your eyes to the heavens!** The soaring arches and the height of the ceilings draw your eyes upward! Everywhere you look there are beautiful stained glass windows, small side chapels and intricate carvings



The old and the new: along side the ancient parts of the cathedral such as the intricately carved pulpit, you see modern touches like the very modern lectern that is adjacent to it.



One very interesting sculpture is “Transport” by the artist Antony Gormley that is suspended from the ceiling in the Eastern Crypt. It is a life-sized, hollow human figure made entirely from 210 antique iron nails that were salvaged from the medieval lead roof of the cathedral during a restoration project. Natural air currents cause it to rotate very slightly.



### **Eugene:**

In March, I had the privilege of attending the Installation of the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury, Sarah Mullally, the first woman to hold the position. The service held in Canterbury Cathedral brought together church leaders from around the world, members of the Royal Family including William and Kate, the Prince and Princess of Wales, as well as politicians, clergy, laypeople, and members of the public. Around 2,000 people attended the event, and many watched online.

Many traditions in the ceremony have been part of the Archbishop’s Installation for centuries, full of symbolism and meaning for Anglicans. To showcase the church’s diversity and its presence in 165 countries, the new installation included a prayer sung in Urdu, another in Bemba from Zambia, the Gospel read in Spanish, and hymns performed by the African Choir of Norfolk.





**Call to Order:** The St. John's Vestry meeting was called to order at 11:36 AM on May 3, 2026  
**Adoption of Agenda:** A motion was made by Kathe Gieseler and seconded by Helen Guthrie to accept the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

**Request for Excuse:** All Vestry members were in attendance. Additional individuals in attendance: Louis Daniel, Cindy Gass (Treasurer), Br. Jacob Luke Taylor

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

**Presentation and Review of Minutes:** Minutes from the March 15, 2025 regular meeting and the specially called meeting on April 12<sup>th</sup> were presented. A motion was made by Connie McLean and seconded by Kathe Giesler to accept the minutes. The motion passed.

### Reports

**Vestry Treasurer, Cindy Gass** presented the combined Financial Report for March and April. Income from plate and pledge was \$41,291. We had projected \$25,11. This reflects surplus of \$16,180 over the budget projected amount. We currently have \$84,064 in the St. Johns checking account. The financial team is still reconciling the change in accounts and the change in accounting software. A more detailed report will be presented when all of the finance changes are completed. A motion was made by Hugh Thomlin and seconded by Janet Buckley to accept the financial report. The motion passed.

**Senior Warden's Report:** No report

**Junior Warden's Report:** No report

### Ministry Reports

**ECW:** ECW no report.

**Outreach:** May's Outreach project will be collecting men's underwear and socks for the Clothesline. Intake will be on "Undie Sunday" May, 31, 2026.

**Priest's Report:** Fr. Talbert reported:

Fr. Talbert will not be here on May 31<sup>st</sup>, and June 14<sup>th</sup>;

Bishop Kendrick is scheduled to be here on June 14<sup>th</sup> but Fr. Talbert is going to see if that can be changed.

Jacob thanked the Vestry for the contribution to his seminary expenses. He spoke about his appreciation for the support and encouragement he has received from the St. John's family.

### Old Business:

**Plaques and Memorials:** The plaque Geri Moulton had made to dedicate the church ceiling in memory of Gordon Moulton will be mounted.

**Lights for the Parking Lot:** still in process

**Historical Committee:** Fr. Talbert will put a committee together to work on this.

**St. John's "Helper Project/mission:** Fr. Talbert will work on this.

**Sound System:** The upgrading and replacing of the church sound system is still in progress.

**Safeguarding Training:** Fr. Talbert reminded Vestry members that this needs to be completed, Nikki will notify those Vestry members who need to complete this.

### New Business

**Wasps in the steeple:** Cooks Pest Control has been contacted to come for an estimate

**Future Vestry Meeting:** June 7, 2026

### Adjourn and Closing Prayer

Fr Talbert led the Vestry in the closing prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15PM. Motion by Hugh Tomlin and seconded by Kathe Gieseler.



## Moments That Matter® in Zambia

Moments That Matter® (MTM) is an integrated early childhood development program led by Episcopal Relief & Development in partnership with local implementing organizations. It focuses on the crucial first three years of life, strengthening caregiver-child relationships and supporting children’s cognitive, language, motor, social, and emotional development while promoting healthy parenting and family well-being.

### MTM in Zambia

MTM is grounded in the Nurturing Care Framework, which identifies five interconnected areas that are essential for healthy brain development. In Zambia, investment in early childhood development (ECD) is widely recognized as a foundation for building an educated, healthy, and productive population and for helping every child reach their full potential.

Since 2012, the Zambia Anglican Council Outreach Programmes (ZACOP), a local MTM implementing partner, has delivered the program across five dioceses. Its reach includes:

- 173 communities

- 25,085 caregivers

- 43,975 children ages 0–5

In 2024, an external evaluation in Luapula and Central Provinces examined MTM’s impact and effectiveness and assessed whether the program could be shortened from 24 months (48 sessions) to 18 months (36 sessions). The study compared results from the 24-month model using 2021 data with findings from the 18-month model using 2024 data. It focused on parenting practices among primary caregivers and fathers, including child stimulation, discipline, and knowledge of child safety and protection, as well as ECD promoters’ understanding of parenting and child protection. The evaluation also explored the benefits of participating in a Savings & Loan (S&L) group, where members can save money, access microloans, and build financial management skills.

To support programs that fund early childhood development programs go to [Donate to Early Childhood Development](#) or send check to Episcopal Relief & Development PO Box 5121 Boone, IA 50950 – 0121.



# Ministries at St. John's



From Lee: On June 1, 1986, I graduated from the University of South Alabama with a Masters of Science degree in Rehabilitation Counseling. So, on June 1, 2026, I have been a practicing mental health professional for 40 years! In the last 10 years, anxiety and depression have been at the highest level and intensity I've seen, despite advances in medication and increased use of therapy. Community views of those with mental illnesses can still be very negative, even with these advances.

Because of the generosity of Saint John's parish, Tree of Life Counseling has been providing mental health care in our community for the past five years, doing our best to love our neighbors as ourselves. During the month of May, 63% of the 115 sessions conducted were done at a reduced cost or no copay charged, and 15% were completely free. We are privileged to work with individuals who otherwise would not have been able to afford our services.

Thank you for the opportunity to represent Saint John's in our community as part of the church's outreach, and we appreciate your prayers and support as we continue this work. Please also continue to pray for those who struggle with mental illness. If you know anyone who needs 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).

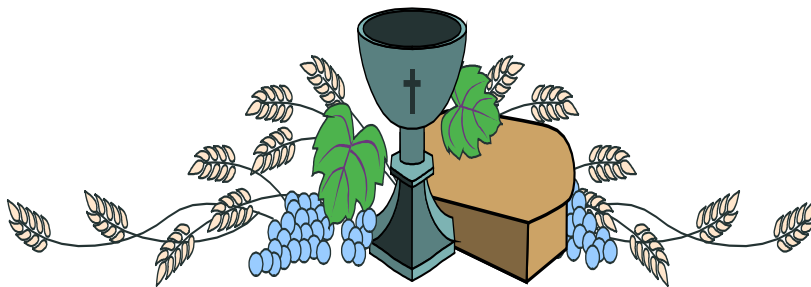
## OUTREACH



St. John's members worked with the Outreach Committee to provide boxers and socks to the Clothesline Ministry for distribution to their clients..



<b>Lectionary and Rota for June 2026</b>				
<b>Date</b>	<b>June 7</b>	<b>June 14</b>	<b>June 21</b>	<b>June 28</b>
	HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II	HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II	HOLY COMMUNION	HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II
Lectionary Day	Second Sunday after Pentecost	Third Sunday after Pentecost	Fourth Sunday after Pentecost	Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
Color	Green	Green	Green	Green
Officiant	Fr. John Talbert	Fr. John Talbert	Dr. Nikki Shaw	Fr. John Talbert
Lectors/ Intercessor	Janet Buckley Jan Joseph Leslie Talbert	Br. Jacob Luke Nikki Shaw Kathe Gieseler	Paula Ross Helen Guthrie Janet Buckley	Jan Joseph Leslie Talbert Br. Jacob Luke
Eucharistic Ministers	Mary Sheffield Lee Dorsey Br. Jacob Luke	Eugene Johnston Kathe Gieseler Connie McLean	Lee Dorsey	Mary Sheffield Lee Dorsey Br. Jacob Luke
Altar Guild	Irene Yeager Br. Jacob Luke	Connie Anderson Bootsie Cieutat	Lee Dorsey Kristen Turner	Cindy Gass
Vestry Tellers	Hugh Tomlin Eddy Velaski	Janet Buckley Kathe Gieseler	Helen Guthrie Connie McLean	Hugh Tomlin Eddy Velaski





Connie Anderson 06/03  
 Neva Bache 06/05  
 Lilly Talbert 06/06  
 Emily Johnston 06/10  
 Connie McLean 06/16  
 John Talbert 06/24



David & Kim Partsch 06/06  
 David & Mary Jones 06/11  
 Bob & Mary Sheffield 06/28



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

**For our Family and Friends:** Liz Levy Reichman, Ty Lofton, Todd McGill, Chris Velaski, JoAnn McPhearson, Colin Guthrie, Sheila Velaski, Larry DeBert., Emily Brown, Dennis Clardy, Sarah Guthrie, Morris Levy, Judy Lynch, Adam Strong, Angie Leon, David Hamilton, Sheila Cassity Granger, Barbara Bonner, David Brunner, Karl Gieseler, Nancy Payne, Bonnie Jernigan, Britney Butler, Neal Tourne, 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



Father John, celebrating our May birthdays with : Jeanie Velaski, Clare Cameron, Paula Ross and Igatherine Taylor

## Contact Us

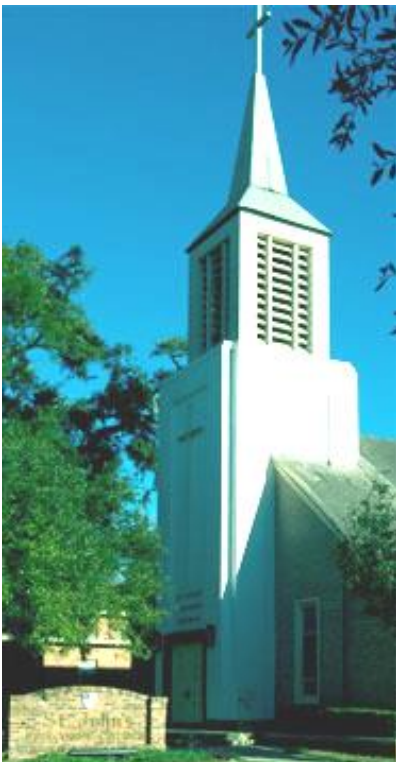
### Staff:

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