



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 8

August 2026

It was a glorious Sunday at St. John's as we welcomed Bishop Russell Kendrick to celebrate and bless our newly renovated worship space. The Bishop offered prayers of blessing for the beautiful new baptismal font, the new tile flooring throughout the church and sanctuary and the stunning restored ceiling.

The service also included the joyful Confirmation of Lilly Talbert. Surrounded by her family, Lilly received the laying on of hands from Bishop Kendrick and her family. The congregation reaffirmed its commitment to support and encourage her in her journey of faith.

Following the service, everyone gathered in the Great Hall for a lovely reception filled with wonderful food, warm fellowship, and celebration.

It was a blessed day of worship, renewal, and community, and we are grateful to all who helped make it so memorable.





Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 12:12 pm

Adoption of Agenda: A motion was made by Connie McLean and seconded by Kathe Geiseler to accept the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

Request for Excuse: Eddie Valaski, Hugh Thomlin
Additional individuals in attendance: Bishop Russell Kendrick, Louis Daniel, Cindy Gass (Treasurer)

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

Time with Bishop Kendrick:

The Vestry discussed St. John's hopes to initiate collaboration summit with other small Episcopal churches. The proposed summit will be focused on shared outreach/ community missions. Bishop Kendrick indicated he thought it was a good idea and that it would be supported. He made some suggestions regarding facilitators for the meeting (s). Discussion widened to the future of small churches and the number of churches in the Diocese that either did not have a rector or had a part-time rector. The bishop commended St. John's for the activities it has been engaged in and the work in completing the renovations of the church building. He asked to be excused; Fr. Talbert and the Vestry thanked him for attending and for his continued support.

The Vestry participants recessed for 5 minutes and then came back for the business meeting

Presentation and Review of Minutes: Minutes from the June 7th 2026 meeting were presented. A motion was made by Connie McLean and seconded by Kathe Gieseler to accept the minutes. The motion passed.

Officer and Ministry Reports

Financial Update: Vestry Treasurer, Cindy Gass presented the Financial Report for June. Income from plate and pledge was \$8,335. We had projected \$12,389. This reflects deficit of \$11,084 under the budget projected amount We currently have \$46,118.58 in the St. Johns checking account. The current income for the year from all sources is \$112,287.17 the projected budget amount, this is \$6,396.79 less than our budgeted amount. A motion was made by Helen Gruthie and seconded by Connie McLean to accept the financial report. The motion passed. There was a general discussion about future finances.

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Senior Warden: No Report

Junior Warden: No Report

Outreach: Senior Warden Connie McLean reported that St. John's members, with Redemer members provided and served food at McKemie Place on July 23rd.

Janet Buckley reported that 120 One-Bag-Meals were put together by congregation members. The bags are now available for distribution.

Rector's Report: Fr. Talbert will not be at St. Johns on Sunday, August 9th

Old Business:

Lights for the Parking Lot – no progress

Historical Committee - There will be a meeting to get suggestions and volunteers from the congregation.

Sound System – What we have works well

Safeguarding Training - Vestry members who have not completed were reminded to.

Financial Reporting Software / Realm: Decision was made to not go with this software contract. It is expensive and does not have the support we expected.

Roof Repairs: Still waiting for the bid from Thomas Roofing.

New Business

Recommendation Letter for Nikki Shaw to Local School (Pastoral Care Track). Motion was made by Janet Buckley and seconded by Helen Gruthie to recommend Nikki Shaw for the Local School of Ministry's Pastoral Care track. The motion passed.

Future Vestry Meetings: September 13, Oct 11th, and Nov 1st, 2026 . The Parish Meeting will be on November 1, 2026 (All Saints Sunday)

The Finance Committee 2026 will meet in August to start planning the 2027 Budget and the Stewardship Campaign.

Audit: A motion was made by Kathe Gieseler and seconded by Connie McLean to approve the \$1800 cost of the audit. The motion passed.

Adjourn and Closing Prayer

Fr. Talbert led the Vestry in the closing prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:25PM. Motion by Helen Gruthie and seconded by Kathe Gieseler.



.Episcopal Relief & Development Receives Verizon Grant via National VOAD to Invest in Maui's Resilient Recovery

Episcopal Relief & Development has received a Verizon Community Disaster Resilience Grant through National Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) to strengthen our long-term recovery program, in partnership with the Episcopal Diocese of Hawai'i, by supporting families in rebuilding safer, more fire-resilient homes.

After the devastating 2023 fires in Lāhainā and Kula displaced thousands and claimed over 100 lives, our local partners have focused on meeting immediate needs and supporting long-term recovery. Families are receiving temporary housing, social services and direct cash assistance to overcome barriers like under-insurance, contractor challenges and high construction costs.

With the Verizon Community Disaster Resilience Grant, we will incorporate fire-resistant materials and upgrades into five planned home rebuild projects of the Ho'ōla iā Mauiakama Long-Term Recovery Group Construction Committee to reduce risk and give families peace of mind in the face of future disasters. Upgrades will be made in coordination with each family, the Construction Committee and case managers and will include one or a combination of the following: metal roofing, ember-resistant vents, non-combustable siding, metal gutters and gutter guards, defensible landscaping, or other protective measure.

"Mahalo to Verizon and National VOAD for their contribution to our long-term recovery efforts, mitigation and community resilience projects," said Kalani Holokai on behalf of the Episcopal Diocese of Hawai'i. "We are humbled and excited to have received this grant."

"We are grateful to Verizon and National VOAD for investing in our disaster resilience innovation efforts to support island communities on Maui," shared Race Hodges, a Senior Program Officer for Episcopal Relief & Development. "With these investments, families will have safer housing in the event of another fire, which creates a sense of stability and hope."

[Donate to Disaster Response Fund](#) through this link or send a check to Episcopal Relief & Development PO Box 5121 Boone, IA 50950 – 0121.

Ministries at St. John's

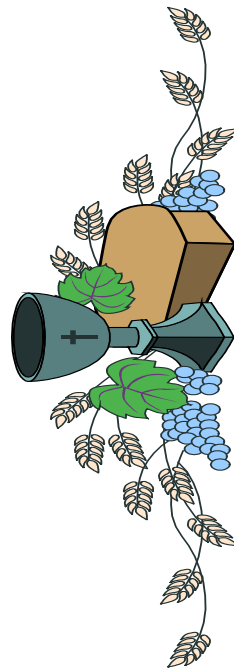
OUTREACH



Many thanks from the Outreach Committee to all who helped out with the One Bag Meals on July 19th. We were able to pack 120 ready to go meals bags for those in need. Wonderful effort St. John's folks!!



Lectionary and Rota for August 2026				
Date	August 2	August 9	August 16	August 23
	HOLY EUCCHARIST RITE II	HOLY COMMUNION	HOLY EUCCHARIST RITE II	HOLY EUCCHARIST RITE II
Lectionary Day	Tenth Sunday After Pentecost	Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost	Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost	Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost
Color	Green	Green	Green	Green
Officiant	Fr. John Talbert	Dr. Nikki Shaw	Fr. John Talbert	Fr. John Talbert
Lectors/ Intercessor	Janet Buckley Jan Joseph Leslie Talbert	Nikki Shaw Kathe Gieseler Paula Ross	Helen Guthrie Janet Buckley Jan Joseph	Leslie Talbert Nikki Shaw Kathe Gieseler
Eucharistic Ministers	Eugene Johnston Kathe Gieseler Connie McLean	Lee Dorsey	Mary Sheffield Lee Dorsey Nikki Shaw	Eugene Johnston Kathe Gieseler Connie McLean
Altar Guild	Irene Yeager	Connie Anderson Bootsie Cieutat	Lee Dorsey Kristen Turner	Cindy Gass
Vestry Tellers	Helen Guthrie Connie McLean	Hugh Tomlin Eddy Velaski	Janet Buckley Kathe Gieseler	Helen Guthrie Connie McLean
				Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost
				Green
				Fr. John Talbert
				Paula Ross Helen Guthrie Janet Buckley
				Mary Sheffield Lee Dorsey Nikki Shaw
				Irene Yeager
				Hugh Tomlin Eddy Velaski





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



Bob and Charlyn Will - August 1



For healing grace and continued strength, we pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ: Cookie & David Rich, Bootsie Cieutat, Eddy Velaski, Marie Brown, Bob Anderson, Helen Guthrie, Mike and Frances Barbour, Carolyn Pearce, Ashley Garris, Jayson Chestang, Julie Garner and our seminarian Br. Jacob Luke

For our Family and Friends: James Moore, Madison Pittman, Liz Levy Reichman, Ty Lofton, Todd McGill, Chris Velaski, Colin Guthrie, Sheila Velaski, Larry DeBert,, Emily Brown, Dennis Clardy, Sarah Guthrie, Morris Levy, Judy Lynch, Adam Strong, Angie Leon, , Sheila Granger, Barbara Bonner, David Brunner, Karl Gieseler, Nancy Payne, Bonnie Jernigan, 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 July birthdays with: Tina Cieutat

Contact Us

Staff:

Fr. John Talbert
Rector
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Organist & Choir Director
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Kathe Gieseler
Financial Secretary
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Dr. Nikki Shaw
Office volunteer
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Vestry:

Janet Buckley (clerk)

Cindy Gass (treasurer)

Kathe Gieseler

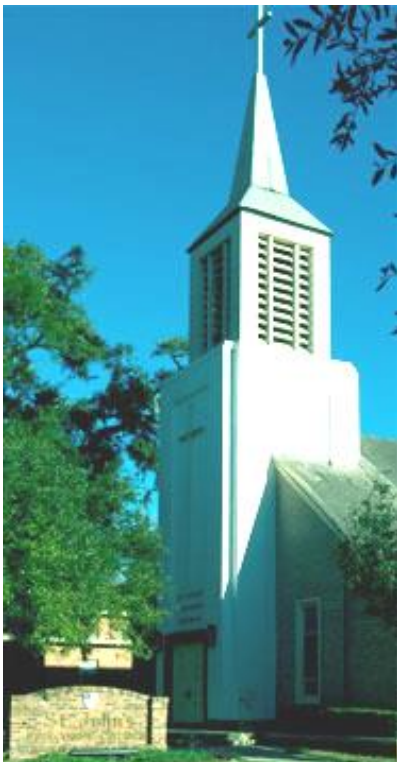
Helen Guthrie

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

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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.