



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 10

October 2026

Dear Family and Friends of St. John's,

It brings me joy and excitement to invite each and every one of you to our **upcoming Parish Meeting!** Please mark your calendars for **Sunday, November 1st, 2026**, as we will gather together in the Great Hall immediately following our **10AM service**.

This annual gathering is an important time for our church family to reflect on our shared blessings, celebrate our community outreach, and discern the path ahead as we continue to serve God together in faith and love.

Our time together will cover several topics that shape the future of our congregation. We will present and review a clear overview of our annual expenses. This year the vestry will present a 6-month budget. There are multiple important financial decisions as we move into 2027 and a 6-month budget allows us more time to collect your input, reflect on our level of stewardship and discern how best to support our common mission at St. John's.

Additionally, we will open signups for the 2027 Flower Dedications, distribute service information for Advent through Easter and discuss opportunities for you to serve in our liturgies of the church and support our fellowship and outreach events.

Finally, two new members of the congregation will be elected to the vestry as well as our electing two delegates to Diocesan Convention 2027 in Orange Beach, AL next February. If you are interest in either of these positions, please inform a member of the vestry.

Your presence is necessary for us to complete this essential work.

Please join us after services on November 1st for inspiring conversation, fellowship, and prayer as we prepare for the upcoming year at St. John's!

Faithfully,

Rev. John Keith Talbert, Rector



**St. John's Episcopal Church
1707 Government St, Mobile, AL 36604
Vestry Meeting Minutes September 13th, 2026**

Senior Warden: No Report

Junior Warden: FR. Talbert gave the report: We had a power surge or light strike that effected the internet service, copier and the AC thermostat in the church. Everything is currently up and running temporarily, final corrections/repairs are under way. If the costs for repairs are higher than our insurance deductible, we will file an insurance claim. **Call to Order:** The meeting of the St. John's Vestry was called to order at 11:37 pm

Adoption of Agenda: A motion was made by Kathe Gieseler and seconded by Eddy Velaski to accept the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

Request for Excuse: Hugh Thomlin. Also in attendance: Cindy Gass (Treasurer).

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

Presentation and Review of Minutes: Minutes from the July 26, 2026 meeting were presented. A motion was made by Helen Guthrie and seconded by Connie McLean to accept the minutes. The motion passed.

Officer and Ministry Reports

Financial Update: Vestry Treasurer, Cindy Gass presented the Financial Report for July and August. Income from plate and pledge was \$17,872. For the year so far we have deficit of \$12,422 under the budget projected amount We currently have \$51,309.14 in the St. Johns checking account. The current income for the year from all sources is \$151,325.94, this is \$6,919.34 less than our projected budgeted amount. A motion was made by Helen Gruthie and seconded by Connie McLean to accept the financial report. The motion passed.

Cindy recommended that the savings account funds (formally Endowment) of \$100,000 be deposited in a high-interest, no fee, account at Mogan Stanley. A motion was made by Eddy Velaski and seconded by Connie McLean to approve this move. The motion passed. Cindy Gass and Connie Mclean will be the signatures on the account.

There was a general discussion about future finances.

Outreach: No activity planned for July.

Rector's Report:

Parish meeting will be on Sunday, November 1st (All Saints Day).

Fr. Talbert and Nikki Shaw attended a meeting with the Mobile County Health Department to learn about a new community safety program the Board of Health is instituting: they are putting free vending machines in various locations that will have Narcan kits, condoms, and gun locks available at no cost. Although anyone can access these products, the intent was to assist the un-homed and low-income individuals Fr. Talbert suggested St. John's would be an appropriate location, we see a number of un-housed and low-income people through our One-Meal Bag and the Clothesline ministries. The Vestry discussed where would be an appropriate location. Next to the door to the Clothesline ministry was suggested. A motion was made by Janet Buckley and seconded by Helen Guthrie to pursue this potential ministry. Motion passed.

Old Business:

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

Roof Repairs: The patching of the Two-story Sunday School building is finished.

Hughes Development Group was the low bid. The final cost was \$3,524.

Nikki Shaw is enrolled in the Local School of Ministry's Pastoral Care track.

Finance Committee: Treasurer Cindy Gass presented a report from the Finance Committee:

Projecting that St. John's income (plate and pledge) for 2027 will be approximately the same as it was in 2026 (\$150,000) and projecting that if we keep expenses the same for 2027 as we had in 2026 (\$240,000) St. John's will have a deficit of \$90,000.

The Vestry discussed possible ways to reduce costs and/or increase income.

Final decisions regarding the budget were not made.

For the next meeting Fr. Talbert asked Vestry members to bring ideas as to what changes could be made, how we could/can approach this issue at the Parish Meeting, and thoughts about how change will affect the congregation.

New Business

Future Vestry Meetings: Oct 11th, Nov 1st, Dec. 13th 2026.

2027 New Ideas: Discussion was held regarding different ways St. John's could respond to a declining membership and declining income. Included in the discussion was: selling the 1703 Church Street property, rental of space, shared staff with other Episcopal Churches. Fr. Talbert and Vestry members will be pursuing more information before any decisions are made.

Audit: The audit was completed. No issues were found.

Adjourn and Closing Prayer

Fr. Talbert led the Vestry in the closing prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45PM. Motion by Helen Guthrie and seconded by Kathe Gieseler.



Climate Resilience

Those most affected by climate change are isolated, rural, subsistence farming households. We strengthen rural livelihoods to increase climate resilience by focusing on:

Micro-finance: Employment opportunities can be limited in both rural and urban areas, particularly for people with specialized skills or those affected by climate change. Access to savings and loans can reduce barriers to financial security. Our programs provide financial education, business training, and vocational skills. We also partner with churches and other organizations to establish community-based Savings with Education groups that offer guidance and support.

Climate Resilient Agriculture: Agriculture is a primary economic sector in many countries. Working closely with local communities, our programs strengthen climate-resilient agriculture through training, tools, and resources. We promote sustainable farming practices that protect the environment, improve crop quality, yields, and diversity, and support self-sufficiency and access to nutritious food.

Water Resource Management: We help make safe, clean water accessible in remote and drought-prone communities. Our work reduces disease risks and supports better health. In partnership with local organizations worldwide, we build wells, latrines, water systems, and distribution stations. We also train and support communities to maintain these systems and promote sanitation and hygiene.

Collaborating on disaster response strategies: Alongside our efforts to build long-term climate resilience, we help communities prepare for immediate disaster response. Working with local groups, we develop strategies that include installing early warning systems, identifying evacuation routes, and creating household preparedness kits.

To support Our Climate Resilience Work you can [donate on-line](#) or send a check to Episcopal Relief & Development PO Box 5121 Boone, IA 50950 – 0121 with Climate Resilience in memo line.

Ministries at St. John's



September was a busy month at ToLC! Up to Friday the 25th, ToLC had 92 sessions in 19 working days, which works out to about 5 clients served per day. 47% of clients were not charged a copay or were charged a reduced rate, and 23% were not charged at all. Your support continues to make our community stronger! If you know anyone who needs us, we are just a call or text away @ (251)422-6592.

Clothesline Ministry



Hi Friends of the Clothesline Ministry:

It's that time of year when we need a big push to get all clothes sorted, sized and hung so our guests can have selections and ease when selecting. We will have a non-guest day on Friday, October 2, beginning at 9:00 am for this purpose.

If you are a regular volunteer or would like to assist on this non-guest day, please join us upstairs at St. John's Episcopal Church on **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2026 AT 9:00 AM.**

"Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality." This is the gift of The Clothesline Ministry. Please join us.

Peace be with you,

Deacon Terry



Men's Socks for the Clothesline Ministry

St. John's Outreach Committee will be "celebrating" **Sock-it-to-Me Sunday** on **October 18, 2026**. We need your participation! No, you don't have to wear socks!! The Outreach Committee will be collecting men's socks for the Clothesline Ministry.

Clothesline Ministry is in need **men's socks**. The socks 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 "Socks" or "Sock-it-to-Me Sunday" on the check) and an Outreach Committee member will do your shopping for you.



Pink Sunday

St. John's will be holding **Pink Sunday** on Sunday, October 27th to acknowledge the need for more awareness, research, and treatment for breast cancer. Whether you will be worshipping "in-person" on the 27th or watching the service at home, you can still **wear pink** to show your support for those who are fighting cancer; to admire the survivors and/or; to honor those taken. You could even take a picture to show-off your pink and post it on the Saint John's Facebook page before or after the service!

Since the whole month of October is cancer awareness month, we will have the pink pins in the Great Hall starting October 4th.

Please take one and wear it.

On October 27th we will have information, discussion, and prayer.

Please join us and WEAR PINK!!

October is
Breast
Cancer
Awareness
Month



Members of St. John's enjoyed the 4th Sunday "**Tailgate**" **Potluck**. Lester Taylor provided pulled pork and brisket and members brought sides to go with it. There was great food and wonderful fellowship as congregants wore their "team" colors!



Charlynn Will	10/04
Meagan Clanton	10/08
Bob Anderson	10/11
Marjorie Duhon	10/13
Shirley Hall	10/14
Pam Sheffield	10/24
Chris Velaski	10/24



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

For our Family and Friends: Joe Taylor, Hayden Putre, Peggy Bilbo, 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

Dates to Remember

Friday, October 2- Volunteer Opportunity at The Clothesline Ministry 9:00

Sunday, October 18- "Sock-it-to- Me" Sunday- sock donation for Clothesline Ministry

Sunday, October 25- Wear Pink to support Breast Cancer loved on

Sunday, November 1- Parish Meeting

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



Lectionary and Rota for October 2026				
Date	October 4	October 11	October 18	October 25
	HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II	HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II	HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II	HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II
Lectionary Day	Nineteenth Sun- day After Pentecost	Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost	Twenty-first Sunday After Pentecost	Twenty-second Sun- day After Pentecost
Color	Green	Green	Green	Green
Officiant	Fr. John Talbert	Fr. John Talbert	Fr. John Talbert	Fr. John Talbert
Lectors/ Intercessor	Helen Guthrie Janet Buckley Jan Joseph	Leslie Talbert Kathe Gieseler Paula Ross	Nikki Shaw Helen Guthrie Janet Buckley	Jan Joseph Leslie Talbert Kathe Gieseler
Eucharistic Ministers	Eugene Johnston Kathe Gieseler Connie McLean	Mary Sheffield Lee Dorsey Nikki Shaw	Eugene Johnston Kathe Gieseler Connie McLean	Mary Sheffield Lee Dorsey Nikki Shaw
Altar Guild	Connie Anderson Bootsie Cieutat	Lee Dorsey Kristen Turner	Cindy Gass	Irene Yeager
Vestry Tellers	Janet Buckley Kathe Gieseler	Helen Guthrie Connie McLean	Hugh Tomlin Eddy Velaski	Janet Buckley Kathe Gieseler

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Sunday, October 18- “Sock-it-to- Me” Sunday– sock donation for Clothesline Ministry

Sunday, October 25- Wear Pink to support Breast Cancer loved ones.

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
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.