



"Have you not known, have you not heard those who wait for the Lord shall mount up with wings like eagles."

Isaiah 40:28,31

St. John's Episcopal Church

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Rector:
Robert C. Wisniewski, Jr.

Associate Rector:
Jamie Osborne

Priest Associate
Deonna D. Neal

Staff:
Libby Poole
Financial Administrator
Fay WorriLOW
Parish Secretary
Anne Tippet
Assistant to the Rector

Christian Formation
Sarah Collier
Director of Children's Christian Formation
Joleen George
Director of Youth Ministries

Music:
Joel Gregory
Organist and Choirmaster

Maintenance:
Mike Jarrell, Superintendent
Myron Smoke
Faye Mitchell

Vestry of St. John's:
Jim Marshall III, Sr. Warden
Bill Eskridge, Jr. Warden

Class of 2019

Ashley Hamlett
Betty Mathews
Dee Moody
Chuck Moore
Dudley Perry
Geoff Stough

Class of 2020

Dick Arrington
Georgia Holmes
Austin Huffaker
Alice Longshore
Jean Smyth
Bob Young

Class of 2021

Virginia Banister
Richard Bradford
Kathryn Dailey
Mike Jenkins
Jimmy McLemore
Stephanie Norrell
Todd Westhauser

Treasurer
Helen Wells

Clerk of the Vestry
Anne Tippet

POSITIVE DISSATISFACTION

While doing some online shopping over the holidays, I came across a company touting what they described as a relentless pursuit of a better product. Always looking for improvement, they claimed "positive dissatisfaction" with themselves. Basically they were saying that their product was the best money could buy but they would keep trying to offer something even better. I made the purchase, mainly because of previous experience with the company, but their ad campaign left a positive impression. I like a quest for improvement.

I'm not aware of anyone who lacks the need for improvement. Humans seemed wired to want to be better than we are. We make New Years' resolutions. We take on Lenten disciplines. We want to put past mistakes behind us and do better. We reflect on experiences so as to make changes which will benefit us and the people around us. No one has a job that can be done perfectly. No one is in a relationship that doesn't need to get a little better. We can't reach the perfect place and stay there for the rest of our lives. We're either growing or dying, improving or going backwards.

Two examples of unhealthiness are: those who believe they can never do anything right; and those who believe they are never wrong. Those folks, at either end of the spectrum, are pretty hard to deal with and are living precarious existences. The first, those who think they can never do anything right, are so hard on themselves that they make relating to them impossible. It's hard to love people who cannot love themselves. The second, those who think they are always right, are also impossible to deal with. It's hard to love people who deride the rest of the world. Somewhere in the middle of these two poles there is a healthier approach to living and relating. Those who are aware of their imperfections and are seeking to grow are the ones we can learn from and relate to, the ones we can be intimate with and share our own struggles and breakthroughs.

In Matthew's gospel (5.48), Jesus says, "You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly father is perfect." This falls in a section where Jesus is teaching about loving our enemies and becoming more generous in our daily living. None of us can actually attain such perfection, yet our Lord and Savior commends a life of seeking and growing. Perfection constantly evolves and is never stagnant.

As you enter this new year and begin the season of Epiphany where we are called to embrace the light of hope that Christ bears, where are you on your journey? What sort of steps are you being invited to take on your way to completeness? Are you so mired in the poverty of your own soul that you cannot see the growth that God might have in store for you? Are you so afraid of being wrong or less than someone else that you are denying your own need for improvement?

The Christian journey seems to involve daily adjustments in our perspective. Some days we need to forgive ourselves and lighten up a bit in our approach. Some days we are so fearful about our lack of worth that we develop a laziness that keeps us from taking on anything challenging. Other days we over-rationalize and justify our behavior and intentions. We are so fearful of admitting the need for growth that we develop another sort of laziness, thinking we're better than most and don't need to change.

Christ comes to forgive us for all that we have done and left undone, all that we will ever do or not do that causes us to be less than we are created to be. Some days, we just need to accept that we are loved and forgiven, dust ourselves off and do a little better. Christ also comes to transform us and empower us for the very kingdom he brings. Some days, we have to push ourselves to see that we are failing to do things that only we can do. God, through Christ, offers us hope and power. God leaves some mighty important work for us to take on ourselves. Know that you are loved as you are and seek to be perfect as your heavenly father is perfect.

Yours faithfully,
Robert C. Wisniewski, Jr.

THE LESSONS:

Isaiah 43:1-7
 Psalm 29
 Acts 8:14-17
 Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

THE COLLECT:

Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan didst proclaim him thy beloved Son and anoint him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with thee and the same Spirit liveth and reigneth, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

The Flowers on the Altar this Sunday are to the glory of God and in memory of:

Harry Lee Davidson
 Caroline Clark Hubbard
 Caroline Davidson Ball
 Fred St. Clair Ball
 Lee Ball Ruth
 Jane Ball Reynolds
 J. Allen Reynolds
 Caroline Reynolds Hall
 John Randolph Matthews
 Theda Clark Ball Tankersley
 Will Hill Tankersley
 Caroline (Dootsie) Ball Matthews

MINISTERS SERVING THIS SUNDAY

ORGANIST AND CHOIRMASTER:

Joel Gregory

ACOLYTES: A.E. Clark, S. Behr, G. Hughes, C. Jernigan, B. Eskridge, A. Fitzpatrick, W. Wells, T. Clements

LAY EUCHARIST MINISTERS: C. Moore, W. Haynes, D. Holmes, M. Hughes

LAY EUCHARISTIC VISITORS:

B. Beale

VESTRY: 7:30 K. Dailey

10:30 J. Marshall, D. Moody, T. Westhauser, S. Norrell

ALTAR GUILD: N. Benner, A. Hamlett, C. Moore

PASTORAL CARE: S. Huffaker, S. Speir

FLOWER DELIVERY: S. & S.

Marks, A. King, N. Buzard

Flowers by the St. John's Flower Guild

VESTRY ELECTIONS

Vestry Elections will be held at the Annual Meeting on January 27. Nominees are: **Betty Beale, Tracey Campbell, John Carter, Rosa Davis, Will Gunter, Brice Johnston, Katie Keller, Keith Miller, Scott Mitchell, Mary Nelms Parsons, Nick Prillaman, Radney Ramsey, Emily Wise.** Early in January a brochure will be sent to you to further identify these nominees. If you are unable to attend the Annual Meeting you may cast your ballot ahead of time.

**ADULT CHRISTIAN FORMATION
 EPIPHANY 2019
 MEETING JAN 13 — FEB 24**

The Reformation and its Legacy for us Today

Meeting January 13 – February 24 in the Parish Hall

Led by the Rev. Dr. Deonna Neal

As Episcopalians we claim to be both “Protestant” and “Catholic.” This means we both accept and reject certain features of the Reformation and its legacy. In this class we will explore some of the antecedents which led to the Protestant Reformation and some of the key themes of the Reformation and how that informs our self-understanding as Episcopalians. We will also examine some of the broader religious and cultural effects inaugurated by the Reformation which still circulate and inform American religious and political culture today.

Finding God Where We Are: Poetry

Meeting January 13 – February 24 in the library (*Will not meet on Feb 3*)

Led by Karen Funk

In difficult times we all need the light of God’s love keeping our hearts open. This class will start with a very quick introduction to the theology of John Duns Scotus (c.1266-1308), who saw God’s love embodied in everything and everyone God created. We’ll use that concrete and specific theological philosophy to help us read and discuss poems by two seemingly very different poets: Gerard Manley Hopkins, British Jesuit priest of the 19th century, and contemporary poet Christian Wiman, Texas native who now teaches Literature and Religion at Yale University. No literary expertise required, just an open and curious mind. For more information, contact Karen Funk at klw.funk@gmail.com, 834-6721, or 202-7442.

JOY AND CONCERN

Your prayers are requested for the following parishioners: Kathleen Bradford, Sarah Stone, Charles Brannon, Florence Jordan, Christopher Marshall, Sunshine Huff, Karen Jarrell, Francis Beaulieu, Jim Thomas, Eddie McDowell, Dottis Robinson, Joe McGough, Cynthia Hill.

Prayers are also requested for these friends: George West, Sandra Cauthon, Randy Rushton, Phil Dotts, Paul Hackett, Andrew Warnberg, Doris Thornton, Tommy Oliver, Ruth Jones, Karen & Angelo Pacheco, Acra Hackney Samuels, Margaret (Marty) Hackney, Ed Sellers, Tom Broadhurst, Ricky Hatfield, Willie Fred Gamble, Monica Powell, Chase Pickett, Al Perkins, Debbie Steindorff, Betty Harper, Jennifer Pruitt, Pam Litel, Aaron Hines, Catherine Riddell, Hugh Lee Earnest, Daphne Oliver, Dawn Damato, Ernie Reddick, Dottie Campbell, Scott Bradford, Mary Steindorff, Jack Mitchell, Margaret Carlson, Paula Hamm Roberts, Kim Barnhart, Lavada Spears Person, Charles Colvin, Cookie Zibilich, Charlie Smith, Clemmon Barlow, Chuck Holley, Sandy Lynn Stevens, Masha Kloberg, Andy Silverman.

Please notify us when you are sick or hospitalized so that we might provide pastoral care.

LOVING SPOONFULS SOUP DRIVE 2019



It's time for our annual soup drive to benefit Holy Cross Episcopal School.

Calling all cooks to put on your aprons and come down to St. John's kitchen every Tuesday and Thursday beginning January 8 at 10:00 am to prepare our soups!

All soup orders will be taken at the church and by mail January 20-27; orders will be ready for pickup in February.

We appreciate the enthusiasm our congregations have shown by their participation in this fund raiser for Holy Cross.

Mark your calendars, whet your appetites, be generous, and be nourished!!



SOUPER BOWL OF CARING CANNED SOUP DRIVE

We are collecting canned soups the month of January to fight hunger and poverty here in the Montgomery community! Please bring canned soup to St. John's by February 3rd so that we can donate them to Holy Comforter's food pantry.

"If you pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then shall your light rise in the darkness and your gloom be as the noonday." Isaiah 58:10

MESSAGE FROM HOLY CROSS



As we approach the New Year and reflect on 2018, Holy Cross Episcopal School is counting its blessings. We are especially grateful to be blessed with the support of the people of St. John's Episcopal Church. Your support allows Holy Cross to fulfill its mission of educating the mind, body and spirit of every student. We are humbled by your faithfulness and wish you many blessings in 2019.

HOLY CROSS EPISCOPAL SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, January 27, 2019

1:00 - 3:00 pm

4400 Bell Road, Montgomery

SPECIAL EVENTS AROUND THE CORNER

January 11 & 12 — Enneagram Conference

January 13 — Young Adult Lunch

January 24 — Young Adult Supper Club

Annual Meeting — January 27

February 1, 2, 3 — Vestry Retreat

February 3-9 — Family Promise Week

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

SUNDAY, January 13

7:30 am Holy Eucharist
8:15 am Breakfast in the Parish House
9:15 am Christian Formation for all ages
10:30 am Holy Eucharist
4:20 pm Children's Choir
5:00 pm Jr. & Sr. EYC
6:00 pm EYC Dinner

MONDAY, Jan 14

12 Noon Clergy Led Bible Study in the Small Dining Room
6:00 pm Men's Group in the Library

TUESDAY, Jan 15

7:00 am Holy Eucharist
8:30 am Prayer Group

WEDNESDAY, Jan 16

11:30 am Centering Prayer
3:30 pm Coffice @ Café Louisa
5:30 pm Holy Eucharist

THURSDAY, Jan 17

12:05 pm Holy Unction and Holy Eucharist
6:00 pm Adult Choir Practice

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«LA_LABEL_NAME»
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«AD_ADDRESS_2»
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The Eagle is available on the
internet at
www.stjohnsmontgomery.org

Enneagram Conference

Jan 11th and 12th at St John's,

led by Lucy Strandlund

Some familiarity with the Enneagram
is recommended

Cost is \$40, contact

Jamie@stjohnsmontgomery.org

