

St. John's Episcopal Church



"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

113 Madison Avenue
Montgomery, Alabama 36104
334-262-1937
Fax: 334-262-1931

Rector:

Robert C. Wisnewski, Jr.

Associate Rector:

Jamie Osborne

Priest Associate

Deonna D. Neal

Staff:

Libby Poole
Financial Administrator

Anne Tippet
Assistant to the Rector

Christian Formation

Sarah Collier
Director of Children's
Christian Formation

Joleen George
Director of Youth Ministries
and Parish
Communications

Music:

Joel Gregory
Organist and Choirmaster

Maintenance:

Mike Jarrell, Superintendent
Myron Smoke, Judson George

Vestry of St. John's:

Bill Eskridge Sr. Warden
Jimmy McLemore, Jr. Warden

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
Stephanie Norrell
Todd Westhauser

Class of 2022

John Carter
Will Gunter
Katie Keller
Mary-Nelms Parsons
Nick Prillaman
Radney Ramsey
Emily Wise

Treasurer

Helen Wells

Clerk of the Vestry

Anne Tippet

TRADITION AND TRUST

It would be hard to find a place that is more traditional than St. John's. That's kind of our niche in the market so to speak as people are attracted to our history and liturgy. It's not only what we do but how we do it that appeals to our longstanding and newer members alike. It could even be said that our traditional approach represents something strong and steady which the citizens of our community draw on whether they have ever attended worship here or not. Just knowing that we are here, and have been here since 1834, is a witness to the Almighty God's constant grace and mercy.

I grew up in the Episcopal Church, in a parish similar to St. John's in many ways, an old parish located in the middle of downtown in a southern capital city. I also grew up in a time when a lot was changing. The civil rights movement was taking place. Questions about our involvement in Vietnam and the ethics of our government were being asked. In the 60s and 70s, doing things in a different way became the fashion. It was a time of unrest. Yet the church I attended seemed to stay the same in most ways. As I grew up in a shifting world, the church taught me, subconsciously at least, that God was changeless. It was a message that provided me a secure and peaceful foundation as I searched for my own purpose in a world changing quickly.

Even though the church gave me that sense of steadiness, it was actually changing pretty dramatically itself, I now can see. I only remember one rector all through my childhood, adolescence, and early adulthood. But there were lots of

changes around him. Many associates came and went. We experimented with numerous trial liturgies and finally changed the only prayer book I had ever known. Women began to serve on the Vestry and the Episcopal Church began ordaining women. These were dramatic changes. And even the rector, who was such a constant, was a man who boldly embraced changes. He was forward-looking and seemed so secure himself in the constancy of God that he could lead us through big changes with a sense of calm.

Tradition isn't just doing the very same thing over and over again. Tradition isn't even something that looks primarily at the past. Tradition involves embracing God's grace as we have known it in our history in such a way that we can look ahead with a sense of promise and trust. Superstition suggests that it is only in the obsessive repetition of our habits that we can impose any control over events. Tradition suggests that only God actually has any control and that we are to put our trust in him above our own desires. When Tradition does look to the past, it is to gain hope and grounding for what is to come.

Interesting, isn't it, that the Episcopal Church is considered to be among the most traditional of all churches yet also is among the most progressive. Our liturgy is remarkably similar to what has been done since the earliest years of Christendom. Other churches have given up on the traditional form of worship. We continue to hold it fast. Yet we allow for questions of faith to be asked, deep mys-

THE LESSONS:

Isaiah 49:1-7

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

John 1:29-42

Psalm 40:1-12

THE COLLECT:

Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ is the light of the world: Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and Sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

**MINISTERS
SERVING THIS
SUNDAY**

ORGANIST AND**CHOIRMASTER:** Joel

Gregory

ACOLYTES: Bobby

Eskridge, Millie Stevenson,
Robert Huffaker, Virginia
Hope, Anna Stevenson,
Robert Wells, Wyatt Wells,
Turner Clements

VESTRY: 7:30 Mike Jen-
kins 10:30 Georgia
Holmes, Todd West-
hauser, Bill Eskridge, Rich-
ard Bradford

LAY EUCHARISTIC

MINISTERS: Kat Dailey,
Catharine McLemore,
Keith Miller

LAY EUCHARISTIC**VISITORS:** Kat Dailey**PASTORAL CARE:** Suzi
Huffaker, Virginia Banister**FLOWER DELIVERY:**

Melisa Carter, Valerie
Wilkerson, Will Gunter

**Flowers by the St.
John's Flower Guild**

teries to be pondered, differences of opinion to be expressed. Tradition, it seems, gives us the safety to delve deeply into life's harder questions. As we return to that which is age-old, we are better equipped to evaluate all the changes taking place around us. Tradition prepares us for changes that are needed.

God is changeless. But God is unlimited. God is so changeless that he encompasses change. For humans to equate God's changelessness with our own desire to keep everything just the way it is certainly is not what God intends. God's changelessness challenges us to grow and change in many ways. The value of tradition is that it keeps our focus on the eternal ways of God and that allows us to deal with necessary changes here on earth.

But often we confuse tradition with just keeping everything the same. St. John's offers us a model for our own lives. Look at all the changes that have taken place here over our many years. We have adjusted many times to various shifts. One can feel the Holy Spirit at work here but not because we just keep doing the same thing over and over. Tradition evolves and grows. Tradition carries us into all that is good. The notion that everything that is good has already been done seems pretty shortsighted.

Tradition is trustworthy as it points to God who forms trust itself. Trust, by its very nature, is something which moves forward. When I trust, I draw on what has been accomplished thus far, and I live in the hope that what is coming will be good for me.

Tradition and trust. Don't cling too tightly to what you are comfortable with. Tradition and trust do not hold us captive. They empower us to live into the fullness of today and tomorrow.

Yours faithfully,
Robert C. Wisnewski, Jr.

JOY AND CONCERN

Your prayers are requested for the following parishioners: Glenn Price, Christopher Marshall, Sarah Stone, Jim Thomas, Karen Jarrell, Eddie McDowell, Shirley Price, Florence Jordan, Joe McGough, Cynthia Hill, George Wakefield, Frances Condit, Johnny Smith, Carol Pierce, Delia Cerpa, Marilyn Pickett, Linda Hutchinson, Sandy Marks.

Prayers are also requested for these friends: Rob Ludington, Barry Green-Burns, Gloria Hudgeon, John Robertson, Mary Linger, George West, Randy Rushton, Phil Dotts, 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, Pam Litel, Aaron Hines, Daphne Oliver, Dawn Damato, Dottie Campbell, Scott Bradford, Mary Steindorff, Jack Mitchell, Margaret Carlson, Paula Hamm Roberts, Kim Barnhart, Lavada Spears Persons, Charles Colvin, Cookie Zibilich, Charlie Smith, Clemmon Barlow, Chuck Holley, Sandy Lynn Stevens, Masha Kloberg, Andy Silverman, William Hardwick Ray, Meredith McLemore, Elizabeth McLemore Baker, Ernie Reddick, Vaughan Dozier.

St. John's Cursillo Upcoming Dates:

DIOCESAN ULTREYA, FEBRUARY 21-23

· a relaxing and fun weekend at Camp McDowell with Cursillistas from around the Diocese. J.R. is planning this event- it will be FUN!!! ask J.R. Marshall for more information

LENTEN WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERIES - MARCH 11, 2020

-We will be serving dinner to the parish.

Avis & All Angels

Bleak Midwinter Wine Tasting

Please join us for an Epiphany wine tasting with Ted the Wine Guy, Thursday, January 30 @ 6 pm at the home of Christy Anderson, 10 South Capitol Parkway.

We'll also have heavy hors d'oeuvres

As we've gone to a per event fee in lieu of dues, this event will be \$10 per person. Please RSVP by January 23rd so we can give Ted a head count for the event. RSVP to Christy at ckdexterhaven72@yahoo.com or 669-0980

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Bazaar!

This year we were able to donate \$15,000 to AIM and \$15,000 to Adullom House. This would not have been possible without everyone's help and participation!

Spiritual Direction

St John's offers Spiritual Direction to anyone who wishes to deepen their experience and understanding of God, themselves, and others. The directee works with a trained Spiritual Director to deepen their spirituality and to open their hearts and ears to guidance from the Holy Spirit. If you are interested in entering into Spiritual Direction contact Betty Beale, a certified Spiritual Director, at ebeale@aum.edu or call 334-328-0748

We pray for those who have died:

Sister Engelhardt; Clifford Lanier— brother of Seibels Marshall; and Anderson Scott— brother of Fairlie Herron.

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

Marie Louise Hill
Robert Ernest Rinehart
Elizabeth Lyle Rinehart

Harley Leist Lutz
Rachel Young Lutz
Barbara Lutz Rinehart

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

SUNDAY

7:30 am Holy Eucharist
8:15 am Breakfast
in the Parish House
9:15 am Sunday School
10:30 am Holy Eucharist
4:20 pm Children's Choir
9:00 pm Compline on FB Live

MONDAY

12:00 pm Clergy Lead Bible Study

TUESDAY,

7:00 am Holy Eucharist
8:10 am Morning Prayer
on FB live
8:30 am Prayer Group

WEDNESDAY,

11:00 am Centering Prayer
5:30 pm Eucharist

THURSDAY,

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

St. John's Episcopal Church
113 Madison Avenue
Montgomery, AL 36104
Phone: 334-262-1937
Fax: 334-262-1931
Email:
churchoffice@stjohnsmontgomery.org

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit #376
Montgomery, Alabama
36104

«LA_LABEL_NAME»«LA_LABEL_NAME»

«AD_ADDRESS_1»

«AD_CITY»

«AD_STATE», «AD_ZIP_CODE»

The Eagle is available on the
internet at
www.stjohnsmontgomery.org

Mary and Martha Guild Meeting

Thursday, January 16th, 5:30-7:30 pm

Guest speaker: MONISHA DILLARD

~ Graduation Coach at Carver High School ~

We will meet for dinner and to hear our speaker at the home of
Anne Tippett

3109 Boxwood Drive

**PLEASE BRING SINGLE-SERVING, INDIVIDUALLY-WRAPPED
PROTEIN ITEMS FOR OUR BACKPACK PANTRY**

~ideas: cans of ravioli, tuna packs/cans, Vienna sausages, cans of
soup/stew~

Let's welcome Monisha and other Carver leaders, and hear about
the impact of our partnership with their school.