

St. John's Episcopal Church

The Second Sunday after the Epiphany

January 20, 2019



*"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
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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

LITURGICAL EAST

The traditional posture of prayer is facing eastward and with good reason. The sun rises in the east and represents the great hope of the new day. No matter how crushing yesterday may have been, the sunrise indicates a new beginning. Each day we awaken to new possibilities, a new creation, a new opportunity to see brokenness healed. I think one reason I find the early morning hours so exhilarating is that the great potential of all I am dealing with lies ahead. I have a fresh perspective brought about by rest. And there is just something invigorating about a sunrise. The light takes over the darkness, the birds chime in, and all things seem much more possible than they did the night before. No wonder the designers of our ceiling stencils at St. John's way back in 1869 thought to include a sunburst. Our lives rotate around a living and loving force which made the sun and all the cosmos. That force will make today all that it can be.

Church architects have traditionally positioned the altar at the east end of churches. It plays into our eastward facing posture of prayer. Some churches, for various reasons, don't have their altars at the east end. St. John's is one such church. The original church building faced eastward but when the site was secured for the larger building in the 1850s, in order that the church open onto Madison Avenue, it was necessary for the church to face north. In the churches where the altar is not actually at the east end, liturgists coined the phrase "liturgical east" to connect us to the traditional posture of prayer. In reality St. John's faces north. Liturgically St. John's and all churches face eastward.

The Christian faith teaches us to be hopeful, ingrain within us a positive attitude. The Holy Scriptures, Old and New, are full of worst case scenarios which somehow lead to overall goodness. It's not that God picks on us with hardship. Life deals out hardships and God transforms all things into places where his love and redemption are revealed. Nothing separates us from God, no matter how horrible that something may be, because God will not be held separate. The Cross of Christ is the greatest illustration of such remarkable transformation. God sends his Son to us in love. We conspire to kill him. And God raises him up so that we may be forgiven. God offers his best. We offer our worst. And God responds with his very best once again. We can't top God's goodness with any sin or evil. Goodness triumphs in the end: that's the Gospel Truth.

So what's your traditional posture? Are you looking eastward in hope, northward in darkness, westward in nostalgia, or southward in despair? The truth is that, every day, we look in different directions. God calls us to hope repeatedly and his call wins out in the end. But could we cooperate a bit more with that call? Some folks I know sure talk about how great the world used to be and how horrible it is now. They make it sound like everything good has already occurred and people they disagree with now have all the power and are trying to take everything they love away from them. That's a pretty dark cynicism. And it disconnects us from reality.

The best is yet to come. That pretty well sums up the Christian Gospel message of hope. No matter how bad things seem to have gotten, God will bring about the fullness of grace in God's good time. Things are working toward their completion. That doesn't mean that things are naturally evolving and becoming better and better on their own. It means that God will not rest until all sin, evil, disease, death, and injustice is vanquished. God is bringing all things into the kingdom and God will cleanse us all for entrance into that kingdom.

As you approach the new day, are you posturing toward what is good and hopeful, toward what God may bring about today out of the potential of your life and that of all creation? Or are you still pouting about what has been taken away from you? Maybe the events of your life thrust your gaze in a different direction but you can adopt the posture of liturgical east. You can look for the good to come. Seek and you will find. Knock and it will be opened to you. Look for goodness and you will see it abundantly. The Holy Spirit has been given to make all things new. That includes you if you're looking in the right direction.

Yours faithfully,
Robert C. Wisniewski, Jr.

THE LESSONS:

Isaiah 62:1-5
 Psalm 36:5-10
 1 Cor. 12:1-11
 John 2:1-11

THE COLLECT:

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

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
 Edmon Loftin Rinehart

MINISTERS SERVING THIS SUNDAY

ORGANIST AND CHOIRMASTER:
 Joel Gregory

ACOLYTES: S. Miller, L. Williams, R. Huffaker, M. V. Huffaker, A. F. Little, W. Norrell, H. Speir, Jeb Clark

LAY EUCHARIST MINISTERS: C. Moore, J.R. Marshall, C. McLemore, K. Miller

LAY EUCHARISTIC VISITORS:
 K. Dailey

VESTRY: 7:30 M. Jenkins
10:30 B. Eskridge, C. Moore, V. Banister, D. Arrington

ALTAR GUILD: K. Funk, M. Carter, S. Stone

PASTORAL CARE: S. Huffaker, S. Speir

FLOWER DELIVERY: M. Carter, D. Schremser, W. Gunter

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: Mary Linger, 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!!



HOLY CROSS EPISCOPAL SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, January 27, 2019

1:00 - 3:00 pm

4400 Bell Road, Montgomery



Young Adults Supper Club

Thursday, January 24

At the home of Blake del Carmen

3165 Lexington Road

6:30 pm

FAMILY PROMISE WEEK

Our Family Promise week will be **February 3 through 9**. The signup sheet is on the bulletin board just outside the Parish House. Overnight hosts and dinner volunteers are needed, *also needed are volunteers to help with set up and making up beds*. We can always use extra help. Our team is Katharine Harris (katharineharris@knology.net or 334-315-1230), or Libby Fitzpatrick (libfitz1@gmail.com). If you have questions, feel free to contact one of the team. Please consider volunteering for this very rewarding ministry.

SPECIAL EVENTS AROUND THE CORNER

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, Jan 20

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 Junior EYC
6:00 pm EYC Dinner
6:30 pm Senior EYC

MONDAY, Jan 21

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

TUESDAY, Jan 22

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

WEDNESDAY, Jan 23

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

THURSDAY, Jan 24

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

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



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