

St. John's Episcopal Church
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Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit #376
Montgomery, Alabama
36104

St. John's Episcopal Church



The Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 26, 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

«LA_LABEL_NAME»
«AD_ADDRESS_1»
«AD_CITY», «AD_STATE» «AD_ZIP_CODE»

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

VBS IS QUICKLY APPROACHING!

June 3-6, 2019

St. John's is hosting VBS, and this year our theme is a modified version of "Farm Fresh Faith!" Children rising Pre-K4 through 6th grade may participate. Look for information online!

**** Volunteers NEEDED-**

Please email

sarah@stjohnsmontgomery.org



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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 Tippett
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

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 Tippett

CHOICES AND COMPASSION

As a priest, I have opportunities to meet with people in the very most difficult times in their lives, times when they are struggling and seeking to make decisions that hopefully will lead to health and wholeness. Compassion and understanding are so important as people share the difficulties they are dealing with. That involves listening to the various feelings they are experiencing. When people are hurting, our hearts automatically go out to them.

After listening and drawing out the various feelings they are experiencing, it is helpful to consider options. When we are hurting, we typically think we are stuck and have no options but usually we have a few courses of action to choose between. Sometimes the best option is to dig in more attentively right where we are. Sometimes the best option is to look for a way out of the struggle that is plaguing us. Just realizing there are choices we can make is very helpful when we are in the midst of pain. Rarely is there one path that will make everything perfect but, as we tune in carefully to our struggles, we are usually led to a choice that seems best or at least necessary. In those times God's grace is available to us.

While I am not a marriage counselor, it is not uncommon for me to meet with people who are going through significant relationship challenges. That conversation usually begins something like this: "I don't really have anyone else to talk to but I can't go on living like this. I don't want to get a divorce but if something doesn't change, I'll have to because this is killing me." Actively listening to people in such situations is vital. As they share their struggles and pain, paths forward emerge. Often people are able to address the brokenness in their marriages in such a way that

tremendous growth occurs. What they have been looking for is finally reached. They change and their spouses change. Sometimes, however, divorce is simply the only course. Divorce is hard and crummy and it should be a last resort but sometimes it just has to happen. Abusive relationships often don't get better and need to end. Repeated unfaithfulness often necessitates leaving a relationship. The vast majority of marital problems can be solved and even turned into wonderful opportunities for mutual growth. But some marriages need to be allowed to die in order for the couple to find new life. I always challenge couples to hang in there and work things out, but sometimes those efforts don't bring resolution.

Were I, or the Church, or society, to remove the option of divorce altogether, we would be creating a culture of oppression. While it might be true that most divorces could be avoided with better choices and hard work, it would be cruel to eliminate that option altogether. In order for married people to find new life sometimes they have to get divorced. I grieve divorces. I'm sure God does too. But I don't think God wants people to waste away in oppressive relationships. We have all seen divorced people blossom and find meaningful lives. The Church and society wisely allow for that choice to be made. And the Church tries to help people make better choices by carefully working with couples as they prepare for marriage. The answer is not to remove divorce as an option but to help people as they make choices.

Abortion is similar. Over the years I have sat with a number of women who have struggled with an unwanted pregnancy. A few times they have been careless but they weren't alone in that, and more often they have been

THE LESSONS:
 Acts 16:9-15
 Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5
 Psalm 67
 John 14:23-29
THE COLLECT:
 O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

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

MINISTERS SERVING THIS SUNDAY

ORGANIST AND CHOIRMASTER: Joel Gregory

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| George Bibb | John Dow Pickett, Sr. |
| Beryl Robinson | Paul W. Peeples |
| George B. Pickett III | Alice Dow Dupre |
| Marie Dow Pickett | Bernis Copeland |
| George B. Pickett, Sr. | Talitha Ford Copeland |
| | Jan Pickett McLane |

ACOLYTES: Emma Screws, Anne Tyler Fitzpatrick, Louis Bradford, Anna Perry, McKay Lee, Holden Habermacher, Eli Jerigan, Ware McCollum

LAY EUCHARIST MINISTERS: C. Moore, Bradley Westhauser, William Haynes, Cathrine McLemore

LAY EUCHARISTIC VISITORS: Carl Wackerman, Katie Keller

VESTRY: 7:30 Austin Huffaker
10:30 Bill Eskridge, Bob Young, Emily Wise, Radney Ramsey

ALTAR GUILD: Karen Funk, Jeanne Drummond

PASTORAL CARE: Debbie Wakefield, Kitty Coleman, Mary Simons, Betty Mathews

FLOWER DELIVERY: Jeanne Drummond, Valerie Wilkerson, Bet-te Smith

Flowers by the St. John's Flower Guild

the victim of irresponsible or cruel behavior by a man they knew or did not know. Not all sexual activity is mutual. Date rape is highly prevalent. Unwanted pregnancies have a variety of causes and many of those causes are not the sole responsibility of the woman. The pain a woman experiences with an unwanted pregnancy is huge and real. If I were to say to such a woman: "You just have to deal with that," I think I'd be a crummy priest and person.

In those situations, a lot of listening needs to be done. Like other struggles, we look at the various options available and then seek God's guidance as we make a decision. I've been with women who have chosen to go through with births and keep the child. Others have chosen to go through birth and give the child up for adoption. Others have chosen to abort the pregnancy. None have made any of those choices lightly. All of the choices involve hard work and prayer. And having options available is vital to health and well-being.

Were I, or the Church, or society, to remove the option of abortion altogether, we would be creating a culture of oppression. Abortion, like divorce, is not something that should be chosen lightly. But to eliminate it as a choice holds women in subjugation. The answer is not to remove abortion as an option but to apply compassion as people make choices.

God has woven choice into creation. Through our choices we find God's guidance and make better and better choices. God does not force himself on any one of us. God loves unilaterally and invites us to choose love ourselves. The Church is not here merely to impose rules. The Church is here to apply God's love to all people as they go through a life of choosing between difficult options. If we merely restrict options, we create oppression. As we apply God's grace and love, we participate in redemption.

Yours faithfully,
 Robert C. Wisnewski, Jr.

Joy and Concern

Your prayers are requested for the following parishioners: Sarah Spratling, Shirley Price, Glen Price, Valerie Lee, Sarah Stone, Florence Jordan, Christopher Marshall, Karen Jarrell, Jim Thomas, Eddie McDowell, Joe McGough, Cynthia Hill, George Wakefield.

We pray for one who has died, Burke Fitzpatrick Chambers – mother of Marti Rice and sister of Trantum Fitzpatrick. Rest eternal, grant to her, O Lord; and let light perpetual shine upon her.

Prayers are also requested for these friends: Gloria Hudgeon, John Robertson, Johnny Smith, 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, Betty Harper, Jennifer Pruitt, Pam Litel, Aaron Hines, Catherine Riddell, Hugh Lee Earnest, Daphne Oliver, Dawn Damato, 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, William Hardwick Ray, Meredith McLemore, Elizabeth McLemore Baker

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

LAST DAY FOR ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

How the Bible was Put Together

Meeting in the Parish Hall

Led by the Rev. Dr. Deonna Neal

In this class we will look at how the Bible, as we hold it in our hands today, was put together. We will begin with how the Hebrew Scriptures came into being, followed by the development of writings after Jesus' death, and then conclude with how the final "canon" of the Bible was established in the 5th century.

A Historical-Critical Study of the Letter to the Philippians

Led by Jamie Osborne

Meeting in the library

This course will focus on Paul's letter to the Philippians and will be based on Dr. Paul Holloway's recently published Philippians: A Critical and Historical Commentary. Dr. Holloway is Professor of Classics and Ancient Christianity at The University of the South where he teaches courses in both the School of Theology and the College of Arts and Sciences. The commentary is recommended but not required for the course.

May Ingathering

Aid to Inmate Mother's (AIM)

Donations include:

Gently used purses

Toiletries

Feminine Hygiene Products

Women's undergarments

Please bring to the Education building



Honduras Pill Count

Our pill count will continue this Sunday, May 26th. A light lunch will be available. We are closing in on completion of our pill count for Honduras. On Sunday we counted over 30,000 more pills. If we could get a good turnout for this week we would possibly finish our task. Please consider joining in. We meet immediately after church in the 3rd floor youth area, with a light lunch provided. Any help is appreciated and we hope to see you there.

EVENTS AROUND THE CORNER

Pill Counting—After the 10:30 service

Young Adults go to the Biscuits Game— May 23rd 6:35

VBS—June 3-6

Honduras Trip— July 19th-27th

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

SUNDAY, May 26

- 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
- 9:00 pm Compline on FB Live

**MONDAY, May 27
 Offices Closed for Memorial day**

TUESDAY, May 28

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

WEDNESDAY, May 29

- 11:30 am Centering Prayer
- 5:30 pm Holy Eucharist

THURSDAY, May 30

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

St. John's Faithfulness

Required Weekly

\$35,331.16

Received Sunday

\$22,805.30

Required to Date

\$706,623.20

Received to Date

\$672,340.41

Building Fund Debt

\$27,000