

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

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 «AD_CITY», «AD_STATE» «AD_ZIP_CODE»

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

EYC:
 Pumpkin Patch!
 We will have
 lunch at the
 church right
 after the 10:30
 service on Oct.
 20th and go
 to the pumpkin
 patch. We will
 be back around
 3:00.

Upcoming Events:

- October 23 Wednesday Night series**
 - *Mysteries of the Bible*— Children ages K-6th grade are invited to participate.
- October 30 Trunk-or-Treat**
 - All families are welcome to participate. Each family car is responsible for their own decorations and candy. There will be a contest for the "Best Decorated Trunk." All cars must be parked in parking lot NO LATER than 5:45 pm! We will close off the parking lot at this time.
- December 1 Rise Against Hunger**
 - All families are invited to participate in this outreach event! (5:00-7:00 pm)
- Dec. 8 & 15 Pageant Rehearsal**
 - All children (K-6th) will meet in Nave during the Sunday school hour (9:15 am).
- December 22 Children's Christmas Pageant— 9:30 am**

*Children's Wednesday
 Night series:
 Mysteries of the
 Bible*

Children ages K-6th grade are invited to learn about mysteries of the Bible with a mystery manor theme! Each week we will focus on a different parable/mystery. We will play fun games, solve the puzzles and learn more about the Bible!

*Eucharist 5:30-6:00 pm
 Dinner 6:00 pm-6:30 pm
 Program 6:30-7:30 pm*

***Modified version in Nursery for Toddlers-Pre-K.
 (No scary decorations)*

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*

SITTING SHIVA

In the second chapter of Job, after his children, many of his servants, and a number of his animals have died, Job develops a case of sores from head to foot. His three closest friends come to comfort him. "They sat with him on the ground for seven days and seven nights, and no one spoke a word to him, for they say that his suffering was very great." Later in the story, those friends will pontificate and offer useless advice but right here they do nothing other than sit with their friend and allow him to feel his pain while they quietly support him. That is called Sitting Shiva in scripture and we see it from time to time. When someone is grieving a loss, close friends will come and sit with them just for support. Integral to Sitting Shiva is to refrain from clichéd speech.

A friend recently was reflecting on the death of her sister. "You just don't know how that feels until it happens. It's like losing a limb. People try to understand but they really can't."

How do we help those we love and care about as they grieve their losses? Most times we are so uncomfortable with their pain, and we want to help them so badly, that we say things that are pretty offensive, things like, "It was God's will", or "God needed her in heaven". Often, in an attempt to assure them that we understand, we start talking about what we did to handle our own grief in our times of loss. Or we might start making suggestions about what they might do to make their feelings go away. We may tell them to see their doctor or go to a support

group. We may say to them that we understand what they are going through and we want to help. I think anyone who is grieving a loss would say that all those things are not very helpful. "If I hear one more person try to explain why this happened or what I need to do, I think I'll explode", one person told me years ago when he was grieving.

I visited a grieving man while I was in seminary. It was one of the first times I had done that and I felt so helpless. I was so scared and felt unprepared so I just sat in a chair and said virtually nothing for about 20 minutes. All the while I was trying to think of something helpful to say. Later, I was surprised to hear the man tell me that my visit with him had been helpful. I confessed to him that I felt inadequate as no words of wisdom came to mind. He told me something I still remember: "Maybe not knowing what to say is God's way of telling us to keep our mouths shut."

We want to help our grieving friends so badly that we allow inappropriate words to spill out of our mouths. Sometimes their pain is so unbearable for us that we just want to make it go away and we try to offer some explanation for why the loss has occurred. People who suffer loss often have to work very hard to forgive others for the stupid things they have said to them which complicates their grieving process.

Sitting Shiva is a valuable and helpful way of accompanying loved ones through

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Rector:
 Robert C. Wisnewski, Jr.

Associate Rector:
 Jamie Osborne

Priest Associate
 Deonna D. Neal

Staff:
 Libby Poole
 Financial Administrator

Anne Tippett
 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 Tippett

THE LESSONS:

Genesis 32:22-31
Psalm 121
2 Timothy 3:14-4:5
Luke 18:1-8

THE COLLECT:

Almighty and everlasting God, in Christ you have revealed your glory among the nations: Preserve the works of your mercy, that your Church throughout the world may persevere with steadfast faith in the confession of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

MINISTERS SERVING THIS SUNDAY

ORGANIST AND CHOIRMASTER:

Joel Gregory

ACOLYTES: Anne Elaine Clark, Sofie Behr, Anne Frances Little, Anna Perry, Holt Spier, Jeb Clark, Molly Selman, Susannah Miller

VESTRY: 7:30 John Carter 10:30 Virginia Banister, Bill Eskridge, Georgia Holmes, Will Gunter

LAY EUCHARISTIC

MINISTERS: Kat Dailey, Joleen George, William Haynes

LAY EUCHARISTIC VISITORS: Will Hill Tankersly and Arthur Mazyck

ALTAR GUILD: Melissa Carter, Stephanie Stone

PASTORAL

CARE: Murray Bennett, Carrie Shaw, Margaret Peoples

FLOWER DELIVERY:

Melissa Carter, Will Gunter, Valerie Wilkerson

Flowers by the St. John's Flower Guild

hard times. Just sitting quietly with them and saying nothing at all, just being present and available, is probably the very best thing we could offer them. They will talk when they need to talk. They will cry when they need to cry. They will rant when they need to rant. And our quiet presence, allowing them to be wherever they are in that moment, sends the message that where they are is where God will meet them. Why do we feel such a need to make our friends feel differently than they do? Because we love them. And because we don't like uncomfortable feelings ourselves. But feelings will pass on through us and will be used to heal us, if we allow them to be felt.

The next time someone close to you suffers, say less, listen more, sit still with them, and allow them to be wherever they are. If you feel the need to explain or make them happier or tell them how you think things should be handled, stifle yourself and just be with them. Grief is a holy, if hard, work. It deserves to be honored rather than steered. Our job is to sit with those we love while they suffer. God's job, and God's promise, is to heal. Their suffering is a sign, not that God is absent but that God is doing his healing work,

Yours faithfully,
Robert C. Wisnewski, Jr.

Bob, Our Missionary in Honduras

Bob Canter, who has served some several years as a missionary, has stepped away from his position with the Diocese of Honduras and returned home for an extended time of refreshment. He is back in Montgomery and worshipping with us at St. John's as he discerns the next steps in his call to serve. Please continue to keep Bob in your prayers and enjoy his company now that he is back home.

Mary and Martha Guild

October 20th: 4:00-6:00 We will gather in the Parish Hall at 4:00; we will clean our containers and prep them for the potted flowers to be put in them closer to the time of the Bazaar.

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, Nan Rosa Deborah Cheatum.

Prayers are also requested for these friends: Rob Ludington, Barry Green-Burns, 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, 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, Jean Shackelford, Vaughan Dozier, Kay Ivey.

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

Spiritual Direction

St. John's offers Spiritual Direction to anyone who wishes to deepen their experience and understanding of God, themselves, and others. The individual 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.

October Ingathering

Coats for Friendship Mission-A faith-based shelter for homeless men, women and children. Two shelter locations, and a community meals program (soup kitchen) are open to all who are hungry in Montgomery, Alabama. Please bring your gently used or new coats to the educational building.

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry to Preach and Celebrate This Sunday October 20

The Executive Council of the Episcopal Church - the national body that administers the programs and policies adopted by the General Convention - will be meeting in Montgomery October 18-21 and will worship with us on October 20 at 10:30. The Presiding Bishop, The Most Rev. Michael Curry, will preach and celebrate at that Eucharist. Come and welcome the Executive Council and the Presiding Bishop.

Events Around the Corner

- Mary and Martha Guild October 20th @ 4:00
- Wednesday Night Series October 23rd @ 6:00
- Young Adult Supper Club October 24th 6:30 @ the Colliers
- Mary and MARTHA Guild October 27th @ 4:00
- Trunk or Treat October 30th 6:00
- OCTOBER 31st LAST DAY TO COMPLETE SURVEY!!
- Bazaar Pantry Cooking-every Tuesday and Thursday 10:00 am
- Bazaar Arts and Crafts every Monday 9:30 am

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

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Frederick Wooten Wilkerson, Jr. | Marion Stearns Venard |
| Frederick Wooten Wilkerson, Sr. | Peter Wilkerson Kimball |
| Kathleen McCord Wilkerson | Arthur Bowman Durkee, Jr. |
| Bernard de Sieyes de Veynes | David Larry Blaylock |
| Alice Stearns de Sieyes | |
| Marion de Sieyes Ebersole | |

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

SUNDAY

- 7:30 am Holy Eucharist
- 8:15 am Breakfast in the Parish House
- 10:30 am Holy Eucharist
- 12:00 pm EYC Pumpkin Patch
- 4:20 pm Children's Choir
- 9:00 pm Compline on FB Live

MONDAY

- 9:30 am Arts and Crafts
- 12 Noon Clergy Led Bible Study in the Small Dining Room

TUESDAY

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

WEDNESDAY

- 11:30 am Centering Prayer
- 5:30pm Eucharist
- 6:00 pm Dinner
- 6:30 pm Program

THURSDAY

- 10:00 am Pantry Cooking
- 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 \$33,212.72
Required to Date \$1,448,577.56
Received to Date \$1,323,029.61