



"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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Montgomery, Alabama 36104
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Rector:
Robert C. Wisniewski, Jr.

Associate Rector:
Candice B. Frazer
Jamie Osborne

Priest Associate
Deonna D. Neal

Staff:
Libby Poole
Financial Administrator
Fay Worriow
Parish Secretary
Anne Tippett
Assistant to the Rector

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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 Tippett

SING THE HYMNS (or at least read the words)

In the fifth grade our class was selected to sing on the radio. Special sound equipment was brought in, along with risers for us to stand on so that we all could see the music director. It was pretty exciting. But when it was time for us actually to sing, after lots of practicing, the person in charge of the event took Andy Tweitto and me aside and told us that, while the other students were singing, she would like for the two of us to just hum along. What she meant of course was that we were lousy singers and she didn't want our voices messing up the recording. Andy and I thought that was kind of funny, both of us well aware that singing was not our strong suit. But I have to admit that, every time I sing a hymn in church, that music director's assessment is in my head. Every time I sing, I think I should be just humming along.

I have gotten a little better over time but I still don't have a good singing voice. It's good that my seat as a priest is usually far removed from everyone else so they don't have to listen to me. When we are singing a hymn I check my microphone most every verse to make sure it is off. Whenever there is any chanting to be done in the liturgy, it's certainly not going to be me doing it. The times are rare when I am sitting in the congregation but, when I am, I sing softly so no one else will be bothered. I'm a little paranoid. Maybe I could blame that music director but it seems more accurate to blame my voice.

It's odd that, despite my lack of talent in that area, music is a very important part of my worship experience. The music moves me to tears. It inspires me to consider God's abiding grace. It breaks down my barriers when I am too rigid. It softens my soul when I am feeling unlovable. I love being surprised by a hymn I'm not familiar with. And I love singing a hymn that I know really well. I love hearing how the organ and instrumentalists accompany the hymns. I love the way the choir leads us through the verses and adds a descant here and there to jazz things up. It all sounds glorious to me, my voice notwithstanding. And every single Sunday I am amazed that the words of the hymns go so very well with the lessons we have read. Many times I will think that the words in the hymns expressed perfectly what I was trying to say in the sermon. The poetry of the hymns is downright remarkable.

When we are processing in and out during the liturgy, singing a hymn, I follow the words and sing as

best I can. While the words of the hymns and the glorious way our musicians lead us through the hymns engage me so deeply, I am always struck by the number of people who are just standing there, not only not singing but not even holding a hymnal. I'd say it's at least 10% of the congregation, sometimes as much as 20%. While I have heard some people say they only sing the hymns they know or like, most of the people who don't sing the hymns are people like me who know they don't sing very well. I hear them say that they just like listening.

If you fall into that 10 or 20% of the people who just stand there and don't sing the hymns or even hold the hymnal, I'd like to invite you to take up a new practice. Even if you are a lousy singer like me, pick up the book and let the words of the hymns, along with the talent of others, engage you. Even if you don't sing along, reading the words will help you listen better. The payoff will be higher for you if you follow along.

I'd also like to remind you that following along in the book, and even singing along as loudly as you feel comfortable, helps improve the worship of the entire congregation. Worship is a communal event. When you just stand there, others see you and your lack of participation interferes. Now I would also say that, if you are a lousy singer, and you sing at the top of your lungs, that interferes with the communal event too! But more often the problem is lack of participation. The Thanksgiving meal, as a comparison, is a communal event: if you just sat there staring off into space while the family conversed, the entire family would feel your withdrawal. Tuning in and participating to the best of your ability helps the whole community.

We often face worship as a consumer product. It's all about what we want and need and what we are going to get out of the experience. If there is something we think might give us more on a given Sunday – like going to the lake or sleeping in or watching television – we tend to go with what we think we want or need at the time. Worship, however, is primarily something we offer, not something we receive. That offering is to God, of course. But it is also to each other. We gather to enrich the worship experience for all of us together. When we choose not to be there, it affects the whole group. When we choose to be there but only half-heartedly, that affects the group too.

THE LESSONS:

Isaiah 35:4-7a
 Psalm 146
 James 2:1-17
 Mark 7:24-37

THE COLLECT:

Grant us, O Lord, we pray thee, to trust in thee with all our heart; seeing that, as thou dost always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so thou dost not forsake those who make their boast of thy mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

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

Charles Andrew Harris, Sr.
 Lucille Jackson Harris
 Julia Marks Dozier
 Jane Dozier Harris
 Charles Andrew Harris, Jr.
 Audrey Clingman Pinkston
 Charles Mitchell Pinkston, Sr.
 Charles L. & Ilona Grey Pinkston
 Fred D. & Louisa Clingman
 William A. (Billy) Hughes

MINISTERS SERVING THIS SUNDAY

ORGANIST AND CHOIRMASTER:

Joel Gregory

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

LAY EUCHARIST MINISTERS: C. Moore, M.N. Parsons, D. Holmes, W. Gunter

LAY EUCHARISTIC VISITORS:

C. Placeway, M. Hughes

VESTRY: 7:30 D. Arrington
10:30 J. Marshall, G. Stough, D. Arrington, C. Moore

ALTAR GUILD: N. Benner, F. Hughes, A. Hamlett

PASTORAL CARE: E. Harrell, M. Moody, N. Bradford

FLOWER DELIVERY: S. & S.

Marks, A. King, N. Buzard
Flowers by the St. John's Flower Guild

So, sing the hymns! Or at least hold the book and follow the words. It's good for you and it's good for us all. Look for the good news of Christ in each of the hymns. It's always there.

Yours faithfully,
Robert C. Wisnewski, Jr.

EVENTS AROUND THE CORNER**Kick-off Sunday!-September 9**

Heavenly Hosts - September 11 @ Cindy & Bob Seibels, 3532 Thomas Ave.

Coffice at Café Louisa - Resumes September 12

EYC District Day -September 16 @ Holy Trinity, Auburn

Wednesday Night Fall Series begins-September 26

Highland Consort – Choral and Instrumental Program – September 27 at 7:30 pm

Blessing of the Animals – October 7 at 5:00 pm

Remember Tuesdays—Morning Prayer at 8:10 am on Facebook Live

**PASTORAL CARE**

... assisting parishioners in need

FALL KICKOFF

Monday, September 10th, 5:30 pm

at the home of Jane Barganier

2331 Fernway Drive

For all current PC volunteers and those interested in joining this rewarding ministry. There will be a brief fellowship followed by team captain reports, if desired, and Q&A. Snacks/tea/water will be provided. Please feel free to bring any other beverages of choice.



The American Guild of Organists is bringing Highland Consort to St. John's at 7:30pm on September 27 for a program of choral music.

Highland Consort is based in Birmingham, at Cathedral Church of the Advent, and was founded by its director Frederick Teardo in 2014. The ensemble is formed of professional singers and instrumentalists from throughout the Southeast. The ensemble promotes music of the Tudor and Renaissance periods. A Reception will follow in the Parrish Hall.

JOY AND CONCERN

Your prayers are requested for the following parishioners: Tammie Urman, Bud Nason, Florence Jordan, Christopher Marshall, Sunshine Huff, Karen Jarrell, Francis Beaulieu, Jim Thomas, Carol Pierce, George West, Eddie McDowell, Dottis Robinson, Joe McGough, Cynthia Hill.

Prayers are also requested for these friends: 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, Ame Duan, 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.

ATTENTION WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

*Plans for the 2018 Bazaar,
Wednesday, November 14th, are underway!*

**Let us know in which area you would like to work
(before and/or during the bazaar):**

Pantry, Arts & Crafts, Treasure Attic, Fine arts, Luncheon, Silent Auction

**Contact Virginia Banister, Volunteer Coordinator:
334-354-9517 or vbear9517@charter.net**

PANTRY

Join us in the kitchen for the first week of Pantry prep! We are looking forward to getting started on a great season of cooking for the Bazaar. Workshops begin at 10:00 a.m. in the St. John's kitchen.

Tuesday, September 11 - Spinach and Artichoke Casserole

Thursday, September 13 - Chicken and Wild Rice Casserole

Email Betsy Cannon with questions at bcannon66@yahoo.com

Silent Auction Gifts-The Silent Auction needs valuable gifts that will inspire competitive bidding. This would include antiques, artwork, silver flatware, serving pieces and hollowware. In addition decorative accessories, estate jewelry, or any other collectables are highly sought. Please Contact **Katharine Harris (315-1230) or katharineharris@knology.net**

Treasure Attic Instead of a yard sale, bring your pre-loved items such as giftware, China, glassware, linens, picture frames, lamps, small furniture, costume jewelry, or other items in good clean condition. Your Trash is surely someone else's treasure. Please bring your donations to the stairwell across from the elevator in the Sunday School building. Contact **Kecia Kelso 334-612-7397 if you have questions .**

HANDMADE ARTS AND CRAFTS

Do you paint, sew, knit or make hand crafted items? The Handmade Arts and Crafts room needs items created by our talented St. John's members and friends. We also welcome any ideas for hand-crafted articles that would be good sellers at the Bazaar. You're welcome to join us meeting Thursday, Sept. 6 from 9 to 12 in the crafting room on the third floor of the education building. Please contact us if you wish to help: **Katie Keller (kkeller2009@charter.net), or Jean Smyth (je@smyth3.com).**

ADULT SUNDAY MORNING CLASSES SEPTEMBER 9 - OCTOBER 28 AT 9:15

Practicing our Faith - *A Journey through the Book of Common Prayer* Led by Jamie Osborne, meeting in the Library

Living the Good News - *A Discussion of the Sunday Morning Scripture Lessons* Led by Dudley Perry, meeting in the Small Dining Room

The History of St. John's - *A Look at the People and Events Since 1834* Led by Robert Wisnewski, meeting in the Parish Hall

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERIES SEPTEMBER 26 - OCTOBER 17 Eucharist at 5:30, Supper at 6:00, Classes at 6:30

The Ethics of War - A Class for Adults
Led by Deonna Neal, meeting in the Parish Hall

Harry Potter and the Gospel - A Class for Children
Led by Sarah Collier, meeting in the Education Building

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

SUNDAY, September 9
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 Kick-Off Celebration

MONDAY, September 10
12 Noon Clergy Led Bible Study in the Small Dining Room
6:00 pm Men's Group

TUESDAY, September 11
7:00 am Holy Eucharist
8:30 am Prayer Group
6:30 pm Heavenly Hosts @ 3532 Thomas Ave.

WEDNESDAY, September 12
11:30 am Centering Prayer
5:30 pm Holy Eucharist

THURSDAY, September 13
12:05 pm Holy Unction and Holy Eucharist
6:00 pm Adult Choir Practice

Gifts of Stock Notification

The Church Finance office is here to serve you with your stock gifts. If you are gifting stock, **please contact**

Libby Poole at 262-1937
or libby@stjohnsmontgomery.org

in the finance office to help her be aware of those gifts and the designation of those gifts. If you would like more information, **please contact Libby.** Thank you.

St. John's Faithfulness

Required Weekly

\$36,066.80

Received Sunday

\$16,462.03

Required to Date

\$1,262,338.00

Received to Date

\$1,147,894.15

Building Fund Debt

\$195,000

Outstanding Building Pledges

\$69,400

St. John's Episcopal Church
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Fax: 334-262-1931
Email:
churchoffice@stjohnsmontgomery.org

Non-Profit Organization
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Montgomery, Alabama
36104

«LA_LABEL_NAME»
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«AD_ADDRESS_2»
«AD_CITY», «AD_STATE» «AD_ZIP_CODE»

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

EYC Kick-off
on September 9
5:00 PM Junior EYC
6:00 PM Senior EYC
Come have fun on our first
EYC of the Year!



**September
In-Gathering**
Standard size
bath towels
and wash cloths
For The Montgomery
Humane Shelter
Drop off in the Sunday
School Building

Water Inflatables!

Birthday Celebration!

Children should bring swimsuit & towel

*Sunday
School for
all ages!*

**KICK-OFF
SUNDAY**

September 9

Hotdog Lunch