

*Deadline to submit articles for "The Epistle" is the 15th of each month.*

*Summer Worship Schedule: Sunday Worship will remain the same throughout the month of June. We will offer our 8 a.m. service in the chapel and our 10:30 a.m. service in the nave.*

*Wednesday Eucharist/Healing service in the Chapel of The Lady & All Saints continues at noon.*

*No Wednesday evening meals or activities until we start fall formation.*

*Executive Meeting June 13 at 5:30 p.m.*

*Vestry Meeting June 18 at 5:15 p.m.*

*Summer office hours are Mon-Thurs 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., Fri 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.*

**Pentecost Flower Reservations Due June 4**

Forms will be available in the bulletin or you may call the Parish Office to make a dedication for Altar flowers in memory or thanksgiving of a loved one. Dedications must be received by Tuesday, June 4, for your dedication to appear in the Pentecost bulletin.

**Festival Raises \$13,000+ for Outreach**

The first annual St. Paul's Mission and Music Festival was a huge success (even with rain!) and, after expenses, we raised more than \$13,000 for outreach.

When we first started talking about an annual event for St. Paul's and how ours could be different from other churches, there was the idea of having music, children's activities and a raffle, in addition to food plates. It turned out to be a winning combination with a great turnout in spite of the rain.

We would like to especially thank Scott McQuaig for coordinating the outstanding music. His band, Scott McQuaig and The Tomcats, plus Southern Drive — were all a huge hit!

A big thanks to Anne and Duncan Chalk, who donated a stay in their Perdido Key beach condo for the raffle, which was won by Gloria Chancellor, and to Margaret Van Dyke, who donated a lovely handmade quilt won by Perrin Burchfield.

We also want to thank all the committee heads and their teams who did an outstanding job of planning for the festival. They were awesome! To everyone who worked the day of the event serving food, setting up and taking down, helping each committee and moving everything inside when the rain came. Thank you! Thank you!

A big thank you to everyone at St. Paul's for supporting the event by selling and buying tickets for fish plates and the raffles and contributing frozen and baked goods. You were so important in making our first St. Paul's Mission and Music Festival so successful and so much fun!

*God's peace,*

*Marcia Via, Lauretta Hamilton and Bobbie Rea*



**Parish Work Day**

*Let's clean up the basement (that sounds like so much fun!).*

**Saturday, June 15**

**8 a.m. – 2 pm.**

*Remember — "Many hands make light work."*

**Brothers and Sisters in Christ,**

*There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. - Galatians 3:28*

I have walked on River Street in Savannah a hundred times before. Charleston, too, was a familiar place where distant family still live and I almost went to college. I have worshiped in the oldest parishes in the Episcopal Church and have known hospitality in those places. But never have I walked where I walked this past week; never have I seen those places where the church — for so long — did not go or refused to go; the places where hospitality did not apply.

This past week, I attended the pilot for what may evolve into the Episcopal Church's ongoing approach to racial healing. It was held at the Absalom Jones



Center in Atlanta, which serves as the laboratory for the work of racial reconciliation in the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta. This was part conference, part pilgrimage — and all incredibly difficult and necessary work. There were ordained representatives from as far as New Orleans to the west, Charleston to the east, Miami from the south and Lexington to the north. In church terminology, this is province IV. These dioceses make up the southeastern United States. It was, as you might imagine, the most exhausting, yet some of the most spirit filled and authentic work in which I have taken part.

For this trip to Savannah, we did not stay on the familiar path I knew, that famous waterfront normally associated with restaurants, pubs, along the water's edge. This time, we took a turn up the hill behind those buildings, walking over bricks that had been laid more than 200 years ago by slaves. To our astonishment, we found holding places, literally brick cells, up the hill, hidden from the street view. The city of Savannah has never been able to document and name the use of the cells for lack of historical proof, but these cells have the exact same

dimensions as cells in Ghana where Africans were abducted.

You can still visit these cells on the shores of Ghana, where people were held until they were loaded onto ships and their lives changed forever. Above these cells in Ghana is an Anglican Church. As people worshiped above, people below were held until they were packed into ships headed to the Americas, never to see their home or loved ones again. We visited the site known as "Weeping Time," where the largest single day purchase of slaves in Georgia occurred and families were torn apart. Today, the land is privately owned and there are no markers or signs of acknowledgment.

We traveled to Charleston to see the slave market, which is now a museum. We saw the lists; names of people in one column, age in the next and in the third column property words like "prime" and "breeder." We also took a moment on that last night and waded into the ocean.

We looked across the sea towards Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana and prayed compline with the help of our cell phones.

One of the first things asked of me when I returned was to pick a word, one single word, to describe my experience. "Listen" was the word I chose.

So much of our work as we grow into God's likeness every day and how we choose to engage in the world comes from listening. Getting people in the room together, whites and blacks, all listening to stories of one another. We listened to the joys and the hurts. We listened to our universal desire to be loved and longing for God.

Of course, while discussing one of our country's most engrained systemic challenges, it was only a matter of time before emotions erupted. And they certainly did. The conversations became heated, but we all stayed in the room. We kept listening and breathing as we heard from voices so often silenced or invisible. We heard from theologians and clergypersons serving in communities that in so many ways are

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# Listening...

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expressing what it means to be Anglican.

So then, now what? How do we begin such difficult work? What do I have to report? Somehow, when we reconvene in six months, I will share what we are doing at St. Paul's, Meridian, and what racial healing is taking place in the Diocese of Mississippi. If you are curious about an outcome, there isn't one. It was a pilot after all. Also, there is nothing that could be fixed in a week, month or even a lifetime. Racism has existed in this land for 400 years and it still exists through mass incarceration and systemic segregation. But this is part of our work, part of being stewards of ourselves — one another and tending to the kingdom. As our prayer book says, "Grant that we may not rest until all the people of this land share the benefits of true freedom and gladly accept its disciplines."

In listening last week, there are a few things I want to tell God's people in Mississippi.

- **"Learn to normalize courage."** From the words of Bishop Robert Wright of Atlanta, we must learn to have the capacity to have the difficult conversations in our communities. We must be willing to be vulnerable more than one Sunday in February.
- **Slavery has only devolved.** Racism is considered a normal system. It takes relearning and doing the work of making racism abnormal. I cannot hold myself accountable for history. I can only hold myself accountable for my time and responsible for those entrusted to my care.
- **Be the person on earth God intends me to be.** None of us are where God desires us to be. It's a lifelong process but I can't get down the road when I haven't uncovered parts of myself that I need to explore.
- **Living out what it means to be Anglican.** What Anglican are we really talking about? European Anglican or are we talking about Anglican as in people of faith who believe God's grace emanates through the Word and Sacrament?

My hope is that parishes pick one goal I present to the diocese, one avenue to stimulate conversation concerning racial healing and then allow the Spirit to take over. For me, by the time I left the group last week, I felt as though I was saying goodbye to 21 new friends. I don't ever remember a time I developed such authentic relationships so quickly.

Yes, difficult work is ahead but this is the work to which we are called. The life of a prophetic witness sometimes makes us feel like we are alone. But any time when we are doing something right, we will never be alone.

**"We thought we could find an easier, softer way, but we could not. We sought God's protection and care with complete abandon."** -A.A.

Your servant in Christ,  
Austin+




## Celebrating our Youth

St. Paul's does many things in grand style, and one of those is celebrating its youth and children in a big way! We are blessed with a large group of vibrant young people who love participating in parish life. This year the choir loft overflowed into the first four pews, brimming with kids. Allie Purvis, music permanent staff at Camp Bratton-Green, came down over from Madison to play camp music for the service. St. Paul's graduates Anna Katherine Carrier, Lilli Graham, Steven Ivy and Cara Ivy received blessings and prayers as they begin their journeys into adulthood. Father Austin was boldly celebrated by the youth during announcements, complete with champagne poppers! This was such a fun and lively worship service, thanks to everyone who made it happen!

## VBS is Happening in June!

### Who is My Neighbor: Learning to Love Like Jesus

Unbelievably, we are a few weeks away from hosting VBS here at St. Paul's! Many thanks to those of you who have stepped up and volunteered your time and talents for this week. We will be covering the themes throughout the week.



- Monday: Love God and Love your Neighbor:** Discovering Jesus' instructions to love our neighbor
- Tuesday: Who is my Neighbor?:** Learning what it means to be a good neighbor
- Wednesday: Live Peacefully:** Explore what living peacefully with others means
- Thursday: Everyone is Invited:** Understanding that everyone is included as neighbors and invited to God's table.
- Friday: Share with Others:** Sharing God's gifts with church communities and neighbors.

Planning meetings are still continuing – and we still need plenty of volunteers to make this week happen, please contact Claire Hasselle to sign up. Typically, we have around 50 kids at VBS each day. We will be gathering to decorate the church on Saturday, June 24 and Sunday, June 25. This is a great opportunity for people who can't help during the week to come a be a part of VBS. Thank you!

### Remember to Wear Your Red!

Join us in celebrating Pentecost Sunday June 9, at St. Paul's. Cake and light refreshments will be served in the Parish Hall between services (and yes, we will have 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services throughout June). Activities for the kids begin at 9:30 a.m. The Sunday that is seven weeks (50 days) after Easter Day is the Feast of Pentecost. So, on The Day of Pentecost in the church year, 50 days of Easter and 10 days after the Ascension, the clergy wear red vestments to signify the work of the Spirit. It is also a custom in many churches for the people in the congregation to wear red on the Day of Pentecost as well. We wear red to remind us of the fire of the Spirit.

In addition, a congregation with many dressed in red is colorful. And perhaps most of all, it is fun.

## We Remember in our Prayers

**For our Parish family:** Annie Melton, Dave Russell, Dixie Pigford, DJ Wells, Edgar Morrison, Hardy Graham Sr., Jamie Lancaster Smith, Jerry Greene, Jo Van Devender, Lee Graham, Marsha Miller, Mary Scott, Mike Reich, Norma Veach, Peggy Carrico, Robbie Morrison, Robin Hall, Robby Dreyfus, The Rev. Arnold Bush, The Rev. Don Chancellor, Terry Rush and William Godwin.

**In our Senior Living Communities:** Deannie Carmichael, Elise Leach, Joyce Welsh, Linda James, Lora Jones and Nita Neville.

**Extended family and friends:** Agnes Lewis, Alice Miller, Ally Gressett, Amanda Lockey, Anna Meyers, Baston Geiger, Bill Selman, Barbara Hull, Billy Hull, Bridget Mann, Brooke, Cathy Parker, Chelsie Abston, Cheryl Drennan, Cory Gaylord, Diane Dunn, Delroy Ming, Edesser "Dess" Reid Ward, Rob and Aislinn Ward, Frank Baker, Frank Barrett, Freddie Bea Watson, Gary Dawkins, George Ferguson, Hannah McNichol, Annah McNichol, Helen Valentine, Hinsley Harper, Jada Dooley, John, Ken Fisher, Kim Lovette, Kylie Temple, Leigh Ann Key, Leslie Smith, Lou Dubose, Marilyn Mohr, Marvin Ellis, Mary Hallwell, Mary Ann Howell, Mary Irby, Michelle Nelson, Mike Stanton, Norman, Patricia Bonner, Patty Fishburn, Pud Merrell, Rick, Sandy Carrier, Sallie Gercens, Hannah Thompson, Seth Thompson, Stephanie Turner, Steven Ivy, Theodore, Tripp Morrow, Tom Cook, Tom Schram, the Vitart Family and Wilfe Manning.

**Those who have died** especially Barbaree Heaster; Phillip Walk; and Dorothy Williams, mother of Carolyn (Gary) Jones.

**Those serving in the Armed Forces,** for all who serve overseas and their families, especially Shum Benson, Connor Covert, Graham Ford, Andrew Behm and Nick Mullen.

**For our Bishop Brian** and our Rector Austin and his family.

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

June 2 .....Delena Avara, Katie Hasselle	June 16.....Woodie & Helen Abraham
June 3.....Gary & Barbara Boone	June 18.....Dana Lawyer, Page Sikes
June 4.....Hardy & Dotty Graham	June 19 .....David Fitzgerald
June 5.....Scotty & Albree Florey, Robert & Lee Loeb	June 20.....Anne Chalk
June 8.....Robert & Missy Bailey, Duncan Chalk,	June 21.....Chad & Dixie Tibbetts
Jim & Cindy McGinnis	June 22.....Larry Nowak
June 10.....Michael & Mary Lawrence Crowe, Mary Dunn	June 23.....Elaine Sanders
June 11.....Tom & Joy Greer, Karen Rea, Cooper Tibbetts	June 24.....Greer Holladay, Jean Merrell
June 12.....Anthony & Leslie Hiatt	June 27.....Olivia Lewis, Mary Scott
June 13.....Lisa Howell	June 29.....Chuck & Bobbie Rea
June 14.....Caroline Compton, John & Linda Carrier	

Services	JUNE 2	JUNE 9	JUNE 16	JUNE 23
VESTRY COUNTERS	Rick Barry & Lee Loeb; Lock: Page Sikes			
8 A.M.				
CHALICE	Anne Chalk	Lynne Taleff	Gloria Chancellor	John Carrier
READER	Polly Covert	Lynne Taleff	Ingrid Price	Anne Chalk
USHER	Bob Covert	Bob Pigford	Bob Coffin	
10:30 A.M.				
READER 1	Gary Jones	Jim McGinnis	Everett Callais	Wayne Wuestefeld
READER 2	Sally Gray	Kay Reich	Gary Jones	Mary Dunn
PRAYERS	Candy Ward	Helen Abraham	Joan Moore	Bobbie Rea
USHERS	Susan Nowak	Jim McGinnis	Laura Holladay	Chris Burchfield
	Larry Nowak	Cindy McGinnis	Clay Holladay	Perrin Burchfield
	Cheri Barry	Scott Hudson	Sarah Love	Edie Simmons
	Rick Barry	Rose Hudson	Melissa Love	Adrian Page
ACOLYTES	Arlyn Grace Sanders	Katie Hasselle	Cameron Burchfield	Cate Simmons
	Shep Sanders	Elizabeth Scott Bond	Sellers Breaux	Lucy Simmons
	Kaden Begnaud	Henry & Hardin Hiatt	Carlyle Breaux	Gibson Hasselle
ALTAR GUILD	Joanne Entrekin	Joanne Entrekin	BJ Ray	BJ Ray
	Beth Wuestefeld	Beth Wuestefeld	Kathy Pigford	Kathy Pigford
	Marilyn Greene	Marilyn Greene	Rainey Breaux	Rainey Breaux
CHALICE.	William Godwin & Rick Entrekin	Rick Entrekin	Gary Jones	Key Reich