

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

Parish Office closed Monday, May 29 in observance of Memorial Day.

## Don't Miss Youth Sunday May 12

This year we will celebrate Youth Sunday May 12. All of our graduating seniors will be celebrated, youth will be delivering the homilies. We really hope to see you there so you can see what a special group of kiddos we have at St. Paul's.

## Mission and Music Combine For May 4 Event

A day full of music, children's activities, good food and Amore will be held Saturday, May 4, at St. Paul's as we hold our First Annual Mission and Music Festival. This church-sponsored community outreach event will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the church — with all proceeds going to L.O.V.E.'s Kitchen and Care Lodge.

Festival goers will enjoy music by our very own Scott McQuaig and the Tomcats as well as other local talent. Fun activities for every age group will be part of the big day, with children's activities on the playground. Bring your lawn chairs and enjoy!

Two great raffle items are offered — 3 days, 4 nights in a stunning Perdido Key condo (gift from Duncan and Anne Chalk) and one of Margaret Van Dyke's fabulous quilts.

Fish plates will be available for just \$10 each and tons of good food (frozen and baked) will be available for purchase.



## St. Paul's Will Host Vacation Bible School

This summer St. Paul's has the honor of hosting VBS! This fun week will take place the week of June 24 - 28.

We are gearing up with our plans — and can still use volunteers to help with the effort.

VBS is also a wonderful outreach opportunity to invite more families into our church family. If you are able to help, please contact Claire Hasselle. You will get an extra star in your crown!

*"Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God." Luke 24:51-52*

## Ascension People

We are an Ascension people. It is not something we recognize communally very often but it is infinitely true. I have seen it over the past month more than ever.

The Great Fifty Days is upon us which means incredible food, music and company. This year we will have our Mission and Music Festival at St. Paul's; hopefully the first of many. At the same time, we recognize the Big Game dinner is at its end and thank the Boones for their work over all these years.

Being Ascension people is about how we respond to Jesus fulfilling his promise to live with his Church on earth to the end. It is about how we show the world the Good News of Jesus Christ who has blessed us and prepares the way for all of us.

Consider how we have shown ourselves to be Ascension people. We went out into the woods to cut our own palms; certainly, an act of a southern Episcopalian. We adapted to dangerous weather and moved our Maundy Thursday Service to the noon hour. Most of all, we said we had enough of not having an Outreach Ministry for our time and we created something full of our personality and spirit. The Mission and Music Festival is only possible because of so many of you willing to say yes.

That is what it's about. Ordinary people doing extraordinary things in our time, through the power of Jesus Christ. I think so many of us, myself included, had enough of what we have done, who St. Paul's used to be. We wanted to show Meridian, the diocese and ourselves that the Spirit of the Living God is alive in each of us just as much right now. If that is not a dynamic of Ascension people, I don't know what is.

The week before Easter, I was invited by The Reverend Henry Hudson, beloved former Rector of St. Paul's, to speak at their weekly Lenten lunch series in Selma, Alabama. After it was over, he asked me if I wanted to go for a walk. I joyfully accepted because I wanted to walk across that same bridge where so many had tried to cross years ago but could not. I wanted to remember Jonathan Daniels a seminarian who was the same age as both Henry and myself when we began seminary. He was killed by pushing a young woman of color out of the way of a

shotgun and was killed instantly. Jonathan Daniels is a martyr and saint in the Episcopal Church. I would love to lead a pilgrimage there soon but know that the day is during the hottest days of August, and that is a hot walk in Selma.

Recently, Civil Rights activists all over the country came to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Bloody Sunday where people of color were flogged and shot with a firehose for assembling for equal voting rights. It took three walks for it to happen before people were safely able to walk across the bridge. Fr. Hudson said to me that the week before the 50th anniversary, clergy members in Selma walked into town from the other direction. It was to make the statement "We are defining what acts of grace we carry out in our time."

I believe we are the same. The Apostles had their ministry when Jesus ascended into heaven, martyrs and saints throughout the church had their ministries and so do we. All of us have the same promise that Christ will be with us whether we are in the Temple in Jerusalem, on a bridge in Selma, or praising God on twenty third street.

*Happy Ascension.*

Austin+

*Almighty God, whose blessed Son our Savior Jesus Christ ascended far above all heavens that he might fill all things: Mercifully give us faith to perceive that, according to his promise, he abides with his Church on earth, even to the end of the ages; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.*



# A Note of Thanks

Lent, Holy Week and Easter have always been very important to St. Paul's parishioners and this year's observance has been no exception. I believe our liturgical and musical experience this year has been incredibly rich and powerful. The Chancel Choir added several new anthems to their repertoire and sang them for the first time during Lent and Holy Week.

The response to these new pieces has been wonderful, and I would like to thank the Chancel Choir for their dedication and commitment. Also, the choir and I would like to express our appreciation for our Rector's continuing support and guidance. Thank you, Fr. Austin! And thanks to the entire St. Paul's family for your supportive comments. We love to hear from you!

This was our first Easter season with the "new" organ. The power and range of our Aeolian-Skinner pipe organ has been a joy to hear (and to play!) and I hope you have noticed the difference in its sound. This came home to me during the prelude on Easter Day, during the first piece with organ and brass. A repeating "echo" section between the organ and the quintet, with the brass playing a short, quiet phrase and the organ sounding the response with an "echo" from the division in the rear of the nave caused me to think, "We couldn't do that before!" So, again, thanks to all of you who supported the organ renovation project!

Lastly, I'm sure you have noticed our Chancel Choir in their new black cassocks. The choir wore the new vestments (without cottas) for the first time on Good Friday. In the future, our red robes will be worn on certain festival days. Thanks to all who contributed to the choir robe fund.

Have a joyful Eastertide!

—David Benson

# Lay Readers Training

For those who want to understand what it takes to be a Lay Reader, St. Pierre's in Gautier will hold Lay Reader Training June 1. Registration starts at 8 a.m. with the training starting at 9:30 a.m., and concluding at 1 p.m. The cost is \$30 and includes lunch. If you are interested, sign up by emailing [stpierreschurch@gmail.com](mailto:stpierreschurch@gmail.com) or [adeleblair@yahoo.com](mailto:adeleblair@yahoo.com) with your name and phone number; you can pay upon arrival.

## Great 50 Day's

- |                                  |                           |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| BBQ • May 8 - 6 p.m.             | Family Series - \$50      |
| Mexican Fiesta • May 15 - 6 p.m. | Individual Series - \$30  |
| Italian Night • May 22 - 6 p.m.  | Adult Single Event - \$10 |
|                                  | Child Single Event - \$5  |

## Diocesan Youth Summer Opportunities

Civil Rights Pilgrimage: June 23 – 30

Youth Hurricane Relief Trip: July 20 – 25

If you are interested in either of these opportunities contact Claire. We are also working on a white-water rafting trip in July.



*Lilly Grace Hawkins was born April 9 in Meridian to parents Adam & Jessica Hawkins; grandparents are Gary & Carolyn Jones.*

*Lillian Kate Loeb was born April 11 in Oklahoma City, OK, to parents Matt & Krista Loeb. Her grandparents are Robert & Lee Loeb.*

*Jon Sanders Holladay was born April 12 in Dothan, AL, to parents Bryan & Rosilyn Holladay; grandparents are Clay & Laura Holladay and great-grandparents Tom & Joy Greer and the late Eddie & Ann Holladay.*

## Camp Bratton-Green 2019 Summer Camp Dates

\$80	Counselors in Training	May 24-27
\$250	Intro Camp	May 25-27
\$560	Jr. High 1 Camp	May 30 - June 5
\$450	Special Session 1	June 7-12
\$450	Elementary 1 Camp	June 15-20
\$450	Middler 1 Camp	June 22-27
\$450	Special Session 2	June 29 - July 4
\$270	Special Session 3	July 7-10
\$450	Elementary 2 Camp	July 13-18
\$450	Middler 2 Camp	July 20-25
\$560	Jr. High 2 Camp	July 27 - Aug 2

## 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, Rob Calcote, Terry Rush, William Godwin and The Rev. Arnold Bush.

*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, Barbaree Heaster, Baston Geiger, Bill Selman, Barbara Hull, Billy Hull, Bridget Mann, Brooke, Cathy Parker, Cheryl Drennan, Cory Gaylord, Diane Dunn, Delroy Ming, Dorothy Williams, Edesser "Dess" Reid Ward, Rob & Aislinn Ward, Frank Baker, Frank Barrett, Freddie Bea Watson, Gary Dawkins, George Ferguson, Hannah McNichol, Helen Valentine, Hinsley Harper, Jada Dooley, Jennifer Dial, John, Ken Fisher, Kim Lovette, Kylie Temple, Lane Wilkinson, Leigh Ann Key, Leslie Smith, Lou Dubose, Marilyn Mohr, Marsha Thomas, Marvin Ellis, Mary Ann Hallwell, Mary Irby, Michael Dial, Michelle Nelson, Mike Stanton, Nadia Morris, Nell Williams, Norman, Patricia Bonner, Philip Walk, Pud Merrell, Rick, Sandy Carrier Sallie Gercens, Hannah Thompson, Seth Thompson, Stephanie Turner, Theodore, Tom Cook, Tom Schram, the Vitart Family and Wilfe Manning.

*For those who have died* especially; Victora Dunn Carney, sister of Diane Dunn.

*For 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

May 4.....Alban McGehee	May 20.....Hayes Lancaster, Steven Slade
May 5.....Martha Barnett, Jerome Kittrell	May 21.....Duncan & Anne Chalk, Albree Florey,
May 10.....David & JoAnn Culpepper	Gibson Hasselle, Rick & Claire Hasselle,
May 11.....Clay Holladay	Judge & Catherine Little
May 12.....Susan Hamilton	May 23.....Michael Harwell, Lillie Langston, Melinda Perry
May 13.....Ben Avara, Larry & Susan Nowak	May 24.....Polly Covert, Bryan Holladay, Wilson Tucker
May 14.....Leslie Hiatt, Bill Simmons	May 26.....John & Ann Compton
May 15.....Sherree Maddox, Wesley McGehee	May 27.....Gabrielle Kennedy
May 16.....Kay Dickson	May 28.....Jackson Florey
May 17.....Hardy Graham, Patrick Lewis	May 30.....Maurie Simmons
May 18.....John & Sonya Carrier	May 31.....William & Jamie Tucker
May 19.....John & Rainey Breaux, Ralph Young	

## Services

	MAY 5	MAY 12	MAY 19	MAY 26
<b>VESTRY COUNTERS</b>	Meredith Roberts & Robby Dreyfus; Lock - Rick Barry			
<b>8 A.M.</b>	<b>YOUTH SUNDAY</b>			
CHALICE	Bob Covert	John Carrier	Gloria Chancellor	Lindy Deen
READER	Margaret Van Dyke	Anne Chalk	John Carrier	Margaret Van Dyke
USHER	Bob Coffin	Bob Covert	Linda Carrier	John Carrier
<b>10:30 A.M.</b>	<b>YOUTH SUNDAY</b>			
READER 1	Rick Entrekin		Lloyd Gray	John Compton
READER 2	Melissa Calcote		Katie Simmons	Claire Hasselle
PRAYERS	Helen Abraham		Bobbie Rea	Stacey Harwell
USHERS	Susan Nowak		Bobby Maddox	Perrin Burchfield
	Larry Nowak		Gary Jones	Chris Burchfield
	Scott Hudson		Adrian Page	John Carrier
	Rose Hudson		Rob Calcote	Sonya Carrier
ACOLYTES	Anna Katherin Carrier		Christopher Collis	Cate Simmons
	Elizabeth Scott Bond		Lucy Simmons	Sellers Breaux
	Gibson Hasselle		Isabel Martin	Carlye Breaux
ALTAR GUILD	Gloria Chancellor	Gloria Chancellor	Martha Barnett	Martha Barnett
	Candy Ward	Candy Ward	Connie Arline	Connie Arline
	Cheri Barry	Cheri Barry	Melissa Calcote	Melissa Calcote
CHALICE	Sonya Carrier	Mary Weems	Sonya Carrier	Rob Calcote