

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

Oct. 11 • Bishop's Seage Visit

Oct. 12 • Parish Office will be closed in observance of Columbus Day

Oct. 20 • Vestry meeting

Oct. 25 • The Rev. Kyle Seage is our stewardship speaker

Oct. 5 • Last day to register

Oct. 31 • Last day for in-person absentee voting

Nov. 3 • Election day — get out and vote!

YOUR

VOTE

COUNTS

Vestry Reports Red Doors Present Beautiful Face

St. Paul's Vestry met in October and discussed a variety of topics.

Our busy Junior Warden, Rob Calcote, reported the new front doors are now installed and completed. All of the other red doors were repainted and present a beautiful face to 23rd Avenue.

On another topics, he is waiting for the final report on the elimination of the fleas in the undercroft of the church, so the electricians can get down there to figure out why the organ blower is not working. Such tiny pests can inflict so much pain with their bite! David will be playing the piano until the organ blower is repaired. Our rectory has been in need of critical repairs in kitchen plumbing and appliances. The plumbing has been repaired and Rob hopes to have replaced all the kitchen appliances by the end of the year.

Melissa Calcote noted that staff medical insurance premiums will increase by about 4 - 4 ½ percent in 2021 and there will be no cost of living (COLA) raises for the diocesan staff next year.

A report from Jamie Smith was received describing the many caring and creative ways her team has responded to the needs of our parishioners who are elderly and/or homebound. Her

team includes: Cindy Howarth, Albree Florey, Rose Hudson and Claire Hanschke. The vestry is grateful for the work of this group of servant leaders. She encouraged us to refer other members who will benefit from this ministry.

Fr. Austin reported that the Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry, was on the *Today Show* and gave a beautiful interview. He also reported that Bishop Seage et al. are planning a virtual Annual Council in January and discussed creative ways in which we might make Annual Council a more personal and unique event for our delegates.

Katie Simmons, Stewardship Committee Vestry Chair, outlined her plans for our Stewardship Campaign, titled "An Act of Faith." She gave thanks to Joane Mackey, Parish Administrator, for her time and help in planning the campaign. She gave kudos to her team who have brainstormed and found so many ways to accomplish their mission in "the age of Covid 19." Patrick Lewis, Edie Simmons, Sally and Lloyd Gray have been working closely with Katie and they have planned many delightful ways to inspire and excite us about our giving.

"Addressing the question of 'what DID Jesus do?' and summoning the Spirit to help us apply it to our lives and our times may mean the difference between the Church simply being another religious institution that exists for its own sake and the Church being a Jesus movement that courageously follows the way of Jesus and his love not for its own sake, but for the sake of the world that Christ gave his life for and where he rose from the dead." —Presiding Bishop Michael Curry

I have been thinking a great deal about the rawness in each of us. Living amid this pandemic, racial tensions on the brink, and our country is literally burning, and anticipating the upcoming presidential election, I have been praying and discerning how I can speak the truth in love and put love into action for every person. I imagine you have been striving to do the same. And, I have been wondering where the Church's role might be in all of it; to be engaged in the world as Christians in a way of love that reflects the tenants of our faith. No matter what happens in October and November, how do we live together?

Because it is a good and joyful thing, to be part of a Church that has faithful disciples across the political spectrum. I have always loved being people of "Common Prayer" and not "Commonality."

So, trying to be the calm as the storm is approaching, it was too timely to hear from our Presiding Bishop who spoke both in a sermon from last week as well as the *Today Show*. I encourage you to hear how he considers how we might be the church in these days while also reminding us that "partisan neutrality is not the same as moral neutrality." We do not (and legally cannot) endorse any candidates for elections but the Church will encourage people to vote, to vote their conscience, and to advocate for public policy.

On the *Today Show* Bishop Curry was asked "How do we put love into practice? He responded by defining love in a way that refers to the "we" instead of "me." How can I show compassion for all of us, instead of loving and acting in the interest of the self?

I truly believe, for St. Paul's, that our great work together on this journey is about growing more and more into this same idea of "we love." I am alongside you to "share Christ's unconditional love with the broader community."

Risking Love

I am taking it upon myself to seek out those who couldn't possibly have the first thing in common with me, somebody who is different in every single way as human being can be different from each other except for the sole reality of being made in the image of God. And, that friends, is enough for "we love." One Lord. One faith. One Baptism. One God of All.

In what is believed to be the oldest piece of scripture in the New Testament, Paul writes "So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us." Paul is willing to be vulnerable, willing to lay his life on the line because of his deep affection for the Thessalonians and for the glory of God.

So, over this next month, as we consider how we are all stewards of not of what would Jesus do, but what DID Jesus do, I encourage you to risk "we love." Take a risk, take an act of "we love" with someone different. Seek out someone whose only common interest of your own is in being a child of God. Take them out to lunch or for coffee. Hear their story.

The anonymous author of the following words captures the essence of what it means to risk "we love," what it means to be disciples of Jesus Christ.

"To risk is to be called a fool; to weep is to risk appearing sentimental; to reach out to others is to risk being involved; to expose your feelings is to risk revealing your true self; to dream is to risk loss; to love is to risk not being loved in return; to live is to risk dying; to hope is to risk despair; to go forward in face of overwhelming odds is to risk failure. But risk we must because the greatest hazard in life is to risk nothing. The person who risks nothing, does nothing, is nothing. One may, for the moment avoid suffering and sorrow but they will not learn or love or change or grow. Only the person who risks is totally faithful."

If we are to be faithful, obedient servants of Christ, we must be willing to risk love for Christ's sake. The kind of love that is about the "we" instead of the "me." I am excited to hear about the ways you go out and risk this kind of love.

Faithfully, Austin



EYC Gospel Topics and Table Talks

I am so excited to report that EYC has begun meeting face-to-face on Wednesday evenings! We meet from 6 to 7 p.m. at a different location each week. Our first gathering was held on the patio at El Norte's. They allowed our small group the entire outdoor patio, ensuring we were able to properly social distance. Everyone was so happy to see each other to check-in and catch up.

Each week we will take a look at the Gospel reading and connect its story with what is going on in our daily lives. Wednesday night EYC will be meeting at a different location each week such as Bonita Lakes, St. Paul's courtyard and outdoor restaurant patios. We are finding creative ways to continue building our youth community while keeping each other safe at the same time. EYC'ers are asked to text me prior to Wednesday's gatherings so I can ensure our meeting space can accommodate our group.

Do you have a spacious porch or backyard to offer up? Get in touch and let me know! Our EYC year is getting off to a unique start, but it is finally off to a great start! Peace, Claire Hasselle



It's Pet Time! Sunday, October 4 • 6 p.m.

We Remember in our Prayers

In our parish: DJ Wells, Edgar Morrison, Holly Morgan, Jane Weems, Jerry Greene, Jo Van Devender, Ivy Jane Sutton, Milo Joseph Sutton, Joe White, Margaret Van Dyke, Mary Dunn, Mike Reich, Norma Veach, Patty Vinson, Peggy Carrico, Scott Carmichael and William Godwin.

In our senior living communities: Dixie Pigford, Joyce Welsh, Linda James, Lora Jones, Mary Scott and Nita Neville.

Extended family and friends: Alice Miller, Ally Gressett, Amanda Lockey, Amanda Rainey, Anita Sumrall, Anna Meyers, Barbara Hopper, Barbara Robinson, Baston Geiger, Beverly Bryson, Bill Selman, Bob Hill, Brian Keating, Brooke, Brooks Moore, Charmin Edwards, Chelsie Abston, Christina Harris, Cory Gaylord, Delroy Ming, Diane Dunn, Edesser "Dess" Reid Ward, Rob & Aislinn Ward, Frank Baker, Frank Barrett, Freddie Bea Watson, Gary Dawkins, George Farr, George Ferguson, Harrison McClain, Helen Valentine, J.T. Lee, Jada Dooley, James, Jane Wacaster, Jim Bateman, John, Ken Fisher, Kim Lovette, Kylie Temple, Lee Davis Thames, Leigh Ann Key, Lillie Alford, Lou Dubose, Marilyn Mohr, Martha Mazingo, Mary Hallwell, Mary Ann Howell, Michelle Nelson, Mike Covert, Mike Lundy, Mike Stanton, Noah White, Norman, Rick, Sandra Nicholas, Sandy Carrier, Sallie Gercens, Hannah Thompson, Seth Thompson, Theodore, Tom Schram, Tony Sansone, Wanda Farr, Wanda Scott, Wilfe Manning, Wilma Kangery, Zack Martin and Nell Nichols..

We pray for those who have died, especially Patty Fishburn, sister of Linda Carrier; and Elise Leach.

We pray for those serving in the Armed Forces, for all who serve overseas and their families, especially Andrew Behm, Shum Benson, Connor Covert, Graham Ford, T. J. Melton, Nick Mullen and Zack Thomas.

We pray for our Bishop Brian and our Rector Austin and his family.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Oct. 1Cynthia Howarth	Oct. 17Chip & Stacey Harwell
Oct. 2Lloyd & Sally Gray, Rowan Hanschke, Don & Bev Pringle	Oct. 18Betty Melton, Merry McCollum Roberts
Oct. 3Edie Simmons	Oct. 19Brad Carver, Hamp Little, Dustin Simmons, William Tucker
Oct. 4Missy Bailey	Oct. 22Klein Watson
Oct. 5Brooke Lawyer, Robert Wilson	Oct. 24Edgar Morrison
Oct. 6Eloyce Richardson	Oct. 25John Howell
Oct. 7Jerry & Jan Wayton	Oct. 26Joey Martin, Landon Smith
Oct. 8Sarah Anne Johnson	Oct. 27Ann Compton, Scotland Sanders
Oct. 10Bob Coffin, Jim & Marsha Miller	Oct. 28Everett Callais
Oct. 11Marsha Miller	Oct. 29Jim Cady, Katie Simmons
Oct. 12Mallory Davis	Oct. 30Shelton & Alyce Cunningham, Tim Milhorn
Oct. 15Wyatt Bond	Oct. 31Wade Jones



So That Our Little Ones Understand Stewardship

We think that it's important to define the heart of stewardship for our children, since it's so much more than handling money. Our October craft focuses on using our time and effort to share God in seeking justice, peace and the integrity of His creation.



Observing the Growing Season

Is your family looking for ways to continue your spiritual journey at home? If so, Whitney Robinson, the Diocesan Missioner for Youth and Children, has put together a wonderful resource that is delivered to your inbox weekly. It is called "Observing the Growing Season" and includes several different offerings like a liturgy for family meals, night prayers and other activities and reflections for all ages. Each week a different sacred story is highlighted.

It's free and you can subscribe at:

<http://leepurl.com/c-RUv1>

Diocesan Small Groups

As most of you know, the usual diocesan offerings of DOY and Happening have been postponed due to COVID-19. The youth that had already been put in leadership roles before COVID-19 have come up with a way to help our youth cope with all that is going on. Our diocesan youth leaders sought to provide a way to refill hearts while we can't go to our "mountain top" of Camp Bratton-Green and they have done a wonderful job in planning!

Youth Diocesan Small Groups will meet once a month on Zoom followed by Compline with Camp Music on Instagram Live. The following Sundays have been scheduled for small group Zoom meetings: October 18, November 15, and December 13. Small Groups will be divided into 7th-9th graders and 10th-12th graders. The groups will do the following:

7th-9th Grade Groups will utilize TableTopics Teen Edition to guide the discussion. This resource is full of fun, engaging questions that help our EYC'ers express themselves. These smart and thoughtful questions provide an easy way for teens to express what they think and how they feel.

10th-12th Grade Groups will utilize the Traveling the Way of Love Video Series: The Way of Love is a way of life. More than a program or curriculum, it is an intentional commitment to a set of practices for living a Jesus-centered life. Presiding Bishop Michael Curry introduces The Way of Love.

If your EYC'er would like to sign up for small groups, please reach out to me! Peace, Claire Hasselle

Nursery Reopens Oct. 11

We are excited to share that we will open the nursery on Sunday, October 11. We will take the temperature of our nursery workers and children when they walk through the door. Normal nursery hours will begin at 7:30 a.m. Stay tuned for information regarding formation in person.

