

Deadline to submit articles for "The Epistle" is the 15th of each month.
Theology on Tap — Bring a non-member! Tuesday, Nov. 5 - Weidmann's — 5:15 p.m.
Daylight Savings Time – Fall Back Sunday Nov. 3
All Saints' Sunday with Baptism Nov. 3
Vestry Meeting, Nov 19, 5:15 p.m.
Parish Suppers end Wednesday, Nov. 20 for 2019 and will resume January 8, 2020
Parish Office closed for Thanksgiving holiday Thursday, Nov. 28 and Friday, Nov. 29

The Holiday Season brings out the best in us and, with that, we all feel the spirit of generosity. **Please help us not to hand out money to people who might be on the grounds of St. Paul's.** Your clergy has a discretionary account and regularly assists people with utilities, medical expenses and other specific needs — but we do not give out cash and or offer assistance on Sundays. Please know that this is for the safety of the congregation. And if the spirit moves you, you might take a look at what is needed in our greater community. You are welcome to talk with Fr. Austin or Deacon Betty if you have questions.



Christmas Eve
Tuesday, Dec. 24, 2019
4:30 p.m. • Family friendly service
Christmas Pageant
with Holy Eucharist

10:30 p.m. • Midnight Mass
Festive Choral Eucharist
with Brass Ensemble
Christmas Day
Wednesday, December 25, 2019
No Service

All Saints' Sunday & Baptism

All Saints' Sunday is one of the holiest days in the life of the Church. The English word for "saint" actually means "holy." We recognize that all of God's people are connected in communion, not only with those around us. We are also connected with those who have gone before us in different generations and places, those known and unknown. Baptism on All Saints' is especially appropriate because we are witnessing someone new in the communion of saints. In this life, or the life to come, we don't stop praying for the Saints of God, as we believe the saints never stop praying for us.

Collect for Thanksgiving Day
Almighty and gracious Father, we give you thanks for the fruits of the earth in their season and for the labors of those who harvest them. Make us, we pray, faithful stewards of your great bounty, for the provision of our necessities and the relief of all who are in need, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

I Used Everything You Gave Me

By Katie Simmons

When Mr. Rick (Barry) called to ask me to speak to you all about Stewardship, I did what every stressed out, exhausted parent of small children who hasn't watched anything other than a children's program in the last five years would do...

1. I wondered if he had the wrong number.
2. I Googled it.

Just so you know, *Merriam Webster* dictionary defines stewardship as the conducting, supervising or managing of something, especially the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care.

Wikipedia says that "a biblical world of stewardship can be... defined as utilizing and managing all resources God provides for the glory of God and the betterment of His creation."

So let's talk about what's mostly commonly associated with the term stewardship —money, finances, tithing, donating and funding.

I think the idea is this: We take the talents, opportunities and education God gives us out into the world, allowing us to make a living, pay the bills and live the dream and return a portion of that to the one that allows us to live and breathe and have our being. After all, we must keep the lights on in this place, pay bills, fund outreach, purchase food, insure — and compensate these wonderful humans who spend their lives leading us.

Yes, the church needs our financial support!

But what if there is something more? What does stewardship mean to me? I'd like to share one of my favorite quotes by Erma Bombeck:

"When I stand before God at the end of my life, I would hope that I would not have a single bit of talent left and could say 'I used everything you gave me!'"

This, my friends, is good stewardship.

Now I know what you are thinking!! "I don't have any talent! I'm overbooked, over worked, over everything and even if I had talent, I wouldn't have any left to give."

But...hear me out.

In his book *A Portrait of Jesus*, Joseph Girzone writes "St. Paul

tells us that baptized followers of Jesus constitute His mystical body, each with our own particular role to play in the Christian community and the world around us.

"This also 'was' a critical part of Jesus' message, that we are not isolated individuals on a planet way out in the middle of space. We were called to live in community, a community where people care for each other.

"We are responsible for one another. We are our Brother's and Sister's keeper. In this we find our vocation, filling a need and playing a part in the growth and health of the community. Living out that role is what God has called us to accomplish in our lives. We still do not know in detail what is expected of us , but we now at least know that we are to accomplish something special, something that no one else can do but ourselves. We have been fitted for that work by special gifts and in special ways and our holiness is tied up with that unique calling."

Girzone goes on to say that God made us, he knows us. He made us imperfect and incomplete and wonderfully flawed.

He writes "We see in the community teachers, leaders, healers. Some speak in various languages, others have the ability to interpret what was spoken. Some comfort by their words. Others strengthen by their inspiring example.

"Some preside at the assembly and heal souls. Some administer the resources of the community. Each is different. Each will become holy in his or own work. Each is a special creation and does not have the other's gifts. That is all right. It is the way God wanted it, so we will all need one another.

"As we exercise these special roles, we are at the same time growing in an ever deepening awareness of God. Each day we add our own little colored fibers to the threads that are being woven to the tapestry of God's plan, not just for our own parish, not even for the church at large, but for the perfecting of the human family."

So what if your "talent" is just being you? What if it's just you being who God made you to be?

What if St. Paul's and the greater community just needs you to be you and offer your gifts just as you are in order to be complete?

Continued on inside

Stewardship — I Used Everything

Continued from front cover

Can you knit? Can you cook? Do you love children? Are you organized? Computer savvy?

Can you send e-mails, stuff envelopes? Are you good with food prep? Can you lend your voice to read or a steady arm to usher? Can you take care of playground equipment? Or mulch? Can you paint? Are you a faithful attendee that could greet? Do you welcome others easily? Can you give a pat on the back, a great hug or a positive word?

Bring your “gifts,” your “talents.” Bring exactly who God made you to be to this place and share your humanness with those around you. It is most certainly what St. Paul’s needs and what God intended. Plug yourself into this wonderful place. This place that welcomes you with open arms, loves without question no matter where you may be on your journey and allows you to “dance in the gray,” as Father Austin says.

Perhaps we can then think of talent not only as our God-given abilities but also our quirks, our brokenness, our failings and our ability to love and to be loved by others in our own special way that allows God to be known.

Let us all find an outlet for our talents in this place we all love so dearly so that *we can all stand before God one day and say — “I used everything you gave me.”*



Winter Solstice at CBG!

Is your Sr. EYC'er missing summer camp right about now? Looking for an awesome Christmas present for your teenager? You are in luck! Winter Solstice registration is now live. Register today! This camp takes place from December 27, 2019 - January 1, 2020. Campers must currently be in grades 9 - 12. Winter Solstice is a great way for your teenager to have a fun, safe and meaningful New Year's Eve. Visit the following link to get registered: <https://graycenter.wufoo.com/forms/m1w8de9l0kzy70vl>.

We rejoice in the marriage of Sara Elizabeth Love and Michael Gordon Mason who were united in marriage Saturday, August 10, at St. Paul's.

EYC'ers Can Participate on Statewide Basis

Encourage your EYC'er to become more involved in the workings of the Mississippi Diocese. Teenagers who attend Youth Presence at Annual Council not only have fun, they experience the inner workings of our diocese. Our youth presence at Annual Council Consists of 30 Youth:

- A Youth Delegate and Alternate from each Convocation (14 youth)
- +16 more at-large youth in 9th-12th grades

These 30 youth are supervised, housed, fed and transported by Annual Council and the Office of the Missioner for Children and Youth Formation. To be one of the 16 Youth At-Large (Non-Delegates or Alternates), please apply here: https://www.google.com/url?q=http://annualcouncil.dioms.org&sa=D&ust=1572414712137000&usg=AFQjCNHAVcmcaKoFwLsj_O1Sn5vIRII5Lw

Youth who would like to visit Annual Council, but not serve as part of the Youth Presence at Annual Council, may register as a visitor (Young Adult (non-delegate under 35). Please note that youth who are not part of the Youth Presence at Annual Council will not be supervised, housed, fed or transported. You don't have to register at all to attend just the Closing Eucharist Sunday morning 10 a.m. Please contact Claire Hasselle if you have any questions on this process.

How St. Paul's Serves Others

By Lynne Taleff, Sr. Warden.

St. Paul's has a ministry to our neighborhood and community that we don't often lift up to recognize and celebrate. I've looked at our church calendar, and with Joane Mackey's help, identified six non-profit groups that use our facilities regularly or as needed. They are:

- 1) Serenity Group of NA – Meets seven days a week at 12 and 6 p.m.
- 2) L.O.V.E.'s Kitchen meets here monthly – twice a month in the summer.
- 3) Care Lodge meets here on an “as needed” basis.
- 4) La Leche, formerly Bosom Buddies, meets in the nursery on the first Thursday of each month from 10 a.m. until 12 p.m.
- 5) Junior Auxiliary of Meridian Board meets in the parish hall every fourth Tuesday, and the chapter meets every second Tuesday at 5:30 p.m.
- 6) The Meridian Symphony uses our buildings for concerts on an “as needed” basis.

There are other groups who rent our facilities from time-to-time.

The Serenity Group of NA has been meeting at St. Paul's as long as I have been a member (28 years). This group provides a much needed support to those who are struggling with narcotics addiction and who want to stop using. Their clients are self-referred, court-referred or treatment-facility referred. They can also direct their clients to facilities for detoxifying and in-patient treatment. We provide lights, water, heat/AC, chairs and a welcoming space. These folks also clean the bathroom and meeting room and furnish their own supplies. I met Larry, who is one of the leaders, and who was celebrating nine years of sobriety. He said that he welcomes visits from our priest and parish members who would like to attend an “open” meeting. Spread the news about this much needed and successful Serenity Group.

We Remember in our Prayers

Our Parish family: Bev Pringle, Dixie Pigford, DJ Wells, Edgar Morrison, Hardy Graham Sr., Jerry Greene, Jerry Wayton, Jo Van Devender, Mary Scott, Norma Veach, Peggy Carrico. Rob Calcote, The Rev. Arnold Bush, The Rev. Don Chancellor, Terry Rush and William Godwin.

In our Senior Living Communities: Deanie 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, Art Matthews, Baston Geiger, Bill Selman, Bridget Mann, Brooke, Cathy Parker, Carole Pigford Graves, Charmin Edwards, Chelsie Abston, Cheryl Drennan, Clint Vinson, Cory Gaylord, Diane Dunn, Delroy Ming, Dorothy Rainer, Edesser “Dess” Reid Ward, Rob & Aislinn Ward, Elise Higbe, Frank Baker, Frank Barrett, Freddie Bea Watson, Gary Dawkins, George Ferguson, Hannah McNichol, annah McNichol, Helen Valentine, Jada Dooley, James, Jim Bateman, John, Justin Site, Ken Fisher, Kim Lovette, Kylie Temple, Leigh Ann Key, Lou Dubose, Marilyn Mohr, Marvin Ellis, Mary Hallwell, Mary Ann Howell, Mary Irby, Michelle Nelson, Mike Lundy, Mike Stanton, Nelson Hall, Noah White, Norman, Patty Fishburn, Pud Merrell, Rick, Sandra Nicholas, Sandy Carrier, Sallie Gercens, Hannah Thompson, Seth Thompson, Stephanie Turner, Theodore, Tom Jones, Tom Schram, The Waller Family, Wanda Scott, Wilfe Manning, Zack Martin and Martha Mazingo.

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, our Rector Austin and his family and our Deacon Betty.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Nov. 1	Gordon Mason	Nov. 17	Rob & Melissa Calcote, John Rea
Nov. 2	Barbara Boone, Don Pringle, Dustin & Katie Simmons,Wayne Wuestefeld	Nov. 18	Ava Hughley, Lisa Love
Nov. 4	Wanda Blount, Shaone Kennedy, Michelle Lewis	Nov. 19	Jamie Begnaud, Rick Entrekin
Nov. 5	Sylvia Dreyfus, Lakeland Hanschke	Nov. 20	David & BJ Ray
Nov. 6	BJ Ray	Nov. 21	Tommie Collis, Bob & Karen Rea, Shelby Slade
Nov. 7	Poo Chancellor, Mary Lawrence Crowe, Marilyn Greene	Nov. 22	Wayne & Beth Wuestefeld
Nov. 9	Anne Hardin Hiatt	Nov. 24	Bobby Maddox, Dixie Pigford
Nov. 11	Larry Love, Nita Neville	Nov. 27	Claire Hasselle, John & Lisa Howell, Linda Moffett
Nov. 12	Lisa Kittrell, Joe White	Nov. 28	Paislee Sims
Nov. 13	Sally Gray, Mary Weems	Nov. 29	Bob & Susan Coffin
		Nov. 30	Shelton Cunningham, Bob & Lindy Deen, Jamie Tucker

Services	NOVEMBER 3	NOVEMBER 10	NOVEMBER 17	NOVEMBER 24
VESTRY COUNTERS	Meredith Roberts & Page Sikes; Lock: Candy Ward			
8 A.M.				
CHALICE	Bob Coffin	Gloria Chancellor	John Carrier	Bob Covert
READER	John Carrier	Margaret Van Dyke	Polly Covert	Lynne Taleff
USHER	Bob Pigford	Linda Carrier	Bob Covert	John Carrier
10:30 A.M.				
READER 1	Sally Gray	Rick Entrekin	Rob Calcote	Bev Pringle
READER 2	Jamie Smith	Melissa Calcote	Mary Dunn	Jerome Kittrell
PRAYERS	Kay Reich	Helen Abraham	Joan Moore	Bobbie Rea
USHERS	Cindy McGinnis Jim McGinnis Scott Hudson Rose Hudson	Clay Holladay Laura Holladay Will Simmons Lisa Howell	Gary Jones Adrian Page Rob Calcote Stacey Harwell	Perrin Burchfield Chris Burchfield Mary Lawrence Crowe Michael Crowe
ACOLYTES	Katie Hasselle Sellers Breaux Carlyle Breaux • Lucy Simmons	Christopher Collis Cate Simmons	Arlyn Grace Sanders Shep Sanders Cameron Burchfield	Stacey Harwell Hayes Lancaster Henry Hiatt
ALTAR GUILD	Joanne Entrekin Beth Wuestefeld Lindy Deen	Joanne Entrekin Beth Wuestefeld Lindy Deen	Candy Ward Linda Carrier Marilyn Greene	Candy Ward Linda Carrier Marilyn Green
CHALICE	Rob Calcote & Gary Jones	William Godwin	Rick Entrekin	Helen Abraham

November EYC Schedule

- 11/3: EYC @ the Mediator from 5 - 7 p.m.
- 11/6: EYC Gospel Study @ 6:30 p.m.
- 11/10: EYC @ the Mediator from 5 - 7 p.m.
- 11/13: EYC Gospel Study @ 6:30 p.m.
- 11/17: EYC @ St. Paul's from 5 - 7 p.m.
- 11/20: EYC Gospel Study @ 6:30 p.m.
- 11/23 - 11/24: EYC Wanita Retreat! Please RSVP to Claire Hasselle if your EYC'er plans on attending.

December EYC Schedule

- 12/1: EYC @ St. Paul's from 5 - 7 p.m. Come have some Advent fun with us!
- 12/4: EYC Gospel Study @ 6:30 p.m.
- 12/8: Jr. and Sr. EYC shopping for Care Lodge from 4 - 7 p.m. Meet at the Mediator to ride the bus together.
- 12/11: EYC Gospel Study @ 6:30 p.m.
- 12/15: Jr. and Sr. EYC Christmas Caroling from 5 - 8 p.m. Meet at the Mediator to ride the bus together. Don't forget to wear your most exciting holiday gear for the occasion! (i.e.: tacky Christmas sweaters, antlers, silly hats, etc). This is also the night of our EYC Christmas party. Everyone should bring a snack to share and a wrapped “naughty or nice” gift worth \$10 or less.
- 12/18: Kids and EYC will be rehearsing for the Christmas Pageant from 6:30 to 7:30. Meet in the Nave for rehearsal.
- 12/22: Kids and EYC will be rehearsing for the Christmas Pageant from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Meet in the Nave for rehearsal. Dinner for all that attend!