

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

Jan. 2 • Parish Office closed for New Year's holiday

Jan. 11 • Wednesday night meals return at 6 p.m.

Jan. 12 • Worship Committee Meeting • 11:30 a.m.

Jan. 13 • Annual Reports due for Annual Meeting

Jan. 17 • Vestry Meeting • 5:15 p.m.

Jan. 22 • Annual Meeting • One service at 9:30 a.m. with meal to follow in Parish Hall

ONE SERVICE ON NEW YEAR'S DAY

10:30 a.m.



December 27, 2022

Dear Friends,

Serving in the Diocese of Mississippi is an amazing blessing. Whether serving as Bishop or parish priest you filled me with your love while faithfully being the Body of Christ. As a Diocese, we've weathered many storms including a life changing pandemic. Thank you for your faith and perseverance throughout. Personally, you saw me through the death of both parents. Your generous prayers and outreach during that time meant so much.

I remain grateful for the ministry we practice and the ways we are adapting to meet the challenges in front of us. Incredible change has enveloped the church since I entered ordained ministry in 1997. My first church didn't have a website, mobile phone or even an email address. Today, we livestream services and communicate using video platforms! All around us life looks and feels different. I believe God is giving us an Easter moment with beautiful possibilities and profound hope.

At the end of October, I wrote to announce the acceptance of a new call by my wife, the Rev. Kyle Seage, at St. Stephen's Church in Belvedere, CA. It was also announced that I would begin the process of wrapping up my ministry as your Bishop. With this letter, I am formally calling for the election of my successor, the 11th Bishop of Mississippi.

Our Standing Committee and the Presiding Bishop's Office for Pastoral Development have met and are working on the next steps of a search process to elect the next Bishop of Mississippi. They look forward to sharing a timeline and further information as soon as possible. It is estimated that it will likely take 18 or more months to complete the search and ordain the new Bishop.

When I was elected in 2014, I accepted saying, "I accept this call that you extend as the Body of Christ on behalf of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." You have been a vibrant and loving example of the body of Christ throughout my time. I am grateful for your patience, support, and love. This time of transition will not be a "lame duck" session in our ministry. The work of solidifying programs and initiatives is incredibly important and still in front of us. I look forward to working with you as we prepare the table for the next Bishop.

Peace be with you,

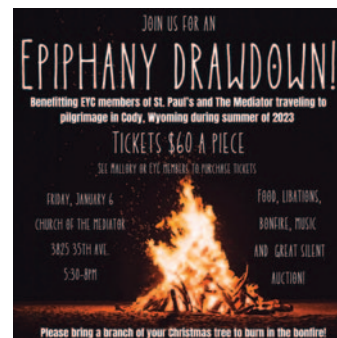
Brian

Combined Epiphany Celebration

Join us for a Combined Epiphany celebration with the Church of the Mediator Friday, January 6, from 5:30 to 8 p.m. The event — held at the Mediator — will feature chili and libations as well as a fabulous silent auction. Better yet, we will have an Epiphany Drawdown! All proceeds from the drawdown and auction will benefit our pilgrim who will be traveling to Cody, Wyoming, this summer.

And don't forget to bring your Christmas greens to burn for the fire to roast S'mores!

Tickets are \$60. Contact Mallory or the church office to purchase or if you have any questions.



I greet you in the name of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ. I also greet each of you during Christmas tide; wondering whether my tree will last 12 more days until we burn it at the Mediator on Epiphany.

Speaking of Christmas trees, I was privileged to sing the German carol "O Tannenbaum (O Christmas Tree)" with the Meridian Symphony Chorus at Peppermint Pops this year. We sang it in German, and I admit it took a lot of work. In the end, the process was one of the most rewarding outlets I have been a part of in some time.

It has also generated a fascination in me for the German expression, certainly during Christmastide. After all, consider that beyond the nonreligious origin of "O Tannenbaum," the beloved carols "Lo How a Rose Ere Blooming" and "Silent Night" are both German.

And then there is there is *heilsgeschichte*. This is a word — and an idea that is well timed for us — on this side of Christmas day and always. The word means salvation history. It is a beautiful word that is the story of God's saving and redeeming work, from before there was until after there will be, the beginning and the end. It is about God's self-offering for us to draw us back to God who loves us and who holds us. And, in salvation history, in *heilsgeschichte*, each of us are characters sharing the infinite grace upon grace given to us.

If we hold this hope, we can get through a great many things. There is one fine example of someone, a German who knew about *heilsgeschichte*, until their death. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a Christian who was later executed for speaking truth to Nazi power, wrote his parents from prison at Christmas.

"I don't need to tell you how great my longing for freedom and for all of you is. But you have for so many decades provided us with Christmases so incomparably beautiful, that the grateful memories of them are strong enough to outshine even a dark Christmas."

From a Christian point of view, a Christmas in a prison cell is no special problem. It will probably be celebrated here in this house more sincerely and with more meaning than outside where the holiday is observed in name only. Misery, poverty, loneliness, helplessness, and guilt mean something entirely different in the eyes of God than in the judgment of men.

That God turns directly toward the place where men are careful to turn away; that Christ was born in a stable because he found no room in the Inn—a prisoner grasps that better than someone else. For him it really is a joyous message, and because he believes it, he knows that he has been placed in the Christian fellowship that breaks all the bounds of time and space; and the months in prison lose their importance...

And maybe in this way it becomes clear to many what Christmas really is...

Du wirst so geliebt.



GIFTS FOR CARE LODGE KIDS — EYCers enjoyed shopping over the Christmas holiday for CARE Lodge kids. Pictured from left on the shopping excursion were: Hayes Lancaster, Ann Revere Davis, Carlyle Breaux, Britton Dunn, Olivia Lewis, Sadie Reed and Sellers Breaux.



RINGING FOR THE SALVATION ARMY — Bill Simmons (left) and Lloyd Gray were Salvation Army volunteer bell ringers to collect donations before Christmas outside of Winn Dixie.

We Remember in our Prayers

For our Parish family: Andrea Carver, Cliff Odom, Don Pringle, DJ Wells, Ducky McCormick, Elliott Street, Eve Morrison, Jerry Greene, Jo Van Devender, Larry Nowak, Margaret Van Dyke, Mary Dunn, Peggy Carrico, Tadley, Wanda Blount and Woodie Abraham.

In our senior living communities: Joyce Welsh, Lora Jones and Nita Neville.

Extended family and friends: Anne Rice Wooley, Betty Perry, Bill Selman, Billy Murphy, Blair Ammon, Brooke, Charlotte Chaney, Chuck Fishburn, Clancy, Cory Gaylor, Davey Simmons, David, David & Gina Brown, Diane Dunn, Donna Polizzi, Emily Mackey, Emily Rush, Evie Warden, Francois DuPlessis, Frances, Frank Baker, Frank Barrett, Freddie Bea Watson, George Farr, Hays Monsour, Jada Dooley, James, Jan, Jeana Bennett, Jo Nell Brown, Jim Thompson, John, Ken Fisher, Kris Gianakos, Kylie Temple, Leland Tew, Lisa Primeaux, Lou Dubose, Martha Hudson, Martha Mazingo, Michael, Michelle Nelson, Mike Covert, Mize, Norman, Pat Carver, Poky Murphy, Randy Moore, Rick, Roger, Sandy Carrier, Stefanie Lynn Roman, Thomas Little, Tom Schram, Tony Sansone, Virginia Boardman, Wanda Farr, Wanda Scott, Willie Spencer and Zack Martin.

We pray for those who have died especially: Diane Lewis, sister of Mary Dunn; Jane Forster Wacaster; Col. Sam Forbert, grandfather of Albree Florey; and John Arthur Beason, brother of Polly Covert.

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, Nick Mullen, DJ Robinson and Zack Thomas.

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

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Jan. 2Jack Martin, Jim Miller	Jan. 17Anna Katherine Carrier, Matthew Davis
Jan. 3Scott & Rose Hudson, Cindy McGinnis, Jim McGinnis, Chris Stump	Chris & Julie Stump
Jan. 7Kelly McQuaig	Jan. 19Mark Davis, Rick & Joanne Entrekin, Gavin Smith
Jan. 8Rick Barry, Juliet McDonald, Tiffany McGehee	Jan. 20Jo VanDevender
Jan. 9Scott Carmichael, Melissa Hudson, Justin Smith, Jan Wayton	Jan. 21John Carrier III, Mark & Nancy Davis
Jan. 10Bobby & Sheree Maddox	Jan. 22Danny & Joane Mackey, Robert & Candy Ward
Jan. 11Clay & Laura Holladay, Merrell White	Jan. 23Scott Hudson
Jan. 12Bob Rea	Jan. 27Elizabeth Scott Bond, Anthony Hiatt, Scott McQuaig, Liam Morphis
Jan. 13Remy Stump	Jan. 28Sandy Singleton
Jan. 14Candy Ward	Jan. 30Hunter Howell, Carolyn Jones, Kay Milhorn, Mike Reich
Jan. 15Rainey Breaux, Robby Dreyfus	Jan. 31Cameron Burchfield
Jan. 16Robert Ward	



We welcome to the world Jack Lawrence Crowe, born December 7. Jack Lawrence weighed 8 lbs., 10 oz. and was 19 1/2" long. Proud parents are Mary Lawrence and Michael Crowe, plus big sister Anne Harris. Grandparents are Lisa and Larry Love.



LIGHTING THE CANDLES — Lakeland and Dawson Hanschke loved lighting the candles each Sunday in Advent.

196th ANNUAL COUNCIL

Natchez Convention Center
Natchez, Mississippi
January 27-29, 2023

INDIVIDUAL REGISTRATION

Clergy, Delegates and Alternates should register through your Church or Chaplaincy. Exhibitors should register on separate Exhibitor Registration Form.

Name _____
(This name will be used for your nametag)

Address _____

City/Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Church/City _____

Check the Appropriate Box

- Visitor \$175.00
- Clergy Spouse 175.00
- College Representative (non-delegate) 125.00
- Seminarian 125.00
- Spouse of Retired Clergy or Seminarian 125.00
- Young Adult (non-delegate under 35) 125.00

Make payable to:
196th Annual Council
Mail to:
Trinity Episcopal Church
P. O. Box 1323
Natchez, MS 39121

Enclose check for \$ _____

REGISTRATION FEE AFTER JANUARY 1 – \$185.00 / \$135.00 per person

REGISTRATION FEE AFTER JANUARY 15 – \$195.00 / \$145.00 per person

Cancellations made before January 15th will receive \$50 refund.

No refunds after January 15th.

Services

	JAN. 8	JAN. 15	JAN. 22	JAN. 29
VESTRY COUNTERS	Jamie Smith & Lynn Waddle			
8 A.M.			ANNUAL MEETING	ANNUAL COUNCIL
CHALICE	John Carrier	Bob Covert	Malcom Gee	
READER	John Carrier	Polly Covert	Malcom Gee	
USHER	John Carrier	Bob Covert	Malcom Gee	
10:30 A.M.				
READER 1	Rick Barry	Rob Calcote	Meredith Roberts	
READER 2	Katie Simmons	Sally Gray	Wayne Wuestefeld	
PRAYERS	Bobbie Rea		Key Reich	
USHERS	Michelle Lewis	Graham Martin	Marsha Miller	
	Patrick Lewis	Joey Martin	Jim Miller	
ACOLYTES	Ann Revere Davis	Annie Martin	Hayes Lancaster	
	William Davis	Jack Martin	Landon Smith	
	Simmons Davis	Maggie Martin	Gavin Smith	
ALTAR GUILD	Bobbie Rea	Gloria Chancellor	Gloria Chancellor	
	BJ Ray	Stacey Harwell	Stacey Harwell	
CHALICE	Barbara Boone	Rob Calcote	Gary Jones	