

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

Jan. 7 — Men's Study Group will resume at 7 a.m.; Theology on Tap 5:15 p.m. at Weidmann's

Jan. 8 — 5:30 pm — Epiphany Service with "Burning of the Greens" and EYC chili supper/fundraiser to follow — please bring sides and/or desserts!

Jan. 9 — Worship Committee meeting at noon; Executive Committee meeting 5:30 p.m.

Jan. 13 — Annual Meeting reports due in the Parish Office

Jan. 20 — Parish Office closed in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. day

Jan. 21 — 5:15 p.m. — Vestry Meeting

Jan. 23 — Outreach serving at Crestwood Elementary & L.O.V.E.'s Kitchen

Jan. 26 Annual Meeting — one service at 9:30 a.m.; followed by meal in the Parish Hall.

## Find Out About Our Vestry Nominees

Thus far we have four very talented people as nominees willing to serve on St. Paul's Vestry. Nominations are open and will be accepted through Jan. 13. Each potential Vestry member must be a confirmed communicant, at least 21 years of age, must be canonically resident and actually residing the parish (letter of membership on file); must be entitled to suffrage at annual meeting at which elected; cannot have served on the Vestry in previous three years (though such person is immediately eligible to stand for nomination as Warden); and shall not serve more than six consecutive years in that or a combination of Vestry member/warden offices unless said individual has served a portion of a former term (i.e. filled an unexpired term). Prior to the Annual Parish Meeting, potential Vestry members will meet with the Rector; consent to the parish's Vestry Covenant; and commit to attend the annual Vestry retreat.

*Here is a look at the nominees:*

**Tim Hanschke** is employed as a pilot with Delta Airlines. Tim says that his gifts to vestry will be his experience in project management, IT consultation and development, and leadership skills learned as a military officer. His special interests at St. Paul's are facilitating and leading the orientation

of St. Paul's efforts toward its mission statement and growth for the future.

**Michelle Lewis** is employed as a physical therapist. Michelle believes she would bring a new voice of the Middlers class and would love to see a focus on our children and young people. She feels we have a great group of young parishioners and would love to see our Parish grow even more.

**Katie Simmons** is employed as a nurse anesthetist. Katie says that as a committed church member her spiritual life was changed by Camp Bratton-Greene and Happening, both experiences she wishes for her family and friends. She feels very strongly that St. Paul's can/will/must find a way to be a pillar of the community in ways that are uniquely Episcopalian and unique to St. Paul's. Katie's special interests are outreach, community involvement and growing St. Paul's in Meridian.

**Chad Tibbetts** is employed in sales at Southern Pipe & Supply. Chad said the gifts he will bring to the Vestry are his building maintenance and construction knowledge. His areas of special interest are growing the population of young adults and helping or organizing church events and gatherings. Chad is eager to learn more about the church and help in any way possible — in ways he never thought of before.

## Things to Know for the New Year

Happy New Year! I write this the day after Christmas Day, or the Feast of Stephen, or in Britain, Boxing Day. I imagine you are doing what we are doing at the rectory today; clearing the floor of the boxes, torn wrapping paper and the ribbon. You are peering sadly at the Christmas tree as it droops towards the floor realizing that it will not live to Epiphany after all. Children give the new toys a try. Our backyard was equipped with a new children's trampoline and a pitched tent by dad; plenty to occupy a toddler for a few hours.

The name, Boxing Day, really makes a whole lot of sense to me. Many of us spend the day reorganizing, getting back to some since of routine and, as the name implies, regift (although certainly none of us would ever do such a thing!). Many of our Protestant brothers and sisters break down Christmas at sunrise while Roman Catholics, Anglicans and Lutherans counterculturally struggle to hold the 12 days as best we can.

In this January newsletter I want to share an assortment of things about life at St. Paul's that you may not know.

### Did you know...?

We recently launched a monthly *Theology on Tap*. This group meets upstairs at Weidman's the first Tuesday of each month beginning at 5:15 p.m. for prayer, conversation and fellowship. The group mainly consists of Meridian Episcopalians, but all are welcome. The hope for this group is to have a place for Mississippi State students and young professionals and we hope to see this group grow.

Each Wednesday at 12:05 p.m., I offer a *Eucharist with Healing* in the chapel. It is an intimate service, lasting a little over half an hour, which still gives time to eat lunch and get back to work on time. The service is especially tailored to those anticipating an upcoming hardship or procedure or are in recovery. The service is available when you need it though we have a few regulars.

Our *Outreach Committee is expanding*. We recently started reading at Crestwood Elementary School and serving at L.O.V.E.'s Kitchen once a month. We meet around 9:30 a.m. at St. Paul's and then carpool to the school. Both service opportunities take a little more than an hour and are great ways to meet new people. The committee is purchasing uniforms for students and helping

out with a local organization that purchases beds for underprivileged children. Please contact Lloyd Gray for ways you can help.

We are working on our church website to help keep you informed of our ministry activities and points of contact. If you haven't been to the website in a while, please visit the site and familiarize yourself with it: [visit stpaulsmeridian.org](http://stpaulsmeridian.org). In the coming weeks sermons, updated photos and a calendar of events will be available.

One of the best gifts that you can give your family is to *make some plans* for your own funeral. The church has planning forms you can use and the clergy are also available to meet with you to select favorite hymns, scripture readings and other details. We suggest that you give the Parish Office a copy of your funeral plans now, and also keep a copy at home with your other important documents. We would also be happy to discuss with you the options around cremation and interment in our columbarium. You may reserve and purchase your space now.

Parishioners are helping the clergy with pastoral care both with hospital visits, assisted living and taking Home Communion monthly to the homebound. This helps expand the presence of St. Paul's and is a wonderful way to give. Please contact Linda Carrier if you want to learn how you can help.

That's all for now. Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

—Faithfully, Fr. Austin



### And a HUGE Thank You...

Our Christmas Celebration was outstanding because of our many volunteers and phenomenal staff. A huge thank you goes out to Claire who did a wonderful job with the children's Eucharist at 4:30 p.m. We give thanks to the Altar Guild and to Bobbie Rea and those who helped with the poinsettias. Thank you for the Vestry for helping to count and helping lock up at midnight. Thank you for parents who encouraged their children to participate. Thank you to David, the choir and musicians for their hard work. I hope you get a much-needed rest.



### Magnificent Christmas Pageant!

St. Paul's held its annual Christmas pageant with more than 30 kids and youth participating. It was awesome! Thank you to the parents who helped make this such a fun service. Wesley McGehee made an awesome baby Jesus. Our children really know how to celebrate the birth of our Lord!

*St. Paul's will be hosting student volunteers from the University of Missouri Saturday, Jan. 11 through Friday, Jan. 17. A huge thank you to these fine students as they give of their time for Care Lodge. They will be joining us Wednesday, Jan. 15, for our Parish Meal.*

#### With Thanks... From the Staff and Fr. Austin:

We are most appreciative to the Parish for all the remembrances offered at Christmas and year's end. Thank you for your generosity and thoughtfulness. From Christmas bonuses to treats and gifts to goodies, we are moved by your kindness, especially during this past holiday season. THANKS! — *Betty, David, Claire, Joane, John, Brenda, Denise, Rita and Fr. Austin*

### Spring Semester Youth Diocesan Events

Save the date and get your EYC'er registered! There is already a fun spring semester planned for the youth of the Diocese of MS. Go ahead mark your calendars and get registered. If you register your EYC'er for any diocesan events, please let Claire Hasselle know. Transportation can be arranged, or at least a carpool, in most situations. All registration links can be found at [diomseyouth.org](http://diomseyouth.org).

- Jr. High DOY: March 27 – 29 (Grades 6 – 8)
- Happening #87: March 6 – 8 (Grades 10 – 12)
- Sr. DOY: April 17 – 19 (Grades 9 – 12)

*Camp Bratton-Green summer camp registration is OPEN. Sessions fill up fast! Go ahead and get your kiddo registered. Go to [dioms.org](http://dioms.org) to register. Contact Claire Hasselle with questions.*

#### January EYC Schedule

*1/12: EYC is going shopping! Jr. and Sr. EYC meet at the Mediator at 5 p.m. to take the bus to Walmart to shop for food to fill the Mediator food pantry. We will have worship and dinner when we return. Pick up is at the Mediator at 7 p.m.*  
*1/15: Youth Gospel Study. We will meet in the Nave at 6:20 p.m. to reflect on the Gospel reading for the coming week.*  
*1/19: EYC is at St. Paul's from 5 – 7 p.m.*  
*1/22: Youth Gospel Study. We will meet in the Nave at 6:20 p.m. to reflect on the Gospel reading for the coming week.*  
*1/26: EYC is at the Mediator from 5 – 7 p.m.*  
*1/29: Youth Gospel Study. We will meet in the Nave at 6:20 p.m. to reflect on the Gospel reading for the coming week.*

### St. Paul's Lenten Meditation Booklet 2020

You are Invited to share a short reflection on your spiritual journey! Write a 150-200 word reflection to be included in the inaugural St. Paul's Lenten Meditation Booklet. Perhaps you will find inspiration from the daily lectionary and choose to write a meditation based on the scripture assigned for that day. You are welcome to write about a new direction in your life, a particularly meaningful experience, how a person or place has brought you to new awareness of the Holy or share a spiritual experience that has special meaning. All parishioners, as well as clergy — past and present — are invited to submit a reflection. The booklet will be printed and distributed to the parish on Ash Wednesday, February 26. **The deadline for your submissions is January 30.** A sign-up list with daily scriptures is posted on the hall bulletin board or you can e-mail [betty45@gmail.com](mailto:betty45@gmail.com) requesting a date for your meditation or sending your final reflection.

### Epiphany Celebration January 8

St. Paul's will celebrate Epiphany with a reflection on the Magi's visit to Jesus, commonly known as the "three wise men." Did you know that each of their gifts held symbols for what is to come during Jesus' journey here on Earth? Don't forget — the Christmas season did not begin until Christmas Day. Epiphany completes our Christmas feast and the story is incomplete without it. Come celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany with a brief service on the Parish Hall patio beginning at 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, January 8. Following the service, we will enjoy a meal of hotdogs and chili. Parishioners are asked to bring sides or desserts.

### MAX Exhibit Highlights Mental Health Issues

Mental health issues will affect one-in-four people worldwide at some point in their lives. People all over the world are living with conditions such as depression and anxiety.

According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), many people in America are affected by mental health conditions. Around one-in-five adults in the U.S. experience mental illness in a given year. This is approximately 43.8 million people or 18.5% of the population. One-in-25 adults in the U.S. experience a serious mental illness in a year.

By getting involved in the conversation about mental health, the Mississippi Arts + Entertainment Experience can help to tackle stigma. We can also work to improve people's health and wellbeing. On January 25 we will open an exhibition titled Heal the Knife that Cuts the Wound, featuring the work of Vicksburg artist Lindsay Carraway. Visitors will become immersed in her world — the shapes, colors and themes of women, family and empowerment.

This compelling exhibition and the stories shared are a useful opportunity to highlight the issue of mental health and to start conversations. We will also be partnering with health care professionals and caregivers from around the state to present programs about challenges and opportunities in Mississippi related to mental health and wellbeing.

### We Remember in our Prayers

**Our Parish family:** Dixie Pigford, DJ Wells, Edgar Morrison, The Rev. Harriett Simmons, Ivy Jane Sutton, Milo Joseph Sutton, Jerry Greene, Jerry Wayton, Jo Van Devender, Mary Scott, Norma Veach, Peggy Carrico. The Rev. Arnold Bush, The Rev. Don Chancellor, Terry Rush and William Godwin.

**Those in our senior living communities:** Deanie Carmichael, Elise Leach, Joyce Welsh, Linda James, Lora Jones and Nita Neville.

**Extended family and friends:** Alice Miller, Ally Gressett, Amanda Lockey, Anna Meyers, Art Matthews, Barbara Robinson, Baston Geiger, Bill Selman, Bob Hill, Bridget Mann, Brooke, Cathy Parker, Charmin Edwards, Chelsie Abston, Cheryl Drennan, Clay Hamilton, Cory Gaylord, Diane Dunn, Delroy Ming, Edesser "Dess" Reid Ward, Rob & Aislinn Ward, Elise Higbe, Frank Baker, Frank Barrett, Freddie Bea Watson, Gary Dawkins, George Ferguson, Hannah McNichol, Helen Valentine, Jada Dooley, James, James Wooley, Jim Bateman, John, Justin Site, Ken Fisher, Kim Lovette, Kylie Temple, Leigh Ann Key, Lou Dubose, Marilyn Mohr, Martha Mazingo, 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 Schram, Tony Sansone, The Waller Family, Wanda Scott, Wilfe Manning, Zack Martin and Lee Davis Thames.

**We pray for those who have died especially:** James Hall Deen, brother of Bob Deen; Agnes Norsworthy Lewis, mother of Joane Mackey; Robert Anthony Coffin, father of Bob Coffin; Jim Stockman; and Michael Elfiring. We pray for our Bishop Brian, our Rector Austin and his family and our Deacon Betty.

**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

Jan. 1 .....Gene & Judy Wood	Jan. 16 .....Linda James, Robert Ward
Jan. 2 .....Jack Martin, Jim Miller	Jan. 17 .....Anna Katherine Carrier
Jan. 3 .....Scott & Rose Hudson, Cindy McGinnis & Jim McGinnis, Chris Stump	Jan. 19 .....Mark Davis, Rick & Joanne Entrekina, Gavin Smith
Jan. 7 .....Kelly McQuaig	Jan. 20 .....Jo Van Devender
Jan. 8 .....Rick Barry, Juliet McDonald, Tiffany McGehee	Jan. 21 .....John Carrier III, Mark & Nancy Davis
Jan. 9 .....Scott Carmichael, Melissa Hudson, Jamie Smith, Jan Wayton	Jan. 22 .....Danny & Joane Mackey, Robert & Candy Ward
Jan. 10 .....Sherree & Bobby Maddox	Jan. 23 .....Scott Hudson
Jan. 11 .....Clay & Laura Holladay, Merrell White	Jan. 27 .....Elizabeth Scott Bond, Anthony Hiatt, Scott McQuaig, Liam Morphis
Jan. 12 .....Bob Rea	Jan. 28 .....Sandy Singleton
Jan. 13 .....Remy Stump	Jan. 30 .....Hunter Howell, Carolyn Jones, Kay Milhorn, Mike Reich
Jan. 14 .....Candy Ward	Jan. 31 .....Cameron Burchfield
Jan. 15 .....Rainey Breaux, Robby Dreyfus	

Services	JANUARY 5	JANUARY 12	JANUARY 19	JANUARY 26
VESTRY COUNTERS	Robby Dreyfus & Lee Loeb; Lock: Candy Ward			
8 A.M.	ANNUAL MEETING			
CHALICE	John Carrier	Bob Covert	Lynne Taleff	9:30 A.M.
READER	John Carrier	Margaret Van Dyke	Polly Covert	
USHER	Linda Carrier	Bob Coffin	Bob Covert	
10:30 A.M.	ANNUAL MEETING			
READER 1	Rick Barry	Rick Entrekina	Katie Simmons	Lloyd Gray
READER 2	Tiffany McGehee	Melissa Calcote	Jerome Kittrell	Lynne Taleff
PRAYERS	Bobbie Rea	Stacey Harwell	Joan Moore	Claire Hasselle
USHERS	Perrin Burchfield	Edie Simmons	Susan Nowak	Rick Barry
	Chris Burchfield	Adrian Page	Larry Nowak	Cheri Barry
	Melissa Love	Lauretta Hamilton	Jim Miller	Linda Carrier
	Sara Mason	Lisa Howell	Marsha Miller	John Carrier
ACOLYTES	Cate Simmons	Elizabeth Scott Bond	Hardin Hiatt	Katie Hasselle
	Lucy Simmons	Scott & Wyatt Bond	Henry Hiatt	Hayes Lancaster
	Sellers Breaux	Tucker Dunn	Gibson Hasselle	Landon Smith
ALTAR GUILD	Bev Pringle	Bev Pringle	Bobbie Rea	Bobbie Rea
	Lindy Deen	Lindy Deen	Linda Carrier	Linda Carrier
	Joan Moore	Joan Moore	Melissa Calcote	Melissa Calcote
CHALICE	Helen Abraham	Barbara Boone	Kay Reich	Bev Pringle