



1116 23rd Avenue • Meridian, MS 39301
601.693.2502 • stpaulsmeridian@gmail.com
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Deadline to submit articles for "The Epistle" is the 15th of each month.

Nov. 5 • Daylight Saving Time • Fall Back

Nov. 9 • 11:30 a.m. • Worship Committee meeting

Nov. 12 • Ingathering Sunday

Nov. 14 • 5:15 p.m. • Vestry Meeting

*Nov. 22 – 27 • Thanksgiving Holiday • Parish office will close noon
Wednesday, Nov. 22 and will be closed Thursday and Friday*



Celebrating Christmas December 24, 2023

Advent 4 • 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Service will be in the chapel

Christmas Eve Service • 5:30 p.m.

Festival Choral Eucharist in the Nave



The Epistle • November 2023



Fly and Love. Love and Fly.

There is a thread I am hearing in every direction about how we are in a place of many in-betweens. It is one of the most challenging impasses in life and where the church finds itself.

Now, I am terrified of heights. The fear of falling is my reoccurring dream. If I have to jump off a high diving board, the more I think about it, the less likely I am to let go. But this feeling of in-between makes me think of an acrobat in midair. Consider this poem by Cristiano Luchini entitled *Passion in Midair: The Inner Life of an Acrobat*.

"The acrobat soars in the emptiness, which emptiness is never, because in itself it contains infinite energy which is the same infinite energy of her body, tense and vibrant. Blinded by the lights, deafened by the catacomb silence, somersaulting on herself, the acrobat also makes somersault her heart that hammers with passion and that shouts: "Fly and Love, Love and Fly." Adoring, a cosmic Thought of happiness caresses her with maternal gentleness. The aerial magic has been completed. The roar of the crowd tears the silence, which silence is never because in itself it contains infinite energy which is the same infinite energy of her body, now grateful and relaxed."

I love that. With Ingathering Sunday and discerning the vision of St. Paul's in the coming year, and the announcement of the slate of candidates for our next bishop, we are like acrobats aren't we? I wonder if you are like me and feel like we are in flight, not yet falling but reaching through the air for something or someone to catch us. We are "faith-filled," like the generosity we have shown in our stewardship.

It is also similar to the three weeks in between All Saints' Sunday and the season of Advent. It is in between time in

the church. The lessons appointed in scripture for Sundays are all about anticipation and preparation; key themes of Advent yet we aren't there yet. In fact, for the first one thousand years of our faith, the church recognized forty days of Advent to mirror Lent.

Someone told me just this week that these final Sundays in ordinary time feel like a recap of what happened in a television show before starting a new season.

This makes me wonder if you feel that way... like the inner life of an acrobat. You are in midair, full of passion. I imagine this is what it feels like when you buy a house but haven't yet sold the old one... or opportunities come around and you are torn whether to go for it or stay in the familiar. It is the hardest thing not being anchored in the ground or grabbing onto a rope.

And I believe more and more that God calls us to be disciples who are willing to be acrobats. Yes we love to be planted and rooted but those times are proving more rare all the time. But I wonder if we are called to love and fly in midair. ***"Wait on the Lord; Be of good courage, And God shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the Lord!"*** Psalm 27:14.

We are faith-filled because we believe God meets us there.

Consider these weeks in November to look for the moments in-between and trust that we won't be in the air forever. St. Paul's is always propelled forward by the Spirit, to the next awesome thing that is always coming by the grace of God.

"Fly and love. Love and fly."

Austin



Ingathering • Sunday, November 12

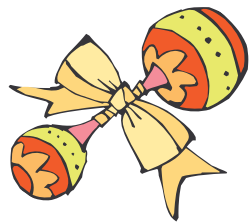
Please prayerfully consider your pledge for 2024. We will present our pledge cards to be blessed on November 12. Pledge cards were mailed Monday, Oct 23. If you have not received yours in the mail, cards will be available at the entrances to the Nave .

Chapel of the Cross
Episcopal Church



Dear Members of St. Paul's,
Thank you so much
for your generous donation
to the Chapel of the
Cross, Rolling Fork,
which will be used for
the rebuilding of our
beloved church.

Repair on the Poush
Hall has been completed
and we expect to be
worshipping in that
space very soon.
Meanwhile we are
worshipping in a nearby
Methodist Church.
Small town life is
often neighbor
helping neighbor.
Again many thanks,
Anne Wyn Weisinger



We rejoice in the birth of
Clayton Page Ayres
September 26.

Proud parents Tyler & Sarah
Page Ayres and grandparents
Tom & Page Sikes.

November EYC/Sowashee
Convocation Gathering

November 12 • 3 to 4:30 p.m.
at the Church of the Mediator

November's EYC is going to be a special gathering of Episcopal youth from Meridian, Hattiesburg and Laurel for our annual Sowashee Convocation Gathering! We will have fellowship, games and elect our youth delegates to Annual Council in January. Join us Nov. 12 at Church of the Mediator from 3 to 4:30 p.m.

An Evening of Thanksgiving Music

Mark your
calendars now
for Thursday evening,
Nov. 16 at 7 p.m. for
an evening of music
and Thanksgiving
celebration. While the event will not be a church
service, it will be an evening of our favorite
Thanksgiving hymns, organ music, solos and
choral music. A "pickup" choir consisting of
singers from several downtown churches will sing
a Thanksgiving anthem by Healey Willan, "Sing To



ST PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
MUSIC SERIES

the Lord of Harvest." The
Rev. David Bishop, First
Baptist Church Minister
of Music, will direct the
choir. Claire Hanschke
will sing John Rutter's
"For the Beauty of the Earth," and David Benson
will play the St. Paul's Aeolian-Skinner organ. We
hope you will invite friends and neighbors to
come and celebrate Thanksgiving together — and
plan to enjoy some refreshments following the
event.

 **BISHOP SEARCH**
Diocese of MS *slate of nominees*


The Rev. Canon
JASON ALEXANDER


The Very Rev.
JENNIFER ANDREWS
WECKERLY


The Very Rev.
ROB COURTNEY


The Very Rev.
WALTON JONES


The Rev. Dr.
DOROTHY SANDERS
WELLS

msbishopsearch.com/nominees

Praying for Peace November 8

Please join St. Paul's Episcopal Church and Jubilee Mennonite Church in praying for peace on Wednesday, Nov. 8, from 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. St. Paul's sanctuary will be open during this time for people to come as they can to pray for peace throughout the world. Prayer stations will be set up throughout the sanctuary for private prayer and local clergy will lead congregational prayers for peace every 30 minutes. Questions? Please email Mtr. Katie at Katie@stpaulsmeridian.org.



We Remember in our Prayers

For our Parish family: Andrea Carver, Cheri Barry, Chip Harwell, Don Pringle, DJ Wells, Elliott Street, Eve Morrison, Jerome Kittrell, Jerry Wayton, Jo Van Devender, Kay Dickson, Margaret Van Dyke, Mary Dunn, Patrick Leach, Pearce Dickson, Peggy Carrico, Tee, Wanda Blount and Woodie Abraham.

In our senior living communities: Elinor Quick, Joyce Welsh, Lora Jones, Mary Weems and Susan Hamilton.

Extended family and friends: Alisha Crowell, Betty Perry, Bill Selman, Bill Slay, Brooke, Charlotte Chaney, Christy Covert, Christopher Alexander, Clancy, Cory Gaylord, Davey Simmons, David, Diane Dunn, Donna Polizzi, Emily Rush, Evie Warden, Francois DuPlessis, Frances, Frank Baker, Frank Barrett, Gail Richardson, George Farr, Hays Monsour, Jacob Neely, Jada Dooley, James, Jan, Jeana Bennett, Jo Nell Brown, Jim McGinnis, Jim Thompson, John, Josiah Christian, Kamie Wert, Ken Fisher, Kevin Williams, Kylie Temple, Lamar McKenzie, Lanier McCullough, Leland Tew, Lou Dubose, Martha Mazingo, Marti & Will Sorey, Mason, Matt White, Michelle Nelson, Mike Covert, Mize, Norman, Pat Carver, Rachel Neely, Randy Moore, Richard Graham, Rick, Sandra Gray, Sandy Carrier, Shirley Hunter Croft, Steve Waddle, Susan Nichols, Tammy, Tyler Rainey, Thomas Little, Tom Schram, Travis Sadler, Trent Hartzog, Wanda Farr, Wanda Scott, Willie Spencer and Zack Martin.

We pray for those who have died especially: Penny Purnell, and Martha Hudson, mother of Scott Hudson.

We pray for those serving in the Armed Forces, for all who serve overseas and their families, especially Andrew Behm, Shum Benson, Cody Blackwell, Connor Covert, Graham Ford, Luke Graham, Zack Hendericks, Brooks Hull, Nick Mullen and DJ Robinson.

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

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Nov. 1	Gordon Mason	Nov. 14	David & Anne Elise Ray
Nov. 2	Barbara Boone, Don Pringle, Dustin & Katie Simmons, Wayne Wuestefeld	Nov. 17	Rob & Melissa Calcote, John Rea
Nov. 4	Wanda Blount, Michelle Lewis, Shaone Kennedy	Nov. 18	Ava Hughley, Lisa Love
Nov. 5	Sylvia Dreyfus, Lakeland Hanschke	Nov. 19	Rick Entrekin, Robert Stump
Nov. 6	BJ Ray	Nov. 20	David & BJ Ray
Nov. 7	Poo Chancellor, Mary Lawrence Crowe, Marilyn Greene	Nov. 21	Tommie Collis, Bob & Karen Rea, Shelby Slade
Nov. 8	Maurice LaBiche	Nov. 22	Wayne & Beth Wuestefeld
Nov. 9	Anne Hardin Hiatt	Nov. 24	Bobby Maddox
Nov. 11	Larry Love	Nov. 27	Rick & Claire Hassell, John & Lisa Howell, Linda Moffett
Nov. 12	Lisa Kittrell	Nov. 28	Paislee Sims
Nov. 13	Sally Gray, Mary Weems	Nov. 29	Bob & Susan Coffin
		Nov. 30	Shelton Cunningham, Jamie Tucker

Services	NOV. 5	NOV. 12	NOV. 19	NOV. 26
VESTRY COUNTERS	Lloyd Gray & Stacey Harwell			
8 A.M.				
CHALICE	Bob Covert	Malcom Gee	John Carrier	Bob Covert
READER	Polly Covert	Malcom Gee	John Carrier	Polly Covert
USHER	Bob Covert	Malcom Gee	John Carrier	Bob Covert
10:30 A.M.	ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY			
READER 1	Katie Simmons	Rick Entrekin	John Compton	Melissa Calcote
READER 2	Gary Jones	Mallory Davis	Jo Benson	Rick Barry
PRAYERS	Candy Ward	Stacey Harwell	Joan Moore	Bobbie Rea
USHERS	Laura Holladay Clay Holladay	Chris Burchfield Perrin Burchfield	Catherine Little Judge Little	Reid Davis Chris Stump
ACOLYTES	Payton Hanschke Lucy Simmons Simmons Davis • Patrick Leach	Cameron Burchfield Sarah Katherine Simmons Sellers Breaux	Wyatt Bond Rowan Hanschke Hamp Little	Ann Revere Davis Reese Stump Remy Stump
ALTAR GUILD	Joan Moore Mallory Davis	Joan Moore Mallory Davis	Kay Reich Leslie Hiatt	Kay Reich Leslie Hiatt
CHALICE	Jo Benson	Barbara Boone	Gloria Chancellor	Stephen Wilson