

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

Feb. 8 • 11:30 a.m. • Worship Committee Meeting

Feb. 13 • 5:30 p.m. • Shrove Tuesday

Feb. 14 • 12:05 and 5:30 p.m. • Ash Wednesday Services • Nave

Feb. 19 • Parish Office closed in observance of President's Day

Feb. 24 • Vestry Retreat

During Lent • Wednesday noon healing services will not be held

Dates to Remember!

April 26 • Farewell to the Seages, Two Mississippi Museums, Jackson

July 20 • Ordination of 11th Bishop of Mississippi,
St. Andrew's Episcopal School, Ridgeland

October 13 • Bishop's visit to St. Paul's
with Confirmations and Reaffirmations

Stations of the Cross

Fridays during Lent
at 12:00 Noon
St. Paul's Episcopal Church



A Season of Prayer and Discernment for Our Young People

There are two questions asked of parents and godparents at the baptism of a child: Will you be responsible for seeing that the child you present is brought up in the Christian faith and life? Will you by your prayers and witness help this child to grow into the full stature of Christ?

We boldly respond to these questions with the response, "I will, with God's help."

Here at St. Paul's, we take these promises seriously. We want our children and youth to grow in their knowledge and love of God through worship, fellowship and formation. We want to faithfully support our young people as they grow up in a challenging and uncertain world. But what does it look like to do this in a society and culture that seems so different than what many of us grew up in?

We recognize today's families are under so much pressure with impossibly busy schedules, unrealistic expectations perpetuated by social media, financial uncertainty and constant news of scary things happening around us.

What does it look like to be the Body of Christ together in this world? These are the questions we are asking at St. Paul's. We invite you to join us in praying and discerning how to bring up this generation of young people in the Christian life and faith.

This month we will convene a new Family Ministries Committee that will do the work of accessing the current needs and capacities of our families with children and youth, as well as developing a strategic plan for our youth and children's ministry. A "Family Ministries Survey" will go out to the congregation the first week of February. The Committee will use these survey results, along with recommendations from the Diocesan Missioner for Children and Youth Formation, to develop a strategic plan for St. Paul's Family Ministries.

We pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance as we discern how to faithfully serve our young people and their families. We invite you to pray alongside us.

—Fr. Austin, Mtr. Katie & Committee

The Way of the Pilgrim

I have always liked to walk, hike, run, or jog. Once upon a time, my favorite part about attending seminary in Manhattan were the walks; walks through the Flat Iron District, the promenade in Brooklyn Heights, or jogging in the park along the East River. The trails in Central Park were designed to help people get wonderfully lost for a while, away from the businesses and sounds of the big city.

We are all on the journey, on the way to somewhere.

For decades I wanted to be a pilgrim, or a *peregrino*, to literally walk one of the ancient pilgrim ways. This summer, thanks to St. Paul's, I will have such an opportunity. I will walk the Way of St. James in northern Spain; 360 miles beginning in the city of Bilbao and finishing in Santiago de Compostela. The last continuously intact functioning pilgrimage route of ancient Christianity, people have walked this path for 1,200 years.

There is certainly a Lenten aspect of this walk. The distance and toll it takes on the body. You have to care for blisters before they come, for then it's too late (there is probably a sermon there). You let a lot go, both in packing and being at the whim of the hosts of hostels, or *albergues* as they are called. You trust the road will provide, as you fall into the routine of eating, walking, sleeping. Rinse and repeat. It is a very physical way to be in communion with God; a physical way to be spiritual.

If I had one objective out of my sabbatical, it would be similar to a holy Lent. It is a stripping down of everything until all that remains is a hunger for God. It's funny because living in a consumer world it is all too easy to brand our faith. The Church's sales pitch might be something like



"Follow Jesus and you will be blessed beyond measure," yet we leave out "follow Jesus and sacrifice everything."

Because while walking the pilgrim's road has moments of beauty and utter delight, it is mostly about being slowly stripped of everything, and trusting God anyway; being grateful anyway.

The way of the pilgrim. It is walked alone but you can't do it alone. I will walk with others, with all the routes to Santiago, 300,000 people from all over

the world are expected to walk one of the paths this summer. I will walk alongside them in their pain, and stay with them for a long, long way even if the language of their soul is different from mine. And I will be worn down to the bare bones of faith.

I know all this sounds grueling and honestly, I can hardly wait.

I invite our parish family to consider our walk. The invitation for this Lent might be as simple as, walking, eating and sleeping, whatever that looks like for you. Try and live your whole selves as God hopes for you. Strip down to the essentials.

What do I truly need to endure? What do I need to take on or let go so that I can remember that existing is a gift worth being grateful for. Existing, suffering and everything that comes with it is worth being grateful for. We all keep walking until we return to the dust. We walk together and God is alongside us through all of it.

I bid you a holy Lent.

Austin

New Bishop Elected

The Rev. Dr. Dorothy Sanders Wells was elected Feb. 3 to be the 11th bishop of the Diocese of Mississippi. She will be the first Black person and woman to hold the position.

Wells has served as rector of St. George's Episcopal Church in Germantown, TN, a suburb of Memphis, since 2013. She was chosen from a field of five nominees in an election held at St. Andrew's Episcopal Upper School in Ridgeland.

"Diocese of Mississippi, I am so humbled by the confidence that you have placed in me, and I am looking forward to being with you all — to growing in relationship with you all, to serving alongside you and to walking alongside you in this tremendous journey with God," Wells said via Zoom in remarks made to the convention. "We are called to be lovers of one another and of our God, and together there is virtually nothing that we cannot accomplish."

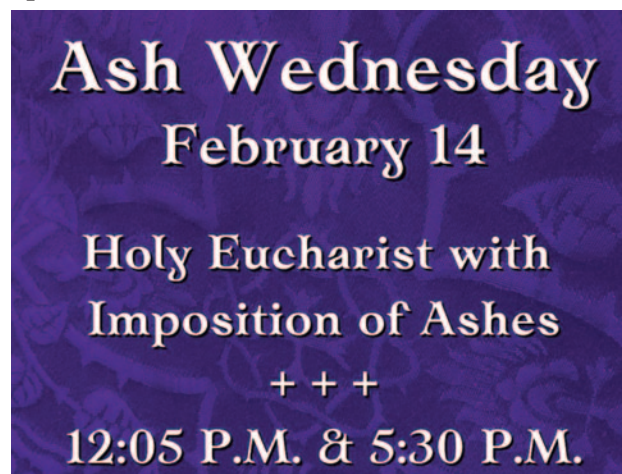
A native of Mobile, AL, Wells moved to Memphis to begin her undergraduate studies in vocal performance at Rhodes College. She also has a law degree from the Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law at the University of Memphis.



Welcoming New Vestry Members

Congratulations to our newly elected Senior Warden Lynn Waddle and Vestry Members John Rea, Patrick Lewis, Edie Simmons and Gayle Yochim.

We give thanks and appreciation to our outgoing Senior Warden Chuck Rea and Vestry members Lloyd Gray, Jamie Smith and Chris Stump for their commitment, faithfulness and passionate voices in service to St. Paul's.



February for Youth

**Tuesday 2/13 - Shrove Tuesday
Cooking at 4:30 P.M.**

**Tuesdays During Lent - 7:15 A.M.
Breakfast & Devotional
at Hardee's on HWY 39**

**Sunday 2/25 - EYC at St. Paul's
5:00 P.M. - 6:30 P.M.**

We Remember in our Prayers

For our Parish family: Chip Harwell, Don Pringle, DJ Wells, Eve Morrison, Holly Morgan, Jerome Kittrell, Jerry Wayton, Jo Van Devender, Kay Dickson, Lynn Waddle, Margaret Van Dyke, Mary Dunn, Patrick Leach, Pearce Dickson, Peggy Carrico, Tee, Wanda Blount and Woodie Abraham.

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

Extended family and friends: Alisha Crowell, Amanda Lockley, Betty Perry, Bill Selman, Brooke, Charlotte Chaney, Christy Covert, Christopher Alexander, Clancy, Colt Chancellor, Cory Gaylord, Davey Simmons, David, Diane Dunn, Donna Polizzi, Drew Wilson, Emily Rush, Evie Warden, Francois DuPlessis, Frances Leach, 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, John Via, Josiah Christian, Ken Fisher, Kevin Williams, Kylie Temple, Lanier McCullough, Larry Houchins, Leland Tew, Lou Dubose, Martha Mazingo, Marti & Will Sorey, Mason, Matt White, Michelle Nelson, Mike Covert, Mize, Norman, Pat Carver, Paul Parker, Phyllis Campbell, Rachel Neely, Randy Moore, Richard Graham, Rick, Sandra Gray, Sandy Carrier, Shirley Hunter Croft, Steve Waddle, Susan Nichols, Tammy, Thomas Little, Tom Blackledge, Tom Schram, Travis Sadler, Trent Hartzog, Tyler Rainey, Wanda Farr, Wanda Scott, Willie Spencer and Zack Martin.

We pray for those who have died, especially Scott Edwards, step grandson of Judy Wood; Hank Florey, father of Scotty Florey; Elinor Quick, mother of Beth Wuestefeld; and Lamar McKenzie.

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

Feb. 2Robert Bailey	Feb. 14 Rob & Connie Arline, Lillian Green, Stephen & Rebecca Wilson
Feb. 3Bobbie Rea	Feb. 18 Rob Ward
Feb. 5June Polson	Feb. 20Adrian Page
Feb. 6Gary Jones, Lucy Simmons	Feb. 21Woodie Abraham, Chip Harwell, Meredith Roberts
Feb. 7Michelle Thames	Feb. 22Dawson Hanschke, Bob Pigford
Feb. 8Lilly Graham	Feb. 23Andrea Carver, Marty McIntyre
Feb. 9Hank Benson	Feb. 24Cyndy Howarth, Martha Young
Feb. 13Gary Boone, Cate Simmons	

Services	FEB. 11	FEB. 18	FEB. 25	MAR. 3
VESTRY COUNTERS ANNUAL COUNCIL				
8 A.M.	MORNING PRAYER			
CHALICE	Bob Covert	John Carrier	Bob Covert	John Carrier
READER	Polly Covert	John Carrier	Polly Covert	John Carrier
USHER	Bob Covert	John Carrier	Bob Covert	John Carrier
10:30 A.M.				
READER 1	Sally Gray		Jerome Kittrell	
READER 2	Wayne Wuestefeld	Lloyd Gray	Katie Simmons	
PRAYERS	Helen Abraham	Joan Moore	Candy Ward	
USHERS	Perrin Burchfield	Larry Nowak	Catherine Little	
	Chris Burchfield	Susan Nowak	Judge Little	
ACOLYTES	Sellers Breaux	Hayes Lancaster	Wyatt Bond	
	Carlyle Breaux	Gavin Smith	Rowan Hanschke	
	Britton Dunn	Landon Smith	Hamp Little	
ALTAR GUILD	Gloria Chancellor	Joan Moore • Leslie Hiatt	Joan Moore • Leslie Hiatt	Rainey Breaux
	Edie Simmons	Graham Martin	Graham Martin	Bobbie Rea
CHALICE	Gary Jones	Rick Entrekin	Jo Benson	Barbara Boone
ASH WEDNESDAY — FEB. 14 • Readers: Rick Entrekin, Sally Gray & Lynn Waddle				

Don't Miss This February 13 Event!

The Youth of St. Paul's will serve up pancakes for one final feast before Ash Wednesday. Youth who wish to cook and serve pancakes can report to the Parish Hall at 4:30 p.m. with dinner being served at 5:30.

Shrove Tuesday is a tradition born out of England. The word "shrove" comes from the old Roman Catholic practice of being "shriven" – meaning to confess one's sins. The shriving bell would be rung on Shrove Tuesday to call people to church to confess.

Before Lent could begin in earnest, all edible temptations needed to be removed. This took place over a period of days known as "Shrovetide." Meat such as bacon would be eaten up on "Collop Monday" (a collop is a thin slice of meat). And on Shrove Tuesday, eggs, butter and stocks of fat would be used up. One of the easiest ways to dispose of these items was to turn them into pancakes or fritters, a custom which continued long after the Church of England separated from the Roman Catholic Church in the 16th century.

