

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

October 9 • Parish Office will be closed in observance of Columbus Day
& Indigenous Peoples Day

October 19 • 11:30 a.m. • Worship Committee meeting

October 24 • 5:15 p.m. • Vestry Meeting

Greenery Sale Benefits EYC Trip to DC

It's that time of year again — our annual greenery sale is upon us! This has become a beloved St. Paul's Youth tradition. This year, I am excited to announce that funds raised this year will go to support our October 2024 acolyte trip to the National Acolyte Festival at Washington National Cathedral in Washington, DC.



The goal of this trip is to spend a weekend in our nation's capital, with Episcopal Acolytes from all across the Church. The day starts with a GRAND Festal Eucharist with all acolytes (and vergers and clergy) in attendance processing in. One of the things I'm looking most forward to is seeing St. Paul's banner in THE National Cathedral. Afterwards, there are tours, seminars, games, general fellowship and revelry to be had by all in attendance.

The cost of the trip is ultimately dependent on travel expenses, but our goal is for any acolyte that would like to attend to be able to attend for free. There will be additional

fundraising opportunities throughout the upcoming year. We will have a parental information meeting at some point in January, so stay tuned for that!

I am so excited that we are able to offer this to our acolytes, they are absolute rock stars and more than deserve the opportunity.

Orders will be available online starting now through November 9. Targeted delivery date will be Monday, November 27. Or see any Acolyte Server to place your order.

—Yours in service, Malcom Gee

Order Online

Greenery sales have gone virtual (well, almost all virtual). Our annual EYC greenery fundraiser is available online UNLESS you want to send a gift wreath to someone. To order a gift wreath to send out of town, call us at the office (601.693.2505) to get a form. Please get all orders in by Thursday, Nov. 9 – online and in person (we do have forms you can use if you don't want to go online). Contact Mallory Davis at 601.513.1775 if you have any questions. Anticipated delivery date is Monday, November 27.

Hope in Front of Us

There is a picture in my office of me, beard, walking stick and all, playing Moses for VBS in a parish in Maine years ago... come by and check it out.

I remember the hallway to "Moses' tent." It was decked out in blue butcher paper.

Fish and starfish were

sprinkled among netting with a dim light to direct the way. I think there was a whale in there somewhere too.

We know this story in the Bible. Anyone who has ever stepped foot in a Sunday School class knows the story of the parting of the Red Sea. In our most sacred service in Christendom, the Easter Vigil, this is the one lesson that must be read.

The Israelites are allowed to leave Egypt by the powers of this world, by Pharaoh. They make it all the way to the edge of the Red Sea before Pharaoh changes his mind and sends his armies to either slaughter them or bring them back as slaves. God's people are trapped. They're stuck with an army behind them and a sea in front.

Now if you are like me, I always get caught up in the miraculous part... with eyes ahead... the sea was divided in two so the people could pass through on dry land.

But consider how the story begins.

"The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them."
Exodus 14:9

The angel of God moved from in front of the people to behind them.

And this has happened before... in Genesis. "God drove out the man; and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim, and a sword flaming and turning to guard the



way to the tree of life."

Adam and Eve were evicted from the place where they had it made. They lived in perfect wholeness with each other and with God until they wanted more... they wanted to be on their own. They wanted to do things their own way, without the God who

made them and loved them. God made them leave. So God placed an angel — behind them to block the way.

That the path behind closed off didn't mean God didn't love them. God just longed to be with them. In both stories, God went behind them to protect them from their natural desire to go back. God gave them a way forward.

As a people and as a church, I wonder how often we look back at the "good ol' days." But it is dangerous to go back.

It is a healthy reminder as we enter another year of discerning stewardship, how we look at the possibilities ahead. The Spirit goes behind us, so that we move forward. We may not have a flaming cherubim and swords blocking the way, but we do have Jesus. And Jesus always makes us a new path... often new opportunities we didn't even see before.

And then there's our part. God blocks the way behind, makes the way forward, and we walk. God's people go together towards where God makes all things new. "Where there is no pain, no sighing, no sorrow" according to the Bible.

We may find ourselves wondering how we will ever make it through whatever difficulties are chasing us. But the hope is, what is in front of us is so much better than anything behind... and if Christians keep moving forward, we will find that God is making ways to set us free.

Austin

Don't Miss the Parish Picnic!



Join us Sunday October 15 at 10:30 a.m. for our Annual Parish Picnic. We'll be gathering at Bonita Lakes in the front pavilion for an outdoor Eucharist followed by a potluck feast. Bring your chairs, family, friends and your favorite dishes to share! We will provide the paper plates, cups, ice, etc.



The EYC youth from St. Paul's got together with the EYC youth of The Mediator for a night of fellowship and fun at Church of the Mediator September 24. Thank you to all the youth who attended and to our wonderful volunteers, who pulled everything together!

Music Series Concert Set for Oct. 12



The St. Paul's Music Series returns and kicks off its first concert Thursday, October 12, at noon with Impromptu Trio. Enjoy the music of Beethoven and Brahms from Impromptu Trio members Borislava Iltcheva, violin; Alexander Russakovsky, cello; and Theresa Sanchez, piano. This talented group has performed several times for the St. Paul's Music Series. Plan now to attend as our parish musical outreach begins anew.



Fifteen dogs, two cats, two hermit crabs and a bunny rabbit joined the communities of St. Paul's and the Church of the Mediator for a joint Blessing of the Animals and Celebration of St. Francis of Assisi. Thank you to our EYCs for making treat backs for our furry companions, and thank you to everyone who donated to East Mississippi Animal Rescue.



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, Mary Weems, Pearce Dickson, Peggy Carrico, Susan Hamilton, Tee, Wanda Blount and Woodie Abraham.

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

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, Kamie Wert, Ken Fisher, Kevin Williams, Kylie Temple, Lanier McCullough, Leland Tew, Lou Dubose, Martha Hudson, Martha Mazingo, Marti & Will Sorey, Mason, Matt White, Michelle Nelson, Mike Covert, Mize, Norman, Pat Carver, Patrick Leach, Penny Purnell, Rachel Neely, Randy Moore, Richard Graham, Rick, Sandra Gray, Sandy Carrier, Shirley Hunter Croft, Steve Waddle, Susan Nichols, Thomas Little, Tom Schram, Travis Sadler, Trent Hartzog, Tyler Perry, Wanda Farr, Wanda Scott, Willie Spencer and Zack Martin

We pray for those who have died especially: Merry Rea Thomson, sister of Bob Rea and Chuck Rea; and Mathilde "Tile" Howell, mother of John Howell.

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, Nick Mullen and DJ Robinson.

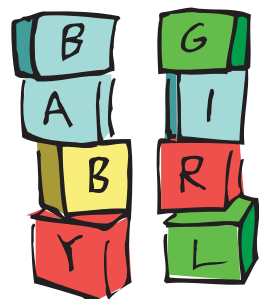
We pray for our Bishop Brian, for our Rector Austin and his family and our Curate Katie.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Oct. 1Cynthia Howarth	Oct. 17Chip & Stacey Harwell
Oct. 2Lloyd & Sally Gray, Rowan Hanschke, Don & Bev Pringle	Oct. 18Betty Melton, Merry McCullum Roberts, Hardy Smith
Oct. 3Edie Simmons	Oct. 19Brad Carver, Hamp Little, Dustin Simmons, William Tucker
Oct. 4Missy Bailey	Oct. 22Klein Watson
Oct. 5Brooke Lawyer	Oct. 25John Howell
Oct. 7Jerry & Jan Wayton	Oct. 26Joey Martin, Landon Smith
Oct. 8Sarah Anne Johnson	Oct. 27Ann Compton, Scotland Sanders Sutton
Oct. 10Bob Coffin, Jim & Marsha Miller	Oct. 28Everett Callais
Oct. 11Marsha Miller	Oct. 29Jim Cady, Katie Simmons
Oct. 12Mallory Davis	Oct. 30Shelton & Alyce Cunningham, Tom Milhorn
Oct. 14Maggie Mason	
Oct. 15Wyatt Bond	

Services

	OCT. 8	OCT. 15	OCT. 22	OCT. 29
VESTRY COUNTERS	Jamie Smith & Lynn Waddle			
8 A.M.				
CHALICE	John Carrier	Bob Covert	John Carrier	Malcom Gee
READER	John Carrier	Polly Covert	John Carrier	Malcom Gee
USHER	John Carrier	Bob Covert	John Carrier	Malcom Gee
10:30 A.M. PARISH PICNIC				
READER 1	Jerome Kittrell		Lynn Waddle	Sally Gray
READER 2	Lynn Waddle	Katie Simmons	John Compton	Rick Entrekin
PRAYERS	Kay Reich		Joan Moore	Stacey Harwell
USHERS	Joey Marin		Susan Nowak	Lisa Howell
	Graham Martin		Larry Nowak	John Howell
ACOLYTES	Hardin Hiatt		Sellers Breaux	Hayes Lancaster
	Henry Hiatt		Carlyle Breaux	Gavin Smith
	Rowan Hanschke		Britton Dunn	Landon Smith
ALTAR GUILD	BJ Ray	Gloria Chancellor	Gloria Chancellor	Bev Pringle
	Stacey Harwell	Bobbie Rea	Bobbie Rea	Leslie Hiatt
CHALICE	Rick Entrekin	Lynn Waddle	Edie Simmons	Gary Jones



We rejoice in the birth of Annie Greer Tucker born September 23 in Houston, TX. Proud parents Davis & Katie Tucker, grandmother is Debbie Green Tucker, great grandparents are Tom & Joy Greer and great aunt & uncle are Laura & Clay Holladay.



We welcome Kaden Michael McIntyre to the world, born Sept 28. Proud parents are Geoffrey Ian and Michelle McIntyre, big brothers are Robert & Carter and grandparents are Geoff & Marty McIntyre.