

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

August 6 • Entry into EYC & outing

August 8 • Blessing of the Backpacks & Acolyte Training

August 15 • Rally Day/Formation Sunday

August 17 • 5:15 p.m. • Vestry Meeting

August 21 • 11 a.m. • Memorial service for The Rev. Horace Choate



# Sunday Formation — You Are Invited

*“Good teaching cannot be reduced to technique; good teaching comes from the identity and integrity of the teacher.” —Parker Palmer*

Along with so many of neighboring churches, our Sunday Formation has taken a hit because of the pandemic. Thankfully our Middlers and young people have resumed but our adult class hasn't met in a long time. I am excited to teach the adult formation class this fall as we explore Reverend Stephanie Spellers book *The Church Cracked Open*. It will help us ask some difficult and necessary questions about the needs of a post-pandemic church. I will also help teach our youth once month.

It has been so long since I have facilitated any formation that I am a little nervous. How long has it been, really? March? February or March of last year? I don't remember. Although I tried a little over Zoom at the beginning of the pandemic, it didn't really work for us.

We need our camaraderie, laughter and the buzz of conversation in All Saints' Hall. Sad to say, there's no telling about the future of our regular in-person meetings! But here's a tentative thought: That I will be in All Saints' Hall at 9:15 on Sunday morning, August 15 (the Sunday after Blessings of the Backpacks Sunday), ready to resume our adult Sunday School class. I'll have the chairs and tables spaced to comply with social distancing guidelines.

Whatever happens this fall with the new strand of COVID approaching, we will make Sunday formation as inviting as we can. God is love and so is our class.

*“Whoever you are, no matter how lonely,  
The world offers itself to your imagination,  
Calls you like the wild geese, harsh and exciting —  
Over and over announcing your place  
In the family of things.”*

—Mary Oliver, *Wild Geese*

Back to the nerves about teaching. A long time ago deacons came to St. Augustine with the same feelings that I and our teachers may have. This is how he responded.

“It is the nature of good minds to love truth in the form of words, not the words themselves. What use is a golden key, if it cannot unlock what we want to be unlocked, and what is wrong with a wooden one, if it can, since our sole aim is to open closed doors?”

We have all the tools we need for enriching conversation and forming disciples. Be open to formation this fall. Hopefully together we will open doors of all kinds so that our hearts too, will be opened.

Faithfully,

Fr. Austin

*Thank you from the bottom of my heart for making this year's Vacation Bible School at St. Paul's (with Church of the Mediator) possible. You truly blessed my life with your hard work and I enjoyed each and every one of you. Based on the more than 40 bright, shining faces that we shared Jesus' love with each day, I think that we can count it as a success. Job well done!*

*In God's Peace,  
Mallory Davis*



## L.O.V.E.'s Kitchen

*(EDITOR'S NOTE: This is another in our series of articles highlighting the organizations supported by St. Paul's Outreach Ministry.)*

*By Lynne Taleff*

Back in the 1980s, St. Paul's and other interested Meridian churches decided to establish a kitchen to provide food for the needy. The result was L.O.V.E. Kitchen, which was incorporated in 1985. The guiding spirit behind its formation and outstanding success was Judge William deBerniere Neville, former Warden, Vestryman and active in all phases of ministry at St. Paul's.

Today, L.O.V.E. Kitchen is known as "L.O.V.E.'s Kitchen" and under the direction of Fannie Mae Johnson. It continues the mission of feeding the needy. Covid-19 brought big challenges, but due to creative management they were able to continue to provide meals served in carryout containers. Meals are still served Monday through Saturday with carryout only. St. Paul's gave \$4,000 last year to support daily expenses.

To meet the ongoing needs they recently partnered with Open Arms Healthcare Center on a one-day service called "Becoming a Healthier U." Folks were offered showers, a set of clean underwear and toiletries, as well as a variety of services that included screenings for blood pressure, BMI/Weight, cholesterol levels, glucose levels, Hepatitis B and C, HIV, STDs, substance abuse, health risk assessments, etc. Participating were the Salvation Army, Multi County Community Services, United Way of East MS, Councilman Dwayne Davis and Pastor Betty Alford.

L.O.V.E.'s Kitchen continues to fulfil its original mission to provide services and connections to resources that address hunger in our community. They engage in regular dialogue with clients and work to adapt to their changing circumstances and need. Billy Neville was asked about the possibilities of "unworthy" folks taking advantage of the free food, to which he replied: "No one is worthy, (expletive deleted). I'm not worthy!"

We are all unworthy, but God makes us worthy in His sight.

*Dear St Paul's parishioners,*

Thank you so very much for your well wishes and prayers for me during my recovery following my accident. I'm on the mend now and am doing very well. I'm still in physical and occupational therapy but getting stronger every day. Never doubt that your prayers don't matter to the one for whom you are praying. I felt your prayers and made a speedier recovery than expected as a result of your prayers. Thank you again.

*thank  
you*

*Love and Christ's Peace to you all,  
Lynn Waddle*

### Where is Your Priest?

We are happy to report Fr. Austin has been enjoying some rest and spiritual renewal at St. Joseph's Abbey in St. Benedict, LA. He's been tending sheep, shadowing beekeepers and attending daily mass and prayers. He returned Thursday, July 29, much refreshed.



## We Remember in our Prayers

**Our Parish family:** DJ Wells, Edgar Morrison, Harriet Simmons, Jerry Greene, Jo Van Devender, Kay Milhorn, Lynn Waddle, Mary Dunn, Peggy Carrico, Rick Farr, Tadley and Terry Ivy.

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

**Extended family and friends:** Alison Ulmer, Amanda Rainey, Anna Lauren Ulmer, Bill Selman, Brooke, Brooks Moore, Chuck Fishburn, Clancy, Cory Gaylord, David, Diane Dunn, Diane Honeycut, Donna Polizzi, Edesser "Dess" Reid Ward, Rob & Aislinn Ward, Emily Chancellor, Frances, Frank Baker, Frank Barrett, Freddie Bea Watson, George Farr, Helen Valentine, Jada Dooley, James, Jane Wacaster, Jim Bateman, John, Josh, Katie, Ken Fisher, Kylie Temple, Lisa Primeaux, Lou Dubose, Mac Thigpen, Martha Mazingo, Mary Halliwell, Michelle Nelson, Mike Covert, Nell McMullen, Norman, Rick, Roger, Rosemary Kahlmus, Sandy Carrier, Steve Plier, Taylor & Trey, Tom Schram, Tony Sansone, Wanda Farr, Wanda Scott, Willie Spencer, Wilma Kangery and Zack Martin.

**We pray for those who have died, especially:** Lee Davis Thames; Sandra Nicholas, sister of Wanda Blount; and John Warren Robinson.

**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, T. J. Melton, Nick Mullen and Zack Thomas.

**We pray for our Bishop Brian** and our Rector Austin and his family.

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

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| Aug. 1.....Eve Morrison,<br>Sarah Katherine Simmons                   | Aug. 17.....Bev Pringle, Sarah Woods                             |
| Aug. 4.....Bob & Kathy Pigford,<br>Chad Tibbets                       | Aug. 18.....Jim & Amy Cady,<br>Rick & Sue Farr,<br>Kathy Pigford |
| Aug. 6.....Rick & Cheri Barry   | Aug. 19.....Austin & Tiffany McGehee                             |
| Aug. 7.....Adrian & Mardi Page,<br>Addyson Sims                       | Aug. 20.....Billie Jean Drennan, Merry Jo Rea                    |
| Aug. 8.....David & Laretta Hamilton                                   | Aug. 22.....Harold Noe   |
| Aug. 9.....Virginia Brimble,<br>Gary & Carolyn Jones                  | Aug. 23.....Addie Florey   |
| Aug. 10.....Lauren Graham,<br>Gordon & Sara Mason,<br>Rose Mary Stump | Aug. 24.....Mike & Kay Reich,<br>Monica Graham                   |
| Aug. 11.....AJ Page   | Aug. 25.....Joan Moore   |
| Aug. 13.....Susan Coffin, Julie Stump                                 | Aug. 27.....Scotty Florey, Austin McGehee                        |
|   | Aug. 29 ....Tucker Dunn  |