

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

April 14 • 5-6:30 p.m. • EYC @ The Church of the Mediator

April 16 • 5:15 p.m. • Vestry Meeting

April 18 • 11:30 a.m. • Worship Committee Meeting

*April 26 • 6- 9 p.m. • Farewell to The Seages at
Two Mississippi Museums, Jackson, MS*



Mission and Music Festival



On March 24, the combined EYC from St. Paul's and The Mediator participated in a Stations of the Crosswalk in the downtown area. It was quite a moving experience for all.

Mission and Music Festival is back! Saturday, May 4, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. It will be action packed at St. Paul's with fried fish plates, live music, frozen and baked goods, two raffles and kids' activities. Proceeds again will go to CARE Lodge and L.O.V.E.'S Kitchen.

Missy Bailey and Ann Compton will be selling fish fry tickets after services on Sunday and during Wednesday night suppers. There will be face painting, a jumpy and kids' pizza plates for sale. Please, everyone buy them to sell or give to your friends, family and coworkers.

The brothers of Southern Drive will be providing entertainment. Their set list is usually perfect for a spring day spent outdoors with friends, so come to stay for a while!

We are raffling off a wonderful three-night trip to Hotel Effie, located at the Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort. This fabulous hotel is adjacent to the Village of Baytown Wharf, which provides great shopping, restaurants and activities. This trip includes a treatment of choice at Spa Lillian or a round of golf at Sandestin Golf Club (valued at \$300). Dinner for two at Emeril's restaurant is also included (valued at \$200). Tickets are \$25 each and you can get them from Gloria Chancellor or Edie Simmons.

Margaret Van Dyke is also donating a beautiful handmade

quilt to be raffled, and tickets for that are \$10.

We need your donations of frozen and baked goods! This is such an easy way to be a part of this special day. We always sell out, so let's have more to offer this year! We have a sign-up sheet on the table in the hall to the parish hall and be looking for a link to use sign-up genius in Friday's e-news. You can also contact Melissa Love (601.604.2163) or Meredith Roberts (601.513.3543) if you have any questions. There are designated freezers in the parish hall, so feel free to start bringing in your frozen foods whenever you can.

Help us spread the word about our event in the community. There are posters in the church office if you know of any business owners that would like to display them in their storefronts or offices. The church's social media pages will regularly be blasting information regarding Mission and Music Festival in the coming weeks. Please share on your social media pages.

We look forward to a fun day! There are plenty of ways to contribute if you're unable to be physically present. Buy tickets to sell, bring frozen foods or distribute posters...we need everyone's help. Please contact Mallory Davis (601.513.1775) if you have any inquiries or questions. See everyone on May 4!



Greetings, Mississippi Episcopalians!

To honor Bishop Brian Seage's years of leadership and ministry, his service and dedication to the Church, and his family's generous sharing of him with all of us, the Bishop Transition Committee is pleased to invite you to join us as we say farewell to Brian, Kyle, Katie, and Betsy.

We will gather at the Two Mississippi Museums in Jackson on April 26, 2024, from 6 - 9 p.m., where we will enjoy the music of a string quartet as well as delicious food and drink, express our gratitude for the Seage family's devotion and presence in our lives, and wish them Godspeed.

Suggested attire for the event is dressy casual. Free parking will be available in the visitor garage at the Two Mississippi Museums, behind the Old Capitol Museum, and on adjacent streets. Handicapped parking will be available in front of the Winter Building, within the Two Mississippi Museums parking garage, and the upper parking level of the Old Capitol Museum. Responses to <https://forms.gle/yJBcQ8o57cgVWfKs5> are appreciated, but not required for attendance.

Should you need overnight accommodations, we have reserved a block of rooms at the Homewood Suites by Hilton in the historic Fondren District of Jackson for April 26 - 28, 2024. Please use one of the following web browsers when booking, otherwise the discount will not show up: Google Chrome, Microsoft Edge, or Safari. The group block is Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi and you may cancel without penalty until 48 hours prior to arrival. The cutoff date for reserving your room is April 8, 2024. Please [click here](#) to be taken to the website to make your reservation.

Finally, we are preparing a slideshow that will run during the farewell event and invite you to share with us any photographs of the Seages you would like to see included, by sending them to msbishopsearch@gmail.com.

Thank you in advance for your help in making this farewell event for the Seages a tremendous success!

Joyfully,
Jan F. Gadow
Member, Bishop Transition Committee



Calling all High School and College Grads!

We would like to recognize you in our May newsletter. Please send a photo with your graduation info and short blurb including your plans for the future!

Please get this to the Parish office in person or email stpaulsmeridian@gmail.com by Friday, April 19, to be included in the May newsletter.



Our Great 50 Days celebrations kick off April 10 with themed suppers each Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. Pricing is the same as regular Wednesday Night Suppers: \$40 for family of 4 or more; \$10 per adult; and \$5 for elementary students.

April 10

Fishes & Loaves • Hosts: Men's Bible Study

April 17

Night at the Ball Park • Hosts: Clergy, Staff & Vestry

April 24

Breakfast • Hosts: Choir Members

May 8

A Taste of Italy • Hosts: Seenagers

May 15

Mexican Night • Hosts: Rainey and Friends

You're Invited
CHARI TEA
an Old Timey White Glove Affair
\$35
Sunday May 19th
2:30 pm
Copeland Center
2501 4th St, Meridian, MS
\$35
Contact Marty McIntyre for information.
A Fundraiser for Illuminations Center for Dyslexia

Join St. Paul's Women at the ChariTEA. We hope to fill two tables (spots are going fast!) to help enable more children in need of Dyslexia services to help them read for success.

We Remember in our Prayers

For our Parish family: Amy Cady, Chip Harwell, Don Pringle, DJ Wells, Eve Morrison, 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: 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, Dana VanVeckhoven, Davey Simmons, David, Diane Dunn, Donna Polizzi, Emily Rush, Evie Warden, Francois DuPlessis, Frances Leach, Frank Baker, Frank Barrett, Gail Richardson, George Farr, Gloria Addison, Hays Monsour, Jacob Neely, Jada Dooley, James, Jan, Jeana Bennett, Jennifer Abraham, Jo Nell Brown, Jim McGinnis, Jim Thompson, John, Josiah Christian, Ken Fisher, Kevin Williams, Kylie Temple, Lanier McCullough, Larry Houchins, Leisa, Leland Tew, Lou Dubose, Mark McCoayto, 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, Taylor Wright, Tammy, Thomas Little, Tom Blackledge, Tom Schram, Travis Sadler, Trent Hartzog, Tyler Rainey, Wanda Farr, Wanda Scott, Zack Martin, Ralph Abraham and Lynne Taleff.

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, Bishop-elect Dorothy, for our Rector Austin and his family and our Curate Katie.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

April 2David Hamilton, Robert Loeb	April 19Connie Arline, Patsy Moran
April 4Sarah Slade	April 20Terry & Sabina Ivy, Liam Tucker
April 5Rob Calcote, Brooks Holladay, Randy Pool, Brooke Sims	April 21Jean Anderson, Gil Carmichael
April 6Gloria Chancellor	April 22Britton Dun
April 8David Roberts	April 23Judge Little, Margaret Van Dyke
April 10Chris Burchfield, Jacqueline Hogan	April 24D Jean Anderson, Nancy Davis
April 12Chris & Perrin Burchfield, Cara Ivy, Steven Ivy	April 25Claire Hanschke, Lisa & Jerome Kittrell, Suzie Pool
April 14Robin Hall, Rose Hudson	April 26Catherine Little, Hallie Swindoll
April 16Janet Chalk, Joane Mackey	April 28Libby Davis, Will Simmons, Kelly Watson
April 17Lindy Deen	April 29Sellers Breaux, Zach Swindoll
April 18Jennifer DuPont, Mardi Page	April 30Anne Elise Ray

Services

	APRIL 7	APRIL 14	APRIL 21	APRIL 28
VESTRY COUNTERS	Bob Covert/Patrick Lewis	Bob Covert/John Rea	Bob Covert/Patrick Lewis	Bob Covert/Edie Simmons
8 A.M.				
CHALICE	John Carrier	Bob Covert	John Carrier	Bob Covert
READER	John Carrier	Polly Covert	John Carrier	Polly Covert
USHER	John Carrier	Bob Covert	John Carrier	Bob Covert
10:30 A.M.				
READER 1	Will Simmons	Marty McIntyre	Patrick Leach	Tiffany McGehee
READER 2	Melissa Calcote	John Compton	Kay Reich	Bill Simmons
PRAYERS	Kay Reich	Stacey Harwell	Joan Moore	Bobbie Rea
USHERS	Chris Burchfield Perrin Burchfield	Marsha Miller Jim Miller	Lisa Howell John Howell	Rick Davis Mallory Davis
ACOLYTES	Sellers Breaux Carlyle Breaux Lucy Simmons	Rowan Hanschke Payton Hanschke Ann Revere Davis	Ann Revere Davis William Davis Simmons Davis	Lucy Simmons Sara Katherine Simmons Wyatt Bond
ALTAR GUILD	Kay Reich Candy Ward Gayle Yochim	Kay Reich Candy Ward Gayle Yochim	Connie Arline Mallory Davis Melissa Calcote	Connie Arline Mallory Davis Melissa Calcote
CHALICE	Jo Benson	Gary Jones	Barbara Boone	Gloria Chancellor



An Easter Message from Father Austin

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Alleluia! Christ is Risen.

The Lord is Risen Indeed. Alleluia.

Looking upon you God's beloved, I can't help but consider how we are all so connected. I hope my words bring the hope and love of Easter for you. And if they don't, I pray that the Spirit will take care of the rest.

I have a few personal ways that have been on my mind... mostly personal... and I hope when you hear them, some of your moments in life will come to mind.

First one.

Our EYC traveled to Wyoming this summer and to Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks. We did our share of hiking... for some maybe too much. I was completely undone... by the majestic wild beauty of the place.

And long after we came home, I felt, and still feel strangely comforted in thinking that those parks will always be there. No matter where I go, I could bring myself back. These are for me mystical places of connection. They remind me... assure me... that there is so much more to this world, and so much more to the God of love than I can see or fathom.

In Celtic spirituality, these are called "thin" places... the closest you can get from this world and beyond; where we can connect to the past, present and the future, all at the same time. And they can confirm the age-old human sense that there is, in fact, more... and we no longer doubt.

Second one.

In late August 2005, our Gulf Coast lived through the

horrors of Hurricane Katrina. I have heard some of your stories, of the destruction even this far north from the coast. Catastrophic doesn't even begin to describe it. Moreover, our systems for crisis management failed miserably... and the world watched.

I was a senior at Ole Miss at the time. For these kinds of moments, we remember where we were, don't we? In north Mississippi, I admit the feeling was different. I was fine. I was merely carrying on with life as a college student. Meanwhile, there were those from the coast who left school to their families; to rebuild and recover... whatever that meant. But I remember being somehow connected to those experiencing incalculable hardship.

We feel this same connection to people who experience life in a vastly different way than we do. Perhaps you know what I mean. Someone on your mind, who lives in a hurricane of grief or trauma this day while you are okay.

And we are here.

And we have this urgency, almost desperation to do something for those we love and care about.

In large part because we are okay. And they are not.

This feeling I know is in the room this morning. This feeling moves us all and compels us to do things for those around us. It stirs in us one of the most valuable aspects of being human... empathy. And the more we practice empathy, the more naturally it comes. And this is not an accident. We were made that way for a reason.

Last one. This one I see all the time.

- One spouse is drowning while the other is flying.
- A woman struggling with infertility being happy for her best friend's pregnancy announcement.
- Someone who just finalized a divorce now standing next to their best friend in the bridal party.

How do we share in another's joy while we grieve?

So, still with me? Here's what I would like to say about the meaning of this day.

We will never fully understand it. But we are connected to this day as we hold these together.

- Awareness of life in this world and what lies beyond.
- Feeling the sufferings of another to take them on as our own.
- Willing to share another's joy even when we are grieving.

Easter lands there.

It's what connects us.

Richard Rohr describes this as "the body of Christ being crucified and resurrected at the same time."

It's a way of being that unites death to life... this world to the next. It's what Raises us up to whatever joy is possible on the other side of the greatest human sorrow.

It's amazing!

What we need to remember is when we consider all this is that Jesus, before the resurrection, was, for those who knew him before he died, was a walking and breathing "thin place." He went about doing good, showing people how to love in the way God loves.

And then he died a cruel and vindictive death.

"We had hoped" one said. "We had hoped that this one would redeem us all."

This is why the empty tomb is such a powerful place... why it becomes a thin place for Mary. She comes to a tomb expecting to find death, yet she discovers tomb empty. And the one who she first believes to be the gardener stands next to her. And she is right. This is the gardener. This is the one who has been caring for, cultivating, and tending to her, to you,

to me, and all of creation since the beginning of time. This is the one who has connected us to them and each other forever.

Because of Easter, we believe that even now, Christ makes thin places for us and through us. God makes the distance from us and what lies beyond us closer than our very breath. This is what Christians believe.

Then there is that other part, holding both grief and joy. So, if you are not feeling especially joyful today, you are in pretty good company. Mary isn't particularly joyful either. It takes time for new life to rise from death. It takes time for the grief to ease.

But if you are feeling joy, for Christ's sake, shield it. For even in times of great sorrow, there is a place for laughter, for connection and goodness. Those who are lonely or afraid, need you... need to witness your joy.

This is where we come in. While resurrection is about God and what God does, it's also about us. We too are called to share the joy of this morning; to reach out to those who suffer. Whenever we delight in the joy of our neighbor... whenever we focus on doing good without asking anything in return, that is resurrection.

And when our heart breaks for what another goes through, we go to them. When we know love is needed, the church will respond. That's resurrection. Wherever there is joy, we celebrate and protect it, even if it isn't ours. That's resurrection working in each of us.

Be open to the people and places that make you believe there is more beyond. Trust that God connects us wherever we find ourselves today, whether in joy or sorrow, as Christ comes to Mary.

But in the meantime, we are called to live with compassion and love. We can't do this on our own and we aren't meant to. Resurrection is God's work. And it's happening right now in all the wounded and sacred places of our lives and of this world. And we can be part of it... Go. Go out and proclaim to the world what you have seen... Go share in the joy in seeing the risen one whenever it's found.

Alleluia Christ is Risen!

The Lord is Risen Indeed. Alleluia!