

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

Sept. 5 • Parish office closed for Labor Day Holiday

Sept. 8 • Worship Committee meeting • 11:30 a.m.

Sept. 11 • Acolyte training will be held immediately following the 10:30 p.m. service on rally day

Sept. 20 • Vestry Meeting • 5:15 p.m.

Mark your Calendars

Save the Date — Parish Picnic October 23

Rally Day Sept. 11

Join us Sunday, September 11, for Rally Day, when all formation classes will begin and we return to the Nave for worship. All formation classes start at 9:20 a.m., and in honor of our return to formation, a light brunch will be served in the Parish Hall starting at 9 a.m.

And, yes, we will be back in the Nave for worship! We ask that you enter through the Sacristy doors for the time being as we are still working on the main entry.

Also on Sept. 11, we will have Acolyte Training immediately following the 10:30 a.m. service.

EYC (grades 6-12) will be held at The Mediator September 25 from 5-7 p.m.

Pre-EYC (grades 3-5) will be held at St. Paul's September 25 from 3-5 p.m.



Wednesday Night Suppers are Back!

Our Wednesday Night Suppers resume September 7 at 6 p.m. The food is always great and the prices are reasonable — \$8 per adult, \$5 for elementary students and younger and \$25 for a family of four or more. Our opening menu features hamburgers, baked beans and mac and cheese. Banana pudding will be served for desert. Remember — so we can get an idea of how much food to provide, please fill out the reservation form found in the Sunday bulletin and place in the offering plate or call the Parish Office 601.693.2502.

"And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself."

—John 12:31

I am excited to report that the restoration of the parish floors is coming to completion. It has been a process, no doubt. The pulling of carpet, sanding, patching, buffing, staining and topping with a few coats of polyurethane has taken awhile, but we can return to our worship space this month. Thank you for your continued patience.

I admit I got caught up in the process and learned a great deal. I found myself on a number of evenings taking my boys for ice cream and poking my head in the nave to see what had been done that afternoon. There is a true personality and breath to the space as the sunlight shines through the room differently throughout the day and you can see the colors from the stained-glass windows along the floor.

I want to address more specifically some of the work that has been done. First off, removing the carpet revealed some patches that needed to be repaired. The chancel steps needed to be rebuilt. Steps were built also to the side of the pulpit by the doors, and the pulpit was shifted back to the original position it occupied 50 years ago. Finally, a new step was built leading into the sacristy.

We are also recovering all of the kneelers — that work will continue into the fall. Work will be done a few pews at a time.

Finally, we will lay slate in the narthex (the room just inside the red doors). When we removed the carpet just

inside the front doors, there was a significant amount of patchwork that had already been done, presumably because of rainy Sunday mornings and water damage. Putting a hard floor in the narthex will save us from repairing wood floors every few decades. In the meantime, we will enter and exit through the sacristy hallway.

Just like what happens when we make changes to our homes, we begin to accessorize. We begin seeing the space differently and we may have new ideas, too. Those ideas may turn into projects in the future, but our goal from the beginning has been the floor, and it's almost done!

This is a wonderful time at St. Paul's. We have a spirit-filled community in Meridian that is hungry to take part of God's redeeming and reconciling love.

If it has been a while since you have come to St. Paul's, if the pandemic has kept you away or if loss has kept you away, now is a good time to come back.

I hope the carpet removal might be an outward and visible sign that this is still the same St. Paul's we know and love, yet there is something wonderfully refreshing and new about it, too. Formation is coming. Our ministries need help. Our table needs you as much as we need the bread and the wine. Come and see what Christ is doing.

You are so loved, Austin+



We had a special treat for our kids after the Blessing of the Backpack on Youth Sunday — snow cones from KonaIce.. Consuming the tasty treats were, from left: Jack Martin, Reese Stump, Carlyle Breaux, Britton Dunn, Hardin Hiatt, Henry Hiatt, Maurie Simmons, Maggie Martin, Remy Stump, Rosemary Stump, Merry McCollum Roberts, Ann Revere Davis, Sellers Breaux and Lucy Simmons. That's little Robert Stump wandering around down front!



AYC enjoyed its first outing of the school year at Hype! Adventures, 93,000 sq. ft. of jumping, climbing, racing and more. awesomeness! Got a lot of energy? Enjoying a good time were, from left: Henry Hiatt, Sellers Breaux, Britton Dunn, Ann Revere Davis and Carlyle Breaux.

We Remember in our Prayers

For our Parish family: Don Pringle, DJ Wells, Ducky McCormick, Edgar Morrison, Elaine Sanders, Elliott Street, Holly Morgan, Jerry Greene, Jo Van Devender, Margaret Van Dyke, Mary Dunn, Peggy Carrico, Rob Arline, Tadley, Virginia Brimble, Wanda Blount and Woodie Abraham.

In our living communities: Joyce Welsh, Lora Jone and Nita Neville.

Extended family and friends: Andi Kushner, Bill Selman, Bill Wright, Billy Murphy, Brooke, Charlotte Chaney, Chuck Fishburn, Clancy, Cory Gaylord, Davey Simmons, David, David & Gina Brown, Diane Dunn, Donna Polizzi, Edesser “Dess” Reid Ward, Rob & Aislinn Ward, Francois DuPlessis, Frances, Frank Baker, Frank Barrett, Freddie Bea Watson, George Farr, Jada Dooley, James, Jan, Jane Wacaster, Jeana Bennett, Jo Nell Brown, Jim Thompson, Jimmy Whitehead, John, Ken Fisher, Kris Gianakos, Kylie Temple, Leland Tew, Lisa Primeaux, Lou Dubose, Martha Hudson, Martha Mazingo, Michael, Michelle Nelson, Mike Covert, Norman, Pat Carver, Randy Moore, Rick, Roger, Sandy Carrier, Thomas Little, Tom Schram, Tony Sansone, Wanda Farr, Wanda Scott, Willie Spencer, Wilma Kanagy and Zack Martin.

We pray for those who have died especially: Alice Houghton Miller, stepmother of Linda Carrier; and Johnnye Hutchins, grandmother of Fr. Austin McGehee.

We pray for those serving in the Armed Forces especially Andrew Behm, Shum Benson, Connor Covert, Graham Ford, Nick Mullen and Zack Thomas.

We pray for our Bishop Brian and for our Rector Austin.

Conference Brings New Perspective

The Mississippi Conference on Church Music and Liturgy is a diocesan music event held each summer, usually in late July. When I arrived at St. Paul’s years ago, I was encouraged to attend the conference. At that time, it was held at All Saints’ School in Vicksburg, moving to the Gray Center several years later.

This year’s event was held at Millsaps College in Jackson. Musicians from as far away as the Pacific Northwest and New England usually attend; and because our conference is smaller than larger denominational conferences, it’s easier to get to know each other and share experiences.

This year, our faculty was entirely female — The Rev. Jennifer Deaton (chaplain) and musical directors Marjorie Johnston and Sharon Downey. Marjorie is at First Presbyterian in Tuscaloosa, AL; Sharon is recently retired from the Cathedral of St. Paul in Erie, PA. And, of course, many of you will remember Jennifer during her time at St. Paul’. I can only speak for myself, but the feminine influence on our singing and worship was most welcome in our post-pandemic conference experience; and I have been personally challenged to see our corporate worship and singing in a new way.

Through rehearsals during the week and Jennifer’s insightful reflections on our individual music ministries, my personal approach to making music in our parish was reshaped. The closing eucharist at St. Andrew’s Cathedral was a glorious culmination of an inspiring week. My thanks to the parish for the opportunity each year to participate in such a unique and exhilarating event!

— David Benson

DOY DATES

held at Camp Bratton Green

**SENIOR HIGH DOY
9TH - 12TH GRADES
SEPTEMBER 16-18**

**JUNIOR HIGH DOY
5TH - 8TH GRADES
OCTOBER 21-23**

REGISTER HERE:
[HTTPS://ALLIANCE.WUFOO.COM/FORMS/ZW1UCTR1Y4D1V28](https://alliance.wufoo.com/forms/zw1uctr1y4d1v28)

CONTACT MALLORY WITH ANY QUESTIONS
601.513.1775

Great Books Steer Formation

AYC Formation for 6th - 12th graders will use “Friedman’s Fables” by Edwin H. Friedman this year. Led by Malcom Gee and Tiffany McGehee, the book is an in-depth study of 24 tales that offer fresh perspectives and demonstrate that new ideas and new questions can bring about real change in ourselves and others. This will be a week-by-week study of each chapter, so you can jump in at any time!

Confirmation Date Changes

Bishop Brian Seage will now be coming to St. Paul’s October 30 for confirmations. We had some conflicts with his original dates, and we are grateful he was available and willing to change to the later date.

Inquirer’s class dates...

- September 7
- September 14
- September 21
- September 28
- October 5
- October 30Confirmation

This year’s Children’s Formation for 4th – 5th graders will use “Holy Troublemakers and Unconventional Saints” by Daneen Akers. Led by Mallory Davis, the book that tells the stories of people of faith working for more love and justice in their corners of the world. The stories of these people, side-by-side with coinciding stories from the Bible, will help guide our children towards contributing kindness and justice to our world.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

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| Sept. 1Garry Lawyer | Sept. 20.....Amy Cady, John Carrier II, |
| Sept. 2Debby Cress, Hardy Graham Jr.,
Terry Ivy, Lynne Taleff | Hardy & Monica Graham, Holly Morgan |
| Sept. 4.....Judy Wood | Sept. 21Dixie Tibbetts |
| Sept. 7.....Rick Hasselle, Lee Loeb | Sept. 23.....Helen Abraham, Melissa Love |
| Sept. 9Linda Carrier | Sept. 24.....Gina Dunn |
| Sept. 11Ruthy Vinson | Sept. 25.....Poo & Gloria Chancellor,
Graham & Joey Martin |
| Sept. 12David Ray | Sept. 26.....Marcia Via |
| Sept. 14Tom & Kay Milhorn | Sept. 29.....Tim Hanschke |
| Sept. 19.....David Ray Sr., Maggie Martin | Sept. 30.....Lynn Waddle |

Services

	SEPT. 4	SEPT. 11	SEPT. 18	SEPT. 25
VESTRY COUNTERS	Katie Simmons & Jamie Smith: Lock - Stephen Wilson			
8 A.M.				
CHALICE	Bob Covert	Malcom Gee	Bob Covert	John Carrier
READER	Polly Covert	Malcom Gee	Polly Covert	John Carrier
USHER	Bob Covert	Malcom Gee	Bob Covert	John Carrier
10:30 A.M.				
READER 1	Tiffany McGehee	Rick Barry	Jamie Smith	Rick Entreklin
READER 2	Kay Reich	Katie Simmons	Jerome Kittrell	Sally Gray
PRAYERS	Helen Abraham	Candy Ward	Stacey Harwell	Joan Moore
USHERS	Cheri Barry Rick Barry	Lisa Howel Stephen Wilson	Chris Burchfield Perrin Burchfield	Marsha Miller Jim Miller
ACOLYTES	Payton Hanschke	Ann Revere Davis William Davis Simmons Davis	Sellers Breaux Carlyle Breaux Lucy Simmons	Annie Martin Jack Martin Maggie Martin
ALTAR GUILD	Bobbie Rea Stacey Harwell	Bobbie Rea Stacey Harwell	Kay Reich Leslie Hiatt	Kay Reich Leslie Hiatt
CHALICE	Rick Entreklin	Barbara Boone Rob Calcote	Gloria Chancellor Gary Jones	Lynn Waddle Rick Entreklin