

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

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

Dec. 15 • 5:30 p.m. • Vestry Meeting

Parish Office will close for the Christmas holiday at noon, Dec. 23, and reopen Monday, Dec. 27

Parish Office will close for the New Year's holiday at noon, Dec. 30, and reopen Jan. 3, 2023

Jan. 22, 2023 • St. Paul's Annual Meeting

Wednesday evening Parish meals will end Dec. 14 and resume Jan. 11, 2023

## Vestry Nominations Open

Nominations are open to elect three new members of the Vestry to serve three-year terms. Forms for nominations are available at the entrances to Nave and on the bulletin board in the hallway and will be accepted until Jan. 15, 2023.

A potential vestry member must be a confirmed communicant, at least 21 years of age, must be canonically resident and actually residing the parish (letter of membership on file); must be entitled to suffrage at annual meeting at which elected; cannot have served on the Vestry in previous three years (though such person is immediately eligible to stand for nomination as Warden); and shall not serve more than six consecutive years in that or a combination of vestry member/warden offices unless said individual has served a portion of a former term (i.e. filled an unexpired term).

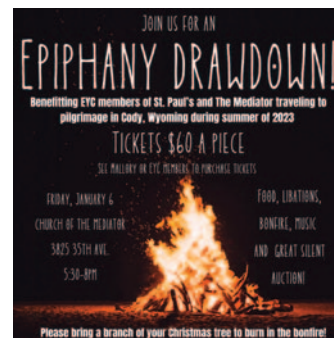
Prior to the Annual Parish Meeting, potential Vestry members will meet with the Rector; consent to the parish's Vestry Covenant; and commit to attend the Annual Vestry retreat, which is scheduled for Feb. 11, 2023.

## Combined Epiphany Celebration

Join us for a Combined Epiphany celebration with the Church of the Mediator Friday, January 6, from 5:30 to 8 p.m. The event — held at the Mediator — will feature chili and libations as well as a fabulous silent auction. Better yet, we will have an Epiphany Drawdown! All proceeds from the drawdown and auction will benefit our pilgrim who will be traveling to Cody, Wyoming, this summer.

And don't forget to bring your Christmas greens to burn for the fire to roast S'mores!

Tickets are \$60. Contact Mallory or the church office to purchase or if you have any questions.



I write to you on the final day of November, the day after severe weather in Mississippi. I am discovering after five Decembers of living in Mississippi that Advent to us looks a little bit different as we approach the winter solstice, when nights grow progressively longer and longer. Yet, where we live, temperatures are as likely to be cold or as warm as 60 or 70 degrees as they have been this year.

This volatile weather in these darkest days of the year still captures the mood of Advent. The words of this seventh century hymn capture the mood too. They speak to the stars, the moon, the planets and what we call the cosmos. For the ancients, all these things in some unfathomable way affected the course of human destiny as if they were living and breathing things.

This hymn helps remind us of all the parts of scripture that speak to the whole created universe and how God is present in all of it. As we enter a new season of the Church, we will hear from Matthew "the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give her light, the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of heaven shall be shaken." (Matthew 24:29)

It can be scary to think about. It is about as scary as huddling in hallways or basements when our phones alert us of tornado warnings. Yet, just when the world seems doomed, the Sun (with a capital S) comes forth in a blaze of

Creator of the stars of night,  
Your people's everlasting light,  
O Christ, Redeemer of us all,  
We pray you hear us when we call.

In sorrow that the ancient curse  
Should doom to death a universe,  
You came, O Savior, to set free  
Your own in glorious liberty.

Come, Sun and Savior, to embrace  
Our gloomy world, its weary race,  
As groom to bride, as bride to groom;  
The wedding chamber, Mary's womb.

At your great Name, O Jesus, now  
All knees must bend, all hearts must bow;  
All things on earth with one accord,  
Like those in heaven shall call you Lord.

Come in your holy might, we pray,  
Redeem us for eternal day;  
Demand us while we dwell below,  
From all assaults of our dread foe.

light and begins its paschal journey across the whole of human life and experience.

his imagery is reversed with the birth of Christ, the Sun of Justice who comes to us out of perfect love.

And then, from Matthew, Jesus says this:

*"When the Man of Heaven comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and 'Truly I say to you, as you did to one of the littlest of these my dear people, you did it for me.'"*

So, the invitation for us, as we hear Matthew's version of the Gospel, is it is how we live and wait in the meantime. God does not want us to live in fear but to be alert, and to reflect the Sun; bring light to the world in the way of love. My prayer is that "When Christ comes in glory," St. Paul's

can say we "did it for Christ," as in, we remembered and cared for "littlest of these." Together, I pray we explore how we can hold onto this part of the Gospel and live it.

Austin+



## December Notes

*Finish out those 2022 contributions!*

*All payments must be received by noon, Friday, Dec. 30, to receive credit for 2022*

*Christmas Eve service Dec. 24 at 5:30 p.m. (There will not be a service Dec. 25, Christmas Day.)*

*New Year's Day service Jan. 1 at 10:30 a.m. One service only.*

**2023 Annual Council — Mark Your Calendars**

**Natchez, MS • January 27-28, 2023**

## Saying Goodbye

It is with joy mixed with sadness that I am leaving Meridian for Ocean Springs where I will be the Assistant Rector for Parish Administration at St. John's. I am excited about this new calling, but it is sad to leave all my wonderful friends at St. Paul's and Meridian. Please know that St. Paul's will always have a special place in my heart. Your love and support for me during my time with you was such a blessing. If you get to Ocean Springs, give me a call! My cell number will be the same.

*Peace and much love,  
The Rev. Elizabeth Graham*

## Please Send in Your Pledge Cards

As we get closer to the end of the year, the Vestry is preparing the 2023 budget, so please get your Pledge Cards in. Thank you to all who have already sent them in!

## Poinsettia Dedications

It is a tradition at St Paul's to place poinsettias on the altar in memory or honor of loved ones at Christmas. Flower forms are available in the Sunday bulletin or you may call the Parish office 601.693.2502 to make your dedication. Any excess funds received will be used to assist in beautifying the altar and our worship during the year. Dedications must be received by Monday, Dec. 12, to be printed in the Christmas Eve bulletin.



*It's time for the annual St. Paul's Christmas Pageant!*

**PAGEANT WILL BE HELD ON DECEMBER 18TH AT 5PM  
DINNER AND FELLOWSHIP TO FOLLOW.**

## We Remember in our Prayers

*For our Parish family:* Andrea Carver, Don Pringle, DJ Wells, Ducky McCormick, Elliott Street, Eve Morrison, Holly Morgan, Jerry Greene, Jo Van Devender, Mary Dunn, Peggy Carrico, Tadley, Wanda Blount and Woodie Abraham.

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

*Extended family and friends:* Anne Rice Wooley, Betty Perry, Bill Selman, Billy Murphy, Blair Ammon, Brooke, Charlotte Chaney, Chuck Fishburn, Clancy, Cory Gaylor, Davey Simmons, David, David & Gina Brown, Diane Dunn, Donna Polizzi, Emily Mackey, Emily Rush, Francois DuPlessis, Frances, Frank Baker, Frank Barrett, Freddie Bea Watson, George Farr, Hays Monsour, Jada Dooley, James, Jan, Jane Wacaster, Jeana Bennett, Jo Nell Brown, Jim Thompson, John, Ken Fisher, Kris Gianakos, Kylie Temple, Leland Tew, Lisa Primeaux, Lou Dubose, Martha Hudson, Martha Mazingo, Michael, Michelle Nelson, Mike Covert, Mize, Norman, Pat Carver, Poky Murphy, Randy Moore, Rick, Roger, Sam Forbert, Sandy Carrier, Thomas Little, Tom Schram, Tony Sansone, Virginia Boardman, Wanda Farr, Wanda Scott, Willie Spencer and Zack Martin.

*We pray for those who have died especially:* Betty McLeod; Jane Howle Weems, mother of Sarah Anne Johnson; Ben Scaggs; son-in-law of Lynne Taleff; and Andi Kushner.

*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, Nick Mullen, DJ Robinson and Zack Thomas.

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

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

Dec. 1 .....Bob Covert, Henry Hiatt, Lee Keeton	Dec. 17 .....Chandler Hogan, Bryan & Rosilyn Holladay
Dec. 2 .....John Breaux, Anne Swindoll	Dec. 21 .....David Batchelor III, Carlyle Breaux, Jerry & Marilyn Greene, Tiffany Benson Kelly, Ralph & Martha Young
Dec. 3 .....Michael Hasselle	Dec. 24 .....Harriet Simmons
Dec. 4 .....Bonnie Allen, Sandra Hill	Dec. 27 .....David Batchelor, Dottie Graham, Laura Holladay
Dec. 5 .....Stephen Wilson	Dec. 29 .....Hemi Gaddie
Dec. 6 .....Annie Martin	Dec. 30 .....Melissa Calcote
Dec. 7 .....Paige Watson	
Dec. 8 .....Sharon Davis, Dawn McCormick, John Michael McDonald	
Dec. 11 .....Kelly & Paige Watson	
Dec. 12 .....Ann Revere Davis, Reid Perry	
Dec. 13 .....Bob & Polly Covert	

## Services

	DEC. 4	DEC. 11	DEC. 18	DEC. 24
<b>VESTRY COUNTERS</b>	Rob Calcote & Jamie Smith; Lock: Tim Hanschke			
<b>8 A.M.</b>	<b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b>			
CHALICE	Bob Covert	Malcom Gee	Bob Covert	
READER	Polly Covert	Malcom Gee	Polly Covert	
USHER	Bob Covert	Malcom Gee	Bob Covert	
<b>10:30 A.M.</b>				
READER 1	Rick Barry	Melissa Calcote	Tiffany McGehee	Jerome Kittrell
READER 2	Bev Pringle	Gary Jones	Rick Entrekin	Wayne Wuestefeld
PRAYERS	Stacey Harwell	Joan Moore	Candy Ward	Lynn Waddle
USHERS	Sara Mason Melissa Love	Cheri Barry Rick Barry	Clay Holladay Laura Holladay	Reid Davis • Anne Revere Michelle & Patrick Lewis
ACOLYTES	Gibson Hasselle Michael Hasselle Lucy Simmons	Olivia Lewis Caroline Lewis Maurice LaBiche	Wyatt Bond Hamp Little Cameron Burchfield	Sellers Breaux Carlyle Breaux • Henry Hiatt Malcom Gee • Thurifer
ALTAR GUILD	Candy Ward Edie Simmons	Candy Ward Edie Simmons	Lee Loeb Bev Pringle	Rainey Breaux • Joan Moore Connie Arline • Gayle Yochim
CHALICE	Gary Jones	Rick Entrekin	Gloria Chancellor	Rick Entrekin