

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

November 1 • Daylight Saving Time — Fall back one hour

November 17 • 5:15 p.m. — Vestry Meeting

November 26 & 27 • Parish Office closed
for Thanksgiving holiday

YOUR

✓OTE

COUNTS

Nov. 3

Election Day

Get Out and Vote!



Celebrating Christmas Together

Yes, in spite of the pandemic, we have plans to celebrate Christmas together in a big way (barring any late changes from our Governor). We can accommodate approximately 150 people at each service.

Christmas Eve • December 24, 2020

Both services feature music by Capitol Brass

3 p.m. & 5 p.m.

Midnight Compline

This will be our virtual offering for Christmas 2020. Father Austin will begin at 11:30 p.m. and lead us into the midnight hour and the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. Music and hymns will accompany this streaming service on the St. Paul's YouTube channel.



All Saints' Sunday

November 1, 2020

Ingathering/

Stewardship Sunday

Pledge Cards

will be blessed

"You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you."

—From the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians

Despite not having our normative November, this fall is still proving to be remarkably busy.

We begin, appropriately enough, with All Saints Day on November 1. This day has become, in the wider church, a blend of All Saints and All Souls days. It is a time to remember those who have gone before us, both those famous saints we celebrate and those known only to ourselves. We are part of the Communion of Saints, the family of God that lasts forever.

This fall we also welcomed our bishop, the Rt. Reverend Brian Seage. It was a visit by our chief priest and shepherd different from before as we put aside the pageantry and put the longing for a pastoral presence at the forefront.

This fall we have heard from numerous voices, both lay and ordained who were part of the life and ministry of this wonderful parish. This has been an outstanding and imaginative stewardship campaign in a year full of irregularities. We thank Katie Simmons and her committee for their creativity and reminding us who we are and whose we are.

We are in the process of recruiting, now maybe more than ever, capable and called new leadership for our Vestry as well as a new senior warden. Know that it is never too early to thank Lynne Taleff for her outstanding service as our senior warden over the past three years. I imagine, like all of us, she had little idea her tenure would look as it does in 2020.

The Vestry has also pushed back our annual meeting from January to Sunday, March 7. This reason for this change is to

observe how the diocese plans on voting provisionally this year. We also hope that by March we just might be on the upswing from this pandemic, both in cases and in an upswing of spirits.

We have beautiful new red doors given by the Graham Fund. We owe our junior warden, Rob Calcote, a tremendous "thank you" for his work with our building as well as ensuring worship during this pandemic has been done safely and efficiently.

My staff is nothing short of excellent with everything that I have asked them to do in these months and I hope you can join me in thanking them whenever and however you can. Because we have all been reminded that change has truly been the constant this year, more than any of us are used to. Some changes are vigorous while others, prove exhausting and can even be heartbreaking.

I am finding an unexpected gift during this year for our spiritual maturity and "storm weathering capacity." That is, that while we cannot stop changes from happening, we can control how we respond to the inevitability of change. We all want to see the other side to this though we are not there yet. Consider these words by Parker Palmer.

"In my own life, as winters turn into spring, I find it not only hard to cope with mud but also hard to credit the small harbingers of larger life to come, hard to hope until the outcome is secure. Spring teaches me to look more carefully for the green stems of possibility; for the intuitive hunch that may turn into a larger insight, for the glance or touch that may thaw a frozen relationship, for the stranger's act of kindness that makes the world seem hospitable again."

Friends, the only true constant is the love of God made known in Christ. No matter what happens along this journey or what we do or do not, the Gospel does not change no matter what.

You are so loved.

Fr. Austin

Vestry Reports Revenue Collections Less Than This Time Last Year

Melissa Calcote, Treasurer, reviewed the financial statements and noted that we are at 61% of our budgeted revenue, which is about 11% lower than this time last year. There was also a small dip in our investment accounts that reflects the current market.

Rob Calcote, Jr. Warden, reported the organ is again receiving power and David played it to the joy of everyone. It all began with a possum from which swarms of fleas hatched, invading both the basement catacombs and the sanctuary. Those tiny beasts resisted fumigation and intimidated all who might wish to get in the catacombs and look for the electrical connections to the organ. (It was another plague of Biblical proportions; see Exodus 8:16-19 when Aaron stretched his staff and gnats came on humans and animals alike! Another plague in this year of the plague...) Nevertheless, persistence and patience won out and we have our organ again. Thanks be to God.

Fr. Austin reported on the Annual Clergy Conference that was held via Zoom over a two-day period. The main topic revolved around the work being done on a new prayer book.

Fr. Austin reported that the Diocesan Annual Council will be held virtually this year. The staff and chancellors of the diocese are working on all the issues surrounding having a meeting on this platform. He suggested we consider moving our Annual Meeting from January to March so we can make plans for our meeting, following the direction of the Diocese. Action was taken to set the tentative date for our Annual Meeting to Sunday, March 1, 2021. In this case, the current third-year vestry members will be on the vestry until March and the incoming class would serve two years and ten months. The vestry will begin identifying and contacting people to consider vestry service beginning in 2021. A committee will be appointed to nominate candidates for Sr. Warden.

A Technology update was given by Tim Hanschke, with notes for future development of social media and IT competencies.

The Stewardship Committee has done an amazing job in presenting the "Stewardship: An Act of Faith" Campaign. Katie Simmons thanked Tim Hanschke for his editing and production of the videos; Joane Mackey for all her help with mailings and guidance; and her team for their wonderful ideas and work. The team is: Sally and Lloyd Gray, Laura and Clay Holladay, Edie Simmons and Patrick Lewis. We are looking forward to Ingathering Sunday on All Saints Day, November 1.

The hard drive on one of the office computers crashed in October and Bob Covert was "johnny-on-the-spot" with a new computer and to help to retrieve files. Our office equipment is aging and needs replacing from time to time. Thank you, Bob, for being our knight in shining armor.

Get Your Christmas Greenery

The EYC Youth at St. Paul's are taking orders for the annual Christmas greenery sale, with orders due Friday, Nov 6. Proceeds will provide funding for youth activities in the future. Information packets have been mailed but if you did not receive one or have a question, contact the Parish Office 601.693.2502 or one of our youth to place your order.



In November, our children will be focusing on thankfulness and generosity. As part of this, we will begin a card-making campaign to send to people in our parish. Be on the lookout for card templates in your November formation packet!



We rejoice in the marriage of John Robert Rea and Emily Margaret Thompson. The two were joined Saturday, Oct. 10, at Castle Grove Plantation in Meridian.

Coming soon to a screen near you!

St. Paul's first ever...

Digital Christmas Pageant!

Stay tuned for more details!



We Remember in our Prayers

In our parish: DJ Wells, Edgar Morrison, Jane Weems, Jerry Greene, Jo Van Devender, John Carrier, Ivy Jane Sutton, Milo Joseph Sutton, Joe White, Mike Reich, Norma Veach, Patty Vinson, Peggy Carrico, Scott Carmichael, and William Godwin.

In our senior Living communities: Dixie Pigford, Joyce Welsh, Linda James, Lora Jones, Mary Scott and Nita Neville.

Extended family and friends: Alice Miller, Ally Gressett, Amanda Lockey, Amanda Rainey, Anita Sumrall, Anna Meyers, Barbara Hopper, Barbara Robinson, Baston Geiger, Beverly Bryson, Bill Selman, Bob Hill, Brian Keating, Brooke, Brooks Moore, Charmin Edwards, Chelsie Abston, Christina Harris, Cory Gaylord, Delroy Ming, Diane Dunn, Edesser "Dess" Reid Ward, Rob & Aislinn Ward, Frank Baker, Frank Barrett, Freddie Bea Watson, Gary Dawkins, George Farr, George Ferguson, Harrison McClain, Helen Valentine, J.T. Lee, Jada Dooley, James, Jane Wacaster, Jim Bateman, John, Joy Richardson, Ken Fisher, Kim Lovette, Kylie Temple, Lee Davis Thames, Leigh Ann Key, Lillie Alford, Lou Dubose, Marilyn Mohr, Martha Mazingo, Mary Hallwell, Sally Buntin, Mary Ann Howell, Michelle Nelson, Mike Covert, Mike Lundy, Nell Nichols, Noah White, Norman, Rick, Roger, Sandra Nicholas, Sandy Carrier, Sallie Gercens, Hannah Thompson, Seth Thompson, Theodore, Tom Schram, Tony Sansone, Wanda Farr, Wanda Scott, Wilfe Manning, Wilma Kangery and Zack Martin.

For those who have died, especially Mary Hope Crawford.

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

Nov. 1Gordon Mason	Nov. 17Rob & Melissa Calcote, John Rea
Nov. 2Barbara Boone, Don Pringle, Dustin & Katie Simmons, Wayne Wuestefeld	Nov. 18Ava Hughley, Lisa Love
Nov. 4Wanda Blount, Shaone Kennedy, Michelle Lewis	Nov. 19Rick Entrekin
Nov. 5Sylvia Dreyfus, Lakeland Hanschke	Nov. 20David & BJ Ray
Nov. 6BJ Ray	Nov. 21.....Tommie Collis, Bob & Karen Rea, Shelby Slade
Nov. 7Poo Chancellor, Mary Lawrence Crowe, Marilyn Greene	Nov. 22Wayne & Beth Wuestefeld
Nov. 9Anne Hardin Hiatt	Nov. 24Bobby Maddox, Dixie Pigford
Nov. 11Larry Love, Nita Neville	Nov. 27Claire Hasselle, John & Lisa Howell, Caroline McGinnis, Linda Moffett
Nov. 12Lisa Kittrell, Joe White	Nov. 28Paislee Sims
Nov. 13Sally Gray, Mary Weems	Nov. 29Bob & Susan Coffin
	Nov. 30Shelton Cunningham, Bob & Lindy Deen, Jamie Tucker

Advent Wreaths For 2020

Materials and instruction to make your own Advent Wreath will be available in the church office beginning Sunday, November 29.

