

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

The Parish Office is reopening with these hours: Tues - Thurs, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
Hours will change at any time if need arises. Remember, emails and phones are monitored daily.

Please keep social distancing and wearing masks!

Masks and "Forward Day by Day" publications are available on tables outside the office door from Tuesday to Thursday.

Hat's off to a few of our faithful ladies who have provided supplies and/or made many masks these last few weeks — Lynne Taleff, Joan Moore, Susan Nowak and Margaret Van Dyke.



## Congratulations to our 2020 Grad — Lillie Grace Langston



This year St. Paul's has one graduating high school senior, and her star is shining so bright! Lillie has "graced" our parish with her kind heart, helpful attitude and God-given gifts for music and theater.

She is the daughter of Dixie and Chad Tibbetts and Sarah and Corey Langston. Born into St. Paul's, Lillie grew up as a staff brat at Camp Bratton-Green. She has been very active in diocesan life by participating in DOY, camp and Camp Able. Many people don't know about Camp Able; it is a diocesan-sponsored outreach program focused on providing a true camp experience for those who are differently-abled. Staffing these sessions requires someone with a special skill set and Lillie is well respected within the Camp Able community.

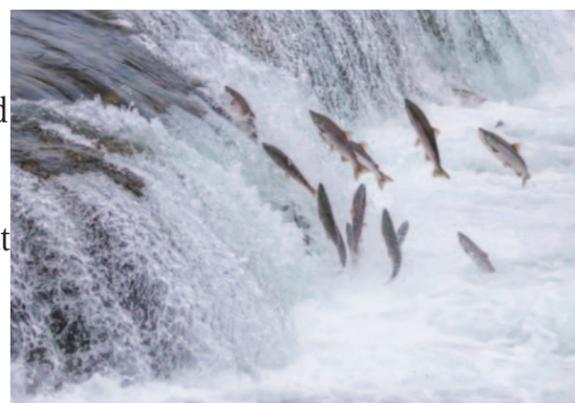
Her ability to see beauty and strength in everyone she serves has been such a blessing to so many. In order to follow her goals of becoming an artist in music and theater arts, she took the route of schooling and graduating through an online school, the Ogburn School. In addition to her academic work with Ogburn School, she also attended the Orbit Arts Academy in Sandy Springs, GA, for musical theater training.

After much hard work, and auditions, Lillie was recently accepted at the University of Arizona. Her plans are to pursue a BFA in musical theater. This young woman is going places fast! Our St. Paul's family will surely miss her presence, but we will be cheering her on from afar. Congratulations, Lillie!

# The Way is Clear

From Mark Nepo's The Book of Awakening

*"...salmon make their way upstream by bumping repeatedly into blocked pathways until they find where the current is strongest. Somehow, they know that the unimpeded rush of water means that there is no obstacle there, and so they enter this opening fervently, for though it is the hardest going, the way is clear. The lesson here is as unnerving as it is helpful. In facing both inner and outer adversities, the passage of truth comes at us with a powerful momentum because it is clear and unimpeded, and so, where we sense the rush of truth is where we must give our all."*



There is a truth we cannot lose sight of — "No Easter, no Christianity." Easter once changed everything forever. Nothing has ever been the same. This is the truth we live with during the Great Fifties Days and throughout our life journey.

This COVID-19 epidemic has also certainly changed everything, at least for now. We are all hoping and praying to return normalcy. Though, when all of this is over, there just might be a new normal we don't even know about just yet.

I wonder if these are the same questions the disciples asked, too, especially on those days after Easter day when just Jesus ascended into heaven. They live in a place of fear sure, but after experiencing the resurrected one they have hope. Jesus comes to them, calls them by name, breathes on them with Spirit and gives them everything they need to swim upstream. Because the hardest path for the disciples is also the one that takes the most effort. They know they are going to continue what Jesus had shown and taught

them. They know what it will mean do the most difficult work; show radical love and compassion to all. They know they will probably die for it. Still, they choose to go out into the world and do it anyway. We call this integrity.

Over the next month, we will hear Jesus' equipping the apostles with all they need to swim upstream.

"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly" and "I am the way, and the truth, and the life." Plus "I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you." And after saying goodbye to his friends, Jesus says to God "Now they know that everything you have given me is from you."

It is in those unimpeded rushes — the hardest going — where the way is clear. It is also really, really hard to do this work especially during this time, even though Christ is alive in us. We have all we need to face life's most difficult challenges. This is our Christian life. This is where all our loyalties lie. And, we give it our all.

*Austin T*

# Favorite Easter Hymns Revealed

*We asked a few folks what Easter hymn is their favorite and why... here are the very interesting results.*

## **Father Austin**

### **“He is Risen, He is Risen”**

He is Risen He is Risen  
tell it out with joyful voice.  
He has burst his three-day prison;  
Let the whole wide earth rejoice;  
death is conquered, we are free,  
Christ has won the victory.”

This year especially, bursting from prisons makes all kinds of sense. Social distancing and pandemic Easter can feel like a prison. I love this hymn because it reminds me that it is more than the gates of heaven that are opened for each of us. The definition for a prison is a place where people are legally held as a punishment for a crime they have committed or while awaiting trial. Our trial is over, the ransom has been paid. The gates have been opened on all those things that imprison us; our hatred, guilt, doubt or despair. Let it go. “We are freed from evil’s prison... Let the whole wide earth rejoice.”

## **David Benson**

### **“Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven”**

Although I find it difficult to choose one hymn from the many hymns I’ve played and sung, I suppose “Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven” is my favorite. A choir member in Florida once said that he considered this “a perfect hymn.” Although each verse of Henry Francis Lyte’s text is a wonderful expression of our faith, I find verse three the most comforting. “Father-like he tends and spares us; well our feeble frame he knows; in his hand he gently bears us, rescues us from all our foes. Alleluia, alleluia! Widely yet his mercy flows.” I look forward to hearing a full choir and congregation raise the roof on this one very soon!

## **Rob Calcote**

### **“Come Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain”**

The words to this ancient, traditional hymn were written by John of Damascus in the early 8th century. In the first stanza, this hymn celebrates the deliverance of the Israelites from the oppression of Pharaoh. The remainder of the hymn celebrates the deliverance of sinful people through Christ’s victory over the grave.

During the Great 50 days of Easter the disciples were frightened, uncertain of their fate or future and, to use a term of the modern Covid-19 pandemic, “sheltered in place.” This hymn is a reminder of God’s promise to deliver God’s people despite uncertain times and uncontrollable situations. During this Easter season especially, I need to hear the words from the end of the third stanza ; “That thy peace which forever more, passeth human knowing.”

## **Lynne Taleff**

### **“Alleluia No. 1”**

Alleluia No. 1 (Give Thanks to the Risen Lord), by Donald Fishel, is one of a group of hymns that helped inform my spiritual journey as I began to claim a faith of my own. During my early years of questioning the faith of my upbringing, I found the music of IVCF (InterVarsity Christian Fellowship), The Fisherfolk and

John Michael Talbot. Coming of age during the revival of folk music — of Woodstock, Joan Baez and Peter, Paul and Mary — he appeal of this music was both culturally and spiritually meaningful. I found this hymn in 1985 in “Songs for Worship” compiled by John Michael Talbot. The words of the third verse, “We have been crucified with Christ. Now we shall live forever...” threw my heart’s door open to the idea that I was with Christ in crucifixion. And verse four, “God has proclaimed the just reward, life for all men” is mine to claim. My alleluias became a spontaneous and joyful sound in response to this one time and ultimate gift of love. I have found many other Easter Hymns I love since that time, but this one will always be special because it opened my heart to God’s love in Christ.

## **Deacon Betty Melton**

### **“Come Take of His Bread”**

(Is this technically an “Easter” hymn? Probably not!)

I had a hard time choosing between this and “Let us Break Bread Together.” Both of these hymns represent the reason I was attracted to the Episcopal Church... that ALL are welcome at God’s table. As a very dear friend put it: “We ALL have a seat at the table, Jesus WANTS everyone there, we are family, no one above or below another... it is how we symbolize that Christ actually lives in us... it is the ultimate connection between our parish family and ourselves because we are tender and vulnerable during this time.”

Communion, Lord’s Supper, Holy Eucharist — whatever name you want to use — this is what binds us together. It’s a vital part of the Episcopal service. This is what I have missed and continue to miss as we journeyed through Lent and beyond this year. I can’t wait to celebrate Easter in the beautiful, Holy Ground of St. Paul’s, whenever that happens to be. David Benson introduced this song to me and I hope David will select “Come Take of His Bread” as one of the communion hymns!

## **Claire Hasselle**

### **“At the Name of Jesus”**

An Easter hymn that is super special to me is “At the Name of Jesus.” I have always felt peace in my heart when we sing this hymn in worship. I can’t really pinpoint an exact reason I love it so much, but I can say I can feel the Holy Spirit when we sing it. Music is a key part of worship for me! One of my favorite lines the hymn:

In your hearts enthrone him; there let him subdue  
all that is not holy, all that is not true;  
crown him as your Captain in temptation’s hour:  
let his will enfold you in its light and power.

**Online Giving Coming Soon**

We are pleased to announce that St. Paul’s will offer parishioners the ability to donate by text, mobile app or online. We are in challenging times right now, but we can continue our faithful stewardship through new giving solutions. More information to come. — *Melissa Calcote*

## Treasurer’s Report March 31, 2020

*25% of Pledges Received*

Total Revenue	\$136,626.31
Total Expenses	\$115,819.12
<b>Net Total</b>	<b>\$20,807.19</b>

### **We Remember in our Prayers**

**Our Parish family:** Bob Deen, Dixie Pigford, DJ Wells, Edgar Morrison, Jerry Greene, Jo Van Devender, Ivy Jane Sutton, Milo Joseph Sutton, Mary Scott, Norma Veach, Peggy Carrico, Robin Hall, Scott Carmichael, Terry Rush, William Godwin, the Rev. Cecil Jones Jr. and Elaine Sanders.

**In our senior living communities:** Deannie Carmichael, Elise Leach, Joyce Welsh, Linda James, Lora Jones and Nita Neville.

**For extended family and friends:** Alice Miller, Ally Gressett, Allyson Furr, Amanda Lockey, Amanda Rainey, Anita Sumrall, Anna Meyers, Barbara Hopper, Barbara Robinson, Baston Geiger, Beverly Bryson, Bill Selman, Bob Hill, Bobby Dale, Bridget Mann, Brooke, Brooks Moore, Charlie Smith, Charmin Edwards, Chelsie Abston, Christina Harris, Clay Hamilton, Cory Gaylord, Diane Dunn, Delroy Ming, Edesser “Dess” Reid Ward, Rob & Aislinn Ward, Elise Higbe, Frank Baker, Frank Barrett, Freddie Bea Watson, Gary Dawkins, George Farr, George Ferguson, Helen Valentine, J.T. Lee, Jada Dooley, James, Jim Bateman, John, Justin Site, Ken Fisher, Kim Lovette, Kylie Temple, Lee Davis Thames, Leigh Ann Key, Lillie Alford, Lou Dubose, Marilyn Mohr, Martha Mazingo, Mary Hallwell, Mary Ann Howell, Michelle Nelson, Mike Lundy, Mike Stanton, Noah White, Norman, Patty Fishburn, Rick, Sandra Nicholas, Ronald Carozza, Sandy Carrier, Sallie Gercens, Hannah Thompson, Seth Thompson, Theodore, Tom Schram, Tony Sansone, Wanda Farr, Wanda Scott, Wilfe Manning and Zack Martin.

**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.

**For those who have died especially:** Cathy Parker; Lou Hart; John Tarratino, uncle of Lynne Taleff; and Cheryl Drennan, daughter of Billie Jean Drennan.

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

### **Birthdays & Anniversaries**

May 4 .....Alban McGehee	May 21 .....Duncan & Anne Chalk, Albree Florey,
May 5 .....Martha Barnett, Jerome Kittrell	Gibson Hasselle, Rick & Claire Hasselle,
May 10 .....David & JoAnn Culpepper	Judge & Catherine Little
May 11 .....Clay Holladay	May 23 .....Tim & Claire Hanschke, Michael Harwell,
May 12 .....Susan Hamilton	Lillie Grace Langston, Melinda Perry
May 13 .....Ben Avara, Larry & Susan Nowak	May 24 .....Polly Covert, Reid & Mallory Davis,
May 14 .....Leslie Hiatt, Bill Simmons	Bryan Holladay, Wilson Tucker
May 15 .....Sherree Maddox, Wesley McGehee	May 26 .....John & Ann Compton
May 16 .....Kay Dickson, Simmons Davis	May 27 .....Gabrielle Kennedy
May 17 .....Hardy Graham, Patrick Lewis	May 28 .....Jackson Florey
May 18 .....John & Sonya Carrier	May 30 .....Maurie Simmons
May 19 .....John & Rainey Breaux, Ralph Young	May 31 .....William & Jamie Tucker
May 20 .....Hayes Lancaster, Steven Slade	