

## Sign in Spirit and in Service

The heat hung heavy in the air as we walked the cobbled streets of Charleston, the kind of southern heat and humidity where cousins from Portland, Oregon get off the airplane for the first time, as if they have stepped into another world and say “What... is... this?” Our family just gathered for a long-awaited reunion — three generations, from South Carolina, Georgia, Mississippi and Oregon under one sun, laughing, eating, and walking through the layers of our family's history.

One afternoon, we found ourselves at the Old Exchange and Provost where Wesley wanted to go because there was a dungeon inside. It was also where, nearly 250 years ago, words that would change the world were first proclaimed in this place. Inside, there was a table laid with a replica of the Declaration of Independence—a parchment of promises and hopes. A pen was offered. My sons, as well as my niece, stepped forward, and without hesitation, added their names. Their handwriting was careful and proud.

It was a small moment, but it caught me. Watching them sign their names, side by side, I saw more than children humoring a historic exercise. I saw a gesture of belonging. Of participation. Of saying, “I'm part of this. Count me in.”

That image stayed with me — not just as a parent, but as a priest.

Because we as the Church, the Body of Christ, are people of covenants. Promises made and names signed. And this month, we remember one of the most significant signatures in our history: in July 1789, our Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement gathered at the General Convention in Philadelphia to organize formally, adopt a constitution, and name itself “The

Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America.” They committed themselves—across theological divides and political tension—to a shared future. And they trusted that one day, others would carry that commitment forward. Others like us.

The Preamble to the Book of Common Prayer puts it this way:

*“It is a most invaluable part of that blessed ‘liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free,’ that in His worship, different forms and usages may without offense be allowed, provided the substance of the Faith be kept entire...”*

Their signatures — spiritual and literal — still echo in our liturgy, in our hymns, in our prayers. They weren't just organizing a church; they were bearing witness to the belief that God's work must be continued in each generation.

And now, it's our turn.

We are called to sign in Spirit and in service. As we enter this season of hopeful respite and travel, I invite you to consider: “Where is God asking me to sign my name this year? What might I sign carefully and proudly like a child?” What does it look like to recommit yourself to our common life in worship, service, and love?” As the theologian Nicolas Cage said in a toast in the movie National Treasure, “Here's to those did what was considered wrong, in order to do what they knew was right.”

*The following are some invitations where your signature matters:*

### Fall Participation

As we plan for the fall, we are seeking renewed commitment across our parish—from acolytes and

## Mission and Music Raises More than \$10,000 for Charity

After receiving the final bill from one of our suppliers, we finally have the results of the Mission and Music Festival. **We took in an amazing \$15,929 and after \$5,744 in expenses, we cleared \$10,185.** With \$259.34 left over and added in from the 2024 festival, a total of \$10,444.34 will be donated equally to L.O.V.E 's Kitchen and Care Lodge.

Thanks again to everyone who made the festival such a success! Great job! It was a fun day and most importantly, we raised funds for outreach for these two local charities that St. Paul's has supported for so many years.

—*Blessings, Bobbie Rea*

altar guild to adult formation and choir. We also will need help with Wednesday night Suppers, the Parish Picnic and Ingathering Sunday. Your presence sustains our shared life.

### Vacation Bible School

Our VBS is rapidly approaching, and I thank volunteers ahead of time for making it such a joyful, Spirit-filled week! Our children will learn about God's love through music, storytelling, crafts, and games. Your time and energy will be a living signature of faith in action.

### Sunday School Teachers

We especially need **\*\*Sunday School teachers and volunteers\*\*** for the coming school year. You don't need a Master of Divinity — just a heart for children and a desire to grow in faith alongside them. Training and support are provided. Perhaps this is where God is asking you to sign your name.

### Other Ministries

We are discerning how to better help the residents at Care Lodge. There is interest in restarting Episcopal Church Women, the Society of St. Andrew, as well as restarting the knitting/crocheting ministry. Again there is interest, these are examples of ministries waiting for a signature of one to take the lead. This priest admits, I watched my grandmother crochet for instance, but



Have a Very Blessed Summer

**July 14 - 17**  
**5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.**  
**St. Paul's Episcopal Church**

An Intergenerational VBS  
offered by the Episcopal Community of Meridian

never bothered asking her how to do it.

But it takes the gifts and commitments of all of us to make the Church breathe. As Paul says, and we say before every baptism: “There is one body and one Spirit. One Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all.” (BCP 299)

We are bound not by ink

on parchment, but by the Spirit of the living God — working in us, through us, and often because of the quiet, faithful decisions we make to say: \*I'm part of this. Count me in.\*

So this July, whether you sign your name with a pen, a prayer, or a promise — commit to this place and its ministries in the world. And may you do so with hope and courage.



**TO SIGN UP FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

*Adults, Youth and Children register here*  
<https://forms.gle/726vcGnFcFoG4CRL6>

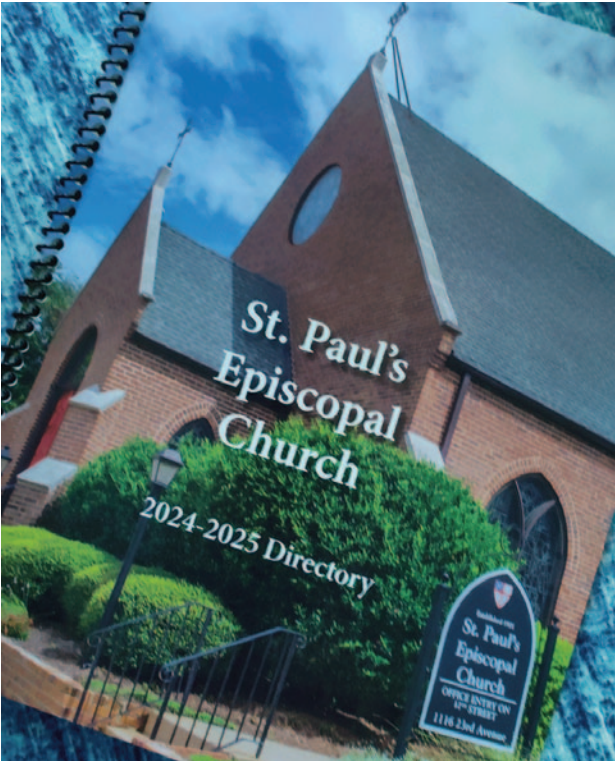


Printed Church Directories Available

The printed church directories are in! Thank you to everyone fo your patience in waiting for Phase 2 of the directory. They are now in the Parish office and you may pick up one directory for your family. Make sure you let Joane know of any updates!

If you have not taken the opportunity to include a photo of your family for the Instant Church Directory Online app, please know it is not too late for that. Just send a picture and either Joane or I can get it uploaded to the directory app.

— Marty McIntyre



6/28/2025  
From St. Peter's Episcopal Church  
McKinney, Texas  
(30 miles North of Dallas)  
  
Thank you for sharing your  
beautiful church with us!  
We were returning from a mission  
trip in North Carolina and spent  
the night here.  
God Bless you All!

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SUNDAY SCHOOL & FORMATION KICK-OFF SUNDAY

AUGUST 3 9:15 A.M. St. Paul's Parish Hall

Questions? E-mail stpaulsmeridian@gmail.com

Blessing of the Backpacks

Sunday August 3 10:30 Service

Students of all ages and Teachers may bring their backpacks to be blessed during the service.

Fall Formation PARENTS' PLANNING MEETING

Wednesday July 23 @ 5:30 P.M.

We Remember in our Prayers

For our Parish family: Amy Cady, Ben Avara, Chip Harwell, David Hamilton, DJ Wells, Eve Morrison, Jim Miller, Judie Jones, Margaret Van Dyke, Patrick Leach, Patsy Moran, Peggy Carrico, Tee and Wanda Blount.

In our senior living communities: Lora Jones Mary Weems and Susan Hamilton.

Extended family and friends: Alisha Crowell, Amanda Lockley, Ashley Heblon-Lee, Betty Harris, Betty Perry, Bill Selman, Billy Campbell, Bobby Alexander, Brooke, Carmen Alexander, Catherine Crews, Charlotte Chaney, Christy Covert, Cory Gaylord, Davey Simmons, David, David Newell, Diane Dunn, Donna Polizzi, Emily Rush, Evie Warden, Francois DuPlessis, Frances Leach, Frank Baker, Frank Barrett, Fredrica Harris-Thompsett, Gail Richardson, Glenn Taylor, Gloria Moore, Greg McMurray, James, Jan, Jeana Bennett, Jennifer Abraham, Diane Ladner, Jim Thompson, Jo Nell Brown, Joe Roberts, John Friar, Kathy Luke, Katie McDaniel, Ken Fisher, Kevin Williams, Kylie Temple, Larry Houchins, Leigh Ziller, Linda Davidson, Linda Perry, Liz Grimes, Lowel Williamson, Mark McCoayto, Martha Mazingo, Mason, Matt White, Megan Thomas, Michelle Nelson, Neil Sanford, Noah White, Norman, Pat Carver, Phyllis Campbell, Ralph Abraham, Rick, Richard Archibald, Rita Pegues, Ronnie Miller, Sandy Carrier, Susan Nichols, Taylor Wright, The Thorne Family, Tom Blackledge, Tom Schram, Trent Hartzog, Virginia Dearman, Wanda Scott and Zack Martin.

We pray for those who have died especially, Mary Evelyn Cleugh Hand, former parishioner of St. Paul's; and Jimmy Ladner.

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, and DJ Robinson.

We pray for our Bishop Dorothy, for our Rector Austin and his family and our Curate Katie.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

July 1 .....	Brandon Dunn, Avery Harwell	July 19 .....	Patrick & Michelle Lewis
	Ethridge, Lauretta Hamilton	July 20 .....	Malcom Gee
July 2 .....	Joy Greer, Susan Nowak, Chuck Rea	July 22 .....	Eugene & Melinda Perry,
July 5 .....	Alexa Hogan Thompson		Beth Wuestefeld
July 10 .....	Joanne Entrekin	July 24 .....	David & Jo Benson, Franklin Davis,
July 13 .....	Michael Crowe, Will & Edie Simmons		Kim Gianakos
July 14 .....	Payton Hanschke, Michael Kerekes,	July 25 .....	Sabina Ivy
	Kay Reich	July 27 .....	Ducky McCormick
July 15 .....	Christopher Collis, Stacey Harwell	July 28 .....	Alyce Cunningham,
July 16 .....	Steve & Shelby Slade, Reese Stump		John Michael & Juliet McDonald
July 17 .....	Eugene Perry	July 29 .....	Perrin Burchfield
July 18 .....	Larry & Lisa Love, Isabell Martin	July 30 .....	Sue Farr

Services	JULY 6	JULY 13	JULY 20	JULY 27
VESTRY COUNTERS	John Compton & Marty McIntyre			
9:30 A.M.				
LEADER 1	Katie Simmons	Jo Benson	John Carrier	Patrick Leach
LEADER 2	Geoff McIntyre	Wayne Wuestefeld	Polly Covert	John Compton
PRAYERS	Helen Abraham	Stacey Harwell	Joan Moore	Candy Ward
USHERS	Joey Martin	Michelle Lewis	Geoff McIntyre	Susan Nowak
	Graham Martin	Patrick Lewis	Marty McIntyre	Larry Nowak
ALTAR GUILD	Gayle Yochim	Mallory Davis	Rainey Breaux	Graham Martin
CHALICE	Gloria Chancellor	Lynn Waddle	Stephen Wilson	Jo Benson