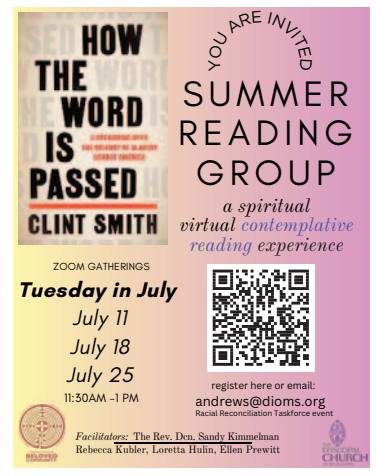


Deadline to submit articles for "The Epistle" is the 15th of each month.

Summer Office Hours
Mon-Thurs • 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. & Fri • 9 a.m. - noon
Parish Office will be closed Monday, July 3
& Tuesday July 4 in observance of Independence Day



HOW THE WORD IS PASSED
CLINT SMITH
YOU ARE INVITED
SUMMER READING GROUP
a spiritual virtual contemplative reading experience
ZOOM GATHERINGS
Tuesday in July
July 11
July 18
July 25
11:30AM - 1 PM
register here or email: andrews@dioms.org
Facilitators: The Rev. Dea. Sandy Kimmelman, Rebecca Kahler, Loretta Hulin, Ellen Prewitt

Leave It Better

I don't know about you, but I have been spending some time over the past year or so considering the vision of our parish.

Church. There is a hopeful future in Jesus Christ where God calls us. There will always be a need for someone coming to take over this responsibility or that one, even

I get excited when I think about what is next for:

- St. Paul's as we joyfully welcome our new Curate Katie Sorey this month.
- Our youth pilgrims traveling to Wyoming and how they continue to blossom into amazing children of God.
- Our diocese as we continue with the search process of our next bishop.
- What ministries and leaders might be coming for St. Paul's... it may be YOU.



though too often none of us want to talk about it until we must. We always need to discern when it is time to hand over the baton and when it is time to take it. Regardless of how old we are now, how long we have been a member, how much we pledge to Christ's

Church, always considering our vision is some of the most crucial and life-giving work we can do. It helps keep our hearts and minds open to where God calls our church. It keeps us healthy, relevant, and effective. As we sang at the ordination last week;

*"Here I am, Lord
Is it I, Lord?
I have heard You calling in the night
I will go, Lord
If You lead me
I will hold Your people in my heart."*

I once heard a friend and colleague say to me. "At the end of the day, we work to make it easier for the ones who come after us. We hope that we, as they say in scouting as they leave and clean campsites "leave it better than we found it."

My friend's point, as did this saying from scouting resonated with me, and provided me with a sense of calm and hope. It takes some of the pressure away from being perfect for all people. I have certainly had those before me, who have made my tenure as your rector a whole lot easier. Hopefully, I can keep it going for whoever is to come one day.

I have come to realize that "leave it better than we found it" is what we are all called to do in the life of the

Friends, we are the body of Christ now. At the end of the day, if we do God's work well, we will make it easier for the ones who come after us. As we continue to hopefully enjoy some good use of leisure and travel this summer, I pray that we all look for ways we can "leave it better than we found it."



A Collect for Independence Day

Lord God Almighty, in whose Name the founders of this country won liberty for themselves and for us, and lit the torch of freedom for nations then unborn; Grant that we and all the people of this land may have grace to maintain our liberties in righteousness and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.



The first Independence Day celebration took place in Philadelphia on July 8, 1776. This was also the day that the Declaration of Independence was first read in public after people were summoned by the ringing of the Liberty Bell.

As we celebrate Independence Day — which marks the Colonies' adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776 (declaring independence from the Great Britain and its king) — we thought it would be appropriate to share some fun facts about this historic day.

1. Congress made Independence Day an official unpaid holiday for federal employees in 1870. In 1938, Congress changed Independence Day to a paid federal holiday.
2. Only John Hancock actually signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. All the others signed later. And the first draft of the document was written on July 2 — but the final wording was agreed upon July 4.
3. The Declaration of Independence was signed by 56 men from 13 colonies.
4. The average age of the signers of the Declaration of Independence was 45. The youngest was Thomas Lynch Jr. (27) of South Carolina. The oldest delegate was Benjamin Franklin (70) of Pennsylvania. The lead author of the Declaration, Thomas Jefferson, was 33.
5. The only two signers of the Declaration of Independence who later served as President of the United States were John Adams and Thomas Jefferson.
6. The stars on the original American flag were in a circle so all the Colonies would appear equal.
7. The White House held its first 4th of July party in 1801.



Greet & Welcome Set for July 9

Congratulations to our new Curate, The Rev. Deacon Katie Sorey, who was ordained to the Priesthood Saturday, June 17, at St. Andrew's Cathedral, Jackson. Katie joins us July 2; and Sunday, July 9, we will have a "Greet and Welcome Celebration" during the formation hour in the Parish Hall. At that time we will present the purse gift to her. If you are writing a check, please mark in your contributions or on your check memo line, "Purse for Katie."

Attending Katie's ordination were, from left: Lloyd Gray, Sally Gray, Fr. Austin and Malcom Gee. (Not pictured: Chuck Rea)

We Remember in our Prayers

For our Parish family: Andrea Carver, Anne Chalk, Cheri Barry, Clift Odom, Delena Avara, Don Pringle, DJ Wells, Elliott Street, Eve Morrison, Jo Van Devender, Kay Dickson, Lynn Waddle, Margaret Van Dyke, Marsha Miller, Mary Dunn, Peggy Carrico, Susan Hamilton, Tadley, Wanda Blount and Woodie Abraham.

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

Extended family and friends: Adele Whitlock, Alisha Crowell, Ben Avara, Betty Perry, Bill Jones, Bill Selman, Brooke, Charlotte Chaney, Christy Covert, Clancy, Cory Gaylord, Davey Simmons, David, Diane Dunn, Donna Polizzi, Emily Rush, Evie Warden, Francois DuPlessis, Frances, Frank Baker, Frank Barrett, George Farr, Hays Monsour, Jada Dooley, James, Jan, Jeana Bennett, Jo Nell Brown, Jim Thompson, Jimmy Whitehead, John, Josiah Christian, Joy Richardson, Kamie Wert, Katie Schaffer, Ken Fisher, Kennedy Grice, Kevin Williams, Kylie Temple, Lanier McCullough, Leland Tew, Lou Dubose, Martha Hudson, Martha Mazingo, Marti & Will Sorey, Mason, Matt White, Melinda Vinson Northern, Michael, Michelle Nelson, Mike Covert, Mize, Nick, Nell Nichols, Norman, Pat Carver, Patrick Leach, Penny Purnell, Randy Moore, Richard Graham, Rick, Roger, Sandra Gray, Sandy Carrier, Shirley Hunter Croft, Stefanie Lynn Roman, Thomas Little, Tom Schram, Tony Sansone, Travis Sadler, Trent Hartzog, Wanda Farr, Wanda Scott, Willie Spencer and Zack Martin.

We pray for those who have died especially: Anne Rice Wooley and David Allan Smith.

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, Zack Hendericks, Nick Mullen and DJ Robinson.

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

Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

Services

	JULY 2	JULY 9	JULY 16	JULY 23
VESTRY COUNTERS	Gloria Chancellor & Chris Stump			
8 A.M.				
CHALICE	Bob Covert	Malcom Gee	John Carrier	Bob Covert
READER	Polly Covert	Malcom Gee	John Carrier	Polly Covert
USHER	Bob Covert	Malcom Gee	John Carrier	Bob Covert
10:30 A.M.				
READER 1	Lloyd Gray	Mallory Davis	Melissa Calcote	Rick Entrekin
READER 2	Lynn Waddle	Gary Jones	Malcom Gee	Katie Simmons
PRAYERS	Joan Moore	Bobbie Rea	Stacey Harwell	Helen Abraham
USHERS	Sally Gray	Lisa Howell	Joey Martin	Chris Burchfield
	Will Simmons	John Howell	Graham Martin	Perrin Burchfield
ACOLYTES	William Davis	Remy Stump	Annie Martin	Hardin Hiatt
ALTAR GUILD	Gloria Chancellor	Gloria Chancellor	BJ Ray	BJ Ray
	Kay Reich	Kay Reich	Leslie Hiatt	Leslie Hiatt
CHALICE	Lynn Waddle	Edie Simons	Jo Benson	Gary Jones

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE FOR

The Tombigbee Convocation Altar Guild Conference

SATURDAY, JULY 15TH
BEGINNING AT 10:00 AM

REGISTRATION FEE: \$25
(INCLUDES LUNCH)

HOSTED BY
THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION
505 W. BROAD STREET
WEST POINT, MISSISSIPPI

PLEASE RSVP BY JULY 5TH TO
The Rev. Marie Smith
via email:
mothermariesmith@gmail.com
or via phone:
662-494-1378 (office)

Pray for Our Pilgrims

Please be in prayer for our pilgrims and chaperones on their trip to Cody, Wyoming. The EYC Pilgrimage runs from June 26 to July 2. The pilgrims are: Ann Revere Davis, Jack Martin, Annie Martin, Britton Dunn, Tucker Dunn, Cameron Burchfield, Sellers Breau, Lucy Simmons, Hardin Hiatt and Hayes Lancaster. Adults accompanying the group are: Fr. Austin, Fr. Morris Thompson, Emily Thompson and Claire Hasselle.

The really long link to sign up for this is here (but call the office and ask for a text or email to make this easier):
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1GbKDA81C8UkjpUpYb5B8e0qoN10Q4MhNBOBX1S9HW4E/viewform?ts=60ae62a2&edit_requested=true

**Attention Rising
6th Graders and Parents
Save the Date: Friday, August 4
Journey to EYC Meal at St. Paul's**



*We rejoice in the marriage of
Lauren Ann Graham & Dalton Esley
McHenry June 3 at St. Paul's.*