

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

Theology on Tap — Bring a non-member! Tuesday, Oct. 1 - Weidmann's — 5:15 p.m.



Beautiful German Shepherd Phaedra (with her fur baby owner Kim Gianakos) receives a blessing from Fr. Austin at the "Blessing of the Pets" Sunday afternoon, Sept. 29. This joint effort with First Christian Church was well attended, with a miniature pony and other fine fur babies. That's Anne Chalk in the background (with a bit of her new puppy Hazel). The event raised funds for East Mississippi Animal Rescue (and supplies).

Dear Fellow Parishioners:

We are beginning our stewardship journey on Sunday, September 29th. This year's theme is **120 Years of Joyful Giving Through Stewardship**. Each Sunday at the 10:30 a.m. service we will have a parishioner who will speak on stewardship.

- Sunday nights, October 6, October 13 and October 20, we will have our home gatherings. We will invite discussions, along with questions and answers concerning the stewardship campaign.
- Friday, October 25, the Rev. Corky Carlisle will be with us and we will have a church dinner to meet and hear from Rev. Carlisle on his ideas and guidance concerning stewardship.
- Sunday, October 27, we will have one service at 10:30 a.m. where Rev. Carlisle will conduct the service.

We are thankful for the congregation's giving of their time, talents and financial commitments to our church. All are needed to be a success. Giving is, and can be, joyful. St. Paul told us "God loves a cheerful giver."

Last year we set a goal of 10% growth. We met our goal. This year we set a monetary goal of 15%. It is our hope that all of our parishioners will prayerfully consider their stewardship commitment.

Sign up sheets for the home gatherings may be found in the Parish Hall or you may contact the Parish Office to choose your date. All of you are invited and are asked to choose a date. At those home gatherings, a stewardship card will be handed out and will also be available at the church office. Those cards should be returned by our service on October 27.

All home gatherings are from 5:30 until 7 p.m. Refreshments and light hors d'oeuvres will be served. Thank you for the love and commitment to our church. —Rick Barry

Parish Picnic Set for October 13

Don't miss the annual Parish Picnic Oct. 13 beginning at 10:30 a.m. at Collinsville Beach Point, Lake Okatibbee. Collinsville Beach point is the area closest to the playground and restrooms. We will enjoy a festive service with Eucharist, followed by a potluck picnic lunch. Bring some chairs, your family; friends, your best dish and share in this fun morning! For those who cannot attend the picnic, we will still have our 8 a.m. service at St. Paul's that morning.

We Are All Interconnected

Living at General Seminary in New York for three years, it was hard to escape the teachings of Desmond Tutu. This South African Archbishop is mostly known for his work in anti-apartheid and human rights and the adjacent hotel, located on the Tenth Avenue side of the seminary, is named for him.

Tutu won the Nobel Peace Prize for teaching the western world something called *Ubuntu*. The word means a whole number of things but is closest translated in English, "I am who I am because of you." We are all interconnected. There is no one on this earth who does not have the potential to help us form our sense of love and humanity. *Ubuntu* recognizes the importance of every person in the development of our own being and selves. The love and goodness that I experience from you will allow me to offer that same love and goodness to the next person. This month we will begin the stewardship season of our 120th year. One hundred and twenty years of faithful people of God in Meridian. This means one hundred and twenty years of *Ubuntu*, even if we may not have called it that. Meridian is who it is, partially because of us.

We are who we are because Christ's liberating, transformative and healing love. And I believe with my whole heart that we have the capacity to do even more.

I don't believe we think about it very often, but imagine Meridian without St. Paul's; our lives without St. Paul's. So many have been formed in this place. Countless lives have been touched and healed; so many have been marked as Christ's own forever. It is the ultimate compliment in South Africa for someone to say ubuntu to you. I would hope if Desmond Tutu entered the doors of St. Paul's Meridian, he might see who we are and how we will choose to be for the next one hundred and twenty years.

As we discern during this season of giving, consider the many ways we are all bound together as followers of Christ. Remember the way we choose to live for one another, and how St. Paul's impacts us and we each take part. Consider how we are called to be on this journey, called to the way of Ubuntu. We are people who act and share with generosity, hospitality, friendliness, care and compassion. My humanity is intimately bound in yours, and yours to mine.



As the Archbishop reminds us: "We are made for goodness. We are made for love. We are made for friendliness. We are made for togetherness. We are made for all of the beautiful things that you and I know. We are made to tell the world that there are no outsiders. All are welcome: black, white, red, yellow, rich, poor, educated, not educated, male, female, gay, straight, all, all, all. We all belong to this family, this human family, God's family."

*Disturb us, O Lord
when we are too well-pleased with ourselves
when our dreams have come true because we dreamed too little,
because we sailed too close to the shore.*

*Disturb us, O Lord
when with the abundance of things we possess,
we have lost our thirst for the water of life
when, having fallen in love with time,
we have ceased to dream of eternity
and in our efforts to build a new earth,
we have allowed our vision of Heaven to grow dim.*

*Stir us, O Lord
to dare more boldly, to venture into wider seas
where storms show Thy mastery,
where losing sight of land, we shall find the stars.
In the name of the One who pushed back the horizons of our hopes
and invited the brave to follow.*

*Amen.
Prayer attributed to Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu
adapted from an original prayer by Sir Francis Drake.*

Austin

Fourth Tuesday Outreach Opportunities

St. Paul's "Fourth Thursday Outreach Project" is off to a good start. Teams of parishioners have read to students at Crestwood Elementary and served lunch at L.O.V.E.'s Kitchen on the fourth Thursdays of August and September, and more than a dozen have agreed to be on a regular rotating schedule for these service opportunities.

The Outreach Committee welcomes additional participants. If you would like to be included on the schedule, please email or call Deacon Betty Melton at betty45@gmail.com.

Should the number of participants increase significantly, another weekday – likely a Tuesday – could be added to the schedule.

Many thanks to those participants who have kicked off this effort with great spirit and enthusiasm.

Join Us In Providing Formation for Our Children

Do your eyes light up and your heart swell with joy when you witness our children in and around the parish? Providing a rich formation experience for these precious ones is our duty, delight and foundation for the future of St. Paul's Meridian. We are blessed to have three dedicated lead teachers at present. In order to keep with "Safe Church Guidelines," we need three more persons to join them on Sunday mornings. Please call Fr. Austin, Claire Hasselle or Ann Compton if you hear God's call to this ministry.

EYC is Off and Running!

EYC is off to an exceptional start! Please encourage your 6th - 12th grader to take part in this fun and meaningful community. At each gathering we find new ways to live into Christ's teachings about love and service, while deepening our relationship with God. It's so important to use our gifts as individuals, and as a youth group, to do good for the surrounding community and the world. All of this is done through service work, games, discussion, field trips and more. It's important to come and to come regularly in order to do this. EYC events and gatherings are published in the newsletter and bulletins, as well as texted out to individuals. If you have questions, want to help out with EYC, or would like more information, please contact Claire Hasselle. Already this year, our EYC has had one on one time with the Bishop, traveled to the Civil Rights Museum in Jackson and had some fun at Geysers Falls.

EYC Fall Schedule

- 10/2: EYC Gospel Study @ 6:30 p.m.
- 10/9: EYC Gospel Study @ 6:30 p.m.
- 10/13: EYC from 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.
- 10/16: EYC Gospel Study @ 6:30 p.m.
- 10/18-10/20: Sr. DOY @ CBG!
- 10/23: EYC Gospel Study @ 6:30 p.m.
- 10/27: Mediator BBQ! All EYC on deck to help out!
- 10/30: EYC Gospel Study @ 6:30 p.m.



Calling Artists of St. Paul's

During Lent last year, St. Paul's created an inaugural "Artists renderings of the Stations of the Cross" that was displayed in All Saints' Hall during Lent. Eight of our own parishioners, using numerous different types of media, depicted Christ's final walk to Calvary. We are looking for eight new and willing artists to create the exhibit (the more variety in medium the better). If you are interested in participating this year, please contact Joy and Tom Greer or call the parish office for more information. The works will be displayed from Ash Wednesday (February 26) through Palm Sunday (April 5).

Greenery Sale Helps EYC Pilgrims

Our annual greenery sale is almost here! This year's sale will be handled by our Alaskan Pilgrims, along with the invaluable help and assistance of Bobbie Rea. Remember there are a number of options to choose from, including wreaths that can shipped to friends, relatives and coworkers. This beautiful holiday greenery adds a festive touch to your decorations. Orders need to be in Friday, Nov. 1, and the greenery will arrive Friday, Nov. 22. Expect a mailing soon with all the information and the order form. We hope you will place your orders soon for these wonderful greenery items. —*Claire Hasselle, Youth Director*

Don't Miss Any of our Wednesday Night Fun

Wednesday evenings are chock full of activities — join us!

- 4 p.m. — Enjoy a time of time of fellowship and knitting, quilting or whatever craft fits your style with our Closely Knit group.
- 5 p.m. — Our nursery opens
- 5:30 p.m. — Worship begins in the Chapel of our Lady and All Saints'
- 6 p.m. — Great food and fellowship follows the worship — join us in the Parish Hall. To enjoy our catered meal, turn in your to the Parish office by Monday at 1 p.m. prior to the Wednesday you will be attending meal. Want to know the menu? Look for a Friday email via Mail Chimp. If you miss the reservation or your dietary needs differ, no worries! Please "brown bag" your meal and enjoy the fellowship.
- 6:30 p.m. — Chancel Choir practices and the EYC has a Gospel Study for the week.

Open Altar Flower Dates

It feels good to make a dedication in honor or memory of a loved one by purchasing altar flowers — the donation is \$50 minimum and we have these dates open: Oct. 20, 1 vase; Nov. 10, 2 vases; and Nov. 24, 1 vase. Contact the Parish Office to make your reservation.

We Remember in our Prayers

Our Parish family: Dixie Pigford, DJ Wells, Edgar Morrison, Hardy Graham Sr., Jane Weems, Jerry Greene, Jerry Wayton, Jo Van Devender, Mary Scott, Norma Veach, Peggy Carrico. Rob Calcote, Robin Hall, Sarah Anne Johnson, Stacey Harwell, The Rev. Arnold Bush, The Rev. Don Chancellor, Terry Rush and William Godwin.

In our Senior Living Communities: Deanie Carmichael, Elise Leach, Joyce Welsh, Linda James, Lora Jones and Nita Neville.

Extended family and friends: Agnes Lewis, Alice Miller, Ally Gressett, Amanda Lockey, Anna Meyers, Art Matthews, Baston Geiger, Bill Selman, Bridget Mann, Brooke, Cathy Parker, Charmin Edwards, Chelsie Abston, Cheryl Drennan, Cory Gaylor, Diane Dunn, Delroy Ming, Dorothy Rainer, Edesser "Dess" Reid Ward, Rob & Aislinn Ward, Elise Higbe, Frank Baker, Frank Barrett, Freddie Bea Watson, Gary Dawkins, George Ferguson, Hannah McNichol, Helen Valentine, Jada Dooley, James, John, Justin Site, Ken Fisher, Kim Lovette, Kylie Temple, Leigh Ann Key, Lou Dubose, Marilyn Mohr, Marvin Ellis, Mary Hallwell, Mary Ann Howell, Mary Irby, Michelle Nelson, Mike Lundy, Mike Stanton, Noah White, Norman, Patty Fishburn, Pud Merrell, Rick, Sandra Nicholas, Sandy Carrier, Sallie Gercens, Hannah Thompson, Seth Thompson, Stephanie Turner, Theodore, Tom Schram, the Waller Family, Wanda Scott, Wilfe Manning, Zack Martin and Clint Vinson.

For those who have died, especially Harvey Shirley, father of Jim and Cindy McGinnis; and Bubba Hampton.

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 Martin.

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

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Oct. 1	.....Cynthia Howarth	Oct. 17	.....Davis & Karli McGinnis
Oct. 2	.....Lloyd & Sally Gray, Don & Bev Pringle	Oct. 18	.....Betty Melton, Merry Roberts
Oct. 3	.....Edie Simmons	Oct. 19	Brad Carver, Hamp Little, Dustin Simmons, William Tucker
Oct. 4	.....Missy Bailey	Oct. 22	.....Klein Watson
Oct. 5	Brooke Lawyer, Davis McGinnis, Robert Wilson	Oct. 24	.....Edgar Morrison
Oct. 6	.....Eloyce Richardson	Oct. 25	.....John Howell
Oct. 7	.....Jerry & Jan Wayton	Oct. 26	.....Joey Martin, Landon Smith
Oct. 8	.....Sarah Anne Johnson	Oct. 27	.....Ann Compton, Scotland Sanders
Oct. 10	.....Bob Coffin, Jim & Marsha Miller	Oct. 28	.....Everett Callais
Oct. 11	.....Marsha Miller	Oct. 29	.....Jim Cady, Katie Simmons
Oct. 15	.....Wyatt Bond	Oct. 30	.....Shelton & Alyce Cunningham, Tom Milhorn
Oct. 17	.....Chip & Stacey Harwell		

Services	OCTOBER 6	OCTOBER 13	OCTOBER 20	OCTOBER 27
VESTRY COUNTERS	Lee Loeb & Brandon Dunn; Lock: Rick Barry			
8 A.M.				
CHALICE	Bob Covert	Anne Chalk	Lynne Taleff	Lindy Deen
READER	Lynne Taleff	Ingrid Price	Lindy Deen	Anne Chalk
USHER	Linda Carrier	Bob Coffin	Bob Covert	Bob Coffin
10:30 A.M.	PARISH PICNIC			
READER 1	John Compton	Tiffany McGehee	Gary Jones	Claire Hasselle
READER 2	Catherine Little	Jim McGinnis	Rick Barry	Lloyd Gray
PRAYERS	Bobbie Rea	Helen Abraham	Joan Moore	Candy Ward
USHERS	Perrin Burchfield	Edie Simmons	Larry Nowak	Cheri Barry
	Chris Burchfield	Adrian Page	Susan Nowak	Rick Barry
	Melissa Love	Lauretta Hamilton	Marsha Miller	Patrick Lewis
	Sara Mason	Lisa Howell	Jim Miller	Michelle Lewis
ACOLYTES	Arlyn Grace Sanders		Hardin Hiatt	Elizabeth Scott Bond
	Shepherd Sanders		Henry Hiatt	Wyatt Bond
	Gibson Hasselle		Cameron Burchfield	Hayes Lancaster
ALTAR GUILD	Edie Simmons	Edie Simmons	Bobbie Rea	Bobbie Rea
	Gloria Chancellor	Gloria Chancellor	Kathy Pigford	Kathy Pigford
	Leslie Hiatt	Leslie Hiatt	Rainey Breaux	Rainey Breaux
CHALICE	Gary Jones	Kay Reich	Mary Weems	Bev Pringle