

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

Summer Worship Schedule: Sunday Worship will remain the same throughout the month of July. We will offer our 8 a.m. service in the Chapel and our 10:30 a.m. service in the Nave.

Wednesday Eucharist/Healing service in the Chapel of The Lady & All Saints continues at noon.

No Wednesday evening meals or activities until we start fall formation.

Summer office hours are Mon-Thurs 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., Fri 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Parish Office closed July 4 & 5 in observance of Independence Day

No July Vestry meeting

Outreach Opportunities Coming This Fall

While many St. Paul's members offer their time and talents in community service on their own, the Outreach Committee has been exploring ways for parishioners to engage together as representatives of our parish.

The committee has settled on a plan to devote one Tuesday morning a month—likely the fourth Tuesday, though that is not yet definite—to providing service opportunities for St. Paul's members at Crestwood Elementary School and L.O.V.E.'s Kitchen. Tentative times are 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. for reading to children at the school and 10:45 a.m. until 12 noon for serving lunch and providing other assistance at L.O.V.E.'s Kitchen. This will likely start in late August.

Much like other ministries in the church, a call for volunteers will be issued and a long-term schedule

will be established from the list of interested participants, who will be responsible for securing a replacement when they are unable to make their scheduled time. The Rev. Betty Melton will coordinate the scheduling. Volunteers can choose to do one or the other of the service opportunities, or both. We anticipate having several volunteers at each location.

The committee hopes that these regularly scheduled opportunities will help re-energize our hands-on St. Paul's outreach. More details will be forthcoming, but for now, if you're interested in being included on the volunteer list, please email Outreach Committee Chair Lloyd Gray at lgray@philhardin.org or call him at 662.401.4086.

The Beehive of Transformation

"So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation." 2 Corinthians 5:17-18

I have always been fascinated with bees. Cathedrals, monasteries, and neighborhood parishes have kept bees for centuries, and we all know how important bees are for local habitats. One July, while serving a parish in Maine, Tiffany and I witnessed a beekeeper tending to a beehive at a local farm. Like many other animals, bees can sense the energy of the person. This beekeeper approached them calmly to witness their work; thousands of bees, within a giant honeycomb, doing the work entrusted to them. Together, they transformed something empty and bitter into something sweet.

*Last night while I was sleeping
I dreamed-blessed illusion!-
a fountain flowed
inside my heart.
Water, tell me by what hidden channel you came to me
with a spring of new life
I never drank?*

I can't think of a better example of a heart transformed than Mary Magdalene. Her feast day falls on a weekday in July and we all know and adore her. Mary Magdalene follows her teacher (Rabbouni) all the way to the cross. She is the first to witness the empty tomb and the first to testify to Jesus' resurrection. Time and time again, Mary Magdalene seems to be the only one of Jesus' followers who seems to "get it." She truly understands what God is doing in the world through Jesus of Nazareth. But before all of this, she must be transformed.

*Last night while I was sleeping
I dreamed-blessed illusion!-
I had a beehive inside my heart,
and from my old bitterness
the gold bees
were contriving white combs
and sweet honey.*

As the story goes in Luke, "The twelve were with Jesus, as well as some women who had been cured of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out." Demons. There are so many kinds... Those things in life that plague and torment us. Fear. Doubt. Shame. Prejudice. Holding onto failures from the past. We don't know Mary Magdalene's demons, but it doesn't matter. She had seven of them. What was important was that Mary had to rid herself of them before she could follow Jesus.

*Last night while I was sleeping
I dreamed-blessed illusion!-
a fiery sun glowed
inside my heart,
it was fiery, giving off heat
from a red fireplace.
It was the sun throwing out light
and made one weep.*

Like honeybees and Mary Magdalene, we all have our demons. We may have seven like Mary or seven hundred. It takes a deliberate use of skill and artifice for a bee to create something wonderful. If we clear the way for it, God works out of the empty places; the lowly, the weak, the forsaken, the places without hope. God works to transform a little at a time and create something wonderful.

*Last night while I was sleeping
I dreamed-blessed illusion!-
that it was God I held
inside my heart.*

I hope we might all make time in July to explore the places in us that have the greatest need of transformation. We all know the places within ourselves where fear and anger reside. But somewhere too, in each of us, there is a beehive of transformation. If we let it out, it will nourish all who experience it.

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Beehive

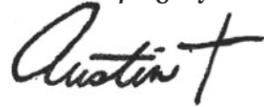
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*Has my heart gone to sleep?
Beehives in my dreams,
have you stopped working?
is the waterwheel of thought dry.
Its buckets empty,
spinning and filled with shadow?*

During these summer days of laying in the shaded grass under trees, plunging into the coolness of lakes and swimming pools, or pausing for a refreshing glass of lemonade, as the bees and Mary Magdalene remind us, the work continues. God is transforming, one tiny piece of our hearts at a time.

*No my heart is not asleep,
it is awake. Awake.
Not sleep or dreaming, it looks
with open bright eyes
at far signals and listens
on the shores of a great silence.*

—Poem is “Last Night While I was Sleeping” by Antonio Machado



Thanks to All Who Helped!

Accolades to the hardy souls who came to the Parish Workday Saturday, June 15, and attacked clutter and disorder! The basement clean-up was tackled with vigor and items unused or beyond repair were discarded. The crew in the kitchen cleaned and reordered the pantry, refrigerators and storage closet. We were fortunate that Claire Hasselle and Arlyn Grace Sanders had already cleaned the EYC supplies ahead of our workday.

Heartfelt thanks to each one for their work and contribution to a sense of fun and accomplishment. Our staff members, John Grace and Judy Wiggins, loaded the dumpster to the top after our clean-up because its arrival was delayed until Monday and Joane Mackey ran point. Marcia Via provided us with Symphony Brownies and Almond teacakes with our lunch. Thanks to the following:

Peggy Carrico, Gloria Chancellor, Rick Entrekim, Lee Loeb, Ducky McCormick, Fr. Austin McGehee, Joan Moore, Larry Nowak, Lynne Taleff and Margaret Van Dyke.



Blessing of the Backpacks

The school year seems to start earlier and earlier each year, and St. Paul's wants to make sure the students, teachers, and administrators get off to a solid start.

This year the Blessing of the Backpack's service will be held on **Sunday, August 11**, during the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Parishioners are asked to bring school supplies, such as markers and notebooks, to donate to our local schools. To be the best students, teachers and support persons, it is important to be prepared on the inside as well as the out. Bring your backpacks, briefcases, lunch boxes and/or other school supplies to be blessed for the new school year. Participants will receive prayer tags to attach to their bags, plus there may be a few apples handed out as well!

EYC Whitewater Rafting Trip

Our EYC'ers will be headed on an exciting adventure this month! On **Sunday, July 14**, we will be departing to the Ocoee River in Ducktown, TN. The Wild Water Rafting Company will be taking us on a wild ride on the upper Ocoee River. Our EYC adventurers are Shep and Arlyn Grace Sanders, Gabrielle Kennedy, Cameron Burchfield, Katie Hasselle, Hardin Hiatt, Annie Martin, Mary Bennett Waller and Kaden Begnaud. Chaperoning the trip from St. Paul's is Claire Hasselle and Anthony Hiatt.

EYC 2020 Summer Pilgrimage Planned in Alaska

Exciting news! There is a pilgrimage on the horizon for the Episcopal youth of Meridian! We are working with Wonder Voyage, a non-profit organization that creates personalized pilgrimages and mission trips. Our potential pilgrims met back in May and voted to journey to Alaska for this pilgrimage. There are three main components to this pilgrimage: wonder, voyage and mission. Our pilgrims will wonder at the amazing scenery, the solitude of St. Therese, and journal about their spiritual journey. They will voyage to the rapidly receding Mendenhall Glacier, go bass fishing on a deserted lake in a remote location and have the opportunity to view Orca whales in the wild. The mission portion of the pilgrimage includes serving a local church to meet the needs of their elder community, participate in an ecological project in the Tongass National Forest and learn about the Tlingit people, an indigenous population, through service to them. As you can imagine, this is an amazing opportunity for our youth to build strong bonds with one another, but most importantly take some big steps in their spiritual journey and living into the love of Christ. We have a good deal of fundraising to do in a short time. Over the next several months, opportunities will be announced for the parish and community to help our pilgrims reach their goals. Please be in prayer for this endeavor, our youth are looking forward to the work ahead!

Honduras Medical Mission 2020

If you are interested in mission work, the Honduras Medical Mission 2020 needs support personnel (MacGyver-types), physicians, dentists, dental hygienists, veterinarians, pharmacists and translators. There is always a mix of old hands and new people on every mission.

An application form for the 2020 Honduras Medical Mission is accessible for all who want to volunteer to serve at <https://www.dioms.org/Ministries/honduras.html>. To find it on the Diocesan website, click on Ministries tab and scroll to Honduras Medical Mission.

We Remember in our Prayers

For our Parish family: Annie Melton, Dixie Pigford, DJ Wells, Edgar Morrison, Hardy Graham Sr., Jamie Lancaster Smith, Jerry Greene, Jo Van Devender, Marsha Miller, Mary Scott, Norma Veach, Peggy Carrico, Robin Hall, Robby Dreyfus, The Rev. Arnold Bush, The Rev. Don Chancellor, Terry Rush, William Godwin and Stacey Harwell.

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, Baston Geiger, Bill Selman, Barbara Hull, Billy Hull, Bridget Mann, Brooke, Cathy Parker, Chelsie Abston, Cheryl Drennan, Cory Gaylord, Diane Dunn, Delroy Ming, Edesser “Dess” Reid Ward, Rob & Aislinn Ward, Frank Baker, Frank Barrett, Freddie Bea Watson, Gary Dawkins, George Ferguson, Hannah McNichol, Helen Valentine, Hinsley Harper, Jada Dooley, John, Ken Fisher, Kim Lovette, Kris Gianakos, Kylie Temple, Leigh Ann Key, Leslie Smith, Lou Dubose, Marilyn Mohr, Marvin Ellis, Mary Hallwell, Mary Ann Howell, Mary Irby, Michelle Nelson, Mike McWhorter, Mike Stanton, Norman, Patricia Bonner, Patty Fishburn, Pud Merrell, Rick, Sandra Nicholas, Sandy Carrier, Sallie Gercens, Hannah Thompson, Seth Thompson, Stephanie Turner, Theodore, Tripp Morrow, Tom Cook, Tom Schram, The Vitart Family, Wilfe Manning and Zack Martin.

Those who have died especially: Robbie Fleming Morrison; and Bill Proctor, brother of The Rev. Greg Proctor.

Those serving in the Armed Forces, for all who serve overseas and their families, especially Shum Benson, Connor Covert, Graham Ford, Andrew Behm and Nick Mullen.

For our Bishop Brian and our Rector Austin and his family.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

Services	JULY 7	JULY 14	JULY 21	JULY 28
VESTRY COUNTERS	Page Sikes & Brandon Dunn; Lock: Sally Gray			
8 A.M.				
CHALICE	Anne Chalk	Lynne Taleff	Lindy Deen	Bob Coffin
READER	Ingrid Price	Lindy Deen	Anne Chalk	John Carrier
USHER	Linda Carrier	Bob Coffin	Bob Covert	Bob Pigford
10:30 A.M.				
READER 1	Gary Jones	Wayne Wuestefeld	Rick Barry	Rob Calcote
READER 2	Kay Reich	Claire Hasselle	Mary Dunn	Catherine Little
PRAYERS	Joan Moore	Bobbie Rea	Stacey Harwell	Candy Ward
USHERS	Perrin Burchfield	Edie Simmons	Susan Nowak	John Carrier
	Chris Burchfield	Adrian Page	Larry Nowak	Sonya Carrier
	Melissa Love	Laretta Hamilton	Rick Barry	Michelle Lewis
	Sarah Love	Lisa Howell	Cheri Barry	Patrick Lewis
ACOLYTES	Cate Simmons	Cameron Burchfield	Anna Katherine Carrier	Hardin Hiatt
	Lucy Simmons	Sellers Breaux	Olivia Lewis	Henry Hiatt
	Christopher Collis	Carlye Breaux	Britton Dunn	Cooper Tibbetts
ALTAR GUILD	Gloria Chancellor	Gloria Chancellor	Edie Simmons	Edie Simmons
	Lee Loeb	Lee Loeb	Kay Reich & Lindy Deen	Kay Reich & Lindy Deen
	Cheri Barry	Cheri Barry	Leslie Hiatt	Leslie Hiatt
CHALICE	Mary Weems	Sonya Carrier	Rob Calcote	William Godwin

The Diocese is considering changes to how information is disseminated via The Mississippi Episcopalian. Please take a moment and fill out the attached survey, and return as noted. To receive a copy of the Mississippi Episcopalian by mail contact the church office. You may sign up for email on the Episcopal Diocese of MS website <https://www.dioms.org/>. Click on communication, then The Mississippi Episcopalian.

The First Mississippi Episcopalian Questionnaire

Instructions: Please indicate your responses, clip out and mail to:

The Rev. Scott Lenoir, editor
The Mississippi Episcopalian
7416 Riverview St.
Gautier, MS 39553

The purpose of this questionnaire is to help planning for the future of *The Mississippi Episcopalian*

Circle your answers from the list of choices. Thank you.

1. Do you read *The Mississippi Episcopalian*? Yes No Sometimes
2. If you read the paper what do you read?
 - a. Front Page Yes No
 - b. Bishop's Journal Yes No
 - c. Notes and Quotes Yes No
 - d. Book Review Yes No
 - e. Calendar Yes No
 - f. Faithful Departed Yes No
 - g. Deployment Report Yes No
 - h. Features and Events Yes No
3. The diocese spends a good bit of money to print and mail a hard copy of the paper to everyone who wants it free of charge. Would you read the paper if it arrived to your internet inbox instead of a mail box? Yes No
4. If the diocese produced a color slick magazine once a quarter focusing on features, and some events, would that be better than a monthly newspaper that has a variety of news? Yes No
5. If the once a quarter magazine was online only would you read it? Yes No
6. Would you prefer the diocese producing a website for the news that was updated as soon as submissions were submitted over a monthly newspaper? Yes No
7. Please use this space for comments about the paper or this questionnaire.