

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

July 5 • Parish Office closed in observance of Independence Day

July 20 • 5:15 p.m. • "Mini Vestry Retreat" at St. Paul's

Summer hours June and July

Monday – Thursday • 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Friday • 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

<p>SATURDAY, JULY 24</p> <p>CELEBRATION of the HOLY FAMILY</p> <p>CAMP BRATTON-GREEN Reunion</p> <p><small>\$5/person suggested donation</small></p> <p>FOR QUESTIONS? TO VOLUNTEER OR DONATE? EMAIL ABRAM JONES</p> <p><small>CAMPBRATTONGREEN2021@GMAIL.COM</small></p>	<p>SCHEDULE</p> <p>10:00 a.m. CAMP-STYLE EUCHARIST</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Noon</p> <p>BYOP BRING YOUR OWN PICNIC</p> <p>2:00 p.m. CAMP ACTIVITIES</p> <p>4:00 p.m. LIVE MUSIC STARTS</p> <p>5:30 p.m. BBQ DINNER PROVIDED</p> <p>8:00 p.m. CAMP PROPERTY CLOSES</p>
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Save the Date!
We will have an exciting event to kick-off our 6th graders' journey into EYC. August 6, 2021



Chunky River Fun

EYCsers and friends (above) had a fun time until bad weather interrupted us. Everyone was protected and made it home safe and sound — but it certainly was an experience no one will soon forget. It was a great day of bonding for EYC... we look forward to many more adventures in the months to come!

For Travelers

God, our heavenly Father, whose glory fills the whole creation, and whose presence we find wherever we go: Preserve those who travel; surround them with your loving care; protect them from every danger; and bring them in safety to their journey's end; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (BCP pg. 831)

Are You Prepared?

"About that time King Herod laid violent hands upon some who belonged to the church. He had James, the brother of John, killed with the sword." -From The Acts of the Apostles 12: 2

More than anything they wanted to be first. There is a good bit we know about James the Apostle whom the Church celebrates in July. James is the Patron of Spain, where he is known as Santiago. James and his brother were fisherman, like Andrew and Simon Peter, when Jesus called them to leave their father Zebedee to the boats and nets and follow him. Luke's gospel says that James and John were partners with Simon Peter in their fishing business.

James is also the patron saint of hatmakers, laborers, as well as equestrians, blacksmiths, tanners, veterinarians. He is usually depicted in art with his symbols —the conch shell, pilgrim hat and sword. James is on horseback making his way to the sea by road. This is the path known as the Camino Santiago. Pilgrims have trekked this path in northern Spain since the Middle Ages. This is something that is calling your priest one day too. Being first can be a wonderful thing. It is very human to desire to be first. We put in the work to be first. James, along with his brother John wanted just that, the first seat right next to Jesus. They wanted the credit, the affirmation and all the attention. And, in the Bible story, so did their momma. *"Declare that these two sons of mine will sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your kingdom (Matthew 20: 21)."*

But being first can also be annoying for everyone else. These personalities can be unpleasant, domineering and a little bit goes a long way. Jesus called the two brothers "Sons of thunder," perhaps because of their outspoken personalities. For whatever reason, James was one of Jesus' favorites, part of the trio of disciples (Peter, James and John) that Jesus chooses to be with him at significant moments like the transfiguration and the healing of Jairus' daughter we heard about last month. So it is ironic then, that James was first in line. James was the first of the Apostles to be executed. Here was the pushy one who wanted to be number one and it comes in a way he probably did not intend. He was first to lose his life for being loyal to Jesus of Nazareth. There is a resoluteness about James' personality that we can learn from. In the middle of another hot Mississippi summer, we are resilient Christians. We are called to follow in the way of

James not necessarily in a brash zealous way (the church has plenty of these personalities), but to live in the world as Christ first. Be first to love. Be first to lose our lives for being loyal to Jesus' way of love in the world.

It took that resilient, nothing standing in my way kind of energy and gifts James brought that helped the post Ascension community out of grief and despair and out into the world. In our time, it will take this same kind of James-like energy to move a post pandemic church out into the world too. But do not confuse Christian persistence with dominance. This resolve can hurt people if we are not careful. Yes, we the church can be pushy. Yes, we can be so determined to accomplish our goals and get competitive for the wrong reasons. Sometimes when we stand our ground, we miss the Gospel in front of our eyes.

When the disciples are in the upper room with Jesus, James tried to become the divine teachers' pet. "You do not know what you are asking," Jesus said. "Are you really prepared to go all in with this? Are you willing to commit all the way to the way of love over all other things? Are you willing to lose your very life for sake of Love in the world?" For Christians, at the heart of our baptism, the questions are the same as they were for James. "Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?" Paul answered this question with a yes in the Letter to Timothy. "For I am already being poured out like a libation, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have competed well; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith." James in the end, said yes to the love of God in Christ Jesus too. He was the John Hancock of the Apostles. He signed his signature for all the world to see, however dangerous, to show where his loyalty was. Now it is our turn. Are we prepared to go all the way? In the end, it all comes down to this.

"O gracious God, we remember before you today your servant and apostle James, first among the Twelve to suffer martyrdom for the Name of Jesus Christ; and we pray that you will pour out upon the leaders of your Church that spirit of self-denying service by which alone they may have true authority among your people; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen."

BCP

Austin

Trinity Dyslexia Education Center

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This is another in our series of articles highlighting the organizations supported by St. Paul's Outreach Ministry.)

By Lynne Taleff

Trinity Dyslexia Education Center, housed at Trinity Presbyterian Church, is an after-school, computer-based tutorial program that addresses the needs of individuals with Dyslexia and other learning disorders. With positive reinforcement and a nurturing environment, the Center helps people master fundamental learning skills, resulting in significant gains in grade level, equivalency, test scores, self-esteem and overall reading performance.

The \$2,000 given by St. Paul's is being used for Scholarship funds for students unable to pay. They do not turn anyone away based on ability to pay. For more information, go to Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=trinity%20dyslexia%20education%20center>



The combined St. Paul's/Church of the Mediator Vacation Bible School was a great success! We had a lot of bright and smiling faces around St. Paul's this week! Kids, youth and adults alike all had a wonderful time tie-dyeing, singing, acting, painting and eating together. Thank you to all of the wonderful volunteers that made it



Donate Online to St. Paul's

You can donate to St. Paul's Episcopal Church online via Online Giving through Abundant, which offers laptop, mobile and text options for giving.

Via our online giving, you can set up your monthly pledge as a recurring donation; and make donations to other areas, including plate offerings, mission and music, our Memorial Fund, the Organ Restoration Fund or the Building Fund. To find the link, please go to our website homepage at StPaulsMeridian.org.

Once you go to the webpage, it directs you through the process of setting up an account or giving as a guest. You can also download the Abundant mobile app, which is available in Google Play® and the Apple® App Store.

For a direct, quick way to give to St. Paul's, you can text "stpaulsmdn" to 73256.

As with any online donation platform, there are some fees associated with giving. To avoid fees, you can set up your donation via direct electronic transfer by adding your bank account and routing number to your account.

If you choose to pay by credit card, there is a fee. For example, if you give \$100, the fee is \$3 and St. Paul's will receive \$97. However, you have the option to donate your total chosen amount by increasing the donation to cover the fee. You will see this "offset fee" option on the site.

We Remember in our Prayers

Our Parish family: DJ Wells, Edgar Morrison, Jerry Greene, Jo Van Devender, Kay Milhorn, Lynn Waddle, Mary Dunn, Peggy Carrico, Rick Farr, Tadley, and Terry Ivy.

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

Extended family and friends: Alison Ulmer, Amanda Rainey, Anna Lauren Ulmer, Betty Harris, Bill Selman, Bob Hill, Brooke, Brooks Moore, Chance, Chuck Fishburn, Clancy, Cory Gaylord, David, Diane Dunn, Diane Honeycut, Edesser "Dess" Reid Ward, Rob & Aislinn Ward, Emily Chancellor, Frances, Frank Baker, Frank Barrett, Freddie Bea Watson, George Farr, Helen Valentine, Jada Dooley, James, Jane Wacaster, Jim Bateman, John, Josh, Katie, Ken Fisher, Kylie Temple, Lee Davis Thames, Lisa Primeaux, Lou Dubose, Mac Thigpen, Martha Mazingo, Mary Halliwell, Michelle Nelson, Mike Covert, Nell McMullen, Norman, Rick, Roger, Rosemary Kahlmus, Sandra Nicholas, Sandy Carrier, Steve Plier, Taylor & Trey, Tom Schram, Tony Sansone, Wanda Farr, Wanda Scott, Willie Spencer, Wilma Kangery and Zack Martin.

We pray for those who have died, especially: Robert Edwin "Trae" Arline III, son of Rob and Connie Arline; and Norma Huggins Veach.

We pray 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.

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

Birthdays & Anniversaries

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