

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

Treasurer's Report

June 30, 2019

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| <i>Total Revenue</i> | \$274,205.95 |
| <i>Total Expenses</i> | \$250,831.26 |
| <i>Surplus</i> | \$23,374.39 |

The Courage of Convictions

"For in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus." —Galatians 27-28

There is no telling how many of us would respond in the same situation. Hopefully, maybe not to that extreme, we would have courage when the time comes, courage to show love when hate is the prevailing voice. The letters and papers Jonathan left bear witness to the effect Selma had on him.

"The doctrine of the creeds, the enacted faith of the sacraments, were the essential preconditions of the experience itself. The faith with which I went to Selma has not changed: it has grown... I began to know in my bones and sinews that I had been truly baptized into the Lord's death and resurrection... with them, the blacks and whites, with all life, in him whose

Name is above all the names that the races and nations shout... We are indelibly and unspeakably one."

As we return to our schools and normative routine, I pray this August we might take courage; have strength in the face of pain or grief, and the ability to do what we know is right

In our house, we watch our share of musical theater, thanks to mom. In the musical "Newsies," inspired by the real-life Newsboys Strike of 1899 in New York City, the young men stand up for what they believe in. They are faced with confrontation with the police and the authority. To encourage his friends, one newsboy says "Courage does not erase our fear. Courage is when we face our fear."

The Christian call to speak God's mercy into spaces of injustice and oppression is one of the most difficult aspects of discipleship. We will all be presented, at one time or another, with a moment to act... or not act. None of us wants to be put in a place of confrontation but we are all responsible for building God's kingdom.

I have been thinking a great deal over the past months about how far I am willing to go as a prophetic witness. How much am I really, capable of acting as Christ's servant. I am certain you have thought that about from time to time. There is a strong voice I have heard and know all too well as a child of the south that says "Be situationally aware. Stay away from the places of tension."

In the hottest days of August 1965, people from around the country answered the call to go to Selma, Alabama, to support those who were denied equal voting rights. Jonathan Daniels was a second-year seminarian at Episcopal Divinity School when he and others came to Selma. He was murdered by a shotgun-wielding special county deputy while shielding a 17-year-old woman of color.

God only knows how Jonathan Daniels had the courage to act.



even though we're afraid. I don't want to be complacent in my time in this place. I want to be courageous when the moment comes; lift the lowly, condemn bullying in schools, and work for adequate educational opportunities for our young people. We are in this together. We are all responsible.

Austin

O God of justice and compassion, you put down the proud and mighty from their place, and lift up the poor and the afflicted: We give you thanks for your faithful witness Jonathan Myrick Daniels, who, in the midst of injustice and violence, risked and gave his life for another; and we pray that we, following his example, may make no peace with oppression; through Jesus Christ the just one, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.



With Head and Heart

This fall, our adult Sunday School class will explore the life of Howard Washington Thurman. Thurman was an African-American author, philosopher, theologian, educator and civil rights leader. As a prominent religious figure, he played a leading role in many social justice movements and organizations of the 20th century. Thurman's theology of radical nonviolence influenced and shaped a generation of civil rights activists, and he was a key mentor to leaders within the movement, including Martin Luther King, Jr. Thurman helped bridge some of the gaps that continue to divide us in faith and society.

Empty Nesters

Responding to numerous requests in our congregation for expanded fellowship and formation, St. Paul's will be offering an additional Sunday School class for those of our community who are experiencing an empty nest. This class will meet in the Parish Hall during the formation hour on Sundays. For more information, contact Fr. Austin.

Theology on Tap

Theology on Tap is a monthly gathering of St. Paul's members and guests where we will discuss theological topics especially those that are relevant to today, with something from the tap. Join us at 5:15 p.m. on the first Tuesday of the month beginning in September upstairs at Weidmann's. For more info, contact Fr. Austin.

Thank You, St. Paul's

The 44th Annual Mississippi Conference on Church Music and Liturgy ended with a glorious closing eucharist at St. Andrew's Cathedral in Jackson July 28. Jo and I have enjoyed a number of years at the conference, but this was one of the best ever. I would like to thank the parish for the opportunity to be a part of the musical and liturgical experience of our diocesan music conference and to represent St. Paul's each year. The time spent with other organist-choirmasters, singer and clergy is a rewarding experience. And just so you know — our conference is one of the finest anywhere! Musicians come from all over to be a part of this, even from Seattle. Thank you all for a wonderful musical week!

—David & Jo Benson



Blessing of the Backpacks & Briefcases

Sunday, August 11, during the 10:30 a.m. worship service, Father Austin will be offering a blessing for all of our students, teachers, support staff and their families. What a positive way to start to a new school year! In addition to having our supplies and our backpacks ready, we need to get our hearts and minds ready as well. 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!

Please bring a school supply to donate as there are many children who go without. Suggestions: markers, note book paper, pencils, erasers, folders and backpacks. Also, there are many kids without the means to purchase uniforms. St. Paul's will also be accepting pre-paid Visa cards or Walmart gifts cards to help out with this need. The cards will be given to the administrators to purchase uniforms for those children with the greatest need.



We rejoice in the birth of
**Robert Anderson Bussey born
July 2 in Jackson.**
Proud parents, Merry Grace
& Anderson Bussey;
grandparents are
Susan & Bob Coffin and
Linda & John Bussey.

The Re-Entry Services Fair is intended to assist people who have been convicted of felony crimes and are now re-entering society through either federal or state probation. The event includes a job fair as well as some other services intended to assist probationers to successfully re-enter society. They need help with donated clothing intended for use at work or job interviews — primarily ties, jackets, slacks/khakis and button-down shirts for men. Please bring donations to St. Paul's this week for pickup.

**THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI**

RE-ENTRY SERVICES FAIR







**Wednesday, August 14, 2019
1:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Velma Young Community Center
2400 16th Avenue
Meridian, MS 39301**

SERVICES PROVIDED:
Personal: Driver's License Information, Social Security Cards, Housing
Education: GED, technical training, college information
Legal: Child Support, Tenant Rights
Employment: Professional clothing available at no cost





We Remember in our Prayers

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

In our Senior Living Communities: Deannie 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, Bridget Mann, Brooke, Cathy Parker, Chelsie Abston, Cheryl Drennan, Cory Gaylord, Diane Dunn, Delroy Ming, Dorothy Rainer, Edesser "Dess" Reid Ward, Rob & Aislinn Ward, Frank Baker, Frank Barrett, Freddie Bea Watson, Gary Dawkins, George Ferguson, Hannah McNichol, Hannah McNichol, Helen Valentine, Hinsley Harper, Jada Dooley, James, John, Ken Fisher, Kim Lovette, Kylie Temple, Leigh Ann Key, Leslie Smith, Lou Dubose, Marilyn Mohr, Marvin Ellis, Mary Hallwell, Mary Ann Howell, Mary Irby, Michelle Nelson, Mike Stanton, Norman, 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.

For those who have died, especially Billy Hull and The Rev. Chuck Culpepper.

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. For our Rector Austin and his family. For our Deacon Betty.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

| | |
|---|---|
| Aug. 1Eve Morrison, Sarah Katherine Simmons | Aug. 17Bev Pringle, Sarah Woods |
| Aug.2 William Godwin | Aug. 18 Jim & Amy Cady, Rick & Sue Farr, Kathy Pigford |
| Aug. 3Terry Rush | Aug. 19 Austin & Tiffany McGehee |
| Aug. 4Bob & Kathy Pigford, Chad Tibbetts | Aug. 20 Billie Jean Drennan, Merry Jo Rea |
| Aug. 6Rick & Cheri Barry | Aug. 22Harold Noe |
| Aug. 7Adrian & Mardi Page, Addyson Sims | Aug. 23Addie Florey |
| Aug. 8David & Lauretta Hamilton | Aug. 24Monica Graham, Mike & Kay Reich |
| Aug.9Virginia Brimble, Gary & Carolyn Jones | Aug. 25 Joan Moore |
| Aug. 10Lauren Graham, Rose Mary Stump | Aug. 27Scotty Florey, Austin McGehee |
| Aug. 11 AJ Page | Aug. 29Tucker Dunn |
| Aug.13Susan Coffin, Julie Stump | |

| Services | AUGUST 4 | AUGUST 11 | AUGUST 18 | AUGUST 25 |
|-----------------|---|--|--|---|
| VESTRY COUNTERS | Brandon Dunn & Robby Dreyfus; Lock: Rick Barry | | | |
| 8 A.M. | | | | |
| CHALICE | Gloria Chancellor | John Carrier | Bob Covert | Anne Chalk |
| READER | Ingrid Price | Polly Covert | Lynne Taleff | Ingrid Price |
| USHER | Bob Coffin | Bob Covert | Linda Carrier | John Carrier |
| 10:30 A.M. | | | | |
| READER 1 | Jerome Kittrell | Rick Entrekin | Lloyd Gray | John Compton |
| READER 2 | Melissa Calcote | Sonya Carrier | Katie Simmons | Claire Hasselle |
| PRAYERS | Helen Abraham | Joan Moore | Bobbie Rea | Stacey Harwell |
| USHERS | Jim McGinnis Cindy McGinnis Rose Hudson Scott Hudson | Laura Holladay Clay Holladay Will Simmons Lisa Howell | Bobby Maddox Gary Jones Adrian Page Rob Calcote | Perrin Burchfield Chris Burchfield Michael Crowe Mary Lawrence Crowe |
| ACOLYTES | Elisabeth Scott Bond Wyatt Bond Lucy Simmons | Christopher Collis Gibson Hasselle Tucker Dunn | Cameron Burchfield Sellers Breaux Carlyle Breaux | Kattie Hasselle Olivia Lewis Britton Dunn |
| ALTAR GUILD | Bobbie Rea BJ Ray | Bobbie Rea BJ Ray | Linda Carrier Martha Barnett Kathy Pigford | Linda Carrier Martha Barnett Kathy Pigford |
| CHALICE | Rick Entrekin | Gary Jones | Kay Reich | Helen Abraham |

Exciting Kick-Off for EYC Planned

Each year, we like to get the EYC semester off to an exciting start, and this year is no exception. On Sunday, August 25, EYC is heading down to Trinity Episcopal in Hattiesburg. We will meet up with other youth from the Sowashee Convocation. Bishop Brian will be there also for a fun game of "Quiz the Bish!" The floor will be open for the youth ask the Bishop any questions they can come up with, as well as get to know him better. The

youth will also be electing their Youth Delegates for Annual Council on this day. This is a wonderful way to get our EYC year off to a strong start! All EYC'ers need to meet at the Mediator at 2 p.m. to take the bus to Hattiesburg. Pick up will be at the Mediator at 7:30 p.m.; we will call parents before leaving Hattiesburg.



EYC had a great time rafting the Ocoee River! Many thanks to everyone for your prayers and well wishes!

Acolyte Training Scheduled

Gracious God, the epitome of light and love: You call us to light the way for your people in a world of change and uncertainty. Grant to your acolytes reverent hearts, steady hands, and the will to persevere in service at your altar and at prayer. Bless and guide us by your wisdom and help us to spread your word throughout the world Through Jesus Christ our lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.

Did you know the ministry of serving as an acolyte goes back to at least the third century CE? These early acolytes had functions very similar to those of the modern day — they were to assist the bishop and clergy during liturgical services and help lead and define the tone of worship for the community.

Like today, these early acolytes gave strong witness to their Christian faith and were dedicated to their worship community. St. Paul's acolytes play a key role in our worship at every service. In order to keep this ministry strong, acolytes must periodically go through training. Our acolyte sponsors, along with Father Austin, will be leading a training session Sunday, Sept. 8. All current and incoming acolytes, and their parents, need to attend. Youth from 4th grade to 12th grade are invited and encouraged to participate in this ministry. Current and new acolytes must go through the training and, for current acolytes, this a great opportunity to brush up with the various duties. Acolytes will meet for lunch in the parish hall after the 10:30 a.m. worship service, and training in the nave will immediately follow lunch.

Diocesan Youth Events

There are so many offerings for St. Paul's youth hosted by the MS Diocese in addition to summer camp! Please take a moment and mark the following events on your family calendar. The friendships that are created while spending time out at Camp Bratton Green can last a lifetime. Your EYC'er has so many opportunities to form their faith, strengthen their spirituality and grow friendships with youth from all over the state throughout the school year. Please get in touch with Claire Hasselle with questions or for more information. There are scholarships available for every event and transportation is coordinated by Claire Hasselle.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN MISSISSIPPI DIOCESAN YOUTH EVENTS 2019-2020

JR. HIGH DOY GRADES 6-8 AT CAMP BRATTON-GREEN

September 20-22
March 27-29

RETREATS FULL
OF SPIRITUALITY,
FUN, GETTING
MESSY, AND JUST
PLAIN BEING
YOURSELF!

SR. HIGH DOY GRADES 9-12 AT CAMP BRATTON-GREEN

October 18-20
April 17-19

HAPPENING GRADES 10-12

#90 St. Peter's, Oxford
November 22-24
Staff Training November 1-3
#91 St. James', Jackson
March 6-8
Staff Training February 21-23

EXPLORE THE
CONNECTIONS
BETWEEN FAITH
AND THE
CHALLENGES OF
DAILY LIFE!

HAPPENING REUNION ALREADY ATTENDED HAPPENING

O-U Methodist, Oxford
November 22-24
St. Columb's, Ridgeland
March 6-8

CONVOCATION YOUTH EVENTS

Delta - August 11 - St. John's, Leland
Central - August 18 - St James', Jackson
Sowashee - August 25 - Trinity, Hattiesburg
Old River - September 8 - St. James', Port Gibson
Coast - September 29 - St. Mark's, Gulfport
Tombigbee - October 6 - All Saints', Tupelo
Northern - October 20 - St. Peter's, Oxford

MEET OTHER
EPISCOPAL YOUTH
IN YOUR AREA AND
ELECT YOUR
DELEGATE TO
COUNCIL!

INFO & REGISTRATION: DIOMSYOUTH.ORG
QUESTIONS? WROBINSON@DIOMS.ORG