

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

April 5 • 11:30 a.m. • Worship Committee Meeting

April 7 • Noon, Downtown Lenten Series, First Baptist Church

April 13 • No Parish meal or activities on Wednesday

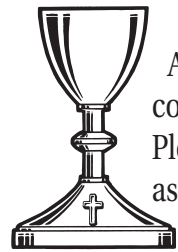
April 18-20 • Parish office closed for Easter respite

April 24 • 5-7 p.m. EYC at The Mediator

April 26 • 5:15 p.m. • Vestry Meeting

April 27 • 6 p.m. • First of the Great 50 Days • Mexican Night

EYC SAVE THE DATE!
Capture the Flag at The Mediator
April 24 • 5 - 7 p.m.
(Dinner provided.)



Back to the Common Cup

As of Sunday, March 27, Bishop Seage approved us communing from the common cup during communion. Please know that intinction is always an option, as well as full communion in bread only.

Returning Mission & Music Festival Needs Volunteers

The Mission and Music Festival is back in full swing this year Saturday, May 7, with fried fish plates, live music, frozen and baked goods, two raffles, and kid's activities! Proceeds again will go to CARE Lodge and L.O.V.E.'S. Kitchen.

Events will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at St. Paul's and we need volunteers and people to sell tickets.

Our own Scott McQuaig and The Tomcats will be playing during the event as well as Southern Drive. Everyone loved them at our first event and we are so happy they will be back again. And children's activities are back! Mallory Davis will be heading this up so contact her if you able to help.

For ticket sales, Missy Bailey and Ann Compton will be available after services on Sunday and at Wednesday night suppers with the very affordable fried fish plate tickets for you to help us sell. We need everyone to sell tickets or buy them to give to friends and coworkers.

We are raffling a fabulous trip to Chateau Elan in Georgia for two that includes Chateau accommodations

for three nights, a wine tour and tasting, culinary class, spa visit for one treatment of choice per person (\$250 value) and a \$200 gas card. Tickets are \$25 each and you can get them from Gloria Chancellor or Edie Simmons.

Also, Margaret Van Dyke is donating a beautiful handmade quilt that will be raffled and tickets are only \$10 each.

We need your donations of frozen and baked goods! This has been very popular and we always sell out. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the hall by the Parish Hall and you can contact Melissa Love (601.604.2163) or Sara Mason (601.604.2162) if you have questions. There will be designated freezers in the Parish Hall so you can start bringing your frozen foods.

We look forward to a fun day and need everyone's help selling and buying tickets, donating to the bake and frozen foods, and helping the day of the event. Look for sign-up sheets in the hallway.

Contact Bobbie Rea (601.917.6610) if you have questions.

Let the Sound Ring Out

*Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;
make known his deeds among the peoples.
Sing to him, sing praises to him,
and speak of all his marvelous works.
Glory in his holy Name;
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.
Psalm 105:1-3*

If you have felt a spark over the past few months in the life of St. Paul's, you are not alone. Our parish family is witnessing resurrection in these days, as once more the tomb is opened on Easter. If it has been a while, look again. We have a fresh and much needed spark that is real and contagious.

I certainly felt it myself at our recent vestry meeting where we voted to proceed with removing the carpet in our nave. There was overwhelming optimism in the room; a sense that we are ready and it is time for the change. I want to voice how we arrived here and speak to potential concerns I have heard since the brainstorming began a few years ago. Please know that this has been a long time coming. Our parish was built in the early 1900s at the beginning of the 20th century. Along with many other structures constructed in Gothic revival style, it was built without any carpet, microphones or speakers. The intent of worship buildings in this style was to draw our attention to the beautiful and unique wooden arches above — like the hull of a ship — signifying that God's people are in this together. In turn, the ceiling reminds us of the infinite nature of God and that we are part of an ancient wholly catholic and apostolic church.

Later, many parishes placed carpeting in the worship space for a number of reasons. There was a hope it would make the place feel warm and friendly. It was also placed in churches at a time when people put carpet everywhere, just like in homes. It was also thought carpet would help do something about the distracting echoes of children, heels of women's shoes walking, prayer books being dropped and more.

Now parishes struggle with acoustics and, sadly, carpet kills good acoustics all together. Hearing the Word of God proclaimed can sound more informative than sacred. Once the place is packed

with people, the sound dies in the sense that it doesn't move. This is not the sound of liturgy or "the work of the people."

Carpet is a challenge to the music, as singers struggle to overcome it. We can lose a sense of the sacred. Chants never sound right. Finally, even the greatest organ in the world cannot fight through the sound buffer carpet creates. Our wonderful organist has a Ferrari to drive, yet every time he turns it on, he can't shift into its highest gear.

One major concern I have heard about keeping carpet is about how carpeting helps to suppress noise from the congregation.



Please know that the noise from the shuffling feet of small children is usually not as prevalent as might be feared. What a wonderful sound! These are the sounds of a parish that is alive.

Hearing sounds will remind us that we have entered our most cherished and sacred place and that we are entering God's time. It just might encourage us to be mindful where we are. Those "snaps, crackles and pops" coming from no particular direction are part of the ambiance of church and this is part of creating the holy.

Finally, last summer we had a problem with fleas in our nave. Once they got into the carpet, yikes. That's when we got serious about considering removing the carpet for good. We formed a team made up of people who had insights about flooring and design. They received numerous quotes and presented their recommendations to the vestry.

Your vestry has taken action and approved their recommendations with unanimous consent. The carpet will be pulled up this summer, sometime between Pentecost and Labor Day. This will involve removing the pews and repairing our kneelers and will take approximately one month to complete. During this time, we will worship in the Parish Hall.

We don't know what the wood looks like underneath the carpet, except that there is fabulous old hard pine. We do know that the sound will change and it will take some adjusting and trust. We are part of an ancient Church and we hope to look, smell, feel and sound like it.

Austin



Special Agape Dinner Maundy Thursday

During Lent, we remember Jesus' final commandment to his disciples:

"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another." – John 13:34.

In this spirit, we invite you join us for Maundy Thursday Eucharist May 14 at St. Paul's where we recall the events of the Last Supper by experiencing the washing of the feet and Holy Communion. After the end of the service after the stripping of the altar, we invite everyone to the Parish Hall for an "Agape Meal," or "Love Feast." This is a Christian fellowship meal that recalls when Jesus said goodbye to his friends before his crucifixion.

We will eat traditional Mediterranean fare in the tradition of that last meal before the Crucifixion so long ago.

Please contact the parish office so we can get a head count. Childcare will be offered on this night.

Eastertide with Children

The time from the Great Easter Vigil through the Sunday celebration of Pentecost is known in the Church as the "Great Fifty Days." Hence, Easter is a season, not just one Sunday! I encourage you and your family to truly celebrate the hope that the season of Easter brings. As we did with the topic of LOVE, be on the lookout for a fresh Eastertide question on the bulletin board in the hallway. Slips of paper, thumb tacks and pens are on an adjacent table for your answers. I can't wait to hear your responses! —Mallory Davis

Summer Sessions Gearing Up at Bratton-Green

Camp Bratton-Green is a safe place where all are welcome. Our mission is to foster and nurture disciples of Christ through a Christian camp experience. A variety of activities, like arts and crafts, nature, canoeing, swimming, music, skits and much more, are a part of a unique theme at each session.

The first session start June 2 (Special for ages 40+); then Primary grades 1-2 June 9; Jr. High grades 7-9 June 13; Elementary grades 3-4 June 30; Middler grades 5-6 June 27; Sr. High grades 10-12 July 4; and Special for ages 39 and under July 11.

Sign up and session details can be found at graycenter.org.

Deacon's Corner

As we draw closer to Easter, I ask you to please consider joining our Pastoral Care Committee. Two or three more people would enable us to have four teams with more people would having the opportunity to participate in the loving care of our St. Paul's family. Please prayerfully consider this calling. If you would like more information about what is involved, give me a call at 940.642.5195 or email me at egraham0708@gmail.com.

We continue to have thought-provoking fables each Sunday in formation. Come see for yourself! No preparation is required. Join the Boomers and Friends at 9:20 a.m. in All Saint's Hall. — Faithfully, Elizabeth

Flowers at Easter

St. Paul's has a wonderful tradition of placing Easter lilies in the Nave in honor or memory of loved ones. Forms on which you can denote the person(s) you are honoring or memorializing will be available as an insert to the church bulletin beginning Sunday, April 3. The forms need to be received by the church no later than Monday, April 11, for names to be printed in the bulletin insert. Any excess monies collected will ensure the Altar is adorned throughout the year.

Calling all of St. Paul's kids and EYC!

Enter our

T-SHIRT DESIGN CONTEST!

The winning design will be selected by our mission and music festival committee. Please submit your designs to designated boxes in the parish hall by April 9th.

Design must incorporate St. Paul's name and include only 1 to 3 colors.

We Remember in our Prayers

For our Parish family: Don Pringle, DJ Wells, Edgar Morrison, Elaine Sanders, Harriet Simmons, Holly Morgan, Jerry Greene, Jo Van Devender, Margaret Van Dyke, Mary Dunn, Peggy Carrico, Tadley, Wanda Blount and Woddie Abraham.

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

Extended family and friends: Alison Ulmer, Amanda Rainey, Andi Kushner, Bill Selman, Billy Murphy, Brooke, Brooks Moore, Chuck Fishburn, Clancy, Cory Gaylord, Davey Simmons, David, Diane Dunn, Donna Polizzi, Edesser "Dess" Reid Ward, Rob & Aislinn Ward, Emily Chancellor, Frances, Francois DuPlessis, Frank Baker, Frank Barrett, Freddie Bea Watson, Gayle White Nelson, George Farr, Jada Dooley, James, Jan, Jane Wacaster, Jeana Bennett, Jeff, Jim Thompson, Jo Nell Brown, John, Josh, Katie, Ken Fisher, Kylie Temple, Leland Tew, Lisa Primeaux, Lou Dubose, Mac Thigpen, Martha Mazingo, Michelle Nelson, Mike Covert, Norman, Pat Carver, Patsy Harris, Randy Moore, Rick, Roger, Rosemary Kahlmus, Sandy Carrier, Steve Waddle, Taylor and Trey, The Rev. David Elliott, The Rev. Greg Proctor, Tom Schram, Tony Sansone, Wanda Farr, Wanda Scott, Willie Spencer, Wilma Kangery, Wyatt Moore and parents, and Zack Martin.

We pray for those who have died especially: Dr. William L. Hand, former parishioner; and Alan Tibbets, brother of Chad Tibbets.

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

Birthdays & Anniversaries

April 2David Hamilton, Robert Loeb	April 18Jennifer DuPont, Mardi Page
April 4Sarah Slade	April 19Connie Arline, Cheri Barry, Patsy Moran
April 5Rob Calcote, Brooks Holladay, Randy Pool, Brooke Winstead	April 20Terry & Sabina Ivy, Liam Tucker
April 6Gloria Chancellor	April 21Jean Anderson, Gil Graham Carmichael
April 8Scott & Kelly McQuaig, David Roberts	April 22Britton Dunn
April 9Jon Sanders Holladay	April 23Judge Little, Margaret Van Dyke
April 10Chris Burchfield, Jacqueline Hogan	April 24D. Jean Anderson, Nancy Davis
April 12Chris & Perrin Burchfield, Cara Ivy, Steven Ivy	April 25Claire Hanschke, Jerome & Lisa Kittrell, Suzie Pool
April 14Robin Hall, Rose Hudson	April 26Catherine Little
April 16Janet Chalk, Joane Mackey	April 28Libby Davis, Will Simmons, Kelly Watson
April 17Lindy Deen	April 29Sellers Breaux
	April 30Ann Elise Ray

Services	APRIL 3	APRIL 10	APRIL 17	APRIL 24
VESTRY COUNTERS	Rob Calcote & Tim Hanschke; Lock Jamie Smith			
8 A.M.	EASTER SUNDAY			
CHALICE	John Carrier	Bob Covert	Malcome Gee	John Carrier
READER	John Carrier	Polly Covert	Malcome Gee	John Carrier
USHER	John Carrier	Bob Covert	Malcome Gee	John Carrier
10:30 A.M.				
READER 1	Rick Barry	Jereome Kittrell	Lloyd Gray	Rob Calcote
READER 2	Bev Pringle	Lynn Waddle	Wayne Wuestefeld	Gary Jones
PRAYERS	Stacey Harwell	Kay Reich	Candy Ward	Joan Moore
USHERS	Susan Nowak Larry Nowak	Melissa Love Sara Mason	Clay Holladay Laura Holladay	Lisa Howell Stephen Wilson
ACOLYTES	Anne Revere Davis William Davis Simmons Davis	Britton Dunn Lucy Simmons Sellers Breaux	Olivia Lewis Carloine Lewis Wyatt Bond	Annie Martin Jack Martin Maggie Martin
ALTAR GUILD	BJ Ray Edie Simmons	BJ Ray Edie Simmons	Stacey Harwell Edie Simmons, Leslie Hiatt	Lee Loeb Bobbie Rea
CHALICE	Rob Calcote	Barbara Boone	Lynne Taleff	Rick Entrekin

2022 Holy Week Schedule at St. Paul's

Palm Sunday • April 10

8 & 10:30 a.m.

(Incense will be used at 10:30 a.m. in the Courtyard)

Maundy Thursday • April 14

5:30 p.m. • *Maundy Thursday Eucharist*

Washing of the Feet, Stripping of the Altar

After the Service • Agape Meal in Parish Hall (a communal meal of love shared among Christians)

Good Friday • April 15

12:05 p.m. • *Good Friday Service*

Veneration of the Cross, Communion from the Altar of Repose (reserved Sacrament)

Holy Saturday • April 16

7:30 p.m. • *The Great Vigil of Easter*

(Service begins after sunset and lasts an hour and a half) Kindling of the Paschal Fire in Memorial Garden, Sacred Story and Song, Baptism, First Eucharist of Easter

Easter Day • April 17

8:00 a.m. • *Holy Eucharist (no music)*

9:20 a.m. • *Breakfast in Parish Hall (no formation)*

Flowering of the Cross

10:30 a.m. • *Holy Eucharist (with music)*

Incense will be offered at this service

The Meaning Behind Our Holy Week Observances

The time from Palm Sunday to Easter is the very heart and soul of the Christian faith. This Sunday-to-Saturday is called “Holy Week,” since it is during those days that we enter the events that accomplished our salvation. Above all others, this is the time when Christians are to be most faithful to God through worship.

These services come to us from the practices of the earliest Christians. The liturgies form a sacred journey, by which we prepare ourselves for the greatest of all celebrations: Easter. These several services are actually one extended liturgy, and for full meaning we are invited to go from start to finish. We cannot truly know the surpassing joy of Easter without taking part in the shattering events that led to Christ's death and burial.

Holy Week can be a real “roller-coaster,” and can be emotionally draining (which is just how it should be!) It is a time when—mystically—we become part of what happened during those last fateful days of Jesus' earthly life. From that, we come to experience more meaningfully our sharing in His Resurrection.

PALM SUNDAY: APRIL 10 • 8:00 & 10:30 A.M.

The Church's preferred name for this day is “The Sunday of the Passion,” yet it is universally called Palm Sunday. Of course, it is both. The liturgy runs the course of those extremes: from the triumphant, clamorous pageantry of the Liturgy of the Palms to the numbing Gospel account of Jesus' Passion and Crucifixion.

For the procession with palms at 10:30 a.m., we open with “intentional chaos,” as noisy and messy as we can make it! This



service will begin in the Columbarium Courtyard. We conclude the liturgy with a silent procession out of the church—pondering what we have heard and what lies before us in the holy days ahead. (Rain location: Parish Hall) Note: The 8:00 a.m. service will begin in the nave as usual.

For our Children and Youth: Our youngest members will assist in the 10:30 processions, by strewing palms and purple-dyed garments as the procession passes and by carrying “Hosanna” banners made especially for the day's service. We'll begin gathering in the Courtyard just before Church begins.

MAUNDY THURSDAY: APRIL 14 • 5:30 P.M.

This is the night when Jesus gave the very first Holy Communion. But our remembrance of that event is not only “historically” oriented; it is essential for the personal Christian experience of the present. Jesus said to “do this” in order to bring Him into our midst.



This is also the night when we celebrate Jesus' giving of the great New Commandment: “Love one another as I have loved you.” The word “Maundy” derives from this Mandatum novum, or new mandate; and we learn this kind of love through the simple, yet moving (and quite stretching for many!) act of washing one another's feet.

The liturgy concludes quite dramatically with the ritual stripping of the altar and sanctuary area—a very graphic reminder of the stark and brutal reality of Jesus' suffering. Love Meal “Agape Meal” to follow the service.

The Meaning Behind Our Holy Week Observances

GOOD FRIDAY: APRIL 15 • 12:05 P.M.

This liturgy focuses on the Crucifixion through Scripture, music, and the prayers of the day. Worshipping in a “bare” church, we are led by the word into the mystery of Christ's suffering and death. Nonetheless, our focus on the Crucifixion is not to be separated from the Resurrection.



A unique time is realized as a large rough-hewn wooden cross is brought before the altar. We share in corporate devotions. This is a time of focused reverence for what the Cross means, and thanksgiving for what Jesus accomplished on His Cross for us.

Finally, since the Eucharist cannot be celebrated on Good Friday, we make our communion from the reserved Sacrament of the night before. Our next Eucharist will be that of the Great Vigil—the first Eucharist of Easter.

Note: The offering collected on Good Friday supports the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem, the Holy Land and the Middle East. Churches nationwide join together in this offering. Please consider making a designated gift this day.

EASTER EVE • GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER: APRIL 16 • 7:30 P.M.

This truly magnificent service is the very cornerstone of all Christian worship. Moreover, it lays strong claim to being the most beautiful of all liturgies. The Great Vigil is the most



ancient liturgy we have, dating from the early 100s. In its overt mysticism, the Vigil's ancient origin is very evident. It is said to be the only liturgy the Church actually offers, and all other services of worship simply participate (like subsets) in its single reality.

The liturgy is both the watch for and the first celebration of Christ's Resurrection. We are told in Scripture that Jesus was raised between sunset and sunrise Saturday/Sunday. This is why the Vigil should really be held after sundown but before Easter morning's light.

We begin outside in the Columbarium Courtyard, symbolically moving from the place of death to Easter life. A fire is kindled and blessed, from which the Paschal candle is lighted. The congregation processes solemnly and quietly into the dark church, and the people's handheld candles are lit from the Paschal candle. The ancient Easter hymn, the “Exsultet” (a most beautiful chant) is then sung by a clergy person or cantor. Several readings follow, recounting the history of God's saving presence with His people; we respond to each reading with a psalm or canticle. Then we move into Baptism (this is THE principal occasion of the year for baptisms!) Following, the lights of the Church are brought up with the shouts of Easter's resurrection message. The organ plays an extended fanfare and we move most joyfully into the First Eucharist of Easter. The service is an hour and a half and worth every bit!

For Everyone: Bring a handheld bell from home to ring (or keys to rattle) during the fanfare at the first shout of “Alleluia!”

Note: Incense will be used.



CELEBRATING EASTER • APRIL 17

8:00 A.M. • *HOLY EUCHARIST (no music or incense)*

9:30 A.M. • *EASTER FESTIVAL & FLOWERING OF THE CROSS*

The Parish Hall will be filled with many crafts and activities. Parents and grandparents are asked to participate in these offerings with their children or grandchildren. Please bring fresh cut flowers with sturdy stems from home to help adorn the Cross. This will provide a wonderful opportunity for family photos on patio or after Church in the Nave. Bring your camera! People of all ages are encouraged to come and enjoy this festive morning.

10:30 A.M. • *FESTIVAL CHORAL HOLY EUCHARIST*
(incense will be used)