

Letting Go is an Act of Faith

Beloved in Christ,

As my time as your rector ends this month, my heart is full of reflection. These eight years we've shared have been some of the most meaningful of my life. Together, we've walked through seasons of joy and grief, certainty and doubt. We've baptized and buried, prayed and sung, broken bread at the altar and around tables. We've laughed, wept, and held one another through it all, and in every moment, we've been Church together.

Some of those moments were extraordinary, including the long, painful stretch of the pandemic. Even then, in isolation and uncertainty, you showed me what it means to be faithful. You cared for one another, you found new ways to serve, and you kept the light of Christ shining brightly in our community. I will always remember that.

Now we find ourselves in another sacred season: the time of letting go. This is more than an administrative transition. It's a deeply spiritual moment. Saying goodbye, like everything we do in the Church, is an act of love. It's how we honor what has been and make room for what will be. It's how we bless one another as we turn the page.

Part of this sacred work involves setting clear boundaries. I will hand over the keys... the keys of every kind, not just the physical ones. After my departure, I will no longer serve as your priest. I will step away from all pastoral and liturgical roles including weddings, funerals, and baptisms, and I will not be part of your search process. That may feel tender, and it is. But these boundaries are not about indifference. They are about trust. Trust in the Spirit's work among you. Trust in your leaders. Trust in the one

who is being prepared, even now, to walk with you in the next season.

This letting go is not easy. But I believe it is holy. It is an act of faith for me, and for you. So, I ask you, as I ask it of myself: trust this process. Trust your Wardens, your Vestry, your Diocese, your Canon to the Ordinary and your Bishop. Trust that God is already at work in all of it.

How we say goodbye shapes how we say hello. If we part with grace and gratitude, we make space for the new to come not just with hope, but with joy. That's the kind of community you are. That's the kind of love we've shared. And that's the gift I hope we give each other in this season.

On Sunday, August 17, we'll gather for my final Eucharist, with farewell liturgy and reception. It will be the time to give thanks, to bless and be blessed, to entrust all that has been and all that will be into God's ever-loving hands. I hope you'll come not just to say goodbye, but to celebrate all that God has done in our midst.

Thank you, dear friends, for the privilege of serving among you. I leave with a full heart and deep gratitude. And I will carry you with me in prayer, in memory, and always in love.

*"The Lord shall preserve you from all evil;
it is God who shall keep you safe.*

*The Lord shall watch over your going out
and your coming in,
from this time forth for evermore."*

Psalm 121:7-8, BCP

Austin

—You are so loved, Austin+

Vacation Bible School 2025



This year's Vacation Bible School in conjunction with The Church of the Mediator was a huge success. And we must give a HUGE THANK YOU to everyone who had a part in making it so successful.

SAVE THESE DATES!

Oct. 5 • Blessing of the Pets

Oct. 19 • Parish Picnic

Aug. 17

**5:15 p.m. • Vestry Meeting
with the Rev. Canon Gary Meade**

Sept. 1

**Parish Office will be closed in observance
of the Labor Day Holiday**



*Farewell
Father Austin*

AUGUST 17

ONE SERVICE AT 10:30 A.M.
Followed by a brunch reception
in the Parish Hall as we say
our "farewells" to Father Austin
and his family.

St. Paul's
Episcopal Church

Christian Formation Sunday Mornings

+ Adult Formation
9:20 All Saints' Hall

+ Children's Chapel
During 10:30 Service

Wednesday Nights

+ Parish Supper
5:30

+ Youth & Adult
Bible Studies
6:00



WEDNESDAY
NIGHT SUPPER
RETURNS
AUGUST 13
5:30 PM



EYC KICKOFF!!!
Sunday, August 24
5:00-6:30
at The Mediator
Fellowship, games,
supper and More!
All kids from grades 6th -12th are
invited! Bring a friend!

Blessing
of the
Backpacks

Sunday
August 3
10:30 Service

Students of all ages and Teachers may bring their
backpacks to be blessed during the service.

We Remember in our Prayers

For our Parish family: Amy Cady, Ben Avara, Bill Simmons, Chip Harwell, David Hamilton, DJ Wells, Eve Morrison, Jim Miller, Judie Jones, Margaret Van Dyke, Patrick Leach, Patsy Moran, Peggy Carrico, Tee and Wanda Blount.

In our senior living communities: Lora Jones Mary Weems and Susan Hamilton.

Extended family and friends: Alisha Crowell, Amanda Lockley, Ashley Heblon-Lee, Betty Harris, Betty Perry, Bill Selman, Billy Campbell, Bobby Alexander, Brooke, Carmen Alexander, Catherine Crews, Charlotte Chaney, Christy Covert, Cory Gaylord, Danny Mackey, Davey Simmons, David, David Newell, Diane Dunn, Diane Wells, Donna Polizzi, Emily Rush, Evie Warden, Francois DuPlessis, Frances Leach, Frank Baker, Frank Barrett, Fredrica Harris-Thompsett, Gail Richardson, Glenn Taylor, Gloria Moore, Greg McMurray, James, Jan, Jeana Bennett, Jennifer Abraham, Jim Thompson, Jo Nell Brown, Joe Roberts, John Friar, Kathy Luke, Katie McDaniel, Ken Fisher, Kevin Williams, Kylie Temple, Larry Houchins, Leigh Ziller, Linda Davidson, Linda Perry, Liz Grimes, Lowel Williamson, Mark McCoayto, Martha Mazingo, Mason, Matt White, Megan Thomas, Michelle Nelson, Neil Sanford, Noah White, Norman, Pat Carver, Phyllis Campbell, Ralph Abraham, Richard Archibald, Rita Pegues, Ronnie Miller, Sandy Carrier, Scott Richardson, Susan Nichols, Taylor Wright, The Thorne Family, Tom Blackledge, Tom Schram, Virginia Dearman, Wanda Scott and Zack Martin.

We pray for those who have died especially: Nell Williams, mother of Sylvia Dreyfus; John Michael McDonald Sr., father of John Michael McDonald Jr.; and Rick Howe.

We pray for those serving in the Armed forces, for all who serve overseas and their families, especially Andrew Behm, Shum Benson, Cody Blackwell, Connor Covert, Graham Ford, Luke Graham, Zack Hendericks and DJ Robinson.

We pray for our Bishop Dorothy, for our Rector Austin and his family and our Curate Katie.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Aug. 1	Eve Morrison, Sarah Katherine Simmons	Aug. 13	Susan Coffin
Aug. 4	Bob & Kathy Pigford, Eden Polson, Chad Tibbetts	Aug. 17	Bev Pringle, Sarah Woods
Aug. 6	Ella Kate Gamble	Aug. 18	Jim & Amy Cady, Kathy Pigford
Aug. 7	Adrian & Mardi Page, Scott Ray, Addyson Sims, Jamie Smith	Aug. 19	Austin & Tiffany McGehee
Aug. 8	David & Lauretta Hamilton	Aug. 20	Merry Jo Rea
Aug. 9	Virginia Brimble, Gary & Carolyn Jones	Aug. 21	Landon Johnson
Aug. 10	Sara & Gordon Mason, Lauren Graham McHenry, Rose Mary Stump	Aug. 22	Harold Noe
Aug. 11	A J Page	Aug. 23	Addie Florey
		Aug. 24	Monica Graham
		Aug. 25	Joan Moore
		Aug. 27	Scotty Florey, Austin McGehee
		Aug. 29	Tucker Dunn

Services	AUG. 3	AUG. 10	AUG. 17	AUG. 24
VESTRY COUNTERS	Patrick Lewis & Edie Simmons (all month)			
8 A.M.	ONE SERVICE 10:30S			
CHALICE	Bob Covert	John Carrier		John Carrier
READER	Polly Covert	John Carrier		John Carrier
10:30 A.M.				
READER 1	Jerome Kittrell	Mallory Davis	Gary Jones	Katie Simmons
READER 2	Rick Entrekin	Melissa Calcote	Marty McIntyre	Geoff McIntyre
PRAYERS	Helen Abraham	Bobbie Rea	Joan Moore	Candy Ward
USHERS	Chris Burchfield	Lisa Howell	Mallory Davis	Judge Little
	Perrin Burchfield	Lauretta Hamilton	Reid Davis	Catherine Little
ALTAR GUILD	Robbie Rea	Bobbie Rea	Candy Ward	Candy Ward
	Melissa Calcote	Melissa Calcote	Edie Simmons	Edie Simmons
CHALICE	Rick Entrekin	Barbara Boone	John Carrier	Gloria Chancellor