

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

Office closed Sept. 3 In observance of Labor Day Holiday

Save the Date: October 14 — Our bishop, The Rt. Rev. Brian Seage, will preside at St. Paul's for worship and the rites of baptism, confirmation and reaffirmation.

Inquirer's Classes Set

St. Paul's will offer a confirmation class for adults and teenagers who desire to make a public commitment to Jesus Christ Sunday, October 14, in front of the bishop. We will meet throughout September on each Wednesday — September 5, 12, 19 and 26 — after our parish dinner. We will discuss questions on the Book of Common Prayer, Anglicanism, living a sacramental life, spirituality and church polity. Anyone interested or curious in confirmation should make this desire known to Fr. Austin.

Help with Honduras Medical Mission for as Little as a \$1

The Honduras Medical Mission team has an opportunity for parishioners across the diocese to directly assist with the mission. Over the past few years, the team has developed a more affordable and sensible "family pack" approach for medical needs for routine ailments. The approach is to create standardized packages of over the counter remedies to give to every family unit coming through the medical clinic. To assist the team, we are asking members of each parish visit their local Dollar Tree and purchase the exact \$1 items listed below. Due to shipping and transport constraints, only the items below can be accepted. Or you may make monetary donations to the Deacon's Discretionary Fund earmarked for Honduras Medical Mission and we will shop Dollar Tree online for the below items:

The shopping list: Antifungal Cream (1.25 oz) • Triple Antibiotic Cream (.33 oz) • Hydrocortisone Cream (1 oz).



A table will be set up in the Parish Hall for donations. Items must be received by Monday, October 15.

The Vestry reports the following from their August meeting:

- Larry Nowak reported for Marcia Via on the Activities Committee. The program year is kicking into high gear and we are excited about the opportunities for fellowship, worship, learning and fun. There is a sign-up list for servers on Wednesday Suppers in the kitchen. Please exercise your stewardship by helping with this ministry. Martha Barnett is planning the brunch for Bishop Seage's visit October 14. She will need volunteers to help with serving — another stewardship opportunity
- The Outreach and Risk Management Committee has been formed and held their first meeting. More to come!
- Wayne Wuestefeld reminded us that stewardship is year-round and not just one season, requiring us to rethink our priorities in life. He and his committee are preparing the annual stewardship campaign. Stay tuned!
- The payment status for the restoration of the organ was discussed, with various ideas for fund raisers to pay down the \$230,000 loan. The faster we can pay the loan down, the less we will spend on interest.
- Rick Entrekin is reviewing insurance coverage on all church buildings and will make a recommendation after he completes his findings.

What Treasures Have We Stored?

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (v 19)

Dear friends in Christ,

Do you recognize the verse from above? I say a condensed version of this nearly every week. It comes from the sixth chapter of the Gospel according to Matthew and speaks to our treasure of St. Paul's. The treasures of all types; the gift that is each of us, made in God's likeness and begging to be shared.

We enter our 13th month together with Labor Day among us. I cannot think of a better way to celebrate a year of thanksgiving with you than considering the treasures we are storing up together. This verse is taken from the readings, we call them "Propers," in our Prayer Book used for Labor Day. Although I do admit that I have never witnessed nor ever expect to experience a Labor Day service. This would mean calling you back into church, not only on a Monday, but also during the summer's last three-day weekend.

Still, it's always worth reflecting on our work together. It is amazing to think of what we have already accomplished and what might be ahead. Think of the treasures we can name — the breaking of bread together, the baptisms, the celebrations of life in all forms. Also, I wonder how many treasures we have stored up in heaven that we cannot yet name; known only to God.

In celebrating one year at St. Paul's, I have been asked numerous questions such as "Are we where you hoped we would be in a year?" or "What has been your greatest surprise of St. Paul's?" When I met with our Bishop last week for my annual review, two questions stood out the most. "What has been the most difficult adjustment for you in your first year as a rector?" and my personal favorite, "How's your family doing?"

Some of these questions call for a much longer newsletter article from your rector and may call for a good conversation over coffee or tea, but it is the last question that stands out for me. "How is the family?" Yes, our bishop did mean my immediate family, the McGehee's, but I found myself considering this question as more of a both/and. How are the McGehees and the St. Paul's Family doing? Great question — glad you asked.

Nicknames are already happening in our house and if you were to ask me about my boys, I call them *bafana bafana*, a Zulu word that means "my boys, my boys." This is the nickname of the South African national soccer team created after apartheid that speaks to humanity towards one another. At a much more philosophical level, it is "the belief in a universal bond of sharing that connects all humanity."

And that is our family, both my boys and our parish family bonded by the Holy Spirit. We work to care and ensure a better world for one another. My prayer for my boys, my spouse and for all of us is that we continue to be a people shining with God's love, who work not merely for ourselves but for one another, and who forever labor for the common good. Every day, *we* are storing up for one another treasures by living godly lives. And there, where our treasures are, "our hearts will be also."

Faithfully,

"Almighty God, you have so linked our lives one with another that all we do affects, for good or ill, all other lives: So guide us in the work we do, that we may do it not for self alone, but for the common good; and, as we seek a proper return for our own labor, make us mindful of the rightful aspirations of other workers, and arouse our concern for those who are out of work; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen." (Collect for Labor Day BCP 261)

Journey with Us as Middlers

By Jean Merrell

St. Paul's is pleased to offer many opportunities for education and Bible study. One of our classes — called Middlers — is open to folks who are 30- to 50-years-old, single or married. We like to think Middlers are journeying in the middle of the road of life, sandwiched between generations, facing unique challenges and amazing opportunities in a rapidly changing and often confusing world. We care and support each other as brothers and sisters in Christ in a safe and loving community.

Faith Lens Curriculum

This weekly Bible study connects current events with the Bible, faith and everyday life. A short article and Bible readings are emailed each week. On Sunday, we discuss our reflections and how to live out our Christian ethics in today's world. The study materials are published by the Evangelical Lutheran Church so please register at blogs.elca.org/faithlens to receive the lesson directly from Faith Lens.

Laughter and Play

Middler's need to play more and the opportunities for whole group social activities will be expanded this year! We have gatherings for adults-only, as well as, gatherings that include children and dogs. Child care for the kid-friendly events will be at St Paul's or a member's home.

Service

The Middler's are involved in our community and sponsor the Flat Jesus

booth at the annual Allie Cat Run. This was a fun and successful project last year and we are looking forward to this again. We also participate in the seasonal food drive for L.O.V.E.'S Kitchen. Plans are under way to expand service to St Paul's and the greater community.

As a group, Middlers are on a journey of sharing confidence in God's grace; liberated by faith to embrace the whole person — imperfect, complex, inconsistent, questioning. Come as you are.

Companions On The Journey

We are companions on the journey
 Breaking break and sharing life
 And in the love we bear is the hope we share
 For we believe in the love of our God

No longer strangers to each other
 No longer strangers in God's house
 We are fed and we are nourished by the strength of those who care

We have gifted with each other
 And we are called by the work of the Lord
 To act with justice, to love tenderly
 And to walk humbly with our God

—Carey Landry — 1985

Gearing Up for Fall Activities

Wednesday evenings will be full of good things for Parish life:

- Closely Knit Prayer Shawl Ministry at 4 p.m.
- Canterbury Choir at 5 p.m.
- Evensong in Chapel at 5:30 p.m.
- Parish Supper at 6 p.m.
- Chancel Choir meets following Parish supper
- Confirmation/Inquirers class will meet following Parish Supper 9/5 through 10/10



Our annual parish picnic is set for Sept. 23, 10:30 a.m., at Collinsville Beach Point, Okatibbee Lake. This is the area closest to the playground and restrooms. A festive service with Eucharist will be held, followed by a potluck picnic lunch. Bring some chairs, your family, friends, your best dish and share in this fun morning!

Wednesday night Parish suppers resume September 5 at 6 p.m.:

Don't miss this time of fellowship and great food! Here's the line-up for September:

- **September 5** - Roast beef, mashed potatoes, green beans, bread, cobbler
- **September 12** - Chicken pot pie, green salad with trimmings, strawberry shortcake
- **September 19** - Lasagna, (vegetable or meat) green salad with trimmings, rolls, chocolate or lemon pie
- **September 26** - Pulled pork, baked beans, potato salad, dump cake
- **Children's table** (elementary or under; each Wednesday) - Chicken nuggets, mac and cheese, veggies/dip or fruit

Reservations should be made by 1 p.m. on Monday prior to the Wednesday meal

Forms will be available in the Sunday bulletin, or you may contact Marcia Via at 601.482.4673.

Prices for the suppers are: \$7 for adults and teens; \$5 for elementary and under; \$24 for a family of four or more. Leftovers may be purchased at the adult price, but please provide your own takeout container.

We Remember in our Prayers

Our Parish family: Annie Melton, Dave Russell, Dixie Pigford, DJ Wells, Edgar Morrison, Joe White, Lee Graham, Mary Scott, Nancy Arrington, Norma Veach, Peggy Carrico, Robbie Morrison, Steve, Terry Rush and William Godwin.

Those in our Senior Living Communities: Deannie Carmichael, Elise Leach, Janet Sinyard, Joyce Welsh, Linda James, Lora Jones and Nita Neville.

Extended family and friends: Agnes Lewis, Alice Miller, Ally Gressett, Alixus Hearn, Amanda Lockey, Anna Meyers, Barbara Johnston, Barbaree Heaster, Baston Geiger, Bill Selman, Barbara Hull, Billy Hull, Bob Jarrett, Brenda Hiatt, Bridget Mann, Cathy Parker, Caroline Ingraham, Cheryl Drennan, Claudia McKibben, Cory Gaylord, Dot Harrington, Edesser "Dess" Reid Ward, Rob & Aislinn Ward, Frank Baker, Frank Barrett, Freddie Bea Watson, Helen Valentine, Hulon Dearman, Jada Dooley, Josephine Hodges, Ken Fisher, Kylie Temple, Leslie Smith, Lou Dubose, Marilyn Mohr, Mary Hallwell, Mary Irby, Michael Dial, Michelle Nelson, Nell Williams, Nichodemus Ajak, Patricia Bonner, Philip Walk, Pud Merrell, Robert Kirkland, Rick Howe, Rod Hartzog, Ronald Keith Franks, Sally Gercens, Scott Pringle, Hannah Thompson, Seth Thompson, Tom Cook, Tom Schram and Wilfe Manning.

For those who have died, especially Laura Bess Greer Clapp, sister of Tommy Greer.

For those serving in the Armed Forces, for all who serve overseas and their families, especially Shum Benson, Connor Covert, Graham Ford, Andrew Behm, Nick Mullen, Christopher Stump, Brandon States and The 155th Combat Engineers.

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

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Sept. 1.....Garry Lawyer	Sept. 20..... Amy Cady, John Carrier II,
Sept. 2.....Debby Cress, Hardy Graham Jr., Lynne Taleff	Hardy & Monica Graham Jr., Holly Morgan
Sept. 4.....Judy Wood	Sept. 21..... Dixie Tibbetts
Sept. 7..... Rick Hasselle, Lee Loeb	Sept. 22.....Elise Leach
Sept. 9.....Linda Carrier	Sept. 23..... Helen Abraham, Melissa Love
Sept. 11..... Ruthy Vinson	Sept. 24.....Gina Dunn
Sept. 14.....Van Gower, Tom & Kay Milhorn	Sept. 25..... Poo & Gloria Chancellor, Graham & Joey Martin, Stacey Shirland
Sept. 17..... Sarah Wilson	Sept. 26..... Ned McCormick, Marcia Via
Sept. 19..... Maggie Martin, David Ray	

Services	SEPT. 2	SPET. 9	SEPT. 16	SEPT. 23
VESTRY COUNTERS	Eugene Perry & Sally Gray; Lock/Page Sikes			
8 A.M.				
CHALICE	Anne Chalk	Lindy Deen	Bob Coffin	Lynne Taleff
READER	Ingrid Price	Anne Chalk	John Carrier	Margaret Van Dyke
USHER	Bob Coffin	John Carrier	Linda Carrier	Anne Chalk
10:30 A.M.				
READER 1	Jo Benson	Rick Entrekkin	Jerome Kittrell	Lloyd Gray
READER 2	Rob Calcote	Catherine Little	Melissa Calcote	Sonya Carrier
PRAYERS	Candy Ward	Helen Abraham	Joan Moore	Bobbie Rea
USHERS	Susan Nowak	Will Simmons	Albree Florey	Rick Barry
	Larry Nowak	Adrian Page	Scotty Florey	Cheri Barry
	Jim Miller	Lisa Howell	Lauretta Hamilton	Laura Holladay
	Marsha Miller	Chris Burchfield	Michael Kerekes	Clay Holladay
ACOLYTES	William Godwin	Anna Katherine Carrier	Arlyn Grace Sanders	Cate Simmons
	Christopher Collis	Hardin Hiatt	Shep Sanders	Cameron Burchfield
		Sellers Breaux	Autumn Shirland	Lucy Simmons
ALTAR GUILD	Marilyn Greene	Marilyn Greene	Lindy Deen	Lindy Deen
	Candy Ward	Candy Ward	Bob Deen	Bob Deen
	Cheri Barry	Cheri Barry	BJ Ray	BJ Ray
CHALICE	Gary Jones	William Godwin	Kay Reich	Helen Abraham



We rejoice in the birth of Lucas James Lake born August 10 in Little Rock, Arkansas. Parents are Elizabeth & Robert Lake; and grandparents Adrian & Mardi Page plus Uncle AJ.