

Lent — We, Us, Our

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

Feb. 9 • Worship Committee Meeting • 11:30 a.m.

Feb. 11 • Vestry Retreat • 9 a.m. • The Boon Farm

Feb. 18 • Memorial Service • For John Arthur Beeson,
brother of Polly Covert

Feb. 20 • Office closed • Presidents' Day

Feb. 22 • No Wednesday Night Supper on Ash Wednesday

Feb. 28 • Vestry Meeting • 5:15 p.m.

Join us for Women's Bible Study, Tuesday's at noon,
starting Feb 7. Bring your lunch and enjoy
a time of fellowship and study together.



February 22, 2023

Ash
Wednesday

12:05 p.m. Service • No Music
5:30 p.m. Service • With Music
(No Wednesday Night Supper)



IT'S TIME TO CELEBRATE
**SHROVE
TUESDAY**

JOIN US FOR A SHROVE
TUESDAY CELEBRATION WITH A
PARADE, PANCAKES, BACON
(*PREPARED BY EYC!) AND
FELLOWSHIP

TUESDAY • FEBRUARY 21ST
DINNER AT 6
PARADE AND BURYING OF THE
ALLELUIAS FOLLOWING DINNER

We rejoice in the marriage of
Sarah Page Sikes &
Tyler Michael Ayres
at St. Paul's New Year's Eve,
December 31.

Wednesday Night Suppers — Due to increased costs, prices
are now \$10 for adults, \$8 for children and \$30 for a family
of four or more. It's still a great bargain with worship and
fellowship thrown in for free! If you are coming, please fill
out the form found in the Sunday bulletin or call the Parish
Office by 1 p.m. on the Monday before the Wednesday if you
plan to attend to ensure we have enough food for everyone.

Lent is a "season of penitence and fasting... Thereby, the whole congregation was put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Savior, and of the need which all Christians continually have to renew their repentance and faith." (BCP pg. 265)

Grace and peace to you all in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

I have heard from an increasing number of you who I have said to me in some form, "I hate Lent." Even though it is intended to prepare Christ's Body for Easter, I think I understand how you feel. After all, this time last year (after the pandemic) it felt like an extended fast from community and a constant reminder of mortality. I had a hard time alongside you entering a season of penitence and fasting.

The season is again upon us and the feeling hasn't changed in me, and I imagine I am not the only one. Perhaps then, the focus for Lent should be bigger. Certainly, it is bigger than ourselves. There is a communal nature of Lent, even though we all fall back into the "What am I giving up for Lent?" mentality.

It hope it brings you as much peace as it does me that confession, repentance, and examination is a collective task:

"**We** have been deaf to your call to serve, as Christ served us. **We** have not been true to the mind of Christ. **We** have grieved your Holy Spirit. Have mercy on us, Lord...

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and **our** dishonesty in daily life and work, **we** confess to you, Lord...

For **our** waste and pollution of your creation, and **our** lack of concern for those who come after us, accept **our** repentance, Lord. (BCP pg. 267)"

The Litany of Penitence goes on with **we, us** and **our**. There isn't a single one line referring to the individual.

And, in scripture, prophets call for the redemption of Israel and John the Baptist call for the people to repent. Jesus, in the Garden of Gethsemane and dying on the cross, laments for all of us "Father forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

Yet in the Bible belt, there is a heavy emphasis on the believer's individual relationship with God. During Lent, it has been my overwhelming experience that this is even more emphasized. It is my individual responsibility to improve my relationship with God.

I wonder if we tend to focus on the individual because it is far easier, at least it is for me. When I read about all the demons of our society and world, I am reminded of all the hardest work of the human family nobody wants to name (including your priest). Climate change, the exploitation of others, indifference to injustice, Lent names these things and they are overwhelming. Yet when I turn the attention on myself it seems easier to get my arms around.

I hope and pray that for St. Paul's, this Lent is anything but private. I hope that we are reminded that God who is active in the world is active through us and that our focus is on how we might care for one another better as we prepare for Easter. As the Litany for Penitence concludes

*"Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,
That we may show forth your glory in the world."*

I wonder what might happen if God's people write these words on our hearts as a Lenten discipline. I hope and pray that this will be a communal Lent, a chance for renewal and refreshment in our relationship with our loving God as well as making room for renewed relationships with one another.

Austin T

Fundraising and Fun Times

This summer, ten of St. Paul's youth will travel to Cody, WY, for a pilgrimage. This group consists of members of EYC who have been confirmed and are in 8th - 12th grades. Participating in the pilgrimage are: Sellers Breaux, Cameron Burchfield, Ann Revere Davis, Britton Dunn, Tucker Dunn, Hardin Hiatt, Hayes Lancaster, Annie Martin, Jack Martin and Lucy Simmons.

While in Cody, they will stay at Thomas the Apostle Retreat Center, an episcopal retreat that's located on the edge of Yellowstone National Park. During the week, they will take part in acts of service, hikes, white water rafting and plenty of quiet time for growth and reflection. Check out this link to learn more about the retreat center — www.tacwy.org.

We raised funds for the pilgrimage by holding a drawdown during at the Church of the Mediator/St. Paul-hosted an Epiphany. That fundraiser that raised more than \$13,000 to help fund our pilgrims on their trip. Thanks to everyone who participated!



Our three "kings" for the Epiphany Drawdown. From left to right - Lucy VanVeckhoven, Sellers Breaux and Ann Revere Davis.

Thanks to all our members who donated items for the Silent Auction at the Epiphany Drawdown. It raised more than \$1,000, and everyone had so much fun bidding on items. Items were donated by:

- Elizabeth Scott Bond
- Margaret Van Dyke
- Generations Fine Paper & Gifts
- Loeb's
- Meridian Little Theatre
- Threefoot Brewing



Silent Auction Success! These little girls fought hard for one of Elizabeth Scott Bond's paintings featured in the silent auction at the Epiphany Drawdown. From left, Maggie Martin, Caroline Lewis and Simmons Davis.

New Vestry Elected

Congratulations to our newly elected Junior Warden, Stephen Wilson, and Vestry Members Gloria Chancellor, John Carrier and Marty McIntyre.

We give thanks and appreciation to our outgoing Vestry Members, Tim Hanschke, Michelle Lewis and Katie Simmons for their commitment, faithfulness and passionate voices in service to St. Paul's. And also for the delicious meal they prepared and served following the Parish Meeting January 22.

A Fresh Look at Psalms

Our formation classes will be taking a fresh look at Psalms with *Open and Unafraid* by W. David O. Taylor.



The book of Psalms has been central to God's people for millennia, across all walks of life and cultural contexts.

Open and Unafraid shows us how to read the psalms in a fresh, life-giving way, and so access the bottomless resources for life that they provide.



Pictured at Weidmann's, clockwise from bottom left: Fr. Austin McGehee, John Grace, Judy Wiggins, Chuck Rea (Sr. Warden), Polly Covert, Joane Mackey, Mallory Davis, Kim Gianakos (newsletter guru) and David Benson.

Staff Says "Thank You!"

Thank you! We are most appreciative to the parish for all the remembrances offered at Christmas and year's end. Thank you for your generosity and thoughtfulness. From Christmas bonuses to treats and gifts to goodies, we are moved by your kindness especially during this past holiday season.

—David, Mallory, Joane, Judy, John, Brenda, Denise, Rita and Fr. Austin

We Remember in our Prayers

For our Parish family: Andrea Carver, Cliff Odom, Don Pringle, DJ Wells, Ducky McCormick Elliott Street, Eve Morrison, Jerry Greene, Jo Van Devender, Larry Nowak, Margaret Van Dyke, Mary Dunn, Peggy Carrico, Tadley, Wanda Blount, Woodie Abraham, Jean Merrell and Merrel White.

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

Extended family and friends: Adele Whitlock, Anne Rice Wooley, Betty Perry, Bill Selman, Billy Murphy, Blair Ammon, Brooke, Charlotte Chaney, Clancy, Cory Gaylord, Davey Simmons, David, David & Gina Brown, Dee Dee Peoples, Diane Dunn, Donna Polizzi, Emily Mackey, Emily Rush, Evie Warden, Francois DuPlessis, Frances, Frank Baker, Frank Barrett, Freddie Bea Watson, George Farr, Hays Monsour, Henry Beard, Jada Dooley, James, Jan, Jeana Bennett, Jo Nell Brown, Jim Thompson, John, John Dean, Ken Fisher, Kennedy Grice, Kris Gianakos, Kylie Temple, Leland Tew, Lisa Primeaux, Lou Dubose, Martha Hudson, Martha Mazingo, Michael, Michelle Nelson, Mike Covert, Mize, Nick, Norman, Pat Carver, Poky Murphy, Randy Moore, Richard Graham, Rick, Roger, Sandy Carrier, Stefanie Lynn Roman, Thomas Little, Tom Schram, Tony Sansone, Trent Hartzog, Wanda Farr, Wanda Scott, Willie Spencer and Zack Martin.

We pray for those who have died especially: Virginia Boardman, and Chuck Fishburn, brother-in-law of Linda Carrier.

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, Nick Mullen, DJ Robinson and Zack Thomas.

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

Birthdays & Anniversaries

| | |
|---|---|
| Feb .2Robert Bailey | Feb. 18Rosilyn Holladay, Rob Ward |
| Feb. 3Bobbie Rea | Feb. 20Adrian Page |
| Feb. 5Ann Marie Fitzgerald | Feb. 21Woodie Abraham, Chip Harwell, Meredith Roberts |
| Feb. 6Gary Jones, Lucy Simmons | Feb. 22Dawson Eason, Bob Pigford |
| Feb. 8Lilly Graham | Feb. 23Andrea Carver, Marty McIntyre |
| Feb. 9Jerry Greene | Feb. 24Cyndy Howarth, Martha Young |
| Feb. 13Gary Boone, Cate Simmons | Feb. 28Tile Howell |
| Feb. 14Rob & Connie Arline, Lillian Green, Stephen & Rebecca Wilson | |

Services

| | FEB. 5 | FEB. 12 | FEB. 19 | FEB. 26 |
|------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|------------------|----------------|
| VESTRY COUNTERS | | | | |
| 8 A.M. | | | | |
| CHALICE | Bob Covert | Malcom Gee | John Carrier | Bob Covert |
| READER | Polly Covert | Malcom Gee | John Carrier | Polly Covert |
| USHER | Bob Covert | Malcom Gee | John Carrier | Bob Covert |
| 10:30 A.M. | | | | |
| READER 1 | Jerome Kittrell | Bev Pringle | John Compton | Rick Entrekin |
| READER 2 | Katie Simmons | Gary Jones | Sally Gray | Kay Reich |
| PRAYERS | Joan Moore | Lynn Waddle | Bobbie Rea | Helen Abraham |
| USHERS | Chris Burchfield | Michelle Lewis | Cheri Barry | Clay Holladay |
| | Perrin Burchfield | Patrick Lewis | Rick Barry | Laura Holladay |
| ACOLYTES | Wyatt Bond | Olivia Lewis | Ann Revere Davis | Seller Breaux |
| | Hamp Little | Caroline Lewis | William Davis | Carlyle Breaux |
| | Sarah Katherine Simmons | Cameron Burchfield | Simmons Davis | Britton Dunn |
| ALTAR GUILD | Candy Ward | Candy Ward | Bev Pringle | Bev Pringle |
| | Melissa Calcote | Melissa Calcote | Edie Simmons | Edie Simmons |
| CHALICE | Lynn Waddle | Gloria Chancellor | Rob Calcote | Rick Entrekin |