

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

Oct. 10 • Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples Day • Office Closed

Oct. 13 • 11:30 a.m. • Worship Committee Meeting

Oct. 25 • 5:15 p.m. • Vestry Meeting

*Oct. 30 • Bishop Seage Visit • Confirmation, Reaffirmation •
Meal to follow 10:30 a.m. service*

Don't Miss the Parish Picnic!

Join us Sunday October 23, at 10:30 a.m. for our annual Parish Picnic. We'll be gathering at Lake Okatibbee/Collinsville Beach -Twitley Branch Park for an outdoor Eucharist followed by a pot luck feast.

Bring your chairs, family, friends and your favorite dishes to share! We will provide the paper plates, cups, ice etc.

There are many ways to arrive at this destination, but the simplest set of directions is this:

Address:

**9200 Hamrick Rd.
Collinsville, MS 39325**

- Take Hwy. 19 N to Collinsville, MS
- Turn right at 4-way stop -West Lauderdale Rd.
- Take 2nd right, Hamrick Rd to the dead end.



- Turn left and immediately right into Collinsville Beach - Twitley Branch Park area.

Where is Your Hidden Treasure?

Considering our season of stewardship, I want to reflect on this year's theme "hidden treasures."

"The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field," Jesus says, "which someone found and hid, and then in their joy sells everything they have to buy that field." But I wonder what the treasure contained that the person found and, if countless other people had walked right by that treasure before, unaware that it was even there.

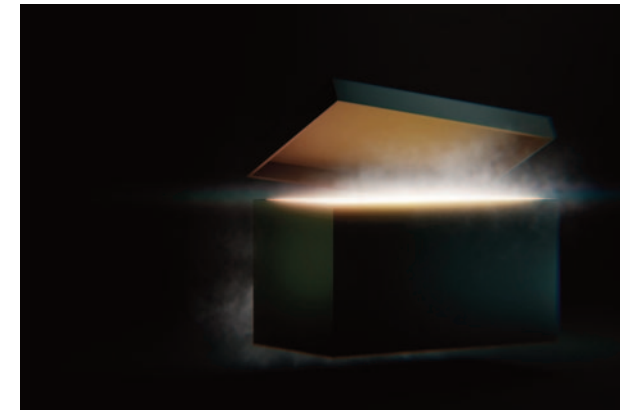
We do know that treasure is something of great value to us. But in the parable, the container holding the treasure is referring to a strongbox, something that contains great riches and beauty but the strongbox is unattractive. What we discover inside is contrary to our expectations.

Jesus reminds us in this parable that, in fact, the kingdom of heaven is everywhere around us, hidden in plain sight.

That the kingdom of heaven is learning to perceive spiritual beauty, creation with resurrection real and present. Consider this poem by Henri Nouwen, entitled "The Treasure of God's Love."

"You have found a treasure: the treasure of God's love. You now know where it is, but you are not yet ready to own it fully. So many attachments keep pulling you away. If you would fully own your treasure, you must hide it in the field where you found it, go off happily to sell everything you own, and then come back and buy the field."

You can be truly happy that you have found the treasure. But you should not be so naive as to think that you already own it...Having found the treasure puts you on a new quest for it. The spiritual life is a long and often arduous search for what you have already found. You can seek God only when you have already found God. The desire for God's unconditional love is the fruit of having been touched by that love.

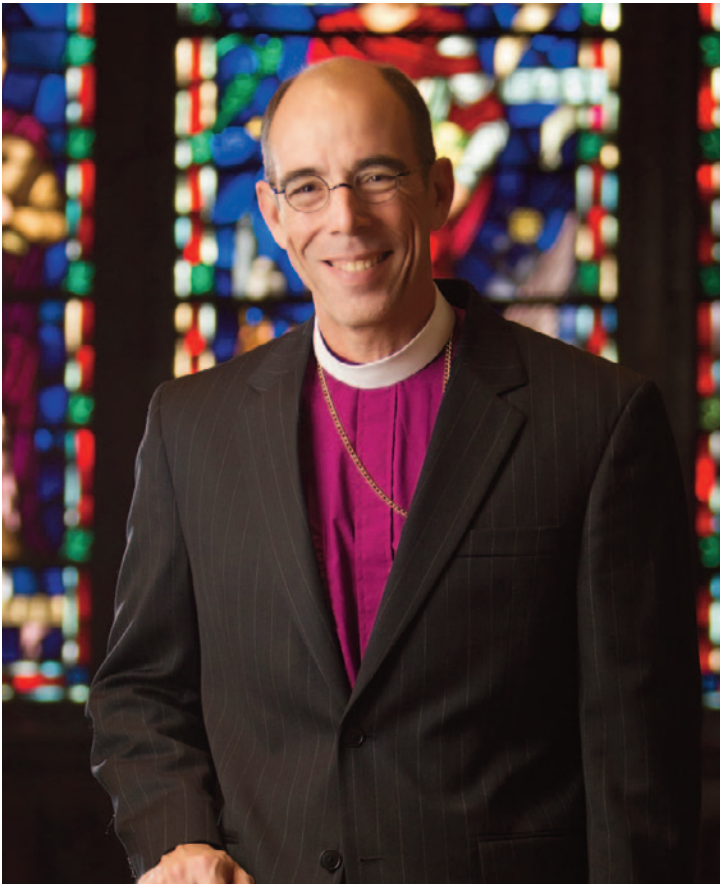


Because finding treasure is only the beginning of the search, you have to be careful. If you expose the treasure to others without fully owning it, you might harm yourself and even lose the treasure. A newfound love needs to be nurtured in a quiet,

intimate space. Overexposure kills it... Finding treasure without being ready yet to fully own it will make you restless. This is the restlessness of the search for God. It is the way to holiness. It is the road to the kingdom. It is the journey to the place where you can rest."

In the coming year, I pray that our hearts may be open to seeing sacred treasures hidden in plain sight. I hope that God gives us the grace to see the work ahead of us, so that God's people in Meridian can witness and share this treasure too. Treasures of goodness, kindness, generosity, reconciliation need to be uncovered and are not to be hoarded. I look forward to hearing about how we continue to find the hidden treasure of God's love, and how St. Paul's will share it at God's table and wherever we find it and take it out into the world.

Austin



Meet the Bishop!

Bishop Brian Seage's visit is scheduled for October 30. After he conducts Confirmation & Reaffirmation at the 10:30 a.m. service — a very moving event — we will celebrate with a fine meal. Don't miss it!



We have lots of fun on the playground after we finish our lessons on cool Sunday mornings! Pictured from back to front are: Dawson Hanschke, Maurie Simmons, Lakeland Hanschke, Alban McGehee, Libby Davis and Wes McGehee.



Finding the Treasure

We're all familiar with the stewardship Trinity — time talent, and treasure. We usually think of treasure as the money part. Because it exercises so much control over us, giving money away is critical to good stewardship.

We don't literally "hide" our money, usually. But many of us have money beyond our needs that we hide in the sense of concealing from ourselves the liberating power of giving it back to God.

This is the greatest "hidden treasure" of our stewardship theme. Layers of protectiveness and insecurity hide from us the joy that comes when we trust God completely and respond more generously and gratefully with our financial gifts. Peel back those layers and we can find spiritual treasures we never knew were there.

My hope is that all of us at St. Paul's come a step closer this stewardship season to that joyful discovery.

—Lloyd Gray, Stewardship Chair



Franklin Davis had fun with slime during Pre-EYC's "Slime and Sundaes" in September!

We Remember in our Prayers

For our Parish family: Don Pringle, DJ Wells, Ducky McCormick Elliott Street, Holly Morgan, Jerome Kittrell, Jerry Greene, Jo Van Devender, Margaret Van Dyke, Mary Dunn, Peggy Carrico, Tadley, Virginia Brimble, Wanda Blount and Woodie Abraham.

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

Extended family and friends: Andi Kushner, Bill Selman, Bill Wright, Billy Murphy, Brooke, Charlotte Chaney, Chuck Fishburn, Clancy, Cory Gaylord, Davey Simmons, David, David & Gina Brown, Diane Dunn, Donna Polizzi, Edesser "Dess" Reid Ward, Rob & Aislinn Ward, Emily Rush, Francois DuPlessis, Frances, Frank Baker, Frank Barrett, Freddie Bea Watson, George Farr, Hays Monsour, Jada Dooley, James, Jan, Jane Wacaster, Jeana Bennett, Jo Nell Brown, Jim Thompson, Jimmy Whitehead, John, Ken Fisher, Kris Gianakos, Kylie Temple, Larry Dudley, Leland Tew, Lisa Primeaux, Lou Dubose, Martha Hudson, Martha Mazingo, Michael, Michelle Nelson, Mike Covert, Mize, Norman, Pat Carver, Randy Moore, Rick, Roger, Sandy Carrier, Thomas Little, Tom Schram, Tony Sansone, Wanda Farr, Wanda Scott, Willie Spencer, Wilma Kanagy and Zack Martin.

We pray for those who have died especially: Eliza Fletcher, Elaine Cole Sanders, Edgar Hopkins Morrison, The Rev. Mac Thigpin and Queen Elizabeth II.

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 and Zack Thomas.

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

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Oct. 1	.....Cynthia Howarth	Oct. 17	.....Chip & Stacey Harwell
Oct. 2	.....Lloyd & Sally Gray, Rowan Hanschke, Don & Bev Pringle	Oct. 18	.....Betty Melton, Merry McCollum Roberts, Hardy Smith
Oct. 3	.....Edie Simmons	Oct. 19	.....Brad Carver, Hamp Little, Dustin Simmons, William Tucker
Oct. 4	.....Missy Bailey	Oct. 22	.....Klein Watson
Oct. 5	.....Brooke Lawyer	Oct. 25	.....John Howell
Oct. 7	.....Jan & Jerry Wayton	Oct. 26	.....Joey Martin, Landon Smith
Oct. 8	.....Sarah Anne Johnson	Oct. 27	.....Ann Compton, Scotland Sutton
Oct. 10	.....Bob Coffin, Jim & Marsha Miller	Oct. 28	.....Everett Callais
Oct. 11	.....Marsha Miller	Oct. 29	.....Jim Cady, Katie Simmons
Oct. 12	.....Mallory Davis	Oct. 30	.....Shelton & Alyce Cunningham, Tom Milhorn
Oct. 14	.....Maggie Mason		
Oct. 15	.....Wyatt Bond		

Services	OCT. 2	OCT. 9	OCT. 16	OCT. 23
VESTRY COUNTERS	Rob Calcote & Tim Hanschke			
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.				PARISH PICNIC
READER 1	Gary Jones	Rick Entrekin	Jerome Kittrell	Rob Calcote
READER 2	Bev Pringle	Lloyd Gray	Rick Barry	Wayne Wustefeld
PRAYERS	Bobbie Rea	Helen Abraham	Kay Reich	Candy Ward
USHERS	Laura Holladay	Melissa Love	Patrick Lewis	
	Clay Holladay	Sara Mason	Michelle Lewis	
ACOLYTES	Hayes Lancaster	Olivia Lewis	Hardin Hiatt	
	Landon Smith	Caroline Lewis	Henry Hiatt	
	Gavin Smith	Michael Hasselle	Maurice LaBiche	
ALTAR GUILD	Candy Ward	Gayle Hamilton	Lee Loeb	Edie Simmons
	Candy Ward	Gayle Hamilton	Lee Loeb	Edie Simmons
CHALICE	Rob Calcote	Gary Jones	Lynn Waddle	Rob Calcote
	Barbara Boone	Gloria Chancellor	Rick Entrekin	Barbara Boone