

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

Ash Wednesday Services • March 6 • 12:05 and 5:30 p.m.

Daylight Saving Time Begins March 10 • Spring Forward

Worship Committee Meeting • March 12 • Noon

Vestry Meeting • March 19 • 5:15 p.m.

EYC is rolling right along this semester. We have many fun and special events coming up this semester! We will be visiting the Civil Rights Museum, the Bar-T Ropes Course, a Lenten Lock-In, Youth Sunday and a Wanita retreat to name a few. This is all in addition to our regular Sunday and Wednesday night gatherings, plus DOY and Happening! Whew! I know these are busy times we are in, but your EYC'er will really gain so much by attending events regularly, we have the most special community! If you have any questions, or ideas to share, please contact Claire Hasselle.

Mission & Music Festival Planned

A day full of music, children's activities, good food and more will be held Saturday, May 4, at St. Paul's. The Vestry is very pleased to announce this church-sponsored community outreach event from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the church — with all proceeds going to L.O.V.E.'S Kitchen and Care Lodge.

Tickets will be sold in advance for fried fish plates (plates only \$10) that will be served in the Parish Hall, along with a raffle for a very special prize (more on this later!). A freezer/bake sale will also be held in All Saints' Hall.

The day will be filled with family activities for all to enjoy — and we will even close off 12th Street to ensure plenty of room for the festivities. Music entertainment will be provided by our own Scott McQuaig along with several others and children's activities will be held on the playground and parking lot area.

This looks to be an exciting event for our church and a wonderful opportunity for everyone in our parish to work together towards a common goal. There will be a variety of ways for all in our Parish to help, and we will need everyone to pitch in!

If you want to help, please call Laurretta Hamilton, Bobbie Rea, Marcia Via or the church office.

Stay tuned for further news!



Allie Cat Run • March 23, 2019

Downtown Lenten Series Kicks-Off March 7

The yearly tradition among our downtown churches begins Thursday, March 7, with the first of the Downtown Lenten Series services.

Each service is held on a Thursday and begins at noon, lasting approximately 30 minutes, with a meal following. And remember, those needing to return to work will be allowed to get to the front of the meal line.

2019 Downtown Lenten Series Schedule

March 7 — First Presbyterian Church

March 14 — First Baptist Church

March 21 — St. Paul's Episcopal Church

March 28 — Central United Methodist Church

April 4 — St. Patrick Catholic Church

April 11 — First Christian Church



When this article reaches you, we will be staring into the season of Lent. This penitential season is an invitation into the denial of ourselves. It is a chance to develop habits of prayer, fasting and practices of moderation in order to redirect us to a life centered around Christ. Many of you have probably chosen some sort of discipline or practice to keep during Lent and I am excited to hear what you are doing. I also hope you will also find ways to add into your routine a daily habit of prayer to take on, not just things to give up.

Self-denial means putting God at the center of our thoughts and actions above ourselves. Whatever we take on, Lent is a time for us to dig deep within, in our hearts, and wrestling with whatever is keeping us from what relationship is at the center of our lives. Then, after that serious and introspective work, make steps to be reconciled to God as we prepare for an empty tomb.

Some of our parishioners have already begun this work of self-examination through ways of expression. They have created works of art depicting numerous scenes associated with Jesus' passion and death. They will be set up in All Saints' Hall for our use during the Lenten season. This devotion is known as the "Way of the Cross" widely observed by pilgrims to Jerusalem. I will make it my own devotion to walk and pray the "Way of the Cross" every Friday at noon during Lent and you are always welcome to join me. We will keep service booklets by the door throughout the week so that you may walk and pray in private devotion during office hours. Whatever you choose, may you find your faith uplifted and may God bless you in this Lenten season.

—Fr. Austin

*At the cross her vigil keeping
stood the mournful mother weeping
where he hung, the dying Lord.
There she waited in her anguish
Seeing Christ in torment languish,
In her heart the piercing sword.
Jesus, may her deep devotion
Stir in me the same emotion,
Fount of love, Redeemer kind;
That my heart fresh ardor gaining
And a purer love attaining,
May with thee acceptance find.*

—1982 Hymnal 159

*We thank you, heavenly Father,
that you have delivered us
from the dominion of sin and death
and brought us into
the kingdom of your Son;
and we pray that,
as by his death he has
recalled us to life, so by his love he may
raise us to eternal
joys; who lives and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.*

—Book of Occasional Services

VBS Committee Members Needed!

This summer St. Paul's has the honor of hosting VBS! This fun week will take place the week of June 24 - 28. We are in need of a committee of people to help plan and prepare. The first planning meeting will be in April. Please prayerfully consider helping out with this ministry. It would be wonderful to have five or six people working together to plan for VBS. Also, serving on the planning committee doesn't necessarily mean you are volunteering to work the week of VBS. This is simply a planning committee committed to finding the best activities and volunteers for the week. VBS is also a wonderful outreach opportunity to invite more families into our church family. If you are able to serve on this committee, please contact Claire Hasselle. You will get an extra star in your crown!

Laisses Les Bons Temps Rouler!

Shrove Tuesday, AKA Fat Tuesday, is coming soon! Come join in the fun on Tuesday, March 5, at 5:30 p.m. St. Paul's will be celebrating in a big way! Everyone is encouraged to dress in a festive style. Enjoy a delicious supper of chicken, sausage and seafood gumbo over rice, cheesy French bread, hot dogs for the kids and, of course, king cake for dessert. Supper will be \$7 per person or \$25 per family. The kids will treat everyone to a Mardi Gras parade complete with beads, music and moon pies. We will also have pancake flipping races! All proceeds from this event will benefit youth and children's programming at St. Paul's.

We rejoice in the birth of Elizabeth Spencer Compton, born February 5 in Jackson.

Proud parents are The Rev. Will and Sarah Compton, big sister Addie and grandparents John & Ann Compton.

EYC in March

3/3: EYC at St. Paul's from 5 - 7 p.m. We will play some games and get decorated for our Fat Tuesday celebration! Everyone come and prepare for the fun! Our worship will for the evening will challenge our youth to look into the Lenten season and prepare.

3/6: Ash Wednesday worship at 5:30 p.m. Encourage your young ones to attend this service and begin Lent on a strong note.

3/10: No EYC! Have a safe and fun Spring Break everyone!

3/16: Head's up! This is a Saturday. We will be going to Jackson to visit the Civil Rights Museum. I will need a head count to order our tickets, so please RSVP. As always, we love for your EYC'er to bring friends! We will leave town at 9 a.m. and return around 5 p.m.

3/20: EYC Film School from 6:15 to 7:15 p.m. We will begin the movie "Inside Out" to explore through scripture why all of our emotions are important and balance each other out. This is open to 3rd grade and up!

3/24: EYC at St. Paul's from 5 - 7 p.m.

3/27: EYC Film School from 6:15 to 7:15. Night 2 of "Inside Out". We will continue our discussions from last week. I hope to see everyone there!

3/29 - 3/31: Jr. DOY!! Yay! We will be arranging transportation, so please let Claire Hasselle know if your 6th - 8th grader is attending!

4/7: Head's Up! Stations of the Cross rehearsal from 3:30 - 5 p.m., followed by EYC at St. Paul's from 5 - 7 p.m. Lots going on, I want to see your EYC'er there!

4/10: EYC presents Stations of the Cross before parish dinner. More details to come! Contact Claire Hasselle if your young one wants to participate.

Observing Lent with Your Family

The season of Lent is upon us, perhaps the most spiritually forming liturgical season.

While Christmas can carry us away with "busy-ness," Lent offers us a time to reflect and focus on our journey as Christians. Ash Wednesday is on March 6 this year, and St. Paul's will be offering many resources for households to observe and grow during this season. Please make sure to visit the parish hall to pick up your Lenten countdown calendars, prayer booklets, and "Lent-in-a-Bag." It is so important to observe this time together with your family and especially children and youth.

9 Tips for Observing Lent with your Family

- 1) **Change the décor:** During Advent many families have an Advent wreath on the table. During Lent a switch to a simple grapevine wreath, a candle in the center, and a purple tablecloth. If you wanted to take it a step further, you could cover crucifixes and sacred art with purple cloth. Make a game of finding all the crucifixes in the house when it's time to veil them and then the kids will LOVE unveiling everything on Easter morning when it's time to celebrate! These types of visual cues help keep the Lenten season on the "front burner" of our hearts.
- 2) **Meatless Fridays:** This can be a good weekly reminder to explain why we won't be eating bacon or sausage with breakfast on Friday mornings. Kids notice changes in the meal plan. Especially if the change involves a lack of bacon.
- 3) **Pray daily together as a family:** This is such an important part of a meaningful and spiritual Lent. Figure out what time of day works best for your family. In my family we have found that bedtime works best for us. Next, come up with how you will pray together. Pick up a Lenten Devotional book from the parish hall, use the "Lent in a Bag" activity, or start a prayer concerns poster where each family member can list prayer concerns during the week. Check it out each day and pray together for every concern or person on the list. This could become an activity that can carry through even after we say goodbye to Lent.
- 4) **Learn about the life and ministry of Jesus together:** During Advent, we focus on stories of God's redemption that lead up to Jesus' birth. Lent is a great time to focus on the life of Jesus and his ministry. We love reading the New Testament section in Tomie de Paola's *Book of Bible Stories* as well as his *The Miracles of Jesus*. There are copies of both of these books in the Parish Hall. Check them out!
- 5) **Give kids a sense of Lent as a journey:** There are many ways you can do this, however, I find using an interactive Lenten countdown calendar the most effective for my family. The kids color in a new block for each day of Lent. We try to do this along with our nighttime devotional. We start Lent in one place spiritually hoping to journey through and end up in another place.
- 6) **Bury the Alleluia:** We have you covered on this one! St. Paul's will be burying the Alleluia on Shrove Tuesday (AKA Fat Tuesday) as part of our festivities. You can also do this at home. We decorated a rock with the word Alleluia and simply buried it in the backyard.
- 7) **Learn a new prayer or song together:** We like to sing "Create in Me" during Lent especially. You could even write a family prayer together.
- 8) **Keep a Lenten tithing box:** This can be something as simple as a Ziploc bag or an empty decorated Kleenex box. St. Paul's will also have some available in the parish hall to take home. Throughout Lent, put your loose change in there. It really adds up and is a powerful demonstration that little acts of kindness quickly turn into bigger ones.
- 9) **Stations of the Cross:** Either participate in or take part in a Stations of the Cross worship service. St. Paul's youth will be leading the congregation in Stations of the Cross with a very moving shadow stage performance on Wednesday, April 10 at 5:30 p.m., right before parish dinner.

We Remember in our Prayers

For our Parish family: Annie Melton, Claire Hasselle, Dave Russell, DJ Wells, Edgar Morrison, Hardy Graham Sr., Jamie Lancaster Smith, Jerry Greene, Jo Van Devender, John Carrier, III., Lee Graham, Mary Scott, Norma Veach, Peggy Carrico, Robbie Morrison, Terry Rush and William Godwin.

For those in our Senior Living Communities: Deanie Carmichael, Elise Leach, Joyce Welsh, Linda James, Lora Jones and Nita Neville.

For extended family and friends: Agnes Lewis, Alice Miller, Ally Gressett, Amanda Lockey, Anna Meyers, Barbara Johnston, Barbaree Heaster, Baston Geiger, Bill Selman, Barbara Hull, Billy Hull, Bridget Mann, Bryan Williams, Caroline Rush, Cathy Parker, Cheryl Drennan, Claudia McKibben, Cory Gaylord, Diane Dunn, Delroy Ming, Dorothy Williams, Edesser "Dess" Reid Ward, Rob and Aislinn Ward, Frank Baker, Frank Barrett, Freddie Bea Watson, George Ferguson, Hannah McNichol, annah McNichol, Helen Valentine, Hinsley Harper, Hulon Dearman, Jada Dooley, Jennifer Dial, John, Ken Fisher, Kylie Temple, Lane Wilkinson, Leigh Ann Key, Leslie Smith, Lou Dubose, Marilyn Mohr, Marsha Thomas, Mary Hallwell, Mary Irby, Michael Dial, Michelle Nelson, Mike Stanton, Nell Williams, Norman, Patricia Bonner, Philip Walk, Pud Merrell, Rick, Robert Kirkland, Sallie Gercens, Hannah Thompson, Seth Thompson, Stephanie Turner, Terry Dewayne Ivey, Theodore, Tom Cook, Tom Schram, Victoria Dunn and Wilfe Manning.

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 and The 155th Combat Engineers.

For those who have died especially: Roy Erenest Scott, stepson of Mary Scott.

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

Birthdays & Anniversaries

March 1Rob Arline, Caroline Lewis

March 2Hannah Hamilton

March 8Nick Perry

March 11 DJ Wells

March 12Mary Lee Bowen

March 13Graham Martin

March 16Claire Calcote, Robby & Sylvia Dreyfus

March 17David Benson, John Compton,
Sara Love, Shep Sanders

March 18Linda Denney, Jerry Wayton

March 19Arlyn Grace Sanders

March 20Garry & Dana Lawyer

March 21Judy Dohan

March 22Kenan Hamilton

March 23Bill & Harriet Simmons,
Jeffrey & Andrea Carver

March 24Jo Benson, Ed Broome, Gene Wood

March 25Tom Greer

March 27Tom Shirland

March 28Patty Vinson

March 29Mackenzie Carver

March 30Justin & Jamie Smith

| Services | MARCH 3 | MARCH 10 | MARCH 17 | MARCH 24 |
|-----------------|---|-----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| VESTRY COUNTERS | Candy Ward & Sally Gray; Lock: Wayne Wuestefeld | | | |
| 8 A.M. | | | | |
| CHALICE | Gloria Chancellor | John Carrier | Bob Covert | Anne Chalk |
| READER | Ingrid Price | Anne Chalk | John Carrier | Margaret Van Dyke |
| USHER | Bob Pigford | Bob Coffin | Linda Carrier | John Carrier |
| 10:30 A.M. | | | | |
| READER 1 | Gary Jones | Jim McGinnis | Everett Callais | Wayne Wuestefeld |
| READER 2 | Sally Gray | Kay Reich | Bev Pringle | Mary Dunn |
| PRAYERS | Candy Ward | Helen Abraham | Joan Moore | Bobbie Rea |
| USHERS | Cindy McGinnis | Susan Nowak | Scotty Florey | Will Simmons |
| | Jim McGinnis | Larry Nowak | Albree Florey | Adrian Page |
| | Scott Hudson | Jim Miller | Lauretta Hamilton | Lisa Howell |
| | Rose Hudson | Marsha Miller | Bobby Maddox | Chris Burchfield |
| ACOLYTES | Cate Simmons | Hardin Hiatt | Arlyn Grace Sanders | Anna Katherine Carrier |
| | Lucy Simmons | Autumn Shirland | Shep Sanders | Sellers Breaux |
| | Kaden Begnaud | Tucker Dunn | Elizabeth Scott Bond | Carlyle Breaux |
| | Cameron Burchfield | Henry Hiatt | Wyatt Bond | Lucy Simmons |
| ALTAR GUILD | Martha Barnett | Martha Barnett | Candy Ward | Candy Ward |
| | Connie Arline | Connie Arline | Edie Simmons/Cheri Barry | Edie Simmons/Cheri Barry |
| | Lee Loeb | Lee Loeb | Beth Wuestefeld | Beth Wuestefeld |
| CHALICE | Mary Weems | Sonya Carrier | Lynne Taleff | William Godwin |
| | Helen Abraham | William Godwin | Bev Pringle | |