

Profound Expressions of Love

“From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required; and from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded.”

—Luke 12:48

It's that time of year again. Serving Christ's Church in the south (Province IV), staff lay out not just one but two calendars as we plan for the year. One, of course, is the church calendar. When is All Saints' Sunday? When will our Bishop preside? When does Advent begin, and Mother Katie and I can look awesome in those beautiful blue vestments?

And then there is the other very important calendar. Who does Ole Miss play this weekend? And yes, I consider State and 'Bama, too. Who is home this week? Who travels away and is it a night game? When can we recommend to the Vestry a date for our annual parish picnic?

And this is not all. The Church no longer owns Sunday. Travel teams. Cheer. Matinee shows in theaters. All kinds of things stretch our families every week and just making it to Church on Sunday morning is a success for so many of us. I look out from behind God's table every week and see the fatigue in your eyes. Showing up for one another is an incredible expression of love. I see you and you are so loved.

And, while the pandemic was years ago now, some habits have changed too. The way we participate in our institutions; how we give our time is different now than before. And these habits don't seem to be going away anytime soon.

So, we are not making changes as much as we are adapting. The world and the Spirit are already moving, and the Church is merely catching up. We, the Body of Christ, must be flexible and responsive, because the world is ever evolving.



PrayGround offers welcoming space.

Yet, change is hard for all of us. The concept of change often carries connotations of disruption or challenge, but change can also be a profound expression of love; a deep commitment to care for the community in meaningful and relevant ways. If the Church is “sharing Christ's love with the broader community” as our mission statement says, we must show love by meeting people where they are and address their current needs.

This is what we are doing. We are responding. We are making changes as expressions of love. We moved our family formation to Wednesday nights after dinner. We have tabled children's chapel for a season and have set up a PrayGround. It is under our stained-glass window depicting Jesus saying to the people “Let the children come to me.” We have more resources for children including children's worship bulletins, children's books, soft toys and more, all to equip them to worship as full members of the Body.

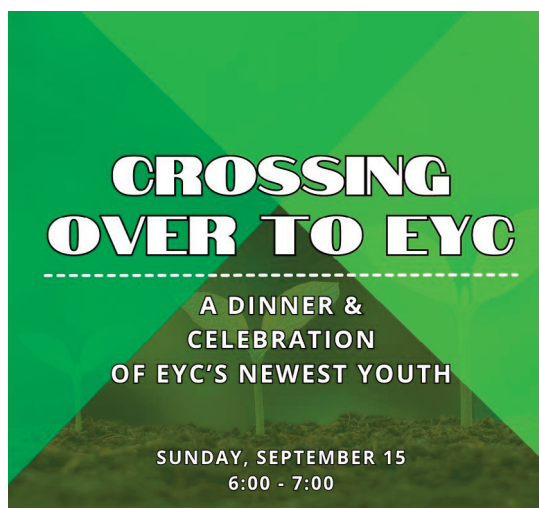
We are committed to show love in this way for several reasons. Our faithful but few volunteers for Sunday School and Children's Chapel are exhausted. Recruiting new volunteers and getting a commitment has proved increasingly difficult. Moving family Formation to

Continues

E.Y.C. FALL DATES

5:00 P.M. - 6:30 P.M.

- **September 29** - St. Paul
 - **October 27** - Mediator
 - **November 17** - St. Paul
 - **December 8** - Advent Outreach Project
- DINNER • BIBLE STUDY • FELLOWSHIP**



CROSSING OVER TO EYC

A DINNER & CELEBRATION OF EYC'S NEWEST YOUTH

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15
6:00 - 7:00



We welcome Grayson Derrick Vari to the world! He was born on August 10, was 6 lbs., 10 oz. and 20 1/2 inches long. His parents are Greer and DJ Vari; grandparents are Clay and Laura Holladay and David Vari and Linda Jacobs; great grandparents are Tom and Joy Greer and the late Ann and Eddie Holladay.

We Remember in our Prayers

For our Parish family: Amy Cady, Chip Harwell, Bev Pringle, Don Pringle, DJ Wells, Eve Morrison, Jean Merrell, Jerry Wayton, Margaret Van Dyke, Mary Dunn, Patrick Leach, Patsy Moran, Peggy Carrico, Tee and Wanda Blount.

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

Extended family and friends: Alisha Crowell, Amanda Lockley, Betty Harris, Betty Perry, Bill Selman, Brooke, Catherine Crews, Charlotte Chaney, Christy Covert, Christopher Alexander, Claire Griffith, Clancy, Cory Gaylord, Davey Simmons, David, Diane Dunn, Diane Grace, Donna Polizzi, Emily Rush, Evie Warden, Francois DuPlessis, Frances Leach, Frank Baker, Frank Barrett, Fredrica Harris-Thompsett, Gail Richardson, George Farr, Gloria Addison, Hays Monsour, Jacob Neely, Jada Dooley, James, Jan, Jeana Bennett, Jennifer Abraham, Jim McGinnis, Jim Thompson, Jo Nell Brown, Joe Roberts, John, Ken Fisher, Kevin Williams, Kylie Temple, Lanier McCullough, Larry Houchins, Leland Tew, Leigh Ziller, Less Wayne Neely, Lou Dubose, Lynne Taleff, Mark McCoayto, Martha Mazingo, Mason, Matt White, Michelle Nelson, Mike Covert, Milton Leach, Mize, Neil Sanford, Noah White, Norman, Pat Carver, Paul Parker, Phyllis Campbell, Rachel Neely, Ralph Abraham, Randy Moore, Rick, Ronnie Miller, Sandra Gray, Sandy Carrier, Scott Richardson, Shirley Hunter Croft, Steve Waddle, Susan Nichols, Taylor Wright, Tammy, Thomas Little, Tom Blackledge, Tom Schram, Travis Sadler, Trent Hartzog, Walker Mims, Wanda Farr, Wanda Scott, Zack Martin, Ashley Heblon Lee and Rita Pegues.

We pray for those who have died especially. John Pearson, father of Hallie Swindoll

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

Sept. 1.....Garry Lawyer	Sept. 20.....Amy Cady, John Carrier,
Sept. 2.....Debby Cress, Hardy Graham, Jr., Terry Ivy	Hardy & Monica Graham, Holly Morgan
Sept. 4Judy Wood	Sept. 21Geoff & Marty McIntyre, Dixie Tibbetts
Sept. 7.....Rick Hasselle, Lee Loeb	Sept. 23.....Helen Abraham, Melissa Love
Sept. 8.....Will Thames	Sept. 24.....Gina Dunn
Sept. 9Linda Carrier	Sept. 25.....Poo & Gloria Chancellor,
Sept. 11.....Hampton & Michelle Thames,	Joey & Graham Martin
Ruthy Vinson	Sept. 26.....Ned McCormick, Marcia Via
Sept. 12.....David Ray	Sept. 29.....Tim Hanschke
Sept. 14.....Tom & Kay Milhorn	Sept. 30.....Lynn Waddle
Sept. 19.....Maggie Martin, David Ray Sr., Katie Sorey	

Services	SEPT. 8	SEPT. 15	SEPT. 22	SEPT. 29
VESTRY COUNTERS	Gloria Chancellor & Gayle Yochim (All month)			
8 A.M.				
CHALICE	John Carrier	Bob Covert	John Carrier	Bob Covert
READER	John Carrier	Polly Covert	John Carrier	Polly Covert
USHER	John Carrier	Bob Covert	John Carrier	Bob Covert
10:30 A.M.				
READER 1	Rick Entrekin	Mallory Davis	Geoff McIntyre	Jo Benson
READER 2	Lynn Waddle	Patrick Leach	John Compton	Will Simmons
PRAYERS	Joan Moore	Kay Reich	Stacey Harwell	Bobbie Rea
USHERS	Lisa Howell	Patrick Lewis	Susan Nowak	Jim Miller
	Stacey Harwell	Michelle Lewis	Larry Nowak	Marsha Miller
ACOLYTES	Sara Katherine Simmons	Simmons Davis	Rowan Hanschke	Hayes Lancaster
			Payton Hanschke	Landon Smith
				Caroline Lewis
ALTAR GUILD	Bobbie Rea	Gloria Chancellor	Gloria Chancellor	Edie Simmons
	Stacey Harwell	Graham Martin	Graham Martin	Rainey Breaux
CHALICE	Lynn Waddle	Edie Simmons	Barbara Boone	Rick Entrekin

Change

Continued

Wednesday nights will still demand a flowing rotation of faithful volunteers.

In another way, it takes self-giving love so that the whole can thrive. There must be a shift in mindset for followers of Jesus. I learned on the Camino Santiago how much more of an impact it was to walk into a place and receive unexpected grace, rather than walk into a place and be entitled to it.

We also must follow the Safe Church guidelines of our church. The website of the Episcopal Church says:

“The guiding principle of Safe Church is to protect the vulnerable and offer the opportunity for us, as Episcopalians, to be good neighbors to one another. The new and updated program, Safe Church, Safe Communities, was launched in the summer of 2021.” This ensures “that the most vulnerable among us find an Episcopal Church community of faith that is welcoming and safe.”

We hope you find adaptations at St. Paul's as profound expressions of love. These changes are driven by a genuine desire to meet your evolving needs and contexts. Please explore how you can take part in the life of the parish. Just as a long walk taught me that we can be surprised what our bodies are capable of, we can be pleasantly surprised what our hearts are capable of, too.

As a parish we are committed to growing together in Christ as we seek to serve all persons, loving our neighbors as ourselves.




The Rt. Rev. Dorothy Sanders Wells
Bishop

August 21, 2024

Friends in Christ,

I am writing with news of some staff changes at Allin House.

After nearly nine years on the Diocesan staff, the Rev. Canon Brian Ponder will begin a well-deserved sabbatical. Brian returned to his home diocese in 2011, after having served in the Diocese of West Tennessee, and accepted the call to serve as Rector of St. Paul's Church in Meridian. In October 2015, Brian joined the staff at Allin House as Canon for Finance and Administration, and he assumed the role of Canon to the Ordinary in December 2022. His service to the Diocese of Mississippi began when he was a college-aged staff member in Allin House under Bishop Marble. I know that you join me in thanking Brian for his faithful service to this Diocese, as a priest and pastor, and as a member of the Diocesan staff, and we envelop him in prayers as he rests and renews. A letter from Brian to the Diocese is also attached.

The Rev. Canon Zabron A. ("Chip") Davis will serve as Interim Canon to the Ordinary. Chip, a long-time priest of this Diocese who serves as Executive Director of Gray Center + Camp Bratton-Green (with the unfailing support of his wife, Cathy), was Canon to the Ordinary in the Diocese of West Tennessee for ten years, serving under Bishops Don Johnson and Phoebe Roaf. Chip brings a wealth of experience to the role and will be of enormous help to the staff during the transition. You can reach Chip at cdavis@dioms.org.

Lastly, we wish Chief Financial Officer David Martin well as he begins exploring new opportunities. I am prayerfully discerning the return to a staff model which includes a Canon for Finance and Administration. In the interim, we will engage the services of a CPA firm to help with the preparation of financial statements, budget forecasting and other needs. Review of records and plans for needed audits are currently underway, and we hope that a relatively seamless transition will be forthcoming.

I thank you for your patience and ask for your continued prayers during this time of transition, as our Diocesan staff moves toward greater efficiency in our operations. I'll still be out visiting our worshipping communities, and hearing from you and all of our Diocese – whom we serve – as we continue to discern how God calls us all to grow in love and serve our neighbors in the communities in which we are planted.

In Christ,

+Dorothy

John Maury Allin Episcopal Diocesan House

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Wednesday Nights at St. Paul's

We gather for dinner at 5:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall then disperse for All-Ages Formation from 6-6:45 p.m. We are still looking for volunteers, so e-mail Mtr. Katie (katie@stpaulsmeridian.org) to be a part of this! Formation offerings are:

- 0-5 years — Nursery in the Basement
- K-5th grade — Children's Formation on Second Floor
- 6-8th grade — Middle School Bible Study in EYC Room
- 9-12th grade — Inquirer's Class, All Saints' Chapel
- Adults, Inquirer's Class or Middler's Class

At left, our EYCsers started the fall season with fun and games during Kick-Off Sunday at The Church of the Mediator.

Sept. 15 • 6 p.m. • EYC Crossing over Dinner

Sept. 17 • 5:15 p.m. • Vestry Meeting

Sept. 29 • 5-6:30 p.m. • EYC at St. Paul's

Save These Dates:

Oct. 13 • Bishop's Visit

Oct. 20 • Parish Picnic

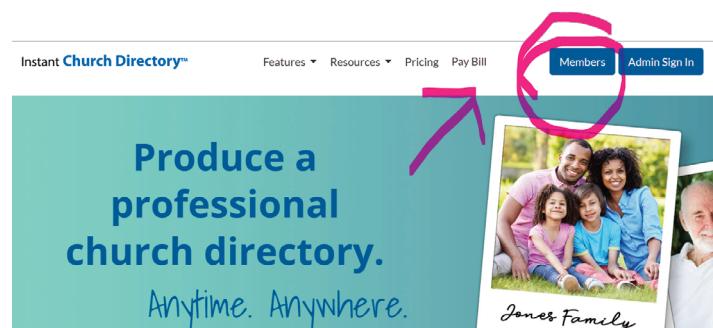
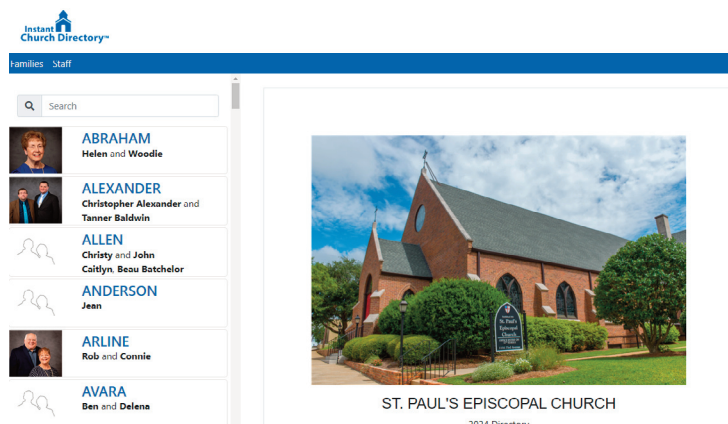


Phase One Church Directory is Mobile-Friendly!

Great news, St. Paul's family! Phase One of our new church directory is easy to access, thanks to the free "Instant Church Directory" app!

This handy app lets you view the directory right on your phone or tablet, whether you have an Apple or Android device. To get started, download the app from the Apple Store or Google Play.

Remember to use the same email address you provided to the church (and if it's not there yet, no worries! Just get with Marty McIntyre or Joane Makey to get it added).



You can also use Instant Church Directory on your computer by going to www.instantchurchdirectory.com and clicking the "Members" button.

Thank you for your patience in all of this. If you have any questions or difficulties navigating the app, please contact Marty McIntyre at marty195@gmail.com.

Church Member Sign In

Email address in your church's directory

use email address you gave church office

Password

make up your own password. Write it down!

Sign In

If you have NEVER signed into the App, you must start here, at "CREATE LOGIN"

First time signing in? Create Login

Forgot password?

The app allows you to search for families and individuals and remember names — plus you can make calls and send emails.

We hope this mobile-friendly option makes it even easier to stay connected with our church family.