

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

May 19 • EYC at Bonita • 5-6:30 p.m.

May 21 • 5:15 p.m. • Vestry Meeting

May 27 • Parish Office closed in observance of Memorial Day

Summer Office hours June & July

Monday to Thursday from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Friday from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Wear Your Red May 19 for Pentecost!

Pentecost

JOIN US FOR CAKE AND FELLOWSHIP
BETWEEN SERVICES AT 9:20
IN THE PARISH HALL.

WE WILL BLESS AND BID FAREWELL
TO FR. AUSTIN AS HE DEPARTS
FOR HIS SABBATICAL.

SUMMER 2024

ALL ARE WELCOME

REGISTRATION IS
OPEN

tiered pricing and
scholarships available

For Questions, Email:
registration@graycenter.org



Summer Worship
One Service
at 9:30 a.m.
in June & July

**Waves of
Gratitude**

Summer 2024 VBS
July 9, 10, 11
5:30pm-7:30pm at
Church of the Mediator
Hosted by St Paul's and Mediator
Episcopal Churches

More info with sign ups to come.
Questions, want to volunteer, call your church office.

A United Thank Offering program

Walking the Camino del Norte

Next month, I will have been a priest for nine years. Ordination feels like forever ago and yesterday at the same time. Since then, I've served in two parishes... two dioceses... two children... and two dogs.

Now it's time for a sabbatical. I'm going to be gone for seven Sundays. No sermon prep, no counseling, no yearning for volunteers, no administrative decisions or checking to see if the a/c is working...

I am going for a walk.

By the grace of God I will walk the Camino del Norte, a 500-mile walk from one side of northern Spain to the other (the light blue/turquoise path on the map above). It is an alternative and less traveled path of the Camino Santiago de Compostela — a 1,200-year-old pilgrim route to the believed remains of James the Greater, Apostle of Jesus.

The Camino de Santiago (The Way of St. James) has been made holy by the countless pilgrims who have made the journey-for more than a thousand years. Along with Jerusalem and the Via Francigena to Rome, this walk was once declared as one of the three great



pilgrimages of Christendom. To walk the Camino is to walk holy ground because the many saints who walked it made it so.

I'm beside myself with excitement for this adventure although of course I have had plenty of time to get in my head about a

fair share of reservations. I will be moving from town to town and trust that the road will provide; that people will welcome the stranger and that someone has marked the trail before me. There will be rain and plenty of it. I will carry ten percent of my bodyweight. That means two sets of clothing. I will stay in hostels, or as they are called *albergues* most of the time though sometimes I will be welcomed in monasteries that have opened their doors for pilgrims for centuries.

I've read and talked to people who have done it, and they all say something similar:

1. It's harder and more exhausting than I thought.
2. It's beautiful and absolutely loved it.
3. It changed my life.

And if you're wondering about Tiffany, please check in

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Celebrating Our Grads



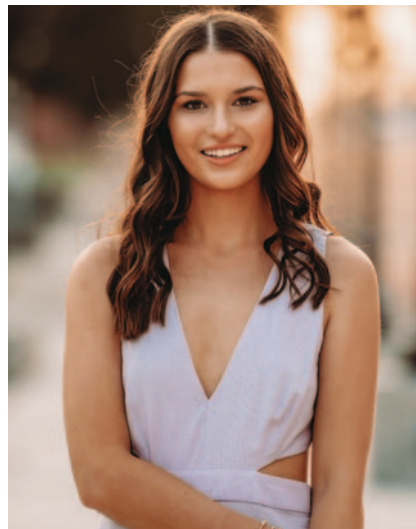
Sarah Dudley Reed will be attending Mississippi State University.



Hunter Howell graduates May 9 from Mississippi State University, College of Arts and Sciences, Summa Cum Laude. He will continue his studies at Mississippi State to receive a Masters in Clinical Psychology.



Robert Wilson, son of Stephen Wilson, is graduating from Carrollton (GA) High School. He will attend the University of Georgia in the pre-vet program, with his ultimate career goal being a wildlife vet.



Hardin Hiatt will be attending the University of Mississippi and is enrolled in the Lott Leadership Institute with plans to pursue a degree in Public Policy.

Two Births



We welcome Henry Gordon Mason, born April 2. His parents are Gordon & Sara Mason; big sister is Maggie; and his grandparents Larry & Lisa Love.

We welcome Anna Leah Nowak, born April 17, in Houston, TX. Her parents are Aspen & Chase Nowak; grandparents are LaDonna & Chris Nowak; and great grandparents Larry & Susan Nowak.

Camino del Norte

Continued from front page

with her from time to time. She also said to me, “Go, you need this.” As my best friend, she knows the Camino has called me as much as ordained ministry once did and calls me still. She also will wait for the day we can go to Rome or Jerusalem together, but this is my thing. Although I don’t know what that means either. I suspect I won’t really know until I do it.

So, I will go to Spain after Pentecost Sunday. I will put a scallop shell on my backpack, the universal symbol of a pilgrim of the Camino, and head to the airport. I will take with me my copy of an abbreviated prayer book “Hour by Hour,” which we are gifting our high school seniors. I will also pray the Examen from St. Ignatius that will go something like this:

1. Become aware of God’s presence.
 - a. Look at the day with God’s eyes, not my own.
2. Review the day with gratitude.
 - a. The day I have just lived is a gift from God. Be grateful for it.
3. Pay attention to emotions.
 - a. Carefully look back on the day I just completed, being guided by the Holy Spirit.
4. Choose one feature of the day and pray from it.
 - a. Face up to a challenge-in my life and in me.
5. Look toward tomorrow.
 - a. I ask where I need God in the day to come.

For five weeks I will walk and pray, eat and sleep... and that’s about it. I will not be following the news. I will not be reading email or engaging in social media. I will journal and take a lot of pictures and be ready to share when I return to the office on July 9.

My request is that you pray for me. Pray that my sabbatical is restorative. Pray that I find Christ on the road like the two disciples encountered Christ on the road to Emmaus. Pray that St. Paul’s will continue to do things through God, “whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.”

Buen Camino — Austin+

We Remember in our Prayers

For our Parish family: Amy Cady, Chip Harwell, Don Pringle, DJ Wells, Eve Morrison, Jerry Wayton, Kay Dickson, Margaret Van Dyke, Mary Dunn, Patrick Leach, Pearce Dickson, Peggy Carrico, Tee, Wanda Blount and Woodie Abraham.

In our Senior Living Communities: Joyce Welsh, Lora Jones Mary Weems and Susan Hamilton.

Extended family and friends: Alisha Crowell, Amanda Lockley, Betty Perry, Bill Selman, Brooke, Charlotte Chaney, Christy Covert, Christopher Alexander, Clancy, Cory Gaylord, Dana VanVeckhoven, Davey Simmons, David, Diane Dunn, Diane Grace, Donna Polizzi, Emily Rush, Evie Warden, Francois DuPlessis, Frances Leach, Frank Baker, Frank Barrett, Gail Richardson, George Farr, Gloria Addison, Hays Monsour, Jacob Neely, Jada Dooley, James, Jan, Jeana Bennett, Jennifer Abraham, Joe Roberts, Jo Nell Brown, Jim McGinnis, Jim Thompson, John, Josiah Christian, Ken Fisher, Kevin Williams, Kylie Temple, Lanier McCullough, Larry Houchins, Leisa, Leland Tew, Lou Dubose, Lynne Taleff, Mark McCoayto, Martha Mazingo, Marti & Will Sorey, Mason, Matt White, Michelle Nelson, Mike Covert, Mize, Norman, Pat Carver, Paul Parker, Phyllis Campbell, Rachel Neely, Ralph Abraham, Randy Moore, Richard Graham, 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, Wanda Farr, Wanda Scott and Zack Martin.

We pray for those who have died, especially Jo Van Devender and Tyler Rainey.

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 Brian, Bishop-elect Dorothy, for our Rector Austin and his family and our Curate Katie.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

May 4	Alban McGehee	May 19	John & Rainey Breaux, Ralph Young
May 5	Jerome Kittrell	May 20	Hayes Lancaster, Steve Slade, DJ & Greer Vari
May 8	Rebecca Wilson	May 21	Albree Florey, Gibson Hasselle, Rick & Claire Hasselle, Judge & Catherine Little
May 10	David & Joann Culpepper	May 23	Claire & Tim Hanschke, Michael Harwell, Lillie Langston, Melinda Perry
May 11	Clay Holladay	May 24	Polly Covert, Reid & Mallory Davis, Wilson Tucker
May 12	Susan Hamilton	May 25	Rivers Margaret Kelly
May 13	Ben Avara, Larry & Susan Nowak	May 26	John & Ann Compton
May 14	Leslie Hiatt, Bill Simmons	May 28	Jackson Florey, Steve & Lynn Waddle
May 15	Sherree Maddox, Wes McGehee	May 30	Maurie Simmons
May 16	Simmons Davis, Kay Dickson		
May 17	Patrick Lewis		

Services

	MAY 5	MAY 12	MAY 19	MAY 26
VESTRY COUNTERS	Edie Simmons/Stacey Harwell (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	Gary Jones	Katie Simmons	Will Simmons	Marty McIntyre
READER 2	Lynn Waddle	Rick Entrekin	Jo Benson	Jerome Kittrell
PRAYERS	Candy Ward	Helen Abraham	Kay Reich	Stacey Harwell
USHERS	Judge Little Catherine Little	Perrin Burchfield Chris Burchfield	Susan Nowak Larry Nowak	Patrick Lewis Michelle Lewis
ACOLYTES	Lucy Simmons Britton Dunn Sara Katherine Simmons	Rowan Hanschke Peyton Hanschke Reese Stump	Wyatt Bond Sellers Breaux Carlyle Breaux	Olivia Lewis
ALTAR GUILD	Bobbie Rea Graham Martin Edie Simmons	Bobbie Rea Graham Martin Edie Simmons	Gloria Chancellor Mallory Davis Leslie Hiatt	Gloria Chancellor Mallory Davis Leslie Hiatt
CHALICE	Rick Entrekin	Stephen Wilson	Edie Simmons	Lynn Waddle