

# The Son of David Stops

*“But Jesus heard him through the crowd and stopped.” —Mark 10:49*

As many of you know clergy just convened for our annual clergy conference in Tupelo. Now I always look forward to this time with colleagues, but this year’s conference was especially unique as we welcomed the vision and hopes for healing and the mission of the church with our new bishop. I invite you to read her letter sent out after she sent us out into the world.

I also have been thinking a great deal about walking with Jesus through the lens of Mark over the past year. We are coming to the end of this year in our Lectionary and often consider the story of each Sunday, but not the big picture of the whole Gospel.

One thing that makes Mark special for me — and I’m not sure if I’ve said it much in the pulpit — is how Jesus, like the Holy Spirit, is always on the move. From the very beginning, from being baptized in the River Jordan and throughout his ministry in the world, we hear words like “immediately, passed, went” and “as soon as.” Even the story of Easter is open ended, as we hear the news that “he has already gone ahead of you to Galilee.”

This is important because so often we try to picture the face of Jesus. But following Jesus in Mark, along with the disciples, we can’t keep up. As soon as the disciples catch up with all the healing and teaching, Jesus is already on to the next place... the next opportunity to act in teaching us what it means to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with our God. I imagine, when I read Mark, that I do not see the face of Jesus but his back.

So it is a big deal when Jesus stops in Mark. Somebody must really be calling his attention to pull away from all he is trying to do in such a short amount of time. And that is what happens with Bartimaeus, the beggar who is blind. “Son of David, have mercy on me!” Not only does Jesus

hear the plea of Bartimaeus through the crowd, he stops. Why?

Jesus can show mercy to him and healing to him. Everyone else had given up on him and believed him to be punished because of his blindness. But this wouldn’t make Jesus stop.

Jesus stops because he hears someone call him “Son of David.” He stops, because up to this point, he has made the effort to keep his identity a secret. But now his path is towards Jerusalem and to his death. He doesn’t need to keep the secret anymore. In fact, if you ever see a lion with a long tail in Medieval tapestries or art, it depicts Jesus in Mark, it depicts Jesus sweeping the footprints behind him.

All this makes me wonder what it might take for Christ to stop for us. Yes, we all plead for the mercy of God all the time. As I write this, I consider the season of a presidential election and all the toxicity on every side. Pleading for mercy these days is right and good to do.

But how often to we name the identity of our God so that Christ stops for a second? Son of David... the one who will redeem Israel... the one who promises to be alongside us through anything... the one who loves me exactly as I am... have mercy on me.

And then, how often does the church make the world stop? Do we name for the world our Messiah — the hope of God’s people revealed through Christ?

In what ways might the church speak to “God is love” in ways where the world stops and takes notice? These are questions worth pondering for the Body of Christ.

*Justin*

## Dates to Note

Nov. 11 • Parish Office closed in observance of Veterans Day

Nov. 17 • EYC - 6:30 p.m.

Nov. 19 • Vestry Meeting - 5:15 p.m.

Nov. 27 – 29 • Parish Office closed

(Closes noon Nov. 27/reopens Dec. 2)

## Annual Greenery Sale Falls Victim to Inflation

We are sorry to report that, due to rising inflation and increased shipping costs, we will not be holding our annual greenery sale this season. We understand this may be disappointing, and we appreciate your understanding and continued support during these challenging times. Your generosity and commitment to our church community mean so much. Please stay tuned for future opportunities to connect, serve and support our mission together!



*We had a great time for the Blessing of the Animals with our co-host, The Mediator.*

ST PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
**MUSIC SERIES**  
2024-2025 SEASON

**MUSIC OF THANKSGIVING** NOV 14 7PM

**DEC 12 CAPITAL BRASS** NOON

**MUSIC OF LOVE** FEB 12 NOON

**ALL PERFORMANCES ARE FREE TO THE PUBLIC**



*The Annual Parish Picnic service at Bonita Lakes October 20 went off without a hitch — and with splendid weather. Thanks to all who helped.*



*We were very thankful to have Bishop Dorothy Wells at St. Paul's October 13 for confirmation services.*



# Tupelo Hosted October Clergy Conference



By Katie Sorey

Every year in October, some unsuspecting town in Mississippi gets overrun with Episcopal priests, deacons, and a couple of bishops. This clerical invasion isn't some story by H.G. Wells; rather it is a gathering for clergy to come together for worship, formation and fellowship. Parishes in the host city open their doors to host us for meals, plenary sessions, breakout groups, Morning Prayer, Compline and Eucharist services. This year the good folks of All Saints' Tupelo were the hosts.

Clergy Conference 2024 was one of collaborative visioning and discerning. Since this was Bishop Wells' first Conference as our Bishop, she took time listening to clergy's hopes, concerns and expectations. She went on to share her vision and hopes for the Episcopal Church in Mississippi. She said she is committed to being a visible presence throughout the Diocese by visiting our parishes as well as serving as "pastor to the pastors" in caring for the state's clergy. Her ministry objectives include:

- Continuing to explore how we make God's love visible throughout Mississippi and the world;
- Strengthening existing partnerships and building new ones with organizations and institutions that offer boots-on-the-ground support to our most vulnerable neighbors;
- Living out the ideals of being the "Beloved Community" that welcomes and embraces all people;



- Strengthening our ministry for youth, college/university students and young adults; and
- Caring for God's creation in sustainable ways for our local contexts.

Father Austin and I left Tupelo energized and hopeful. The Mississippi Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement has plenty of good work ahead of us. Another thing to note is how inspiring it was to see how many clergy in Mississippi came out of Meridian or served here at some point. It reminded me that this is a special place where God is still at work among us.

We look forward to this new season in our Diocese as we journey together to make God's love known and felt to our state.

## We Remember in our Prayers

*For our Parish family:* Amy Cady, Chip Harwell, Bev Pringle, Don Pringle, DJ Wells, Eve Morrison, Hardy Smith, Jerry Wayton, Jim Miller, Kay Dickson, Margaret Van Dyke, Mary Dunn, Mike Reich, 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, Ashley Heblon-Lee, 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, Ken Fisher, Kevin Williams, Kylie Temple, Lanier McCullough, Larry Houchins, Leland Tew, Leigh Ziller, Lee Wayne Neely, Lou Dubose, Mark McCoayto, Martha Mazingo, Mason, Matt White, Megan Thomas, Michelle Nelson, Mike Covert, Milton Leach, Mize, Neil Sanford, Noah White, Norman, Pat Carver, Paul Parker, Phyllis Campbell, Ralph Abraham, Randy Moore, Regina Waddle, Rick, Rita Pegues, Ronnie Miller, Sandy Carrier, Scott Richardson, Shirley Hunter Croft, Steve Waddle, Stormy, Susan Nichols, Taylor Wright, Tammy, The Thorne Family, Thomas Little, Tom Blackledge, Tom Schram, Travis Sadler, Trent Hartzog, Virginia Dearman, Walker Mims, Wanda Farr, Wanda Scott, Zack Martin and Caroline McGinnis Gibson.

*We pray for those who have died,* especially Sandra Gray and Rachel Neely.

*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

Nov. 1 .....	Gordon Mason	Nov. 13 .....	Mary Weems
Nov. 2 .....	Barbara Boone, Don Pringle, Dustin & Katie Simmons, Wayne Wuestefeld	Nov. 14 .....	David & Anne Elise Ray
Nov. 4 .....	Wanda Blount, Shaone Kennedy, Michelle Lewis	Nov. 17 .....	Rob & Melissa Calcote, John Rea
Nov. 5 .....	Sylvia Dreyfus, Lakeland Hanschke	Nov. 18 .....	Ava Hughley, Lisa Love
Nov. 6 .....	BJ Ray	Nov. 19 .....	Rick Entrekin, Robert Stump
Nov. 7 .....	Poo Chancellor, Mary Lawrence Crowe, Marilyn Greene	Nov. 21 .....	Tommie Collis, Bob & Karen Rea, Shelby Slade
Nov. 8 .....	Maurice LaBiche	Nov. 22 .....	Wayne & Beth Wuestefeld
Nov. 9 .....	Anne Hardin Hiatt	Nov. 24 .....	Bobby Maddox
Nov. 11 .....	Larry Love, Kelly & Paige Watson	Nov. 27 .....	Claire Hasselle, John & Lisa Howell, Linda Moffett
Nov. 12 .....	Lisa Kittrell	Nov. 28 .....	Paislee Sims
		Nov. 29 .....	Bob & Susan Coffin
		Nov. 30 .....	Shelton Cunningham

## Services

	NOV. 10	NOV. 17	NOV. 24	DEC. 1
VESTRY COUNTERS		Gloria Chancellor Eddie Simmons	Marty McIntyre	
8 A.M.				
CHALICE	Bob Covert	John Carrier	Bob Covert	John Carrier
READER	Polly Covert	John Carrier	Polly Covert	John Carrier
USHER	Bob Covert	John Carrier	Bob Covert	John Carrier
10:30 A.M.				
READER 1	Mallory Davis	Jo Benson	Melissa Calcote	Jerome Kittrell
READER 2	Rick Entrekin	Will Simmons	Katie Simmons	Wayne Wuestefeld
PRAYERS	Stacey Harwell	Joan Moore	Helen Abraham	Kay Reich
USHERS	Catherine Little Judge Little	Larry Nowak Susan Nowak	Perrin Burchfield Chris Burchfield	Gary Jones Wayne Wuestefeld
ACOLYTES		Hayes Lancaster Landon Smith Gavin Smith	Lucy Simmons Britton Dunn	
ALTAR GUILD	Connie Arline Joan Moore	Bobbie Rea Leslie Hiatt	Bobbie Rea Leslie Hiatt	BJ Ray Eddie Simmons
CHALICE	Eddie Simmons	Barbara Boone	Rick Entrekin	Jo Benson