

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

May 12 • Worship Committee Meeting • 11:30 a.m.

May 17 • Vestry Meeting May • 5:15 p.m.



Let's Gear Up For Mission & Music Festival

We need everyone's help!

St. Paul's Mission & Music Festival is right around the corner and we are gearing up for a big event this year! Flyers for our Mission & Music Festival are available now to distribute to businesses around town.

And don't forget to help us sell tickets for our fabulous raffle — a trip to Chateau Elan in Georgia for two, includes accommodations for three nights, a wine tour and tasting, culinary class, spa visit for one treatment of choice per person (\$250 value) and a \$200 gas card. Raffle tickets are \$25 each — see Gloria Chancellor or Edie Simmons.

Also for raffle is a beautiful,

handmade quilt donated by Margaret Van Dyke — tickets are \$10 each.

We need frozen and baked goods! See the sign-up sheet on the table in the hallway by the Parish Hall, along with containers to use. If you have any

questions, contact Melissa Love at 601.604.2163 or Sara Mason at 601.604.2162. For fish fry ticket sales, see Missy Bailey or Ann Compton.

We need everyone to sell tickets or buy them to give to friends and coworkers.

Canopy tents are also needed for the day of the festival. If you have one we may use please contact Judge Little at 601.934.9760



Where is Heaven?

The Ascension of Jesus Christ is one of the most sacred moments in the story of Jesus. It always falls on the Thursday Forty Days after Easter Day. It is also one of the most underappreciated Christian Holy Days.

St. Augustine once asked:

“Why this happy day fails to make Christians thrill with joy. Why isn't it a day of feasting and fellowship like Christmas? Christmas gave Jesus Christ our Savior to earth; the Ascension restored Christ to heaven.”

Beautiful thoughts from a beautiful theologian, but the question is “Where is heaven?”

Most of us think of heaven as, it is in the story “When Jesus had said this, as they were watching, Jesus was lifted up, and a cloud took Jesus out of their sight.” Heaven, then, is somewhere waayyy up there, beyond what we can see. But this isn't really the way scripture describes heaven. When I first heard the story as a young person I was worried for the disciples because I thought Christ left and they were on their own in the world. But again, I thought heaven, and now Jesus was very far away.

Consider these thoughts from famous Christians.

Roman Catholic Bishop Robert Barron describes heaven as not a physical location but God's realm all around us but often veiled from us. In sacramental moments, like weddings or communion, moments of baptism, that veil gets lifted. We might call these moments or places, “thin places” where heaven and earth come together. When God came into the world, God united God's realm and our realm.

Eastern Orthodox priest the Rev. Stephen Freeman says that we do not live in a three-story universe, with earth in the middle. No, we live in a one-story universe where heaven is all around us.

I love what Thomas Merton says about the Ascension. *“This is the grace of Ascension Day: to be taken up into the heaven of our own souls, the point of immediate contact with God.”*

Heaven all around us if we look for it. Immediate contact with our God. All this makes me think of Psalm 139.

“Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there. If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.”

We, as Christians, don't live as though God has ascended to a faraway place and we are left on our own. It is quite the opposite. In the Ascension, Christ comes closer to us than any time before. When we look for God, we don't need to look up into the sky, as we often do, but rather turn our glance inward.

We celebrate lives where the Ascension is real. God's realm is closer than anything or anyone. People need to know how close God's love and grace can be found. They need the people of St. Paul's helping them lift the veils, to see glimpses of heaven in every moment.

“Almighty God, whose blessed Son our Savior Jesus Christ ascended far above all heavens that he might fill all things: Mercifully give us faith to perceive that, according to his promise, he abides with his Church on earth, even to the end of the ages; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.”

Austin

Same-Day Births!

Congratulations to everyone on the same-day births of these two babies, both born April 18.

Richard McKay Holladay arrived in Charleston, SC, to parents Brooks & Bonnie Holladay. Grandparents are Clay & Laura Holladay and great grandparents are Tom & Joy Greer.

"Thomas" Hastings Greer V was born in Chapel Hill, NC, to parents Hastings & Lana Greer IV. Grandparents are Trey Greer & Susan Paulson and great grandparents Tom & Joy Greer.



We celebrated the Baptism of Walker Rea Thompson with his family — John and Emily Rea and Gracely Thompson.



We celebrated the Baptism of Hardy Smith with his family Jamie and Justin Smith, Hayes Lancaster and Landon and Gavin Smith.

Great 50 Day's 2022

We are once again celebrating the Great 50 Day's with fantastic food and fellowship. And you can be with us for Wednesday Night Suppers at the same prices! Just \$8 per adult, \$5 elementary students and younger and a family of 4 or more \$25. We do need a head count each week, so fill out those forms found in the Sunday bulletin and place in the offering plate or call the Parish office 601.693.2502. All meals will start at 6 p.m.

Here is the lineup:

BBQ - May 11 • Italian - May 18 • All American - May 25

Elizabeth Scott Bond Lamar Graduate

We are happy to announce that Elizabeth Scott Bond will be graduating from Lamar School Friday, May 14. She plans to attend Mississippi State University in the fall. While at Lamar, Elizabeth Scott served as Student Body President, Beta Club President, Dusty Club Secretary, was in the National Honor Society, National Art honor society, Mu Alpha Theta and was a member of many clubs. She received may honors over her high school years. Some of her favorite memories are running on the cross-country team, spending summers at Camp Bratton-Green and hanging out with family and friends. Elizabeth Scott said she will really miss her parish family but is excited to visit Father Walton at the Episcopal Church of the Resurrection in Starkville. Come listen to her deliver the sermon on Mother's Day!



Arlyn Grace Sanders West Lauderdale Graduate

Arlyn Grace Sanders will graduate from West Lauderdale this spring. She will attend The University of Southern Mississippi in the fall and pursue a BA in Theatre.



A lot of happy children were on hand for our Easter services.

Deacon's Corner

It is with sadness I write this last message for the Deacon's Corner. My time at St. Paul's is coming to an end May 15. I cannot tell you how much I have enjoyed being with you. You welcomed Sam and me with open arms and we have loved every minute of our time here. Our Boomers and Friends Formation Class has been delightful and thought-provoking. I will certainly miss that as well as the Wednesday night suppers and, of course, the worship services. I have learned so much from Fr. Austin, all the staff and the volunteers. Thank you so much and may God bless you all!

—Peace and much love, Elizabeth

We Remember in our Prayers

For our Parish family: Don Pringle, DJ Wells, Ducky McCormick, Edgar Morrison, Elaine Sanders, Holly Morgan, Jerry Greene, Jim Cady, Jo Van Devender, Margaret Van Dyke, Mary Dunn, Peggy Carrico, Tadley, Wanda Blount, Woodie Abraham and Beth Sellers.

In our Senior Living Communities: Joyce Welsh, Lora Jones, and Nita Neville.

Extended family and friends: Amanda Rainey, Andi Kushner, Bill Selman, Billy Murphy, Brooke, Brooks Moore, Chuck Fishburn, Clancy, Cory Gaylord, Davey Simmons, David, Diane Dunn, Donna Polizzi, Edesser "Dess" Reid Ward, Rob and Aislinn Ward, Emily Chancellor, Frances, Francois DuPlessis, Frank Baker, Frank Barrett, Freddie Bea Watson, George Farr, Jada Dooley, James, Jan, Jane Wacaster, Jeana Bennett, Jim Thompson, Jo Nell Brown, John, Josh, Katie, Ken Fisher, Kylie Temple, Leland Tew, Lou Dubose, Mac Thigpen, Martha Mazingo, Michelle Nelson, Mike Covert, Norman, Pat Carver, Patsy Harris, Randy Moore, Rick, Roger, Sandy Carrier, Steve Waddle, Taylor and Trey, The Rev. David Elliott, The Rev. Greg Proctor, Tom Schram, Tony Sansone, Wanda Farr, Wanda Scott, Willie Spencer, Wilma Kangery, Wyatt Moore and parents, Zack Martin, Michael Dial, Martha Hudson and Lisa Primeaux.

We pray for those who have died especially: Gayle White Nelson, niece of Jean Merrell and cousin of Joseph Merrell-White.

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, for our Rector Austin and for our Deacon Elizabeth.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

May 4	Alban McGehee	May 20	Hayes Lancaster, Steve Slade
May 5	Martha Barnett, Jerome Kittrell	May 21	Albree Florey, Gibson Hasselle, Rick & Claire Hasselle, Judge & Catherine Little
May 8	Rebecca Wilson	May 23	Tim & Claire Hanschke, Michael Harwell, Lillie Langston, Melinda Perry
May 10	David & JoAnn Culpepper	May 24	Polly Covert, Reid & Mallory Davis, Bryan Holladay, Wilson Tucker
May 11	Clay Holladay	May 26	John & Ann Compton
May 12	Susan Hamilton	May 27	Gabrielle Kennedy
May 13	Ben Avara, Larry & Susan Nowak	May 28	Jackson Florey
May 14	Leslie Hiatt, Bill Simmons	May 30	Maurie Simmons
May 15	Sherree Maddox, Wesley McGehee	May 31	William & Jamie Tucker
May 16	Simmons Davis, Kay Dickson		
May 17	Patrick Lewis		
May 18	John & Sonya Carrier		
May 19	John & Rainey Breaux, Ralph Young		

Services

	MAY 8	MAY 15	MAY 22	MAY 29
VESTRY COUNTERS	Katie Simmons & Michelle Lewis; Lock - Stephen Wilson			
8 A.M.				
CHALICE	Malcom Gee	John Carrier	Bob Covert	Malcom Gee
READER	Malcom Gee	John Carrier	Polly Covert	Malcom Gee
USHER	Malcom Gee	John Carrier	Bob Covert	Malcom Gee
10:30 A.M.				
READER 1	Jerome Kittrell	Gary Jones	Lynn Waddle	Rob Calcote
READER 2	Rick Entrekin	Bev Pringle	Katie Simmons	Jamie Smith
PRAYERS	Helen Abraham	Joan Moore	Bobbie Rea	Kay Reich
USHERS	Jim Miller Marsha Miller	Edie Simmons Will Simmons	Lauretta Hamilton Stacey Harwell	Cheri Barry Rick Barry
ACOLYTES	Lucy Simmons Wyatt Bond Hamp Little	Sellers Breaux Rowan Hanschke Payton Hanschke	Hardin Hiatt Henry Hiatt Hayes Lancaster	
ALTAR GUILD	Kay Reich Edie Simmons Malcom Gee	BJ Ray Rainey Breaux Malcom Gee	BJ Ray Rainey Breaux Malcom Gee	Marilyn Greene Joan Moore Malcom Gee
CHALICE	Gary Jones	Lynn Waddle	Rob Calcote	Lynne Taleff