

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

Feb. 18 — Parish office closed, President's Day

Vestry Retreat — Feb. 8-9

Vestry Meeting — Feb. 19 at 5:15 p.m.

SPRING	
EVENTS	
DOY RETREATS Held at Camp Bratton-Green	DATE
JR. HIGH (GRADES 6-8)	MARCH 29-31
SR. HIGH (GRADES 9-12)	APRIL 26-28
COUNCIL 2019 INTERVIEWS	APRIL 26/27
HAPPENING #89 Chapel of the Cross, Madison	DATE
STAFF TRAINING	MARCH 1-3
HAPPENING #89	MARCH 22-24
HAPPENING REUNION St. Christopher's, Jackson	MARCH 22-24

Adult Sunday School Class

Beginning Sunday, February 3, the Adult Sunday School class will begin a series on "The Episcopal Way," facilitated by Father Austin. This series will explore seismic shifts in American life and the opportunities and challenges of the church today. The authors call for a return to Episcopal basics and insist that faithfully engaging a changing world might be the most truly Anglican practice of all.

"This is a book I've been waiting for. The Episcopal way of following Jesus and being Christian may be one of the best-kept secrets in the western world. Finally, someone has taken the light out from under the bushel. Let it shine!"

—The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry,
Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church

"Transitional times send us back to our core values. Spellbinders and Law help us to see again our core; we are a people gathered by baptism for partnership with the God revealed in Christ Jesus for the healing of the world. This work honors our past as a church, explains our now, and fires us into our future with hope."

—The Rt. Rev. Rob Wright, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta

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. Please make plans to join us for this festive night!

Newcomers Brunch

The Welcoming Newcomer's Committee will be hosting a brunch February 3 for visitors and new members.

This will be a great time to get to know each other, fellowship, break bread and answer any questions regarding family life at St. Paul's.

*Lord, you now have set your servant free
to go in peace as you have promised;
For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior,
whom you have prepared for all the world to see:
A Light to enlighten the nations,
and the glory of your people Israel. —Luke 2:29-32*

Wow, what a month of January it has been! It really flies by when we carry out the business of the church. Between Epiphany, the Baptism of our Lord, Annual Meeting and Annual Council, the month is always busy, and it always feels good to get to the other side. I hope you share my joy as I reflect on all we have done and all we will continue to do in the coming year. Our February Newsletter is usually reserved for Lent, however, Ash Wednesday will not come for another month. With this being the case, we have an opportunity to reflect and to celebrate our year together before we begin our preparation for Easter.

It is only fitting, then, that there is a Holy Day in February that falls midway between Epiphany and Lent. The day is February 2; a day about much more than waiting to see if the groundhog will see its shadow. The "Presentation of Our Lord" comes 40 days after the nativity; 40 days before a mother's body was considered purified enough to reenter the temple. Hebrew law required new mothers to bring their first-born child on the fortieth day along with a sacrifice "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons." Yes, this is a dated law of the ancient world but there is something that I believe still pertains to us. In the Anglican tradition, this day is more commonly referred to as "Candlemas." The service begins in darkness; the same way as the Easter Vigil. The community processes with candles into the nave from outside just as the Messiah entered the temple for the first time. When Simeon in his old age, sees Jesus enter, he proclaims this child will be "a light to enlighten the nations, and the glory of your people Israel." This is known as the Song of Simeon, or the Nunc Dimittis and we pray this every Wednesday at Evensong. Simeon is filled with joy and then able to die in peace.

Consider the light each of us bring into the temple; the holy place we call St. Paul's. Remember especially this month the light that shines from Rob Calcote, Larry Nowak and Eugene Perry. We will continue to thank them for their faithful service to St. Paul's and for the sacrifices they have made. Also, with great anticipation, we welcome our new members Rick Barry,

Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lee Loeb, Meredith Rea Roberts to serve on the Vestry. They each enter with gifts for all the world to see.

Where does the light of Christ shine through St. Paul's? After a successful stewardship campaign, we now have received one hundred and ten pledging units and our budget is up eight percent. This is as high as it has been in over a decade. We are asking the right questions about mission and our identity in Meridian. We anticipate our first Great Fifty Days Folk Festival to raise money for our Outreach Ministries. All of this reflects a confidence of what is happening in this community, and we are all grateful.

The light of St. Paul's is also being made known at the Diocesan level. Melissa Calcote now serves as the Diocesan Treasurer and will carry out this ministry while continuing to serve as our own Treasurer. Sally Gray is also serving on the diocesan Disciplinary Committee. We are proud of their willingness to serve.

We have an invitation before the season of Lent begins, to allow the light of the world to enter the temple of our hearts. Through God's grace, we are called to follow the one who brings the light ahead of us. We look towards Easter and the hope of resurrection even now, during the year's darkest days.

I invite you to light a candle sometime this month. When you do, give thanks for the light you bring and for the light each of bring. Know that God does not require from us to enter a life of grace with turtle doves or pigeons. God does not require us to wait to be pure before we enter God's temple. God only desires us to enter as we are and who we are. In the end, as Simeon recognized through Christ, God longs for us to reflect the same light as Christ; the light to enlighten the nations and bring glory to God's people Israel.

*"O Light of all the earth,
Thy children wait for thee!
Come to thy temples here,
that we, from sin set free,
before thy Father's face
may all presented be!" —Hymn 259*



News From 2019 Council



For the Disciplinary Board, two lay persons were elected for a three-year term. The lay persons are Walton Palmer, St Philip's, Jackson; Central Convocation; and Sally Gray, St. Paul's, Meridian; Sowashee Convocation.



Melissa Calcote, St Paul's, Meridian; Sowashee Convocation, was nominated and elected to serve the diocese in the position of Treasurer.

Youth Presence at Annual Council

This year, Annual Council had so much to offer for the youth of our diocese. I had the pleasure of serving as a chaperone for the weekend. We had 20 kids participate. We attended council meetings, had camp music jam sessions, went out to eat and just had a great time in fellowship. Youth Presence at Council is a great opportunity to show our younger members what is involved in keeping our diocese strong and vibrant. I will be encouraging your EYC'er to attend with me next year, it's something they will never forget!

—Claire Hasselle

New Choir Robes — The Greenery Sale this past November was handled by the Chancel Choir as a fundraiser for new vestments. The new choir robes will be traditional black, and we hope to use them for the first time on Easter Day. If you would like to make a contribution toward this purchase mark your check in the memo field "New Vestments" or "Choir Robes."

Open Altar Flower Dates — Due to Lent falling later this year we have several open dates for altar flowers. If you would like to place flowers on the altar in honor or memory of someone please contact the Parish Office. We ask a minimum of \$50 per vase. Open dates are Feb 17 and 4 and March 3.

- 2/3: SUPER BOWL PARTY! Jr. and Sr. EYC meet at the Mediator at 5:30 p.m. to watch the Super Bowl on the big screen. Bring a snack and drink to share. We will be playing games of our own too! Come and have fun with us! Pick up is when the game is over.
- 2/10: EYC meets at St. Paul's from 5 – 7 p.m. Games, talks, and fun!
- 2/17: No EYC! Happy President's Day!
- 2/24: EYC meets at the Mediator from 5 – 7 p.m. Games, talks, and fun! There is also a parent meeting that afternoon at 3 p.m. We are meeting to discuss fundraising and pilgrimages. Mark the date!
- 3/3: EYC meets at St. Paul's from 5 – 7 p.m. Games, talks, and fun!
- 3/10: No EYC! Yeah! Spring Break!
- 3/17: EYC meets at the Mediator from 5 – 7 p.m. Games, talks, and fun!
- 3/24: EYC meets at St. Paul's from 5 – 7 p.m. Games, talks, and fun!
- 3/31: No EYC, everyone go to Jr. OY!!!

Good Tips for Church Goers

As we begin a new calendar year, this is a good time for a gentle reminder that care of our facilities should be the responsibility of each of us. I'm echoing Fr. Brian Ponder and Gary Jones in this list of reminders. It's a good policy to always cite reliable sources.

Never! Should food and drink be taken into the nave.

Table It! When worship ends, please return your service bulletins to the tables in the Narthex or entryway rather than leaving them on pews and in pew racks. This will help those who tend our worship space. Or better yet, take your bulletins home to utilize for their information, prayers and readings! Return children's coloring bags to their proper place.

No Running in the Halls! Please remember that All Saints' Hall and the Chapel are not play rooms. We have a wonderfully staffed nursery and a terrific playground both meant for fun!

Shhhsh! Before services, the Nave (church interior) is a place for prayer, reflection and personal preparation for worship. Quiet is both normative and appreciated for those getting ready for worship.

And Finally! In all things around St. Paul's: a) if you use it or move it, put it back; b) if you use it up, report it; and c) try to leave all spaces tidier than you find them. We need to be good stewards of God's House and our church properties.

—Lynne Taleff

Camp Bratton-Green 2019 Summer Camp Dates		
\$80	Counselors in Training	May 24-27
\$250	Intro Camp	May 25-27
\$560	Jr. High 1 Camp	May 30 - June 5
\$450	Special Session 1	June 7-12
\$450	Elementary 1 Camp	June 15-20
\$450	Middler 1 Camp	June 22-27
\$450	Special Session 2	June 29 - July 4
\$270	Special Session 3	July 7-10
\$450	Elementary 2 Camp	July 13-18
\$450	Middler 2 Camp	July 20-25
\$560	Jr. High 2 Camp	July 27 - Aug 2



St. Paul's Music Series

 February 21

St. Paul's Music Series

 12:05 p.m.

Organ and Brass - David Osteen

We Remember in our Prayers

For our Parish family: Annie Melton, 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. Rob Ward, Robbie Morrison, Terry Rush and William Godwin.

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

Extended family and friends: Agnes Lewis, Alice Miller, Ally Gressett, Alixus Hearn, Amanda Lockey, Anna Meyers, AnnLee, 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, Dorothy Williams, Edesser "Dess" Reid Ward, Rob & Aislinn Ward, Evelyn, Frank Baker, Frank Barrett, Freddie Bea Watson, George Ferguson, Hannah McNichol, Helen Valentine, 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, Tom Cook, Tom Schram, Victoria Dunn, and Wilfe Manning.

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, Brandon States and The 155th Combat Engineers.

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

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Feb. 2Robert Bailey	Feb. 17Chris & Julie Stump
Feb. 3Bobbie Rea	Feb. 18Rosilyn Holladay
Feb. 5Ann Marie Fitzgerald	Feb. 20Adrian Page
Feb. 6Gary Jones, Lucy Simmons	Feb. 21Woodie Abraham, Luke Carrier
Feb. 8Lilly Graham	Chip Harwell, Meredith Roberts
Feb. 9Jerry Greene	Feb. 22Bob Pigford
Feb. 13Gary Boone, Cate Simmons	Feb. 23Andrea Carver
Feb. 14Rob & Connie Arline, Lillian Green	Feb. 24Cyndy Howarth, Martha Young
Feb. 15Norma Veach	Feb. 28Tile Howell

Services

	FEBRUARY 3	FEBRUARY 10	FEBRUARY 17	FEBRUARY 24
VESTRY COUNTERS	Candy Ward & Sally Gray; Lock: Wayne Wuestefeld			
8 A.M.				
CHALICE	Anne Chalk	Lindy Deen	Bob Coffin	Lynne Taleff
READER	John Carrier	Margaret Van Dyke	Lynne Taleff	Polly Covert
USHER	Bob Pigford	John Carrier	Linda Carrier	Bob Covert
10:30 A.M.				
READER 1	Rick Entrekin	Jerome Kittrell	Lloyd Gray	John Compton
READER 2	Melissa Calcote	Sonya Carrier	Katie Simmons	Claire Hasselle
PRAYERS	Helen Abraham	Joan Moore	Bobbie Rea	Stacey Harwell
USHERS	Susan Nowak Larry Nowak	Mary Lawrence Crowe	Larry Nowak	Scotty Florey
		Michael Crowe	Susan Nowak	Albree Florey
		Michael Kerekes	Marsha Miller	John Carrier
		Steve Slade	Jim Miller	Sonya Carrier
ACOLYTES	AryIn Grace Sanders	Christopher Collis	Anna Katherine Carrier	Katie Hasselle
	Shep Sanders	Hardin Hiatt	Elizabeth Scott Bond	Sellers Breaux
	Olivia Lewis	Isabell Martin	Wyatt Bond	Carlye Breaux
	Britton Dunn	Henry Hiatt	Autumn Shirland	Cooper Tibbets
ALTAR GUILD	Bev Pringle	Bev Pringle	Joanne Entrekin	Joanne Entriiken
	Kathy Pigford	Kathy Pigford	Kay Reich	Kay Reich
	Leslie Hiatt	Leslie Hiatt	Stacey Harwell	Stacey Harwell
CHALICE	Gary Jones	William Godwin	Kay Reich	Rob Calcote