



The Epistle

of

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

(318) 865-8469

February 2023

Living the Transforming Love of Jesus Christ

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A Season of Reflection

*"As water reflects the face so one's life reflects the heart."
~Proverbs 27:19*



His Light

*His light shines
on palatial homes
and even the blind,
Even the darkest
corner.*

*His light can find this
wonderful light.
Lets us see with warmth
and joy.*

~ William B. Dove

February is a perfect time for us to reflect on the season of Christmas that has past and the season of Lent that approaches. In the weeks after Epiphany our lessons and readings show us the full glory of Christ's life and prepare us for Lent: the Baptism of our Lord, the calling of the disciples, and the Sermon on the Mount. When Mary and Joseph present Jesus at the Temple, Simeon addresses Mary about her son's future. Her son will be a light for the nations and the glory of Israel, but 'a sword will pierce [her] heart,' thus foreshadowing Jesus' passion and death.

These weeks after the Epiphany present us with time to reflect on the implications of all of these events and to prepare for the coming weeks. On a personal level, we reflect on the coming Lenten season and what our practices might be for the spiritual journey ahead of us. As a church body we can reflect on our business here at St. Paul's. We can look back at a year of growth and change and look forward to new opportunities. We have just elected four new Vestry members, welcomed over fifty new members to our congregation, increased the number of services, and formed new fellowship opportunities. We can look ahead to where we might want to go as a church, what projects should receive our attention, and where we might best be able to serve or give our time.

Just as we reflect on and study the life of Christ, we also turn our attention inward and look to ourselves. Are we who Christ wants us to be? In all things let our positivity and love of Christ, and each other, reflect out into the community and the world.



A Message from Fr. Michael

Reflecting on the past. Reflecting into the future.

In this Epiphany season, we have been recalling the many ways Jesus manifested God's glory in his earthly life. This glory is like a bright beautiful light that shines in the darkness. It is a bright light seen as a star from far away by magi seeking a king, a warm light in our hearts that we feel when we know Jesus is with us through it all no matter what, and it is the convicting light of truth that changes us, as it did St. Paul.

As Christians we are witnesses to Jesus's light. The question is what do we do with it? One word that keeps coming to my mind is "reflection" which means to bend back. In the Letter to the Colossians, Jesus is called the visible image (icon) of the invisible God. In other words, Jesus is the perfect reflection (the mirror image) of God.

There are two ways we can reflect – one is backward looking and the other is forward looking.

The first kind of reflection is the bending of our thoughts backward in time, remembering and evaluating the past. Looking back at this past calendar year (my first as your Rector), we have experienced growth in several dimensions: New members have joined our parish family, our physical property has been beautified, and we have added and renewed ministries. Indeed, it has been a year of growth and change and there is growth on the horizon.

Scripture has positive things to say about growth. Creation and recreation are God's movement of change and growth in the world. In the Pauline corpus and the Gospels we are exhorted to grow into the image and likeness of Christ. And the Book of Acts celebrates the exciting growth of the early church. So, growth is generally a really good thing. Yet, as we reflect on the growth that God is manifesting at St. Paul's we should also reflect on the potential danger that such growth becomes untethered from faithful worship, care and concern for each other, and unity of purpose. An honest reflection of our past will always reveal those places where we fell short and in so doing we have the opportunity to repent, receive forgiveness, and begin again. Indeed, self-reflection is the basis for the wonderful gift of forgiveness and the pattern of Lent which will soon be upon us.

Richard Hooker, the 16th century Archbishop of Canterbury, taught that Scripture, Tradition, and Reason are the three-legged stool of theological reflection. Education for Ministry (EfM) teaches a four-source model that uses Scripture, Tradition, Experience, and Culture as the reflective criteria. I commend these models of theological reflection to you. Without a faithful way of looking back at the past we will inevitably be tossed about by mere opinion or worse.

The second kind of reflection is about bending Christ's light back into the world – into the future – like a lighthouse that amplifies and redirects the light. Our calling is to be a visible representation to the local community and the world about this person we know as the Son of God, Jesus our Lord. Is what we do as a church a proper reflection of Him? Our reflection may be the first glimmer that others have of Christ. Will they see in us that light of love which welcomes the stranger and gives sacrificially? Will they see in us the image and likeness of Jesus? As I look back on the countless acts of love performed by the family of St. Paul's, I am confident that the answer will be a resounding "Yes."

This two-way idea of reflection will be even more tangible as we research St. Paul's past in preparation for our upcoming 75th anniversary as a church. I hope that you will join a committee that suits your interests (see page nine for details). Our goal is 100% participation! As we honor our past while we will draw new inspiration from it that will enable us to reflect Christ beautiful light well into the future.

Blessings,

Michael+



Parishioner Spotlight: David Langley

We often hear the term "a servant's heart," but do we always fully understand what this means? 1 Peter 4:10 says, "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." David Langley is the very epitome of a true servant's heart. He works quietly behind the scenes. David has served as Usher Coordinator, does morning prayer at Riverview Care Center each week, he serves on the Flower Delivery ministry, is a member of the Pastoral Care Team, teaches Adult Sunday school, works with the Matthew 25 Common Ground group, is a member of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew and the Men's Fellowship Group that meets each Friday morning and the Men's Bible Study group. He is also a former Vestry member. David does all of this with such a glad and joyful heart it is difficult not to be inspired by him!

Stewardship

Sharing the gifts we have

New Vestry Members:

Congratulations to the newest members of the Vestry! At our Annual Meeting on January 15, parishioners elected Ashley Baker, Louise Broadwell, Lois Fraser, and Bruce Shear to the Vestry. They will serve a three-year term.



Ashley Baker



Louise Broadwell



Lois Fraser

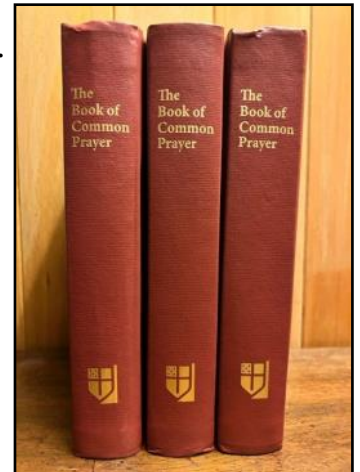


Bruce Shear

Prayer Books for the Armed Services:

Each week we pray for active members of the armed services in our parish family. Some are stationed far from home and all appreciate our prayers. In December, as Christmas approached, parishioner Jim Frost decided he wanted to send a prayer book to each of those service members. Jim is retired from the US Marine Corp. and the military is near and dear to his heart. He wanted each of these service members to know that we pray for them and are thankful for their service. You may recall that Jim also donated the poppies distributed on Veteran's Day.

A *Book of Common Prayer* was purchased and delivered these service members in December, thanks to the generous heart of Jim Frost.



Prayer Books for the Church:

We have twenty new copies of *The Book of Common Prayer* to place in the church thanks to an anonymous donor! Our prayer books get heavy use and from time to time need to be replaced. When spines break and pages slip out, covers become detached, the book is pulled and a new book is placed. If you feel so called, we could actually use twenty more copies. Reach out to Fr. Michael if this is an act of stewardship that speaks to you.



Ministry Spotlight: Flower Delivery

If you are searching for a ministry in which to serve, you would be hard pressed to find one that spreads more joy than the flower delivery ministry. This group works with the Altar Guild to prepare and deliver altar flowers to parishioners each week. After services on Sunday, the altar flowers are broken down into about four single arrangements with one arrangement usually going to the donor. Recipients may include someone who is ill, a new member, or someone to whom congratulations may be due. Those who serve in this ministry love to deliver this little bit of cheer each week and find it is a blessing to both the giver and the receiver. If you would like to serve on this ministry, contact Terry LeGrand.

Worship

Sealed by the Holy Spirit of Baptism



Mary Alice Hood was formally initiated into the body of Christ and welcomed into the Family of St. Paul's, sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism on January 8, 2023.

Altar Flowers

February 5: To the Glory of God and in memory of our loved ones and in thanksgiving for our family. Given by Caldwell and Deedy Roberts.

February 12: To the Glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Thompson and Dr. and Mrs. M. A. Kutschbach. Given by Charles Thompson and Janis Kutschbach..

February 19: To the Glory of God and in loving memory of my husband, Raymond. Given by Gwen Bowles.

February 26: To the Glory of God and in loving memory of Louise and John Monette and Mildred and Scott White, Sr. and Scott White, Jr. Given by Ed and Marlyn Monette.

Sunday Lectionary

February 5: The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

1st Lesson: Isaiah 58:1-9a, [9b-12]; Psalm 112:1-9, [10]; 2nd Lesson: 1 Corinthians 2:1-12, [13-16]; Gospel: Matthew 5:13-20

February 12: The Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

1st Lesson: Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalm 119:1-8; 2nd Lesson: 1 Corinthians 3:1-9; Gospel: Matthew 5:21-37

February 19: The Last Sunday after the Epiphany

1st Lesson: Exodus 24:12-18; Psalm 2; 2nd Lesson: 2 Peter 1:16-21; Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9

February 26: The First Sunday in Lent

1st Lesson: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7; Psalm 32; 2nd Lesson: Romans 5:12-19; Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11

Bride's Room Rededication February 1



Wednesday, February 1 is the feast St. Bridgid and is the day we will rededicate the Bride's Room now that renovation is complete. Please plan to join us for the rededication during the Simple Eucharist. Thank you once again to Ashley and Stephen Baker and Julie and Aaron Broadwell!



Word of the Month: Verger



The **verger** is a lay minister who assists the clergy in the conduct of worship, especially in the marshaling of processions.

The history of the verger dates back to the middle ages when the verger was the "Protector of the Procession." He would lead the way, making room for the procession to enter the church from the town square, and with his virge (mace) in hand would literally clear the way if necessary.

The basic vestment of the verger is a black cassock. The ministry of vergers is supported and encouraged by the Vergers' Guild of the Episcopal Church.

Families, Children, Youth

EYC Shenanigans in January



The EYC kicked off the new calendar year with a Resolution Bonfire at the McRae Lodge and talked about making resolutions and letting things go.

The EYC/Acolyte Dance Battle was a lot of fun with adults and youth showing their best dance moves.

At some point the teenagers (with an assist from some adults!) escaped the Lodge and pranked the priest, papering the administrative offices with butcher paper, toilet paper, and colorful Post-It Notes. Perhaps Fr. Michael might think twice about skipping Dance Night next time! All in good fun!



Fr. Michael's office door is covered in Post-It notes.



EYC and a few guilty adults. Why are they all in black!?

The EYC has a fabulous February planned: all youth grades 6 - 12 are invited to come!

February 5: Dinner and a Movie. We'll be watching *Tangled*.

February 12: Love Languages Study

No EYC on February 19.

February 26: Cookie Baking and Decorating Night.

Our EYC is a strong group of young people learning to grow, show, and share Jesus! They welcome new members in grades 6 - 10. Bring a friend and join them each Sunday in the McRae Lodge at 5 p.m. Kim and Will Duncan do a great job and always have a strong spiritual program as well as fun activities planned for our EYC.

Camp Hardtner 2023 Schedule

The 2023 Summer Camp Schedule Is Here!
*Grades based on 2023-2024 school year

Session	Grades*	Dates
First Camp	2, 3, & 4 with Parent/Guardian	June 2-4
Sr. High Camp	11, 12, & 2023 Graduates	June 6-13
Primary Camp 1	4, 5, & 6	June 16-21
Jr. High Camp 1	6, 7, & 8	June 24-30
Mid. High Camp	9, 10, & 11	July 2-8
Primary Camp 2	4, 5, & 6	July 11-16
Jr. High Camp 2	6, 7, & 8	July 19-25
Camp Able	Adults 18+ with Special Needs	July 28-Aug. 1

The Camp Hardtner [summer schedule is out](#) and this year marks the return of Camp Able which is for adults 18+ with special needs. Registration is now open. Camp Hardtner is for families looking for a high-quality summer camp experience with a proven track record, rooted in Christ's teachings of acceptance and love. Emily Maier's son Luke and nephew John Hilton attended last summer, and Emily said, "The activities they're doing are the same ones that I enjoyed there decades ago: good, clean, honest fun, away from screens and together with counselors whose primary goal is to nurture the kids' love for God and for each other." Check the [camp's website](#) or [Facebook page](#) for more information.

Congratulations, Col. Aaron Rusling!



The Rusling family celebrated the promotion of Aaron to Colonel in the USAF on January 30. Fr. Michael was honored to give the benediction.

Children's Church Volunteers



Children's church takes place each Sunday following the children's sermon during the 10:30 service. Children leave the church for about 15 minutes to learn more about the Gospel of the day. It is a fun time that reinforces what they discussed in the children's sermon and

they sing songs. Children then return to church at the Peace to rejoin their family. If you would like to donate your time on a rotating schedule to children's church, please call the office or contact Myra Corby.

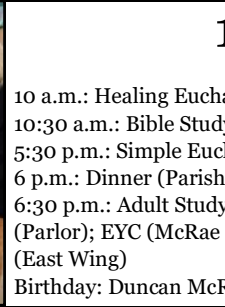
February

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed



5

6

7

8

8 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite 1 w/Fr. Hughes
 9:30 a.m.: Sunday School all ages; Rector's Forum w/Fr. Hughes; Casual Fellowship
 10:30 a.m.: Holy Eucharist, Rite 2 w/Fr. Hughes
 11:30 a.m.: Coffee Hour (Parlor)
 12:30 p.m.: Vestry Retreat (McRae Lodge)
 5 p.m.: EYC (McRae Lodge)
 Birthday: Kurt Nelson

1 p.m.: St. Paul's Knitting Group (Wardens' Room)
 1:30 p.m.: Matthew 25: Common Ground (Parish Hall)
 7 p.m.: Centering Prayer (Wardens' Room)

10 a.m.: Healing Eucharist
 10:30 a.m.: Bible Study
 5:30 p.m.: Simple Eucharist
 6 p.m.: Dinner (Parish Hall)
 6:30 p.m.: Adult Study (Parlor); EYC (McRae Lodge) (East Wing)
 Birthday: Duncan McFarlane

12

13

14

15

8 a.m.: Holy Eucharist, Rite 1
 9 a.m.: Fellowship Breakfast
 10:30 a.m.: Holy Eucharist, Rite 2
 11:30 a.m.: Coffee Hour (Parlor)
 3 p.m.: Holy Eucharist at The Glen
 5 p.m.: EYC (McRae Lodge)
 Birthday: Bella Vazquez

12 p.m.: Pastoral Care Team (Zoom)

1 p.m.: St. Paul's Knitting Group (Wardens' Room)
 1:30 p.m.: Matthew 25: Common Ground (Parish Hall)
 7 p.m.: Centering Prayer (Wardens' Room)

10 a.m.: Healing Eucharist
 10:30 a.m.: Bible Study
 12 p.m.: Finance Committee Meeting
 5:30 p.m.: Simple Eucharist
 6 p.m.: Dinner (Parish Hall)
 6:30 p.m.: Wonderful Night
 Birthday: April Davis

19 Scout Sunday

20

21 Shrove Tuesday

22 Ash Wednesday

8 a.m.: Holy Eucharist, Rite 1
 9:30 a.m.: Sunday School all ages; Rector's Forum; Casual Fellowship
 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite 2, Scout Sunday
 11:30 a.m.: Coffee Hour (Parlor)
 5 p.m.: EYC (McRae Lodge)
 Birthday: Brady Quinlan

10 a.m.: St. Catherine's Guild (Wardens' Room)
 5 p.m.: Christian Ed Committee Mtg
 6 p.m.: Vestry Meeting (Wardens' Rm)

1 p.m.: St. Paul's Knitting Gp. (Wardens' Room)
 1:30 p.m.: Matthew 25: Common Ground (Parish Hall)
 5 p.m.: Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper (Parish Hall)
 7 p.m.: Centering Prayer (Wardens' Room)
 Birthday: Deedy Roberts, Davis Tillman, Loyd Tillman, Penny Adams

10 a.m.: Healing Eucharist
 10:30 a.m.: Bible Study
 12 p.m.: Holy Eucharist
 5:30 p.m.: Simple Eucharist
 6 p.m.: Holy Eucharist
 Birthday: Savannah Be...

26

27

28

8 a.m.: Holy Eucharist, Rite 1
 9:30 a.m.: Sunday School all ages; Rector's Forum; Casual Fellowship
 10:30 a.m.: Holy Eucharist, Rite 2
 11:30 a.m.: Coffee Hour (Parlor)
 5 p.m.: EYC (McRae Lodge)
 Birthday: Tem McElroy, Austin Griffin

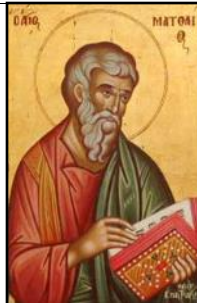
11:30 a.m.: Guild of St. Margaret (Wardens' Room)
 Birthday: Linda Brooks, Bobby Horne

1 p.m.: St. Paul's Knitting Group (Wardens' Room)
 1:30 p.m.: Matthew 25: Common Ground (Parish Hall)
 7 p.m.: Centering Prayer (Wardens' Room)



ry 2023

	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	<p>10:30 a.m. Morning Prayer at River-view</p> <p>12 p.m.: Men's Bible Study (Bride's Room)</p> <p>7 p.m.: Choir Practice (Choir Room)</p> <p>McRae, Ashley Baker</p>	<p>2</p> <p>10:30 a.m. Morning Prayer at River-view</p> <p>12 p.m.: Men's Bible Study (Bride's Room)</p> <p>7 p.m.: Choir Practice (Choir Room)</p>	<p>3</p> <p>6:30 a.m.: Men's Fellowship Group (Wardens' Room)</p> <p>6 p.m.: Parents Supper Club (McRae Lodge)</p> <p>Birthday: Larry Graff, Gentry Carroll</p>	<p>4</p>
3	<p>10:30 a.m. Morning Prayer at River-view</p> <p>12 p.m.: Men's Bible Study (Bride's Room)</p> <p>5:30 p.m.: Guild of Queen Esther (McRae Lodge)</p> <p>7 p.m.: Choir Practice (Choir Room)</p> <p>Alan, Leslie Knox</p>	<p>9</p> <p>10:30 a.m. Morning Prayer at River-view</p> <p>12 p.m.: Men's Bible Study (Bride's Room)</p> <p>5:30 p.m.: Guild of Queen Esther (McRae Lodge)</p> <p>7 p.m.: Choir Practice (Choir Room)</p>	<p>10</p> <p>6:30 a.m.: Men's Fellowship Group (Wardens' Room)</p> <p>Birthday: Edwin Hill, Lynette Van Heerden, Dosson Smith</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9:30 a.m.: Altar Guild (Wardens' Room)</p>
5	<p>10:30 a.m. Morning Prayer at River-view</p> <p>12 p.m.: Men's Bible Study (Bride's Room)</p> <p>7 p.m.: Choir Practice (Choir Room)</p>	<p>16</p> <p>10:30 a.m. Morning Prayer at River-view</p> <p>12 p.m.: Men's Bible Study (Bride's Room)</p> <p>7 p.m.: Choir Practice (Choir Room)</p>	<p>17</p> <p>6:30 a.m.: Men's Fellowship Group (Wardens' Room)</p> <p>Birthday: Patti Mitchell</p>	<p>18</p> <p>9 a.m.: Brotherhood of St. Andrew Breakfast (Parish Hall)</p>
Monday	<p>10:30 a.m. Morning Prayer at River-view</p> <p>12 p.m.: Men's Bible Study (Bride's Room)</p> <p>7 p.m.: Choir Practice (Choir Room)</p>	<p>23</p> <p>10:30 a.m. Morning Prayer at River-view</p> <p>12 p.m.: Men's Bible Study (Bride's Room)</p> <p>7 p.m.: Choir Practice (Choir Room)</p>	<p>24 St. Matthias</p> <p>6:30 a.m.: Men's Fellowship Group (Wardens' Room)</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Birthday: Steve Becker</p>



Discipleship & Christian Education

Rev. Frank Hughes Teaches about St. Paul



Fr. Frank Hughes has been with us since January 25 sharing his expertise on the Corinthian letters. After Paul's conversion he became one of the most prolific apostles of Christ, writing many of the New Testament letters we read today. St. Paul's letters are the earliest writings by Christians to be written, collected, and understood to be Holy Scripture. They are earlier than the gospels, in the form in which we have the gospels.

Fr. Hughes has studied and written extensively on the Pauline letters; he is the coauthor with Robert Jewett of [*The Corinthian Correspondence: Redaction, Rhetoric, and History*](#). This is an extraordinary opportunity to have such a scholar with us, anxious to teach us about our patron. Fr. Hughes deconstructs these fragments and letters, letting us examine them in an entirely new way with a new perspective.



In February there will be three more sessions with Fr. Hughes: Wednesday, **February 1**, Sunday, **February 5**, and then again on Wednesday **February 8**. Even if you have missed previous sessions you won't want to miss these last ones!

Lenten Book Study



The Wednesday Night Rector's Forum book study begins **March 1** with *Walking the Way of Sorrows: Stations of the Cross* by Katerina Katsarka Whitley. The book consists of fourteen monologues, one for each station, and is told from the perspective of one of the witnesses. For example, Mary of Nazareth narrates one station while an arresting officer narrates another. This gives an entirely new perspective to each station and takes us deeper into the story of the crucifixion. There are a few copies available in the office if you would like one. They are also [available on Amazon](#).

Godly Play Workshop Coming in March



A young child's Christian formation is one of the most important responsibilities a church accepts. Christian formation is a lifelong process, a lifelong growth in the knowledge, service, and love of God as followers of Christ. We want our children to learn about Jesus through age appropriate and engaging lessons. And so, to ensure this happens at St. Paul's, after much study and research, we have made the decision to use the Godly Play curriculum in Sunday School this fall. With a refurbishment of the East Wing scheduled and a new curriculum, it is time to get excited about Sunday School!

Godly Play has a Montessori based foundation and uses tactile objects that the children can handle and manipulate as they make their spiritual journey. "The spiral curriculum works through three sets of three-year intervals based on the progression of language acquisition: Hear It (ages 3 – 6), Speak It (ages 6 – 9), and Think It (ages 9 – 12). Yet because spirituality and Christian language acquisition are lifelong journeys, use of the Godly Play method has quickly grown to include adults" as well.



Teresa Phares

Teresa Phares is with the Diocese of Oklahoma and is a certified US Trainer in Godly Play. She attended the School of Theology at the University of the South and received her M.A. in Theology. She will visit St. Paul's **Saturday, March 4** to conduct a workshop on the curriculum for Sunday School teachers, prospective teachers, parents, and anyone who wants to learn more about this exciting program. On

Sunday morning she will then lead a session of Godly Play in the East Wing during Sunday School. This is a wonderful opportunity!

Save these dates in March to come learn about and get excited about Sunday school!

Mission and Outreach

Learn More about Religious Life Sunday



The General Convention of the Episcopal Church in 2022 approved a resolution that designated the 3rd Sunday of Epiphany as the annual date to observe “Foundation of Religious Life Sunday” which this year was on January 22. The intent of this resolution focuses efforts to tell all Episcopalians that residential monastic and dispersed Christian communities exist, who they are, and how to connect with them.

Religious communities in The Episcopal Church include monastic communities whose members live together under a rule of life and under vows such as poverty, chastity, and obedience. It also includes dispersed Christian communities whose members are from all walks of life, who have jobs, who live in their own homes, some with families, and who live under religious vows. These communities teach about prayer practices, lead retreats, give spiritual direction, and provide spiritual friendship.

You may perceive a call to a deeper commitment with one community as an associate or oblate. Such commitments begin with discernment and preparation, followed by a formal service of commitment. If you are experiencing a call to join a community, you might consider reaching out to one of these Episcopal religious communities. Visit [The Conference of Anglican Religious Orders in the Americas](#) online which is the conference associated with The Sisters of St. Mary, Southern Province in Sewanee, Tennessee where Sister Hannah lives who visited us last year. You might also visit the [National Association of Episcopal Christian Communities](#) to learn more. There is a website dedicated to Religious Life Sunday which you can visit at religiousslifesunday.org.



75th Anniversary Volunteer Committees



In 2025, St. Paul’s will celebrate its 75th anniversary and we want to mark this milestone with a year-long celebration. Events will include a worship service in the Parish Hall as was done before the church was constructed, and a Country Fair.

An event this momentous requires contributions from each of us! There is a committee where you can serve: we will have a worship service committee, a cookbook committee, a country fair committee, a time capsule committee, and a recipe book committee, to name a few. Sign-up sheets for each committee are in the Parlor.

Think about where your interests and talents may lie. We want every single person involved in some way! Plan to come to the Volunteers Meeting on **Monday, February 27** at 5:30 p.m. We want your ideas, your enthusiasm, your recollections, and your help.

Lisa Cronin is Passionate about Philanthropy



Lisa Cronin. Photo by Henrietta Wildsmith, *The Times*.

Nominations for the 2023 [Virginia K. Shehee Most Influential Woman Award](#) are closing soon and as that date nears, last year’s winner, Common Ground’s Lisa Cronin, has advice for the next influential woman: “We make the biggest difference when

we are passionate about what we are doing,” said Cronin in her acceptance speech last year. Lisa’s work at Common Ground stands out as epitomizing the qualities of leadership, civic engagement and philanthropy. We are proud to work with Lisa and Common Ground through our Outreach ministries.

Parish Life

Tazah the Camel Joins Epiphany Celebration



Fr. Guido and Tazah.

We celebrated Epiphany at St. Paul's with a Holy Eucharist complete with Wise Men, dinner in an elegantly decorated Parish Hall, and a visit by Tazah the Camel.

Epiphany celebrates the manifestation of Christ to the peoples of the earth and is also when we participate in the ancient custom of "chalking the door," or inviting God's blessing on our home. At the children's sermon, Fr. Michael explained this custom to the

children and each received a box of chalk and the blessing so they might chalk the blessing on their own homes.

Parishioners dined on jambalaya in the Parish Hall and mingled on the front lawn where everyone was able to meet Tazah the Camel. The camel was a big hit with both adults and children as he munched oak leaves from the trees and posed for photographs. Everyone wanted a photograph with Tazah who was gentle and cooperative with everyone.

It was a wonderful event. Many thanks to Beverly Casso and her team for the delicious dinner and decorations and to Tazah and his handler, Michael, who will always be in our hearts.



Will Metrejean, John Hilton Ferguson, and Luke Maier as the Wise Men.



Fr. David Greer, Fr. Michael Cannon, Fr. Guido Verbeck

The Family of St. Paul's is Growing



Fr. Michael formally welcomed several new families to our congregation Sunday, January 15.

We welcome Sarah Drysdale, Paul and Janet Moore, Cindy Bickham and Amber, Paul and Amy Williamson, and Cece, John, Frannie, and Beckett Hilliard.

Each family was presented with an acrylic replica of the stained glass window featuring St. Paul.

Vestry Corner

Highlights from the December 19 Vestry meeting:

- Church attendance is increasing with an average attendance of 145 people on each Sunday.
- Pledges for 2023 are up about \$100,000 over 2022. Al Cannon reported that the budget is in the black for the year and that St. Paul's is a financially sound and blessed church.
- St. Paul's has received a Community Foundation Grant in the amount of \$5,000 to refurbish the East Wing as an inviting space for children's Sunday School.
- The convection ovens in the kitchen, one of which no longer works, will be replaced using Maintenance Reserve Funds.
- A committee has been formed to oversee renovation of the Memorial Garden: Joe Corby, Julia Gahagan, Matt Abrams, Mike Nichols, Bobby Horne, and John Phillips, plus the new 2023 Jr. Warden. Fr. Michael is an *ex officio* member.

Prayers

We pray for the Family of St. Paul's. For the sick: Larry Graff, Debbey Mire, Caldwell and Deedy Roberts, Alan, Joe Hargrove, Linda Daigle, Steve Becker, Emilie Anne Ostendorff, Crystal Woolley, Elizabeth Ross, George Belchic, Larry Broadwell, Ray Lee, Harriett Destiche, Tom Ostendorff, Ginger Harrell, Joan and Bob Kopp, Glenda Young, Joe and Ann Fertitta, Marlyn Monette, John Baker, Nick Randall, Mary Merritt, Ben Hebert, Stephen Roberts, Robert and Patty Wilson, Tammy Register, Haley Pederson, Connie Blondin, Sam Waghalter, Peggy Byerly, Jean Galloway, Gil Lawton, Mike Johnston, Ray and Waynette Lee, Kinsley, Rozelle Hahn, Steven Pell, Charla, Omega Martin, James Lee, Brian Lewis, Luke, Mary Helen Byrum, Beth McMurry, Tara Hooper.

We pray for our military: Steven, Shaun, Cody, Nick, Todd, Cole, Clark, Aaron, Zach

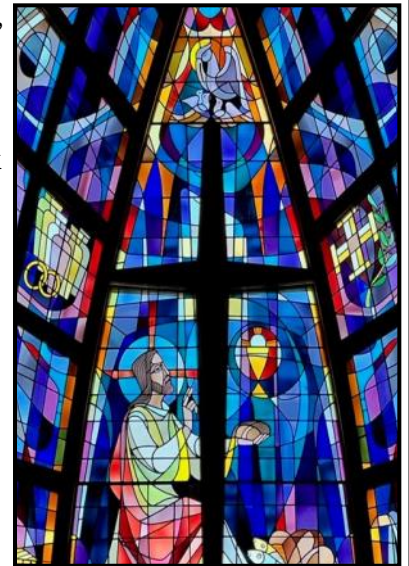
We pray for our missionaries: Tom and Robin Wilson

We pray for the faithfully departed: Denise, Mark Smith, Jerry Tyler

We pray for our expectant mothers: Claire Brooks, Mary Whitener

We pray for the Anglican Communion and Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church USA; Bishop Jake Owensby and his wife, Joy; Bishop Moises, Bishop of the Dominican Republic, our companion diocese; St. Matthias, Cherident, Haiti, and Pere Jacob; the President of the United States, Joseph, and we pray for Fr. Michael, our Rector, the clergy, the people, and the ministries of St. Paul's.

If you know anyone who would appreciate being on the prayer list please contact Pat Becker in the office. Names generally remain on the list for four weeks unless otherwise requested or renewed.



Collect for February 2: The Presentation of Our Lord

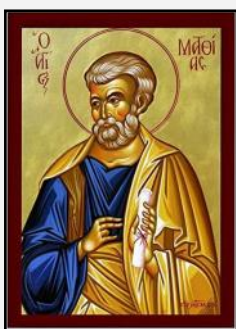


Almighty and everliving God, we humbly pray that, as your only-begotten Son was this day presented in the temple, so we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts by Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Collect for February 22: Ash Wednesday

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Collect for February 24: St. Matthias the Apostle



Almighty God, who in the place of Judas chose your faithful servant Matthias to be numbered among the Twelve: Grant that your Church, being delivered from false apostles, may always be guided and governed by faithful and true pastors; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Collect for February 26: The First Sunday in Lent

Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan: Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations; and, as you know the weaknesses of each of us, let each one find you mighty to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*



Saint Paul's Episcopal Church
 275 Southfield Road
 Shreveport, LA 71105

The Family of St. Paul's ~ Living the Transforming Love of Jesus Christ

JESUS CHRIST IS HEAD OF THE CHURCH

The Rev. Michael Cannon, Rector

The Right Rev. Jacob W. Owensby, PhD, DD ~ Bishop of the Diocese of Western Louisiana

Bobby Horne, Senior Warden

The Vestry

2021-2023 - Julie Broadwell, Emily Maier, Amy Prather, Ron Smith

2022-2024 - Linda Brooks, Alan Prater, JoAnn Rose, Matt Woolley

2023-2025 - Ashley Baker, Louise Broadwell, Lois Fraser, Bruce Shear

- Pat Becker.....Church Secretary
- Erika Cannon.....Parish Administrator
- Beverly Casso.....Hospitality Coordinator
- Kimberly Duncan.....Youth Minister
- Bob Maynard.....Music Minister
- Debbey Mire.....Church Accountant
- John Phillips.....Facility Manager
- JoAnn Rose.....Day School Principal
- Remie Smith.....Nursery Coordinator
- Ron Smith.....Liturgist
- Tim Tully.....Sexton
- Elizabeth West.....Organist