



The Epistle

of

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

(318) 865-8469

February 2025

Living the Transforming Love of Jesus Christ

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Message from Fr. Michael	2
Stewardship	3
Worship	4
Families, Children, Youth	5
Calendar	6-7
Discipleship & Christian Education	8
Mission & Outreach	9
Parish Life	10
Prayers	11

Dedication Comes in Many Forms

We have elected five new Vestry members at our Annual Meeting in January: five of our peers who have dedicated themselves to a not insubstantial commitment of a three-year term serving our church and congregation, as well as a new Senior Warden which is indeed a true commitment of love and service.

Dedication comes in many forms. For example, as Christians, we dedicate our lives to Christ. On the day of our Baptism we were dedicated to God which means our sins do not have to get the best of us. Being dedicated to God means that God works with us in our imperfections and it means recognizing our weakness and being willing to do what is needed to get better. It is true that sometimes we dedicate ourselves to the wrong things or a wrong path, but God always gives us a way to get it right. It is just as we say in our Baptismal covenant: "I will with God's help."



The Presentation of Christ in the Temple,
Giovanni di Paolo (Metropolitan Museum of Fine Art)

Dedication and commitment abounds at St. Paul's: in May of this year we will rededicate our recently restored organ. On page three you will find an update on that project and an appeal for support. Many parishioners have already dedicated financial resources to the restoration of the joyful sounds of the

organ, but we still have a long way to go!

In our Parishioner Spotlight you will hear about a very special award that has been presented in recognition of distinguished service to our youth. Joe Corby's steadfast dedication and commitment to the Boy Scouts of America is an admirable achievement and has helped foster leadership and responsibility in our youth.

We also dedicate ourselves to our work, whether it is schoolwork, vocational, or our hobbies. This month we introduce you to our own Michelle Boyd who joins our staff as Ministry Coordinator. Michelle is dedicated to, and feels passionate about, helping members discern their spiritual gifts and find their way into ministry areas where they may serve, enjoy fellowship, and make connections. You may remember Michelle recently climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro, a completely different level of dedication!

And finally, as we celebrate our 75th anniversary this year, consider what resolute dedication and service has been required to reach this milestone. We are here today because of the commitment of many that came before us to build, nurture, and grow this church. Please consider taking part in many of the events throughout the year as we continue to grow both spiritually and in number.



Thank you to Bobby Horne, pictured here with his wife, Emily, for his years of service as Senior Warden.

A Message from Fr. Michael



The Presentation of our Lord at the Temple

Since this major feast is set for February 2nd each year we have the rare pleasure of celebrating it on a Sunday. What we are commemorating goes back to the Exodus when God delivered the Hebrews out of their slavery in Egypt. Recall that all the firstborn of the Egyptians were killed as punishment for Pharaoh's hard heart, but the Israelite children were spared. Immediately upon their gaining freedom, God commanded the Israelites to consecrate to Him their firstborn from that time forward: "Whatever is the first to open the womb among the Israelites, of human beings and animals, belongs to God. This command is later repeated when God declares that "The firstborn of your sons you shall give to me."

In practical terms the Lord God needed people wholly dedicated to him as their vocation in order to perform the ritual worship and other services needed to keep God and His ways at the center of their common life. This practice was thus inscribed in the Holy Law. The law required the eldest male child be presented 40 days after being born. This was sufficient time for the mother to recover from giving birth. The family would then commit their child to that service. As the story of God's chosen people continues, we learn of two significant figures who are dedicated in this fashion: Sampson and Samuel, who would both become Judges over Israel.

Over time (after Solomon built the Temple and the priesthood expanded) there came into the law a revision to this practice which allowed the family the option of making a sacrifice *in lieu* of dedicating the child to full time service. This sacrifice nullified the vocational requirement. So it was when Jesus was a baby. Being faithful Jews, Joseph and Mary presented the baby Jesus at the Temple and made the prescribed sacrifice of turtle doves or pigeons which was appropriate for a poor family.

The Holy family presents Jesus and we are introduced to two significant Temple figures: The Priest Simeon and the Prophet Anna. Both are old, very old. Anna was 84 and we get the sense that Simeon was also very old. They had served the Lord in the Temple for their entire lives it seems. They are the very picture of dedication. That's the key word for today. What does it mean to be dedicated? It means to be committed to a purpose or task to the exclusion of other options. It means saying no to other life choices – even attractive ones. Dedication requires focus and concentration. Dedication requires endurance because anything engaged with seriously over a long period of time involves suffering, tedium, and disappointment. Dedication keeps on going no matter what. Simeon and Anna had endured much during their service to God.

In this scene we see the old priest and prophet at the end of their lives, having spent themselves in service to the Lord to the exclusion of other things. Having done so they were rewarded with a vision of salvation in the face of Jesus. Such is the reward for dedication. Having completed their life of dedication they were at last set free to enter into their rest in eternal glory. Simeon's song the *Nunc Dimittis* which we say at evening prayer captures the essence of this wonderful meeting: "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." Without dedication life has no depth of soil and the seed of the Gospel cannot take root and bear fruit. Today we celebrate the dedication of our Lord whose dedication has become our salvation, and to his servants who point others to him. Without them (without their dedication) the flame of hope would flicker and die. Thanks be to God for the dedicated ones. Who reflect the light of Christ into the world. Like Joe Corby who today we commend for his dedication to scouting and to the church. We too are called to lives dedicated to the Lord, to reflect the light of Christ, in our own individual contexts. Let us hear that call today and the promise of seeing our salvation that comes with it.

Now I want to say a word about what sometimes prevents us from committing to this deep and narrow path. Our guest teacher this week, Dann Wigner, introduced me to a book by Barry Schwartz entitled *The Paradox of Choice*. His thesis is that an overabundance of choices in our modern society hinders us from making deeper commitments and experiencing joys that come from it. Options are good, but (paradoxically) too many options are problematic. Indeed, we are inundated with practically unlimited options. How many tv channels do we have access to? How many sports, churches, food, and entertainment choices do we have? For that matter how many internet and social media screens do we scroll through endlessly searching for the perfect opinion or meme or event? These unlimited choices give the illusion that there must be an ideal or perfect fit there somewhere. Unlimited choices tempt to spend inordinate time [even our whole lives] evaluating choices rather than committing. Instead of dedicating ourselves to that which we know is good we can become enthralled in the pursuit of the illusory perfect thing. And this is costing untold numbers of people their joy and salvation. Dear friends, let's not get caught in the fruitless pursuit of a mirage, but instead follow the example of our Lord and of Simeon, Anna and Joe and dedicate ourselves to what we already know is good and true – and that is service to the Lord our God.

Parishioner Spotlight: Joe Corby



On February 2, Joe Corby was presented with The St. George Award of the Episcopal Church which is a national recognition to acknowledge distinguished service by adults in the spiritual, physical, mental, and moral development of youth through service to the Church and through national youth agency programs. Joe joined the Scouts in 1957 and has served ever since. He has dedicated his life to youth development through his career and has influenced thousands of young people. He has served St. Paul's through the years as treasurer, Jr. Warden, and usher, among other duties. Fr. Michael presented the medal and certificate to Joe during the 10:30 service noting that Joe's dedication to the Scouts and to St. Paul's is truly inspirational!

Stewardship

Sharing the gifts we have

New Vestry Members

Congratulations to the new Senior Warden and to our newest Vestry members. At our Annual Meeting on January 26, parishioners elected Ron Smith as our new Senior Warden. Elected to Vestry for a three-year term are Barbie Cannon, Beverly Casso, Will Duncan, and Paul Moore. Levi Brendle was elected to complete Tana Nelson's term. Thank you to all of the candidates who agreed to run for Vestry this year!



Ron Smith



Levi Brendle



Barbie Cannon



Beverly Casso



Will Duncan



Paul Moore

Be a Key Player in the Organ Restoration

In recent months we have been able to hear, in part, the sounds of our recently restored Casavant organ. A large number of the pipes have been restored by Colby Organ Company and reinstalled; we are about 85% complete. The goal is to have all of the pipes back by Easter 2025 when we will hear the organ in its full glory.

And what a joyful sound it is! One can already discern a clearer, brighter sound! Organist Elizabeth West has been excited to be able to play many sounds now that this organ has not been able to produce in years. In May 2025 we plan to celebrate the restored organ with a concert and rededication service and we will install a handsome plaque to memorialize all financial donors to this event in the life of our church. Our organ is central to our worship and we are blessed to have this magnificent instrument which was custom built for us in 1962 by Casavant Organ Builders of Montreal, Canada.

Nothing comes without a cost, however. The total cost of this restoration is \$600,000; to date we have received donations of about half that amount, including an interest free loan from the Diocese in the amount of \$150,000. Now is the time to consider becoming a financial donor to the St. Paul's Organ Restoration. We are asking you to be a key player in this historic undertaking by giving it your financial support above your regular tithe to raise the remaining \$300,000.

We thank you for hearing this appeal and hope you give prayerful consideration to joining this donor list. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Fr. Michael at 318-865-8469.

Ministry Spotlight: The Scouts



St Paul's is celebrating its 75th Anniversary, and for 70 of those years, countless youth have enjoyed scouting in units chartered by the church. For 69 years, they chartered Troop 14, with 138 boys in the troop earning the rank of Eagle Scout. They also chartered Pack 44 and Post 14 for several years. Currently, St Paul's charters Cub Scout Pack 25 and new Girl Troop 25. On February 2nd (Scout Sunday), Joe Corby was awarded the St. George Award, for his years of service to the church and its youth in scouting.

This year, the Boy Scouts of America are celebrating 115 years of service to youth, and on February 8th, their name is officially changing to Scouting America.

Worship

Word of the Month: Grace

In simplest terms, Grace can be defined as God's love freely given to humanity for salvation.



Bartolomé Esteban Murillo, *The Return of the Prodigal Son*, 1667/1670 (National Gallery of Art)

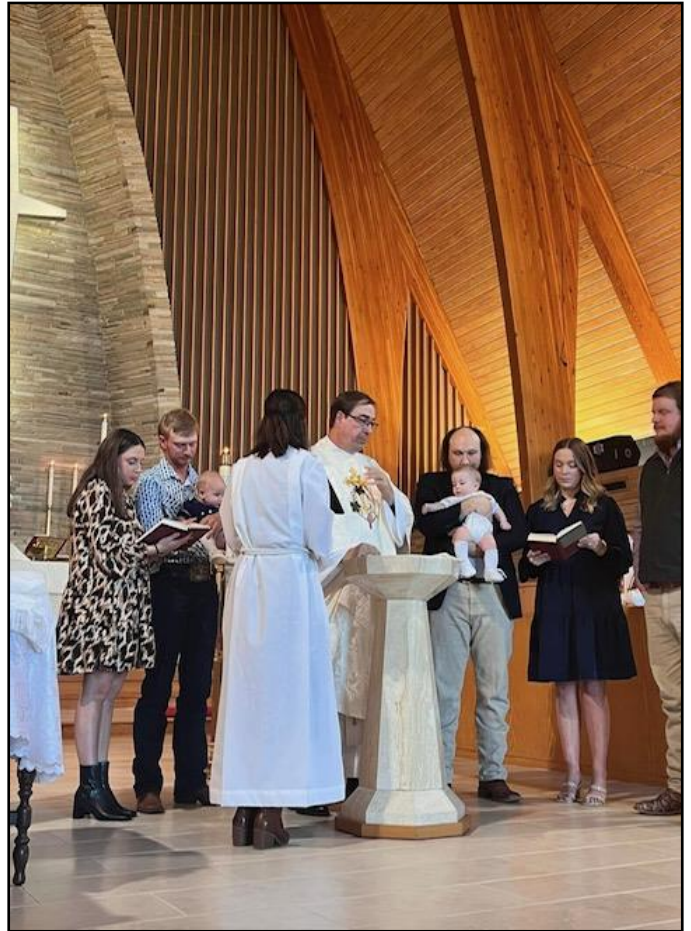
In the Episcopal Church, “showing grace” means to extend God’s unmerited favor and forgiveness to others, demonstrating compassion, understanding, and a willingness to overlook faults and essentially acting with kindness and mercy towards

others, even when they may not deserve it, reflecting the idea that God’s grace is freely given to all people.

According to The Episcopal Dictionary, “The Catechism notes that grace is “God’s favor towards us, unearned and undeserved.” By grace God “forgives our sins, enlightens our minds, stirs our hearts, and strengthens our wills.” The Catechism also states that the sacraments and other sacramental rites of the church are means of grace (BCP, pp. 857-860).

The Lebanese mystic Kahlil Gibran said that “kindness is the shadow of God in man.” There is nothing kinder than forgiveness — paradoxically, kind to both forgiver and forgiven.

Christ's Own Forever



On Sunday, January 12, we welcomed Levi Thomas Sharpe and Layton James Williamson in baptism. Levi and Layton are cousins!

Altar Flowers

February 2: To the Glory of God and in celebration of our wedding anniversary. Given by Kevin and Mary Virginia Hill.

February 9: To the Glory of God and loving memory of my children Casey Thompson and Debbie Thompson Grice. Given by Charles Thompson and Janis Kutschbach.

February 16: To the Glory of God and in loving memory of my husband Raymond. Given by Gwen Bowles.

February 23: 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 2: The Presentation of Our Lord

1st Lesson: Malachi 3:1-4; Psalm 84; 2nd Lesson: Hebrews 2:14-18; Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

February 9: The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

1st Lesson: Isaiah 6:1-8, [9-13]; Psalm 138; 2nd Lesson: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Gospel: Luke 5:1-11

February 16: The Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

1st Lesson: Jeremiah 17:5-10; Psalm 1; 2nd Lesson: 1 Corinthians 15:12-20; Gospel: Luke 6:17-26

February 23: The Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany

1st Lesson: Genesis 45:3-11, 15; Psalm 37:1-12, 41-42; 2nd Lesson: 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50; Gospel: Luke 6:27-38

Families, Children, Youth

EYC Outing Focuses on Self Esteem



The teenagers have been discussing what it means to be made in God's image, and asking "What does that say about us?" It means that any harsh words we have for ourselves are not true! God doesn't make mistakes! In fact, we are all fearfully and wonderfully made.

To embrace this way of thinking the EYC group visited the Self-esteem Studio. This is a DIY photography study and they



have a multitude of props, backdrops, lighting, and interesting showpieces for visitors to take selfies.

The teenagers were challenged with seeing themselves as God sees them, and it looks like EYC sponsors Kim and Will Duncan had a little fun as well!

The EYC meets each Sunday afternoon at 5 pm in the McRae Lodge.



You Can Sign up to Host Coffee Hour



Do you have a birthday or anniversary you'd like to recognize? Is your Guild or group interested in recruiting new members or meeting new people? Coffee Hour is your opportunity!

You can now sign up to host coffee hour on any given Sunday. St. Paul's provides the coffee and lemonade and you can bring a cake, treats, sandwiches, whatever you desire. This is a fun opportunity to celebrate an event, promote your group, and meet new people!

There is a sign up sheet in the Parlor or you can [sign up online](#).

If you have any questions please contact Angie Abrams who is happy to help you!

Camp Hardtner "Souper Bowl" Chili Cookoff



Make plans to join us in the McRae Lodge **February 9** and bring your best chili for our Camp Hardtner "Souper Bowl" Chili Cookoff!

Elizabeth Ollendike will be here to give us an update on Camp Hardtner. We will see who has the best chili, enjoy

some games, and watch the Super Bowl!

The fun begins at 5 pm.

2025 Summer Camp Schedule

Session	Grades*	Dates
First Camp	2, 3, & 4 with Parent/Guardian	May 30 - June 1
Sr. High Camp	11, 12, & 2025 Graduates	June 3 - 10
Primary Camp 1	4, 5, & 6	June 13 - 18
Jr. High Camp 1	6, 7, & 8	June 21 - 27
Mid. High Camp	9, 10, & 11	June 29 - July 5
Primary Camp 2	4, 5, & 6	July 8 - 13
Jr. High Camp 2	6, 7, & 8	July 16 - 22
Able Camp	Adults 18+ with Special Needs	July 25 - 29

*Grades based on 2025-2026 school year

Registration opens December 1 at 12pm

February

Sun

Mon

Tue

We



2

3

4

5

8 am Holy Eucharist 1
9:30 am Sunday School, all ages
10:30 am Holy Eucharist 2, Scouting Sunday
11:30 am Coffee Hour (Parlor)
4:30 pm The Way (Chancel)
5:30 pm EYC (McRae Lodge)

12 pm Outreach Committee
Birthday: Larry Graff, JanRay Calpito,
Gentry Carroll

1 pm Knitting Group (Wardens' Room)
1:30 pm Matthew 25: Common Ground
(Parish Hall)
7 pm Centering Prayer (Wardens' Rm)

10 am Healing Eucharist
10:30 am Bible Study
5:30 pm Simple Eucharist
6 pm Dinner (Parish Hall)
6:45 pm Programs, all ages
Birthday: Kurt Nelson

9

10

11

12

8 am Holy Eucharist 1
9:00 am Fellowship Breakfast (Parish Hall)
10:30 am Holy Eucharist 2
2 pm St. Paul's Players: All I Need to Know I
Learned in Kindergarten (Parish Hall)
3 pm Holy Eucharist at The Glen
4:30 pm The Way (Chancel)
5 pm Camp Hardtner Super Bowl Chili Party
Anniversary: Kevin and Mary Virginia Hill

12 pm Finance Committee
12 pm Pastoral Care Team
Birthday: Lynette Van Heerden

1 pm Knitting Group (Wardens' Room)
1:30 pm Matthew 25: Common Ground
(Parish Hall)
7 pm Centering Prayer (Wardens' Rm)
Birthday: Ava Boyd

10 am Healing Eucharist
10:30 am Bible Study
5:30 pm Simple Eucharist
6 pm Dinner (Parish Hall)
6:45 pm Programs, all ages
Birthday: Bella Vazquez

16

17

18

19

8 am Holy Eucharist 1
9:30 am Sunday School, all ages
10:30 am Holy Eucharist 2, New Members
11:30 am Coffee Hour (Parlor)
4:30 pm The Way (Chancel)
5:30 pm Agape Meal
5:30 pm EYC (McRae Lodge)

10:30 am St. Catherine's Guild (Parlor)
6 pm Vestry Meeting (Wardens' Room)
Birthday: Patti Mitchell

1 pm Knitting Group (Wardens' Room)
1:30 pm Matthew 25: Common Ground
(Parish Hall)
7 pm Centering Prayer (Wardens' Rm)

10 am Healing Eucharist
10:30 am Bible Study
5:30 pm Simple Eucharist
6 pm Dinner (Parish Hall)
6:45 pm Programs, all ages
Birthday: Brady Quinn

23

24

25

26





8 am Holy Eucharist 1
9:30 am Sunday School, all ages
10:30 am Holy Eucharist 2
11:30 am Coffee Hour (Parlor)
4:30 pm The Way (Chancel)
5:30 pm EYC (McRae Lodge)

Birthday: Caroline Williamson, Elizabeth
Williamson, Rhonda Rubben

1 pm Knitting Group (Wardens' Room)
1:30 pm Matthew 25: Common Ground
(Parish Hall)
7 pm Centering Prayer (Wardens' Rm)
Birthday: Steven Becker

10 am Healing Eucharist
10:30 am Bible Study
5:30 pm Simple Eucharist
6 pm Dinner (Parish Hall)
6:45 pm Programs, all ages
Birthday: Tem McElroy

July 2025

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<p style="text-align: center;">1</p> <p>9 am Vestry Retreat Birthday: Ashley Baker</p>
<p>rist (Chapel) (Wardens' Room) arist (Chapel) Hall) ll ages</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">6</p> <p>10:30 am Morning Prayer at Riverview 12 pm Men's Bible Study (Bride's Rm) 7 pm Choir Practice 7 pm St. Paul's Players: All I Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten (Parish Hall)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">7</p> <p>6:30 am Brotherhood of St. Andrew Bible Study (Wardens' Room) 7 pm St. Paul's Players: All I Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten (Parish Hall)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">8</p> <p>2 pm St. Paul's Players: All I Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten (Parish Hall) 7 pm St. Paul's Players: All I Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten (Parish Hall) Bithday: Mackey Quinlan, Leslie Knox</p>
<p>rist (Chapel) (Wardens' Room) arist (Chapel) Hall) ll ages</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">13</p> <p>10:30 am Morning Prayer at Riverview 12 pm Men's Bible Study (Bride's Rm) 5:30 pm Guild of Queen Esther (McRae Lodge) 7 pm Choir Practice</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">14</p> <p>6:30 am Brotherhood of St. Andrew Bible Study (Wardens' Room)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">15</p> <p>9 am Brotherhood of St. Andrew Breakfast (Parish Hall)</p>
<p>rist (Chapel) (Wardens' Room) arist (Chapel) Hall) ll ages</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">20</p> <p>10:30 am Morning Prayer at Riverview 12 pm Men's Bible Study (Bride's Rm) 7 pm Choir Practice Birthday: Katy Wilkens</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">21</p> <p>6:30 am Brotherhood of St. Andrew Bible Study (Wardens' Room) Birthday: Deedy Roberts, Penny Adams</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">22</p> <p>Birthday: Avery Bagwell</p>
<p>rist (Chapel) (Wardens' Room) arist (Chapel) Hall) ll ages oy, Austin Griffin</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">27</p> <p>10:30 am Morning Prayer at Riverview 12 pm Men's Bible Study (Bride's Rm) 7 pm Choir Practice Birthday: Linda Brooks, Bobby Horne, Thomas Carpenter</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">28</p> <p>6:30 am Brotherhood of St. Andrew Bible Study (Wardens' Room)</p>	

Discipleship & Christian Education

Dann Wigner: Thinking Theologically



Theologian and religious sociologist Dann Wigner was here recently for a series of presentations on “Thinking Theologically.”

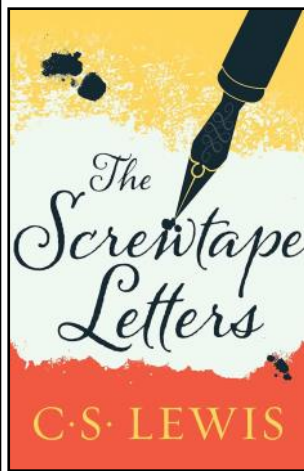
The focus of his presentation centered on bringing faith into everyday life.

Wigner explains that we should develop a practice of reading scripture daily and notes that this keeps it on our mind. “What’s on our minds comes out of our mouth,” he said. While not every situation we study in scripture may relate to us, there is always someone before us who has gone through whatever we may be experiencing, so looking at history and tradition is another way to approach any situation.

Using the live nativity as an example, Wigner walked participants through each step, thus showing how his approach truly brings theological thought into our everyday lives and makes us more thoughtful in our approach to almost any situation or event we may encounter.

Dann Wigner is the author of several books, including *Thinking Spiritually in Small Groups*.

C. S. Lewis: The Screwtape Letters



Looking ahead, our Lenten study will be *The Screwtape Letters* by C. S. Lewis. Advance notice in case you want to get a head start!

The Screwtape Letters has entertained and enlightened readers the world over with its sly and ironic portrayal of human life and foibles from the unique vantage point of Screwtape, a highly placed assistant to “Our Father Below.”

At once wildly comic, deadly serious, and strikingly original, C.S. Lewis gives us the correspondence of the wordly-wise devil to his nephew Wormwood, a novice demon in charge of securing the damnation of an ordinary young man.

The youth will join us on Wednesday nights in this very special book study! Even if you’ve read this book many times, there is always more to glean from its pages and of course the lively discussion that is sure to follow.

We begin March 12 in the Parlor!

Youth Sunday School Digs “Beneath the Surface”



The youth have digging into some deep questions.

The “Beneath the Surface” series prompts the teenagers to wonder: Who do you think you are? You might define your identity by the things people see on the surface — like your style, your look, your abilities, or your reputation. Those things might have

something to do with who you are, but they don’t quite capture the whole picture, do they?

For each of us, there is always so much more to who we are beneath the surface. But who are we, really? How can we discover who God made us to be? And how can following Jesus shape who we’re becoming?

In this four-week series, the teenagers look at four moments from the early years of Jesus’ life. As we do, we’ll see how God helps us discover who we’re becoming and how God’s words help us discover who we are. We’ll also learn how the right relationships help us discover how to grow and how Jesus helps us discover purpose.

Youth Sunday School happens each Sunday in the McRae Lodge at 9:30 am.

It Takes a Village: Galentine’s at The ClayGround

The new women’s group, It Takes a Village, gathered at The ClayGround on Saturday, February 1, to paint pottery and enjoy fellowship with each other.

The ClayGround is a fun studio where you can choose whatever pottery you’d like to paint from their display wall. They will glaze and fire your piece for you. From all accounts the ladies had a great time enjoyed the outing.

It Takes a Village has a “no pressure” approach and meets every Sunday at 9:30 am in the Bride’s Room for prayer, fellowship, and casual conversation aimed at supporting and lifting up each other, and almost certainly will be planning more fun events in the future!

Mission and Outreach

Responding to the California Wildfires



Episcopal Relief & Development is partnering with the [Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles](#) to provide cash assistance to people who have been impacted during the

Palisades, Woodley, Eaton and Hurst wildfires.

The fires ignited in early January and have killed at least 25 people and displaced tens of thousands. Fueled by high winds, they have followed an unpredictable path, causing widespread destruction to homes, schools, businesses and places of worship in Ventura and Los Angeles counties. Among those impacted are service industry workers. Many people's workplaces have been destroyed, and others have had difficulty commuting in Southern California because of dangerous conditions, resulting in lost wages.

In partnership with Episcopal Relief & Development, the Diocese of Los Angeles is providing gift cards and cash deposits through electronic apps to people in need. The financial assistance will be disbursed through churches throughout the Diocese that are serving as emergency shelters, charging stations and respite centers.

"The effects of this disaster are heartbreaking, overwhelming and deeply personal for our church partners," said Lura Steele, Program Officer, Episcopal Relief & Development. "Many have lost so much, and they are still working hard to quickly mobilize resources to people even more affected by the fires such as people who have limited social and financial resources."

Episcopal Relief & Development is equipping local leaders to implement asset based disaster responses through regional support calls where staff share expertise and resources. Staff also individually guide leaders through federal and state aid processes. Episcopal Relief & Development will support leaders throughout the impact phase of this disaster and into long-term recovery. We will walk alongside survivors as they choose the next steps that make the most sense for their lives.

Please [pray](#) for the people affected by the wildfires. Supporting the [Wildfire Response Fund](#) will help communities around the world respond to the impact of fires, including people affected by the wildfires in California.

Michelle Boyd: Ministry Coordinator

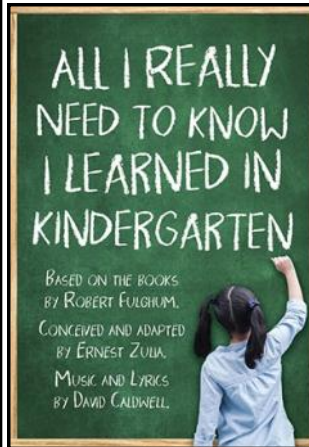


Michelle Boyd has joined the staff as our new Ministry Coordinator. She will work to increase parishioner participation in the life of the church, help meet the needs of newcomers and all parishioners looking to enhance their spiritual growth. She will help ministry groups with

promotion, help publicize events, and more importantly, help promote a culture of Invite, Welcome, Connect. Michelle and her husband, Chris have been members at St. Paul's for almost two years and are the parents of Ava. Michelle will be at the Welcome Desk on Sunday mornings and is always available and approachable to answer your questions!

The St. Paul's Players Present

All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten



Based on Robert Fulghum's best-selling books, All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten takes a funny, insightful, heartwarming look at what is profound in everyday life.

The delightful stories in this play feature colorful characters such as: a shy little boy who insists on playing the "pig" in his class production of Cinderella and steals the show; a man whose dream of flying carries him high over Los Angeles ... in a lawn chair buoyed by surplus weather balloons; a "mother of the bride" who's staged a perfect wedding—until the bowling ball of fate rolls down the aisle; and a modern-day Greek philosopher who finds the meaning of life in a piece of broken mirror from World War II. These stories celebrate our very existence, from the whimsy of childhood to the wisdom of old age.

Directed by Erika Cannon and starring several familiar faces, this play is absolutely charming. Opening night is **February 7** with additional performances **February 8 and 9**. All proceeds support our South Dakota Mission Trip 2025.

Call the box office for tickets: 318-553-2173.

Parish Life

Annual Meeting 2025: Elections, Presentations, Lunch, Fellowship

Our Annual Meeting was held Sunday, January 26 and included election of a new Senior Warden, vestry elections, presentations, lunch, and fellowship.

The meeting began in the church immediately following our worship service. Fr. Michael opened the meeting in prayer before recognizing and thanking the outgoing vestry members and Senior Warden Bobby Horne.



Outgoing vestry included Linda Brooks, who has also faithfully served as secretary during her term, Alan Prater, who also served as Jr. Warden, JoAnn Rose, and Louise Smith. Each was presented with a gift in thanks for their service.

Fr. Michael outlined the criteria for voting, ballots were distributed, and votes cast before adjournment to the Parish Hall for lunch and presentations on each of our ministry areas.

Fr. Michael's Rector's report outlined the many accomplishments around our facility in the past year, including courtyard renovation and organ restoration. In a poignant moment, he called for a moment of silence to remember parishioners who have gone on to glory this year.

Outgoing Senior Warden Bobby Horne gave a report and issued a challenge for us to embrace change, have patience, and support our Rector, staff, and vestry.

The treasurer's report notes that our Merrill Lynch and Edward Jones investments have done very well and we are on sound footing.

Levi Brendle spoke of our new worship service that was added this year, The Way, and challenged each of us to grow in our own worship practices. Michelle Boyd, who has joined the staff as Ministry Coordinator, spoke on discipleship and building a community of relationships.



Jordan Matlock talked about Children, Youth, and Families but also highlighted our 75th Anniversary slate of activities. Steve Becker's presentation on Mission and Outreach cataloged a thorough list of our outreach activities and Paul Moore highlighted the many events in Parish Life. Paul noted that 847 people attended plays here last year contributing over \$18,000 to our South Dakota Mission Trip.

New vestry members were announced and the meeting adjourned at 1:40 pm.

Mardi Gras Party with Flashback



Don't miss our Mardi Gras Gumbo Supper celebration **March 4** at 6 pm in the Parish Hall, featuring the Flashback Band, specializing in music from the 50s, 60s, and 70s. And of course King Cake!

Bring the kids and come enjoy some gumbo and a fantastic band who will make you want to get up and dance!

Highlights from the December Vestry Meeting

- Ashley Baker was elected by the Vestry to serve as Junior Warden for 2025.
- The proposed budget for 2025 was presented and each line item was discussed at length and suggestions and changes were made. The Vestry will consider the revised budget at the January meeting.
- The organ was played in church on Sunday December 15th. Complete restoration should be completed by Easter.

St. Paul's 75th Anniversary



Our church celebrates its 75th anniversary this year and throughout the year we will be celebrating with various events and recognitions (see pg. 9).

Events include a special clergy recognition, a 1950s worship service in the Parish Hall, a directory project, a cookbook project, and a time

capsule. Trunk or Treat this year will feature decades-themed trunks, and of course we have a Pentecost party planned!

There are plans for other events, such as a country store, a recipe book, and a directory, but we could certainly use your help!

If you would like to be involved in any capacity, please reach out to Kim Duncan, Jordan Matlock, or call the office.

Prayers

We pray for the Family of St. Paul's. For the sick: Ivy, Julia Gahagan, Rita Murray, Charles Pinzon, the Odom family, the Garner family, the Franks family, the Maynard family, the Fertitta family, the Shaw family, Regina Wilson, Jacob Jones, John Pat Frost, Billie, Rob, Lynne Meier, Martha, Laura Kirspel, Sandy Fowler, Fr. David Greer, Alan Prater, John Greer, Paul Tatom, Judy Boogearts, Bill and Chris Ostendorff, Mary Virginia Hill, Ron Snelling, Gary Whitener, Nan Colgin, Maggie McElroy, Mike Herriage, Gary Brooks, Emilie Anne Ostendorff, Tom Ostendorff, Bob Kopp, Gene and Glenda Young, Ed and Marlyn Monette, Ben Hebert, Stephen Roberts, Tammy Register, Peggy Byerly, Ray and Waynette Lee, Steven Pell, James Lee, Mary Helen Byrum.

We pray for our military: Aaron, Adriel, Chris, Clark, Cody, Cole, JanRay, Jason, Levi, Michael, Nick, Shaun, Steven

We pray for our missionaries: Tom and Robin Wilson

We pray for the faithfully departed: Cameron Odom, Evelyn Joyce Garner, Ann Fertitta, Dawson Shaw, Georgette Maynard, Elana Franks

We pray for our expectant mothers: Kimvy Calpito

We pray for the Anglican Communion and Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury, Sean, 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, the President-elect, Donald, and we pray for Fr. Michael, our Rector, the clergy, the people, and the ministries of St. Paul's.

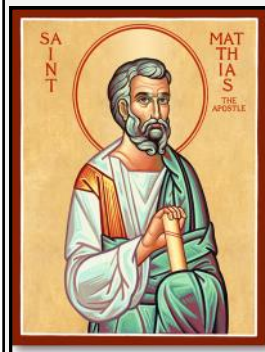


Collect for February 2: The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple



Almighty and ever living 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 24: St Matthias, Apostle



now and for ever. *Amen.*

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,

A Prayer for First Responders



O God, whose love encircles us; sustain those who respond when wildfires roar, keep them safe from harm and hold them in your sheltering embrace so that they may complete these burdensome tasks, return home to their families, and keep the lives and

homes of all they protect safe from harm, in the loving name of Jesus, who gave his life for all. *Amen.*

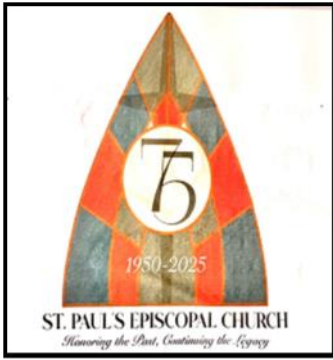
Please join us as we celebrate the 75th year of St. Paul's Episcopal Church



75th Anniversary Events

Sunday, May 18, 10:30 am service: Clergy recognition
 Sunday, June 8, 10:30 am service and following: Pentecost, the birthday of St. Paul's with Baptisms and party celebrations
 Sunday, July 20, 10:30 am service: 1950s worship in the Parish Hall
 Sunday, Oct. 26, 4:30 pm: Trunk or Treat, with decade-themed trunks
 Sunday, Nov. 16, noon-3 pm: St. Paul's Country Store
 Sunday, Dec. 14, 10:30 am service: Bishop's visit with Confirmations and Time Capsule Burial





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

The Rev. Michael Cannon, Rector

The Rev. David J. Greer, Rector Emeritus The Rev. Guido Verbeck, Rector Emeritus

Ron Smith, Senior Warden Ashley Baker, Junior Warden

The Vestry

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

2024-2026 - Stith Bynum, Rebecca Evans, David Langley, Levi Brendle

2025-2027 - Barbie Cannon, Beverly Casso, Will Duncan, Paul Moore

- Pat Becker.....Parish Secretary
- Michelle Boyd.....Ministry Coordinator
- Erika Cannon.....Parish Administrator
- Kimberly Duncan.....Youth Minister
- Bob Maynard.....Music Minister
- JoAnn Rose.....Day School Principal
- Elizabeth West.....Organist