



# The Epistle

of

## St. Paul's Episcopal Church

(318) 865-8469

March 2026

### Living the Transforming Love of Jesus Christ

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#### Confession, Reconciliation, and Forgiveness

*If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John:1-9)*



Our Book of Common Prayer is a treasure trove of prayers, devotions, information, historical documents, sacramental rites, services, liturgy, and so much more.

In this season of Lent, as a church family, we have been hearing a great deal about forgiveness in our study groups and in our services. Lent is, of course, a season for spiritual renewal, repentance, and forgiveness. An important part of that journey can be found in the Book of Common Prayer beginning on page 446: The Reconciliation of a Penitent. This sacramental rite of confession is perhaps a little unfamiliar to some; isn't our corporate confession each Sunday enough? Not always.

Sometimes our sins may feel so heavy and so burdensome that only a private confession with a priest will do. Of course we can always confess privately to God, but confession to a priest is a discipline that can lead to significant healing and spiritual growth if practiced. By practicing the Reconciliation of Penitent, we lay our sins before God, are assured of his forgiveness, and may receive pastoral guidance for the future. God already knows our sins; nothing is hidden from him. He wants us to acknowledge our sins and accept his forgiveness.

The priest will hear your confession, pronounces absolution, and conclude with "Go in peace, and pray for me, a sinner," which reminds the penitent that the priest is also a sinner. Confession is always confidential.

Lent is an especially acceptable time to avail ourselves of Reconciliation of the Penitent so that we may move into the Easter season spiritually renewed, cleansed, and pure of heart.



## A Message from Fr. Michael



Dear Friends in Christ,

During this holy season of Lent, we have been reflecting on the meaning of forgiveness. I have found myself returning to the powerful story told in *Les Misérables* by Victor Hugo. Few works of literature portray the unexpected power of forgiveness more vividly. Early in the novel, we meet Jean Valjean (an everyman): hardened, resentful, defined by his worst mistakes. After nineteen years in prison, he is released into a world that sees only his past. Fear and rejection follow him wherever he goes. He personifies the title of the play: He is a wretched outcast, a sinner adrift. When a kindly bishop offers him food and shelter, Valjean responds not with gratitude but with theft. He betrays the bishop's kindness by stealing the church silver and fleeing into the night.

When he is caught and brought back by the authorities, we expect condemnation. Instead, the bishop does something astonishing. He tells the police that the silver was a gift and then gives him two more candlesticks besides. In that moment, forgiveness appears as a gift unearned, undeserved, and unexpected. This is the grace of forgiveness. It does not deny the harm. It does not pretend that the theft was acceptable. Rather, it chooses mercy over retaliation. The bishop (representing the grace of our Lord and all who follow Him) relinquishes his right to punishment and offers instead the possibility of a new beginning. That is grace. And that grace becomes transformational.

The bishop's mercy unsettles Valjean. It disrupts his expectations. He understands punishment. He understands shame. But he does not understand this kind of mercy. The forgiveness he receives becomes the turning point of his life. From that moment on, Valjean strives to become a different man. He shows compassion to the poor, protection to the vulnerable, and mercy even to his enemies. He is delivered from his wretchedness.

Forgiveness here is not weakness. It is transformative power. It creates a future that did not previously exist. It calls forth goodness where bitterness once ruled. The bishop's act of forgiveness ripples outward through countless lives. Grace multiplies. This is forgiveness as mercy. Mercy does not ignore justice, but it fulfills it in a deeper way. Justice alone might have returned Valjean to prison. Mercy sets him free not only from chains, but from the wretched identity that bound him to his past.

Throughout Lent, we are invited to reflect on our own need to give and receive such mercy. We confess our sins not to be crushed by them, but to release them into the hands of a God who delights in giving us a new beginning. We also pray that we will have the grace to forgive others in our lives who need to be set free from their guilt and shame, who need to hear the sweet sounds of forgiveness. The cross itself is the ultimate sign that forgiveness is costly, yet also powerful beyond measure.

Perhaps the most unexpected power of forgiveness is this: it not only frees the one who is forgiven; it frees the one who forgives. Resentment imprisons the heart. Grace opens it. When we forgive, we participate in God's own redemptive work. As we continue this Lenten journey together, may we dare to believe in the transforming power of forgiveness. May we extend it with courage. And may we trust that, by grace, new life is always possible.

Lenten Blessings,

Michael+

### Parishioner Spotlight: Susan Sherwin



Susan Sherwin loves St. Paul's and she especially loves working with our young people in the Acolyte Guild. If a child is in grades five through twelve, Susan will likely recruit him/her as an acolyte! Another of her passions is serving as verger in our worship services, and is a member of the Verger's Guild of the Episcopal Church. 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. In her spare time you may find Susan on the pickleball court, traveling, or with her beautiful grandchildren and their many activities!

# Stewardship

Sharing the gifts we have

## New Vestry Members

Congratulations to our newly elected Vestry members:



Matt Abrams



Jerry Bagwell



Collins Hubbard



Amy Prather

## Facilities Updates

The new access ramp in the church is well underway with a goal to be completed by Easter Sunday. Testament Construction began the work in early February; once this project is complete, crews will move on to our other two major projects: renovation of the Parlor restrooms and an update of the church office. Under the careful eye of project manager Matt Abrams, all three projects promise to present a more welcoming and inviting space for parishioners and guests alike.



*The ramp is in progress and will allow everyone access to the altar rail.*

Once renovation of the church office begins, staff will relocate to the McRae Lodge for daily operations while Fr. Michael will be able to remain in his office. In the office the carpeting will be replaced with ceramic tile, fresh paint on the walls, bathrooms will get a freshening up, and the wood paneling will be cleaned and restored. The windows into the courtyard will be replaced with floor to ceiling glass. The end result will be a healthier work environment and be more welcoming to guests.

The Parlor restrooms will see a larger women's restroom with a baby changing station, updated fixtures and lighting, and new tile, while the men's restroom will also see a refurbishment.

## Ministry Spotlight: Acolytes



The Guild of Acolytes is an extremely dedicated group of young people who serve throughout the liturgical year. They carry torches, flags, crosses, and banners; they assist our priests in preparation for the Holy Eucharist. Acolytes are generally in grades five through twelve; our seniors are known by their gold cincture on Sundays when they serve. The acolytes are led by Susan Sherwin who trains, mentors, and loves each one of them. This year the group is taking another travel journey, this time to Washington DC where they will tour churches, historic landmarks, and other points of interest. To raise money for this trip they are hosting a rummage sale on May 2. If you'd like to learn more about serving as an acolyte contact Susan Sherwin.

# Worship

## Altar Guild Word of the Month: Palms



As we continue to progress through the penitential season of Lent, we slowly but surely make our way to Holy Week, which begins on March 29th this year with Palm Sunday. The Sunday before Easter is also known as

The Sunday of the Passion. Palm Sunday marks Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Over time, liturgical observances evolved to include processional waving of blessed palm branches amid cries of "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!" As the procession enters the church and the service continues, there is an abrupt pivot from elation to Jesus' Passion, marked by His betrayal, trial, and crucifixion.

The Altar Guild meets a few days before Palm Sunday to wash and trim a variety of palms for use in making arrangements for the altar as well as for the congregation to wave as they process from the Parish Hall to the church for the Palm Sunday Passion and Eucharist. The hangings in the chancel are changed from penitential purple to a deep red, signifying the Passion of our Lord, as He atones for the sin of the world.

If you feel called to become a part of the Altar Guild ministry, please contact Carol Moloney at 225-362-2783, or Terry LeGrand at 318-573-2233.

## A Service of Tenebrae

On Wednesday of Holy Week, April 1, we will hold our Service of Tenebrae at 7:30 pm in the Chapel.

The service is structured around psalms, readings, and responsories. A distinguishing characteristic of this service is the series of readings from



Lamentations which appear early in the office. A distinctive element of Tenebrae includes use of fifteen lighted candles, often set on a special, triangular stand called a "hearse". One candle

is extinguished as each of the fourteen appointed psalms is completed which symbolizes the fading light of Christ and the abandonment of Jesus by his followers. The fifteenth candle, symbolic of Christ, is left lighted at the end of the final psalm.

In preparation for this service, Paul Moore and Renee Coleman have been busy in the workshop creating a special Tenebrae hearse for us to have and to use each year.

## Altar Flowers

**March 1:** To the Glory of God and in loving memory of Margaret Shehee.

**March 8:** To the Glory of God and in celebration of our wedding anniversary by Mike and Martha Nichols.

**March 15:** To the Glory of God and in loving memory of Henry "Cakie" Mullin by Dianne Mullin.

**March 22:** To the Glory of God and in celebration of the birthday of Paul Tatom by Mark and Heather Adcock.

**March 29:** The palms on the High Altar are given in recognition of those serving in the ministry of Acolytes by Susan Sherwin, Verger. The palms throughout the church are in remembrance of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem by the Family of St. Paul's.

## Sunday Lectionary

### March 1: The Second Sunday in Lent

1st Lesson: Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 121; 2nd Lesson: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; Gospel: John 3:1-17

### March 8: The Third Sunday in Lent

1st Lesson: Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95; 2nd Lesson: Romans 5:1-11; Gospel: John 4:5-42

**March 15: The Fourth Sunday in Lent** 1st Lesson: 1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23; 2nd Lesson: Ephesians 5:8-14; Gospel: John 9:1-41

### March 22: The Fifth Sunday in Lent

1st Lesson: Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130; 2nd Lesson: Romans 8:6-11; Gospel: John 11:1-45

### March 29: Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday

**Liturgy of the Palms:** Matthew 21:1-11; Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

1st Lesson: Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; 2nd Lesson: Philippians 2:5-11; Gospel: Matthew 26:14-27:66

# Families, Children, Youth

## Baby Shower for Kim Duncan and Liam



Baby Liam Duncan and his mom, Kim, were showered with gifts and a lot of love at a baby shower on February 21 in the Parlor.

Hosted by Erika Cannon, the tables were beautifully decorated with fresh flowers, sage green runners, with gold and ivory accents. Guests enjoyed light snacks and punch.

Liam is expected to arrive around the end of March.



Kim and Avery Duncan display a quilt for Liam made by Louise Smith.

## King's Club Completes "Jesus and Me" Program



King's Club has completed the program "Jesus and Me," and will be recognized with a special pin and certificate for their work.

The next program in the series is "God and Me." All children in Pre-K, kindergarten, and elementary school are welcome to participate! Come to King's Club on Wednesday nights!

The goal of the "God and Me" program is to provide an opportunity for young people and families to explore their faith together, to help children realize that God is active in every part of their lives, to help children know that Jesus is their best friend, and to memorize the Lord's Prayer. Recognition awards are received at the end of each program.

## Camp Hardtner: Summer 2026

**REGISTRATION OPENS DEC 2ND!**  
\*Grades based on the 2026-2027 school year

SESSION	GRADES*	DATES
First Camp	2, 3, & 4 with parent/guardian	May 29 - 31
Sr. High Camp	11, 12, & 2026 Grads	June 2 - 9
Primary Camp 1	4, 5, & 6	June 12 - 17
Jr. High Camp 1	6, 7, & 8	June 20 - 26
Mid. High Camp	9, 10, & 11	June 28 - July 4
Primary Camp 2	4, 5, & 6	July 7 - 12
Jr. High Camp 2	6, 7, & 8	July 15 - 21
Able Camp	Adults 18+ with Special Needs	July 24 - 28

**LEARN MORE!**  
[www.camphardtner.org](http://www.camphardtner.org)

Camp Hardtner summer camp registration is open!

Camp is open to children in grades 2 - 12. Make lifelong memories and friends at camp!

Contact Fr. Michael if you need scholarship information.

## Acolytes to Hold Rummage Sale



The acolytes are raising money through a rummage sale on **May 2** to help fund their trip to Washington, D.C. in October, and are happy to accept your donations of household goods for their sale. Items needed are furniture, pictures, kitchen items, knick knacks, etc. No clothing, please!

For a minimal fee your furniture items can be picked up. Contact Susan Sherwin at 318-422-7290.

# March

Sun	Mon	Tue	We
<p><b>1</b></p> <p>8 am Holy Eucharist 1 9:30 am Sunday School, all ages 10:30 am Holy Eucharist 2 12 pm Kim Duncan Recognition at Coffee Hour (Parlor) 4:30 pm The Way (Chancel) and Agape meal 5 pm EYC (McRae Lodge) Birthday: Emmy Ocmamd</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>6 pm Outreach Committee Birthday: Stith Bynum, Dorcas Kirspel, Tana Nelson, Courtney Orr</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>1 pm Stitched Together (Wardens Room) 1:30 pm Matthew 25: Common Ground (Parish Hall) 7 pm Centering Prayer (Wardens Rm) Birthday: Aaron Rusling</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>10 am Healing Service (Chancel) 10:30 am Bible Study (Wardens Room) 5:30 pm Holy Eucharist 2 5:30 pm Young Voices (Chancel) 6 pm WW Dinner (Parish Hall) 6:30 pm Programs, all ages Birthday: Bre Lowe, Jill Larson</p>
<p><b>8</b></p> <p>8 am Holy Eucharist 1 9:00 am Fellowship Breakfast, hosted by the Outreach Committee 10:30 am Holy Eucharist 2 12 pm Coffee Hour (Parlor) 3 pm Holy Eucharist at The Glen 4:30 pm The Way (Chancel) 5 pm EYC (McRae Lodge) Birthday: Jacob Bullard, Kate Ferguson</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>12 pm Finance Committee (Wardens Room) Birthday: Alisha Roberts, Paige Rusling</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>1 pm Stitched Together (Wardens Room) 1:30 pm Matthew 25: Common Ground (Parish Hall) 7 pm Centering Prayer (Wardens Rm) Birthday: Carmen Larson</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>10 am Healing Service (Chancel) 10:30 am Bible Study (Wardens Room) 5:30 pm Holy Eucharist 2 5:30 pm Young Voices (Chancel) 6 pm WW Dinner (Parish Hall) 6:30 pm Programs, all ages</p>
<p><b>15</b></p> <p>8 am Holy Eucharist 1 9:30 am Sunday School, all ages 10:30 am Holy Eucharist 2 12 pm Coffee Hour (Parlor) 4:30 pm The Way (Chancel) and Agape meal 5 pm EYC: Shamrock the Day School (McRae Lodge) Birthday: Joshua Menasco Anniversary: Mike and Martha Nichols</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>10:30 pm St. Catherine's Guild (Wardens Room) 6 pm Vestry Meeting Birthday: Kelly Wynn</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>1 pm Stitched Together (Wardens Room) 1:30 pm Matthew 25: Common Ground (Parish Hall) 7 pm Centering Prayer (Wardens Rm)</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>10 am Healing Service (Chancel) 10:30 am Bible Study (Wardens Room) 5:30 pm Holy Eucharist 2 5:30 pm Young Voices (Chancel) 6 pm WW Dinner (Parish Hall) 6:30 pm Programs, all ages Birthday: Marcia Wilson</p>
<p><b>22</b></p> <p>8 am Holy Eucharist 1 9:30 am Sunday School, all ages 10:30 am Holy Eucharist 2 12 pm Coffee Hour (Parlor) 4:30 pm The Way (Chancel) 5 pm EYC: Practice Stations (McRae Lodge)</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>Birthday: Joshua Jackson, Paul Tatom</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>1 pm Stitched Together (Wardens Room) 1:30 pm Matthew 25: Common Ground (Parish Hall) 7 pm Centering Prayer (Wardens Rm)</p>	<p><b>25 The Annunciation</b></p> <p>10 am Healing Service (Chancel) 10:30 am Bible Study (Wardens Room) 5:30 pm Holy Eucharist 2 5:30 pm Young Voices (Chancel) 6 pm WW Dinner (Parish Hall) 6:30 pm Programs, all ages Birthday: Brittanie Carpenter</p>
<p><b>29 Palm Sunday</b></p> <p>8 am Holy Eucharist 1 9:30 am Sunday School, all ages 10:30 am Holy Eucharist 2 12 pm Coffee Hour (Parlor) 4:30 pm The Way (Chancel) 5 pm EYC: Stuff Eggs (McRae Lodge)</p>	<p><b>30 Monday in Holy Week</b></p> <p>5:30 pm Holy Eucharist (Chapel) Birthday: Reagan Bynum</p>	<p><b>31 Tuesday in Holy Week</b></p> <p>1 pm Stitched Together (Wardens Room) 1:30 pm Matthew 25: Common Ground (Parish Hall) 5:30 pm Holy Eucharist (Chapel) 7 pm Centering Prayer (Wardens Rm) Birthday: Stephen Baker, Connor Bicknell, Sloane Larson</p>	

# 2026

	Thu	Fri	Sat
ed Chapel) Wardens Room) (Chapel) Choir Room) h Hall) ges Pickett	<b>5</b> 12 pm Men's Bible Study (Bride's Rm) 7 pm Choir Practice	<b>6</b> 7:30 am Brotherhood of St. Andrew Bible Study (Wardens Room)  Birthday: Betty Cannon	<b>7</b>  Birthday: Betty Nash
- Chapel) Wardens Room) (Chapel) Choir Room) h Hall) ges	<b>12</b> 12 pm Men's Bible Study (Bride's Rm) 5 pm Guild of Queen Esther (McRae Lodge) 7 pm Choir Practice  Birthday: Terry LeGrand	<b>13</b> 7:30 am Brotherhood of St. Andrew Bible Study (Wardens Room)  Birthday: Al Cannon, Pam Miller	<b>14</b>  Birthday: Charlize Babington, Christian Vinet
3 Chapel) Wardens Room) (Chapel) Choir Room) h Hall) ges	<b>19 St. Joseph</b> 12 pm Men's Bible Study (Bride's Rm) 7 pm Choir Practice  Birthday: Larry Broadwell	<b>20</b> 7:30 am Brotherhood of St. Andrew Bible Study (Wardens Room)	<b>21</b> 9 am Brotherhood of St. Andrew Breakfast (Parish Hall)  Birthday: Caroline Metrejean
ciation Chapel) Wardens Room) (Chapel) Choir Room) h Hall) ges enter, Alan Matlock	<b>26</b> 12 pm Men's Bible Study (Bride's Rm) 7 pm Choir Practice	<b>27</b> 7:30 am Brotherhood of St. Andrew Bible Study (Wardens Room)	<b>28</b>  Birthday: Emily Horne, Jennifer Jackson, Cilla Trenado



# Discipleship & Christian Education

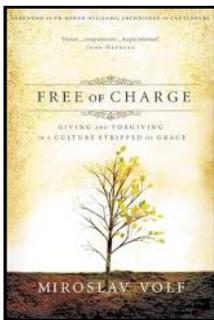
## Stations of the Cross: Querbes Garden



The Stations of the Cross in the Querbes Garden are available for you at any time during Lent and Easter. Copies of the liturgy are at the welcome desk in the Narthex and in the wooden box outside the Narthex door, or you may pick up a copy in the office during office hours.

## What is Fr. Michael Reading?

Fr. Michael always has a book in his hand, but what is he reading now?!



On the Lenten theme of forgiveness, Fr. Michael's book this month is [\*Free of Charge: Giving and Forgiving in a Culture Stripped of Grace\*](#) by Miroslav Volf.

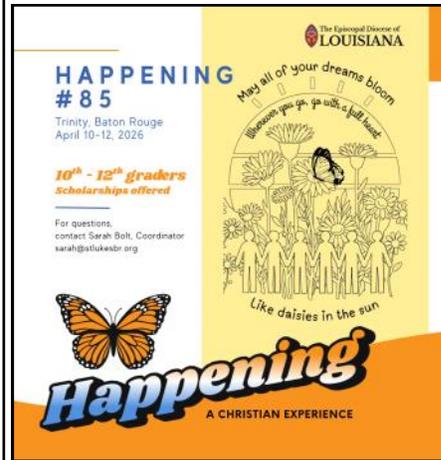
We are at our human best when we give and forgive. But we live in a world in which it makes little sense to do either one. In our increasingly graceless culture, where can we find the motivation to give? And how do we learn to forgive when forgiving seems counterintuitive or even futile?

A deeply personal yet profoundly thoughtful book, *Free of Charge* explores these questions--and the further questions to which they give rise--in light of God's generosity and Christ's sacrifice for us. Miroslav Volf draws from popular culture as well as from a wealth of literary and theological sources, weaving his rich reflections around the sturdy frame of Paul's vision of God's grace and Martin Luther's interpretation of that vision.

Blending the best of theology and spirituality, he encourages us to echo in our own lives God's generous giving and forgiving. A fresh examination of two practices at the heart of the Christian faith--giving and forgiving--the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lenten study book for 2006 is at the same time an introduction to Christianity. Even more, it is a compelling invitation to Christian faith as a way of life.

(Source: Amazon)

## Happening 85



Happening is back! Happening is a youth-led weekend retreat for students in grades 10–12.

This powerful experience invites youth to deepen their relationship with God by asking real, honest questions about faith and exploring the many ways God

is already present in their lives. Set within a supportive, encouraging, and joy-filled community, Happening offers space for meaningful conversations, worship, laughter, and growth, often becoming a weekend that youth remember as a turning point in their faith journey.

Happening #85 will be held at Trinity Episcopal Church in Baton Rouge from **April 10-12, 2026**. The cost to attend is \$99, which covers the full weekend experience. Scholarships are available to ensure that cost is not a barrier for any youth who would like to participate.

Registration is now open – register your youth [here](#). If you have general questions about Happening or the retreat experience, please contact Sarah Bolt, Happening Coordinator, at [sarah@stlukesbr.org](mailto:sarah@stlukesbr.org). For questions specifically related to scholarships, please reach out to Lauren Dunn, Diocesan Youth Coordinator at [ldunn@edola.org](mailto:ldunn@edola.org).

## Vacation Bible School 2026



Save the date for VBS 2026.

Come join Seymore the frog, Howie the monkey, and the rest of gang as we go back to the

beginning! There will be some very special activities and exciting fun this year!

VBS will be in the McRae Lodge, Tuesday May 26- Friday May 29, 2026. [Watch the website](#) for more details soon.

# Mission and Outreach

## South Dakota 2026



This summer brings our third annual mission trip to South Dakota to the Black Horse Ranch on the Cheyenne River Reservation. The dates this year are June 13–21.

An interest meeting was held in the Parish Hall in February; on April 22 we will meet with Fr. Kurt and Mtr. Ellen Huber via

Zoom in the Parlor during the Wonderful Wednesday adult program.

St. Paul's missionaries travel to South Dakota each summer to work with the Lakota children at the Huber's Horse and Pony Camp. It is, by all accounts, a rewarding and special experience.

It's not too late to join Mission Trip 2026! If you'd like to participate please call the office or reach out to Fr. Michael.

## Pilgrimage to England: Interest Meeting



Are you interested in a pilgrimage to England in 2027?

We are gauging interest in a two-week trip to England visiting Anglican points of interest such as cathedrals and shrines while

also having a bit of fun such as an English tea at Harrod's and perhaps even a play.

The cathedrals, shrines, and other landmarks are touchstones to our faith and offer spiritual peace as well as being historically significant; Canterbury Cathedral has been a premier pilgrimage site for over 800 years.

There will be an interest meeting on Sunday, May 19 at 9:30 am. If you are interested but unable to attend, let the office know!

## Installation of 106th Archbishop of Canterbury



The Installation of the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury, Sarah Mullally, will take place at Canterbury Cathedral on Wednesday, March 25, 2026, the Feast of the Annunciation.

Historically known as an enthronement, the Installation marks the symbolic start of the Archbishop of Canterbury's public ministry in the Church of England and across the Anglican Communion. Rooted in centuries of tradition, the service will look forward with hope in Jesus Christ and celebrate the diversity of the Church of England, the nation, and the Anglican Communion today.

Archbishop Sarah will be installed on the Cathedral Chair (Cathedra) as the Diocesan Bishop of the See of Canterbury, the oldest diocese in the English church. Following this, she will be installed on the Chair of St Augustine (St Augustine Cathedra) as Primate of All England, which also symbolizes her ministry in the Anglican Communion.

The Feast of the Annunciation celebrates the day the Angel Gabriel told Mary she would be the mother of Jesus.

(Source: [archbishopofcanterbury.org](http://archbishopofcanterbury.org))

**Coming soon**  
**The death and resurrection**  
**of Jesus Christ**

March 29 Palm Sunday  
April 1 Tenebrae  
April 2 Maundy Thursday  
April 3 Good Friday  
April 5 Easter

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

# Parish Life

## Pancake Supper and Burying the Alleluias



On Shrove Tuesday we gathered for a traditional pancake supper in the Parish Hall and in preparation for Lent, adults and children alike colored their “Alleluias.”

The colorful sheets were then placed in a “tomb” in the Memorial Courtyard and buried for the duration of Lent.

Father Michael explained that Lent is a time to grow spiritually. True, we don't say Alleluia in Lent but we may take on a new practice, focus on the things in us that Christ needs to work on, practice self-examination and focus on how sin creeps into our lives and learn to let it go. Some may even use a Lenten devotional, such as the one published by our own Levi Brendle, to focus their self-examination during Lent.



On Easter Sunday the Alleluias will be resurrected and placed on the altar, symbolizing, of course the resurrection of Christ.

## Retirement Recognition for Kim Duncan



After fifteen years of dedicated service to the youth of St. Paul's, Kim Duncan is retiring as Youth Minister at the end of March.

The EYC has grown and thrived under Kim's tenure. The youth have participated in lock-ins, retreats, EYC Olympics, they have enjoyed gatherings with the

youth of St. Mark's, hosted the annual Ladies Tea, and participated in fun outings to support each other in local community theatre events. The youth recently helped build and install a free library in front of the McRae Youth Lodge. Their annual enactment of Stations of the Cross during Holy Week remains a moving and powerful event well attended by the congregation each year.

Most importantly, fifteen years of young people have grown closer to Jesus, and to each other.

Congratulations to Kim, and many thanks for a job well done.

## Phyllis and Clementine Return for Palm Sunday



Holy Week is coming and our favorite donkeys, Phyllis and Clementine, will be with us once again to join our procession from the Parish Hall to the Church on March 29.

Holy Week Dates to note:

- April 1: Service of Tenebrae, 7:30 pm (Chapel)
- April 2 Holy Eucharist, lunch, foot washing at Hope House, 11:30 am
- April 2 Maundy Thursday Holy Eucharist, 7:30 pm
- April 3 Good Friday Service, 12 pm (Church); EYC Stations of the Cross, 7 pm
- April 4 Easter Egg Hunt, Brunch, 9:30 am (Parish Hall); The Great Vigil of Easter, 7:30 pm (St. Francis Church for the Highlands)

## Vestry Highlights

Highlights from the January Vestry meeting:

- The organ restoration has been fully funded; any additional funds received will go into a dedicated organ and piano maintenance account.
- The vestry unanimously approved the annual budget.
- Funds for Mission and Outreach were increased.
- Work on the access ramp in the church will begin and hopes to be completed by Easter.
- We are no longer using PayPal due to their excessive fees.
- Linda Brooks and Joann Rose are working on the new state licensing requirements for the Day School.
- There will be a Mission Trip interest meeting in February and a Zoom visit with Fr. Kurt and Mtr. Ellen Huber in April.

# Prayers

**We pray for the Family of St. Paul's. For the sick:** Lavelle, Janette, Donna Griffith, Jacqueline Williams, Cade Cannon, Lynne Meier, Norma Buteau, Bernie Casso, Erin Harold, Coleman Brown, Emmett Henry Pitcher, Elizabeth Ewing, Caldwell Roberts, Betsy Dunkle, Barbara Young, Bill Duncan, Sandy Fowler, Hallie Hart, Ginger Colquitt, Joan Campbell, Melanie Ransom, Larry Broadwell, Renee Lavelle, Tom and Sheryl Ostendorff; Marlyn Monette, Virginia, Amy Prather, Avery Bagwell, Susan, Andy Chastain, Kaye Crichlow, Patsy Michael, Mark and Mary Whitener, Courtney Orr, Edie Waghalter, Kenny Vasquez, Corey Gabler, Alan Prater, Ivy, John Pat Frost, Laura Kirspel, Fr. David Greer, John Greer, Paul Tatom, Gary Whitener, Maggie McElroy, Mike Herriage, Stephen Roberts, Peggy Byerly, Mary Helen Byrum.



**We pray for our military:** Aaron, Amanda, Chris, Clark, Cody, Cole, Jason, Levi, Michael, Shaun, Steven

**We pray for our missionaries:** Tom and Robin Wilson

**We pray for the faithfully departed:** Bob Kopp, Margaret Shehee, Fr. Bill Bryant, Jean Broadwell, Emilie Anne Ostendorff, Elijah, Leslie Knox, Ed Monette

**We pray for our expectant mothers:** Olivia Adams, Kim Duncan, Allison Couvillon

**We pray for** the Anglican Communion, Sarah, Archbishop of Canterbury and 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, Donald, and we pray for Fr. Michael, our Rector, the clergy, the people, and the ministries of St. Paul's.

## Collect for March 19: St. Joseph



O God, who from the family of your servant David raised up Joseph to be the guardian of your incarnate Son and the spouse of his virgin mother: Give us grace to imitate his uprightness of life and his obedience to your commands; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

## Collect for March 25: The Annunciation



Pour your grace into our hearts, O Lord, that we who have known the incarnation of your Son Jesus Christ, announced by an angel to the Virgin Mary, may by his cross and passion be brought to the glory of his resurrection; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

## Collect for March 29: Palm Sunday

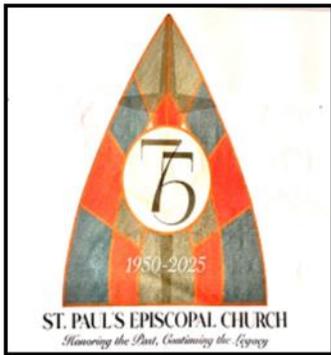


Almighty and everliving God, in your tender love for the human race you sent your Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon him our nature, and to suffer death upon the cross, giving us the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that we may walk in the way of his suffering, and also share in his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

## Collect for March 30: Monday in Holy Week



Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: Mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*



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

Stith Bynum, Junior Warden

#### The Vestry

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

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

**2026-2028** - Matt Abrams, Jerry Bagwell, Collins Hubbard, Amy Prather

Pat Becker.....Parish Secretary  
 Michelle Boyd.....Ministry Coordinator  
 Erika Cannon.....Parish Administrator  
 Kimberly Duncan.....Youth Minister  
 Breard Inabnett.....Young Adult Ministry Coordinator  
 Barry Larson.....Facilities Coordinator  
 Bob Maynard.....Music Minister  
 JoAnn Rose.....Day School Principal  
 Elizabeth West.....Organist