Message from Thack

“So, do you really believe in life after death?” That question has been posed to me many times since I’ve been a priest. I have been asked that by earnest young people seeking to understand their faith. That question has been couched in the form of a challenge by those who have rejected the concept completely. The question has also been asked by anxious people searching for some hope in the eleventh hour of their lives or the lives of their loved ones. No matter the context or how the question is phrased, my answer is always the same: “Yes, I believe in life after death.”

Nevertheless, it is becoming increasingly unpopular in our culture to believe in anything that cannot be supported by the “scientific method.” In this sense, I’m referring to the rigorous method of investigating phenomenon and rendering a conclusion based on empirical or measurable evidence and reasoning. For many people today, to believe in something without empirical evidence to support it is almost ludicrous. To them, belief in the resurrection is nothing more than wishful thinking. The noted cosmologist and professed atheist Stephen Hawking summed it up as follows: "There is no heaven or afterlife. . .; that is a fairy story for people afraid of the dark." In other words, belief in life after death is more the product of fear and superstition.

As we prepare for All Saints’ Day this Sunday, I believe that rather than a fear driven response or wishful thinking, belief in the afterlife is a brave statement of faith. To embrace such a belief, especially in the face of modern culture, is a bold statement, especially if we try to live lives consistent with this belief. It takes courage to live as though our lives matter beyond this one---even if they seem to us humdrum and occasionally disappointing. It takes courage to choose to do the just and right thing, rather than what is the most expedient, especially if it is in response to what we feel is a nudge from someone who’s passed away.

I offer this because on All Saints’ Day we remember the saints who have gone before us. I’m not referring to the “prominent” saints like Mary, and Saints Peter, Paul, and Luke. I’m referring to the more obscure saints like your deceased mother, that special teacher or mentor, a close friend, a member of the clergy, or that street person who always smiled at you when you passed him on the street. It takes courage to fully embrace the notion that we are loved, not just by the people who happen to know us and love us in this life, but that we are still loved by those who have gone before us.
I fully believe that those saints in our lives who have predeceased us do pray for us and still have an influential place in our lives. I mentioned in an article several years ago I had a dream and the late Peg Jeffery was in it. That’s happened several times since her death. Now someone trained in psychology might discount my experience as nothing more than a “visitation dream,” probably inspired by my grief over Peggy’s passing. However, she was very vivid to me each time and I still feel her presence. I’ll risk being classified as “peculiar” and say I know Peggy was present in these dreams, just like she was a presence in my life when she was still with us.

Yes, I firmly believe our lives still intersect with those who have physically died. These relationships transcend time and space and there are no “rational” or “scientific” ways to explain how this happens. However, it has happened to me in the past and I hope it continues to do so in the future. Wishful thinking or not, each encounter I’ve had with these “saints” influenced some aspect of my life.

All Saints’ Day is a reminder to all of us that we believe in a life beyond this one, a lively and hopeful life. All Saints’ Day is also a reminder that we are all connected, both with the living and the dead. For that, I’m thankful for the presence of the saints in my life and will gratefully honor their memories this Sunday.

Peace, Thack

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**Pledge Cards**

Please turn in your pledge cards this week. We need them turned in by October 31, 2017, so our Finance Committee can prepare our parish budget for the coming year. Thank you! Thack
A Message from St. Paul’s Thrift Shop

Due to frequent thefts from the donation area at the Thrift Shop, many changes have had to be made. One recent thief, who had been here during the wee hours over thirty times just spent 30 days in the Daphne jail and is out on probation. Now, there are motion detectors and cameras throughout the donation drop off area which are monitored continuously after hours by Hunter Security. This past week, the video of our most recent theft was put on Facebook then picked up by local TV stations. A tip from a Facebook user was called in to the Daphne Police Department who investigated and found two drug users selling our donations on Facebook buy, sell, trade sites. An arrest is imminent and we will press charges.

Occasionally, parishioners drop off donations, see something at the back door they want, take it with them and come back to pay later when the shop is open. This has never been a problem but Hunter Security dispatchers don't know each of you. Since they watch the drop off area continuously, please drop off your donations and leave promptly as Hunter dispatches the police immediately when they see anyone looking through the donations. Thank you for your continued support of the Thrift Shop.

ATTENTION: ALL COOKS, BAKERS AND JELLY MAKERS

St. Paul’s Thrift Shop Holiday Shoppe is just around the corner. The bake shop needs volunteers to make holiday casseroles (frozen), pies, cakes, sweets, jams, jellies, and family favorites. Please start making your plans to contribute to this wonderful cause. If you have any questions or would like to list your donation, contact Airrior Norwood, 251-928-8490, or Karen Thomason, 251-626-8290.

Thank you in advance for your support!
Come have fun on the green while helping the Exceptional Foundation Gulf Coast raise some ‘green’!

It’s our annual Golf Tournament held at Lakewood Country Club on Friday, October 27. The shotgun start at 12 noon begins a day of golf, food and fundraising! Lunch is provided as you wait to tee off and new this year is the EFGC BALL DROP … have you ever wanted money to just fall out of the sky … well this is as close as it gets because anyone can buy a ball and have it dropped from on high … closest to the pin you might win!

Please see Jim Gordon, Linda McNamara or visit our website www.exceptionalfoundationgc.org for info … or stop by the Foundation any day Monday – Thursday to sign up your team!

Thanks to everyone for consistently supporting the mission of Exceptional Foundation … did you know that in October we celebrate EFGC’s 6th BIRTHDAY!!! What a wonderful program powered by dedicated staff, fantastic volunteers, generous sponsors and of course our exceptionally awesome participants … all 74 of them!!! Over these past SIX years EFGC has truly become “a special place for those with special needs” … thanks everyone, have fun on the golf course and HAPPY BIRTHDAY EFGC!
HOLIDAY TICKETS ARE NOW ON SALE! The Annual Holiday Shoppe is November 17 through November 19 this year. The Gala is Friday, November 17, from 6 pm to 8 pm. Tickets will be on sale after each service on Sundays and at the Thrift Shop - until they are all gone. Remember, we have sold out the last several years a couple of weeks before the Gala. No tickets are sold the night of the event. Tickets this year are $30 each. If you sign up to work any shift during the Holiday Shoppe - and work it - your personal ticket to the Gala will be discounted to $20. Saturday and Sunday entry is FREE! If you have never been to the Gala, ask someone who has about what a fun evening it is! This is our biggest fund raiser for the year, please consider helping us work this year. You don't have to be a volunteer at the Thrift Shop to work! Child care will be provided for children of the workers. If you want to volunteer to work, please contact Jane Shoultz at jtshoultz@gmail.com or 251-689-0301.

BINGO: This is your last chance to pad your Christmas kitty, as this is our last Bingo for 2017! We will be meeting in Malone Hall this month, as someone is using the Life Center. If you want to reserve a table for your group or for a birthday or another other special occasion, just let us know! We will fix you up! Your last opportunity in 2017 to enjoy a delicious homemade spaghetti meal and play an exciting game of Bingo will be Friday, October 27th. Don't miss out! Dinner is only $5 and is served at 6 pm. Bingo will begin at 6:30. 11 games of Bingo are $20 for the packet of cards. Everyone is invited! We hope you will join us for this great time of fun and fellowship! Remember, all proceeds go to help pay for our wonderful Life Center!

Save the Date:
Trunk or Treat is Sunday, October 29 from 2-4. Invite your friends, and if you want to decorate a trunk let Mary Alice know, maryalice.mathison@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATE
Trunk or Treat
Sunday, October 29
2:00-4:00pm
This great outreach to the community served over 100 people last year. If you want to participate or decorate your car trunk and pass out candy please let us know!
maryalice.mathison@gmail.com
**Prayer Requests**

**Immediate Prayer Requests:**

**Ongoing Prayer Requests:**
Paul and Ellie Anderson, Marie Baggett, Christopher Blackwell, Jean Bolton, Lil Brown, Clayton Brunson, Clare Castleman, Dawn Cort, Jim Council, Margaret Cummins, Jerry DeLoney, Trevor Hawkes, Susan Hill, Theresa Johnson, Carol Keeney, Olen Lambert, Hunter Lee, Andy Lipps, Jim Lonnergan, Dick McBride, Allen McKnight, Bob McKnight, Clare Moran, Joey Pecarrere, Al Rawls, Eleanor Reeves, Grantham Lawrence Poole Reneau, Loren Rudolf, Ruth Skaggs, Phyllis Springen, Steven Stack, Jed Steber, Ted Stickney, Albert Thompson, Sallie Thornton, Bill Waid, Jane Watkins, Gaye Wilson, Caroline Yearty

**For the Departed:** William Durall Dobbins, III, Nevin Rice

**For Those Serving in the Military:**
Matthew Cheatham, Jackson Deaton, Michael Duchesne, Christopher Dukarm, Chris Evans, Diana Evans, Landis Fouts, Deron Frailee, George Garner, Steven Grey, Matthew Harris, Rusty Henry, Karen Hubley, Daniel James, Matt Jones, Daniel Lambert, Chris Lessard, David McMillan, Patrick Mong, Bryan Quinn, Neil Quinn, Justin Ramsey, Taylor Santa Cruz, Neill Sevelius, Derek Siegel, Andy Tuttle, James Wallin

**For those with Birthdays:**

**October 26-31**

**November 1-30**
IT IS THAT TIME AGAIN!

November 4, 2017

7:30 a.m.

Time to do some weeding, trimming, pruning and some downright cutting down of unwanted vegetation.

Please come help clean up our courtyard and grounds. The weather should be cooler by then. You need to bring your yard tools, rakes, shovels, hoes, pruners, loping shears and gloves, anything you think might be helpful with the cleanup. Please look around our campus to get an idea of what you think might need to be addressed.

We will have breakfast at 7:30 and start working by 8:00. Normally we pack up at 11:00, sooner if you have other activities planned for the afternoon.

God’s peace,
Donna Brown

What’s Happening in Chapel?

Over the last few weeks we have taken a trip to Egypt and learned all about Moses and the Exodus, and “The 10 Best Ways”. We will continue our journey through Exodus learning about the “Ark and the Tent”, focusing on God’s presence in the Tabernacle. We will be building our own tabernacle and making a collage of gifts we could give to God. If you have any old magazines please send them in for the kids to look through and cut out pictures! We will also be making Manna!

In addition to our lessons, we will start working hard on our memorization verses and your kids will start coming home with a verse to learn each week. I will post the weekly verse on St. Paul’s Children’s Ministry facebook page!

Trunk or treat

Wear your costume and join us Sunday, October 29th at 2pm outside the “underground” for Trunk or Treat! If you would like to participate with a station please let Mary Alice or I know…the more the merrier!

Christmas Pageant

Calling All Actors, Musicians, Singers, Dancers! We are making some BIG changes to our Christmas Eve Pageant this year and we are going to need your help! Practice will begin Wednesday, November 15th at 5pm and will tentatively be every Wednesday at 5 and some Sundays in the church. We will start with 4th graders and up and will add our younger ones to it as we go. Little ones can come to our last practice or just show up Christmas Eve night! Anyone and everyone can participate! If your child would like to be a part please let us know!
ST. PAUL’S SERVICES:

**Sunday Worship**
Holy Eucharist, Rite I
8:00 am

Christian Education
(Life Center and Malone Hall)
For Children and Adults
9:15 am

Holy Eucharist, Rite II
10:30 am

**Wednesday Worship**
Holy Eucharist, Rite I
7:00 am

Holy Eucharist, Rite II
with Healing Service
Wednesday
12:00 pm (Noon)

John Thayer and Annette ???

**3rd Thursday**
_of each month_
Taize Prayer
(Narthex)
7:00 pm

BIBLE STUDIES

**Sunday**
Christian Education
(Life Center and Malone Hall)
For Children and Adults
9:15 am

**Tuesday**
Men’s Bible Study
(Malone Hall)
7:00 am

**Wednesday**
Morning Bible Study
(Library)
10:30 am

**Great Wednesday**
(Malone Hall)
6:00 pm
Potluck Supper and Study

VESTRY AND OFFICERS

**Term Ending**

**December 31, 2017**
Donna Brown
Nancy Dziubakowski
Tim Michael,
Sr. Warden
Howard Wilson,
Jr. Warden

**December 31, 2018**
Roxanna Carpenter
Davis Daniel
Jim Jackson
Janet Norman

**December 31, 2019**
Sue Cody
Alice Frederick
Michael Koepp
Tom Walker
~
Walker Jackson,
Youth Representative

Martha Lathan,
Clerk of the Vestry
Airrior Norwood,
Treasurer

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Church Website
www.stpaulseasternshore.com

Email Address
officestpaulsdaphne@gmail.com

Phone
251-626-2421

Fax
251-626-2456
Church Directory

We still have so many of you who have not sent in a picture or contact information to be in our parish directory. Please, please, please email me an individual selfie along with your contact information, including your email address and I will enter you into the directory.

The directory can be accessed in many ways, via our website at www.stpaulseasternshore.com, also on the Instant Church Directory site at members.instantchurchdirectory.com and via apps for your iPhone, android, kindle fire etc. You must have an email address to access it on your smart phone or kindle.

**IF YOU SAVE THE PDF DIRECTORY FILE TO YOUR COMPUTER IT DOES NOT UPDATE.**

**YOU WILL HAVE TO UPDATE IT REGULARLY AS IT CHANGES EVERY DAY.**

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**Sync Our Church Directory to Your Mobile Device**

Now you can sync our church directory directly to your Apple, Android or Kindle Fire device with a FREE app!

Search for other members, and then email, call or text — right from the directory app.

**It’s Easy!**

1. Go to your device’s App Store.
2. Search for Instant Church Directory.
3. Enter your email as it’s listed in our church directory.
4. Follow the directions on screen to complete the login process.

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Available on the App Store
Available on Google Play
Available on Kindle Fire
Our Church Directory is Online!
View our church directory online or via the FREE mobile app today.

To view the directory online, go to members.InstantChurchDirectory.com and follow the prompts under “Sign In” to “Create a login now.” Please remember, you must confirm your email address before you can sign in.

There is also a free mobile app available for download at the Apple® App store in iTunes®, Google Play™ store and the Amazon Fire App Store. Simply search for “Instant Church Directory” to get the download.

You will need to use your email address as listed in our directory to create a log-in the first time you use the directory online and via the mobile app.
As many of you know, October is “National” something month for a number of programs and initiatives nationwide – most notably as Breast Cancer Awareness Month which we discussed in the last Tentmaker. For this issue, I wanted to share something in a totally different direction: Bullying.

October is National Bullying Prevention month. My first thought is “how sad that we have to have a focus month for this”. However, we all know that bullies have been around since the very beginning (there is a lot of bullying in the Old Testament!).

Sadly, children that bully others often grow into adults that bully others. I’m sure every one of us has had at least one experience with a bully in our adult and professional lives. As adults, we have much better skills to deal with the experiences but it still creates a lot of negative energy in our worlds – so imagine how much negative energy it creates for a child who doesn’t have those same coping skills. Childhood is shorter and faster each generation – we only have a small window of time to help shape our children into good adults.

Bullying is defined as unwanted, aggressive behavior that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. The behavior is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time. Bullying includes actions such as making threats, spreading rumors, attacking someone physically or verbally, and purposefully excluding someone from a group. Bullying is not only face to face, either. Cyberbullying has increased dramatically as preteens and teens spend more time on social networks. Cyberbullying includes sending hurtful or threatening e-mails or posting embarrassing photos of others.

When referring to a bullying situation, it’s common to label an individual who bullies others as “the bully” and those who are targeted as “the victim”. But this labeling can have negative outcomes. It tends to send the message that the behavior can’t change and it doesn’t take into account contributing factors such as peer pressure and the school or work culture. Children (or adults) can often have differing roles based on the situation. Sometimes they are the one who bullies and sometimes they are the one who is bullied. For example, a child who is bullied at home by siblings or relatives is more likely to bully others at school.

What puts a child at risk for either role? Children who bully others are generally in one of two categories: a child who is well-connected to their peers, have social power, and overly concerned about their popularity OR a child who is more isolated from their peers, has lower self-esteem, is easily peer pressured, and doesn’t identify well with the feelings of others. Some characteristics are being easily frustrated or aggressive, having less parental involvement or having domestic issues, having difficulty following rules, viewing violence in a positive way, and having friends who bully.

Children who are bullied are often perceived as being different from their peers – possibly in a minority group or have a disability. Being perceived as weaker than others can make some children a target. Interestingly, children who don’t get along well with others, are perceived as annoying or provoking, or antagonize other for attention are often at risk for being bullied.

So what can we do to help stop bullying? The best way to prevent bullying it to stop it before it starts. Strong community awareness can be a powerful tool. Youth sports groups can train coaches to prevent bullying, local businesses can take up the cause, and church youth groups can help teens take a leadership role in bullying prevention among younger kids. At the end of the day, hearing anti-bullying messages from the adults in their lives can reinforce to a child that bullying is unacceptable.
Of course, when we witness any type of bullying behavior, we MUST intervene. It’s not OK to just overlook it as “kids being kids”. And we should encourage and empower our children to do the same. We need to protect and defend the child being bullied in the moment and then follow up, if possible, to make sure the child is supported long term. One local school has a term “red shirted” that they use in the school office to identify children who might be at risk for a variety of social situations including bullying. This allows all the adults to be vigilant in observing the day to day circumstances of that child. And our intervention might be the first for the child doing the bullying. What a great opportunity to try and redirect a behavior and maybe save the child a lot of hardship in the long run.

As Fall begins to unfold, let’s all take the time to be watchful and active in making our world a kinder place. Peace and health to you all.

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2018 Operating Fund Pledge Card

Below is the 2018 Operating Pledge Card. Please prayerfully consider your offering then fill out this form and return it to the church office by:

- Placing it in church offering plate or
- Mailing it to 28788 North Main Street, Daphne, Alabama 36526
- Emailing it to officestpaulsdaphne@gmail.com
- If you would like to pay by a Visa or Bank Account view our website at www.stpaulseasternshore.com—
  You still need to turn in a pledge card to the office.
- You may cancel or change your pledge amount at any time by calling the office.

Pledges do not automatically renew each year.

**TAKE ONE STEP UP . . . FOR CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH**

In response to God’s love and as a concrete expression of my faith in and commitment to Christ and his church, I plan to TAKE ONE STEP UP in my giving:

- **STEP UP BEYOND TITHING**
  My desire is to do more than God's minimum.
- **STEP UP TO TITHING**
  I will give 1/10 of my income to God's work.
- **STEP UP TOWARD TITHING**
  I am not yet a tither, but I will move toward that goal.

**MY COMMITMENT IS $ _______________________ per week**

This represents an increase over last year.

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Address __________________________________________ Apt. No. _______ Phone (_____) ____________

City ___________________________________________ State ___________ Zip ____________
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St. Paul’s Episcopal Church
28788 North Main Street
Daphne, Alabama  36526

Return Service Requested

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Daphne, Alabama  36526

The Rev. Thack H. Dyson, Rector
The Rev. Mary Alice Mathison, Curate
Paul Anderson, Church Musician
Elizabeth Faust, Christian Education
Terri McMillan, Administrative Assistant
Joan McKnight, Staff Assistant
Mark Costlow, Life Center Sexton
Mary Haulard, Preschool —251-626-2774

Office Hours 8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m. (Monday-Thursday)
8:00 a.m. — Noon (Friday)

Church Telephone: 251-626-2421 Fax: 251-626-2456
E-mail: officestpaulsdaphne@gmail.com
Thrift Shop Telephone: 251-626-6102

We worship together as we seek God, serve God, and share God with love and acceptance for all.