



The Tentmaker

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Daphne, Alabama

November 4, 2020

Message from Thack

I am writing this on Monday, November 2, one day before the General Election. This has been a “memorable” Presidential campaign marked by intense vitriol, personal attacks and general incivility. While most political elections can get ugly, I believe we’ve reached new lows this election cycle and I’m fearful I may suffer from PESD (Post Election Stress Disorder) when it is all over. To ward off that possibility, I have been weaning myself off all cable news channels and in their place watching a lot of Netflix. I’d rather anesthetize my brain with mindless shows than assault it with the cable news offerings.

Nevertheless, one thing I can’t get away from is the acidic political rhetoric at the interpersonal level. I thought that by avoiding Facebook and Twitter as much as possible would lessen the stress. Yet regardless of the setting, you can’t escape discussions about the election, even in public restrooms! It’s on the tip of everyone’s lips. I wouldn’t even call many of these exchanges “discussions.” Regardless of political persuasion, these conversations about the election usually become ugly diatribes rather than an exchange of ideas. They also have become so personal and hateful.

I’m fearful the post-election season could be just as bad, if not worse. I say that because everyone is so entrenched in their positions. Obviously, one side will not be happy with the results. This could lead to more uncivil discourse in the coming weeks and months. The other side might join the fray by celebrating the election of their candidate. In any case, the ugliness could probably continue.

This brings me to the point of this message. We need to seriously engage in civil discourse to tamp down the anger and noise! Put simply, civil discourse has to do with how we verbally (in person, in writing, on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter, etc.) engage people with different opinions in a kind and courteous manner.

Several passages from Scripture are worth noting here. In Colossians 4:6 the Apostle Paul writes: “Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.” As Christians we are to speak to those who disagree with us with grace and in a way that is purifying.

Another passage that applies here is Ephesians 4:29-32: “Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.”

Our speech must always impart grace to the hearers. There should never be a time when what we say is filled with bitterness, wrath, anger, or malice.

Please know I’m not advocating silence and passivity. Christians need to speak up on the cultural and political issues of the day. We should never let injustice go unchallenged. But we need to do it in a way that is consistent with the Word of God. After all, true civil discourse is simply Godly discourse. In this area we need to be known as people who practice speaking the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15).

When the election is finally settled, whether later this week or God forbid, later in the Supreme Court, we must not act out toward each other in ways that dishonor God and each other. Rather, we've got to make the best of the outcome by working together in harmony to rebuild the unity of our country.

AMEN

Prayer for an Election (BCP, p. 822)

Almighty God, to whom we must account for all our powers and privileges: Guide the people of the United States in the election of officials and representatives; that, by faithful administration and wise laws, the rights of all may be protected and our nation be enabled to fulfill your purposes; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Treasurer Report by Janet Norman

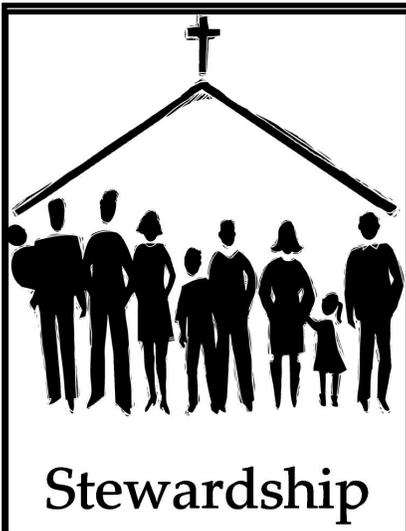
When Airrior Norwood passed away earlier this year, I took over her long-held role as Treasurer for St. Paul's. I have my CPA and have worked in corporate accounting and finance most of my career. I will try to submit periodic updates and articles for the Tentmaker, to help keep you informed about our finances. If you have any questions or concerns at any time, please contact me.

Most not-for-profits have one big problem in common, they never seem to have enough income to cover expenses. St. Paul's shares that problem. Working with Airrior and the vestry the past several years, we always tried to predict the amount of income we would have available for the upcoming year. Unfortunately, less than half our annual budgeted income comes from pledges to our operating or building funds. The remaining amounts come from donations, but these donations are not pledged. This makes it very difficult to present a realistic budget. We cannot say that we have received enough pledges to cover our expenses. We know our expenses with a degree of certainty, but we don't know enough about our income. We present a budget each year with a hope and a prayer that our income will be enough to cover our expenses.

Historically, September is always a rough month for incoming funds, and our incoming funds usually start to pick up again in October, November and December. This September, we received half of what we budgeted. At this point, our deficit for the end of 2020 looks like it will be over \$100,000. Last year, we ended 2019 with a deficit of \$83,000. We have received gifts and bequests in previous years that help fill in the gaps, but we simply cannot afford to go too many years ending the year spending more than we brought in.

Our remaining loan balance is \$2.6 million. That balance represents the strong foundation upon which we have grown to where we are today. We are making progress paying it down, but the sooner we can be rid of it, the more our incoming funds will be available to support our day to day ministries instead of payments to interest and principal.

Our church finances are no different than our personal finances. We earn money, we have expenses, we have a mortgage. We need to make more than we spend, and it helps if we know how much we are going to make this year, so we know how much we can spend.



If you have not turned in your 2021 Pledge Card, please, please do so as soon as possible. This is very helpful to the finance committee that is working diligently to prepare a 2021 budget. Pledges do not automatically renew each year, so please fill out a new card. You may call, text, or email the office the amount of your pledge if you prefer. Pledged amounts can be changed if your financial situation changes during the year.

Also, thank you for taking advantage of the new on-line and texting methods of paying your pledges to the church. If you are unfamiliar with how to use the Text or online methods here is some information:

1. Simply text the word **GIVE** to 844-973-2352. They will respond to your text with a link. Click on the link and they will walk you through how to make your donation.
2. There is a **DONATE button** on the church website and on our new **PHONE APP**. Click on it and it will walk you through how to make your donations. The Church 2021 **PLEDGE CARD** is also on the Website right below the Church Events Calendar. Please fill out your 2021 Pledge Card as soon as possible.
3. We have a secure white metal **drop-off box** right outside the office door. You can drop your offering off anytime.
4. You can **mail** it to St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 28788 North Main Street, Daphne, Alabama 36526.
5. You can use **Bill Pay** through your bank. You can do this through your bank's website or by calling them. They will mail a check directly from the bank to the church. You will have to give them the church's address, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 28788 North Main Street, Daphne, Alabama 36526.

Reminder that contributions must be received in the office or if mailed postmarked no later than December 31st to be credited to the 2020 contribution statement. Stock exchanges can take several weeks before being received and cannot be credited to 2020 if received after December 31st.

Please call or email me if you have any questions. Terri McMillan

**Annual Meeting of the Parish
in the Church
Sunday, November 22, 2020
9:00 a.m.**

Our Annual Meeting is Sunday, November 22, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. in the church. We will elect 4 new members to the vestry and five delegates and alternate to the Diocesan Convention. Your presence, input and vote are important. The names and other information about the nominees will be sent to you next week. Annual reports will be distributed at the meeting. Please note the following election procedure: voting shall be by ballot of those communicants in good standing over the age of sixteen and present at the meeting. No absentee ballots will be accepted.

St. Paul's Thrift Shop

Covid 19, quarantines, Hurricane Sally, now Hurricane Zeta, and extended closures at the Thrift Shop have caused all of us to try and find the Silver lining this year. But, with God's help we have perserved and all look forward to 2021. Because of all the turmoil this year, we sadly, will not be able to hold the November Holiday Shoppe Gala and Sale. We have decided to have Holiday Shoppe-like items in the Shop from now until Christmas. We are working out plans to offer sales on housewares, furniture, linens, china, silver, crystal, etc, and are working on the timing of their availability. Even though we cannot hold a Gala event or three days of sales, we will give parishoners and customers the opportunity to shop for those special treasures. So, stay tuned for all of the details. And, thank you for your continued support of the Thrift Shop and to all the volunteers who give so freely of their time.

ST. PAUL'S SERVICES:

Sunday

Holy Eucharist, Rite I
8:00 am

Holy Eucharist, Rite II
10:30 am

Live and Live Streamed
(Must wear Face mask)

Monday-Saturday

Morning Prayer
8:05 a.m.

Live Streamed Only on
St. Paul's Facebook page

Sunday-Thursday

Compline
8:00 p.m.

Live Streamed Only on
Judith Comer's Facebook page

Wednesday

Healing Service
Wednesday
NOON

Live and Live Streamed
(Must wear a Face Mask)

Church Office Hours

Monday-Thursday:
8:00 am -- 4:30 pm

Friday:
8:00 am -- 11:30 am

St. Paul's Thrift Shop
251-626-6102

St. Paul's Preschool
251-626-2774

BIBLE STUDIES

Sunday

Christian Education
Adults (Malone Hall)
9:15 am

Tuesday

Men's Bible Study
(Malone Hall)
6:00 am

ZOOM Meeting Only

Wednesday

Morning Bible Study
(Malone)
10:30 am

Great Wednesday at 6:00
Supper and Study
(Malone)
6:00 p.m.

VESTRY AND OFFICERS

Term Ending

December 31, 2020

Bill Harrison, Sr. Warden
Liston Jones
Boyd Miller
Donna Nolte

December 31, 2021

Donna Brown
Kathy Mallory
Ken McNamara
Michael Quinn

December 31, 2022

Joe Cook, Jr. Warden
Henry Esham
Jim Green
Tim Michael
~
Martha Lathan,
Clerk of the Vestry

Janet Norman
Treasurer

Church Website

www.stpaulseasternshore.com

Email Address

officestpaulsdaphne@gmail.com

Facebook Page

St. Paul's Eastern Shore

Phone

251-626-2421

Fax

251-626-2456

St. Paul's Youth

The time has come to begin planning for Christmas! In an attempt to provide the beauty of the pageant in a safe, Covid friendly way, we will be offering a LIVE, DRIVE-THRU NATIVITY the Sunday BEFORE Christmas from 5:30-7:30pm. This will require all hands on deck. Right now, I am looking for the following. Please call me, Tina @ 912-308-8481 or email at tnefish@gmail.com if you would like to participate!!! This is not only a wonderful offering of hope to our community and our church family, but also an opportunity for the youth, young, and young-at-heart to bring the nativity story to life in our own lives...something we could ALL use as we say good bye to the turbulent 2020!

- . Angel of the Lord (2)
- . Innkeeper
- . 2 older Angels - 1 to stand with our younger angels & 1 in the final Creche
- . Little Angels (As many as possible and any age)
- . 2 older Shepherds - 1 to stand with our younger shepherds & 1 in the final Creche
- . Little Shepherds - as many as possible
- . 3 Adult Magi
- . 1 Mary - Someone who loves babies in the event we have a brave Mama out there!!!
- . 1 Joseph
- . 4 Star Holders

We have need for artists, back drop materials, lighting, sound, set up & clean up crews...we literally have a spot for EVERYONE! Please contact me to get involved!

Choir Update

I don't know about the rest of you, but it seems as though Easter was just yesterday and we were disappointed that our services had to be virtual. The choir stepped up, and has provided music for the virtual and live services since then. Now, it is almost unbelievable that our Service of Lessons and Carols will be on Sunday, November 29, and Christmas is a little over a month away!!

As of now, the Corona Choir will be preparing and taping music now through Christmas, with the hope that a vaccine will be available soon and we will all be together, and, without masks, will be able to recognize who we are looking at!

Anyone who would like to join us for Advent and Christmas music rehearsal, please feel free to come on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m.

Love to all!

John Matson

Choirmaster

Prayer Requests

Please let us know if someone needs to be added or removed from the prayer requests.

Immediate Prayer Requests:

David Barnett, Phillip Berryhill, The Boom Family, Donna Brown, Rochelle Coburn, Rip Cox, Ana Deaton, Sarah Hale, Ray Hamilton, Dave Johnson, Theresa Johnson, Beverly Koepp, Carolyn Lambeth, Carolyn Magruder, Joshua Magruder, John McClendon, Roxanne McCrory, Lance Monley, Ursel Norman, Derek Norman, Bill Organic, Jim Overstreet, Martin Page, Jim Raines, Elizabeth Reed, Judy Reeves, JoAnn Riley, John Rudolf, Bob Rutherford, Bob Savage, Sheila Schreiner, Judy Smith, Justin Smith, Phyllis Smith, Rucker Taylor, Stacie VanWetering, Frieda Ward, George Warren, Brian Zorman, Rick Zwickey

Ongoing Prayer Requests:

Marty Adams, Dave Baldock, Christopher Blackwell, Pat Brislin, Marsha Butler, Pat Cannon, Jim Council, Margie Cowart, Margaret Cummins, Suzanne Damour, Puddy Dyson, Dee Grantham, David Grey, Carol Hafner, Wanda Hall, Terri Hare, Susan Hill, Jossie Hurst, Leslie Johnson, Geoff Jones, Alexander Kielek, Tracie Knight, Drew Lathan, David Lee, Patrick Lynch, Doug Montgomery, Ross Moore, Lou Morgan, Buddy Morrow, Elsie Mosher, Sara Patton, Rochelle Robinson, Mary Rudolf, Zera Roussel, Stephanie Sanchez, Bennie Savage, Pat Schlimmer, Nick Shoultz, Cathy Slagle, D'ana Snow, Albert Thompson, Julia Warren

For the Departed: Brenda Moore

For Those Serving in the Military: Crew of the USS Roosevelt

Ryan Bowman, Matthew Cheatham, Chase Clark, Jackson Deaton, Michael Duchesne, Christopher Dukarm, Chris Evans, Diana Evans, Landis Fouts, Deron Frailie, Steven Grey, Matthew Harris, Rusty Henry, Karen Hubley, Walker Jackson, Daniel James, Matt Jones, Shane Kennedy, Daniel Lambert, Chris Lessard, David McMillan, Patrick Mong, Bryan Quinn, Justin Ramsey, Neil Sevelius, Derek Siegel, Andy Tuttle, Brad Yonkers

For those with Birthdays:

November 1-30

(01) Mark Lammon, Joe Cook, Mike Dasinger, (02) Reaves Eppes, (03) MacLain Rigdon, Smith Wyckoff, Abigail Morgan, Grace Sanford, (04) Lily Dunn, Logan Davenport, Brian Robicheaux, (05) Shane Balhatchet, (06) Virginia Michaels, (07) Steve Lovell, Andrew Bailey, Hayleigh Hamilton, (08) Robert Edward Daniel, Teddy Wright, Harper Wright, (09) Calvin Walker, Jeffrey Grizzle, Jayne Sharp, Jennifer Conner, Skye Harrison, (10) Lynn Martin, Mark Bryza, (12) Bud Wallace, Jim Miller, Marian Harris, (13) GiGi Pate, (14) Paul Anderson, Frances Clark, (16) Pam Carlson, Stefanie Patterson, (17) Ginger Donald, Rich Reeves, Bobbi Sue Ross, Camille Stephens, Tracy Godwin, Elaine Quinn, (18) Samuel Sanford, (19) Alicia Spencer, Davis Daniel, Bonnie Hindman, Gwen Abbott, (20) Megrez Rudolf, Debi McClary, Howard Wilson, Luis Briones, William Erickson, (21) Julia Hobbs, Megan Dimoff, (22) Jeanne Alton, Mary Ann Hampton, (23) Nancy Walker, Gaye Wilson, (25) Tim Op't Holt, (26) Scottie Williams, Ross Moore, Vivian Rigby, (28) Ross Hobbs, Sidney Jackson, Tripp Esham, (29) Charleca Burgess, Dylan Sheridan, (30) Anne Smith, Susanne Johnson

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

28788 North Main Street

Daphne, Alabama 36526

US Postage Paid

**Non Profit
Permit 46**

**Daphne, AL
36526**

Return Service Requested

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

28788 North Main Street

Daphne, Alabama 36526

The Rev. Thack H. Dyson, *Rector*

Tina Erickson, *Youth Leader*

Elizabeth Faust, *Christian Education & Preschool Administrator*

David Kielek, *Life Center Sexton*

John Matson, *Choirmaster*

Joan McKnight, *Staff Assistant*

Terri McMillan, *Administrative Assistant*

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

8:00 a.m. — 11:30a.m. (Friday)

Church Telephone: 251-626-2421 Fax: 251-626-2456

E-mail: officestpaulsdaphne@gmail.com

Facebook Page: St. Paul's Eastern Shore

Preschool Phone: 251-626-2774

Thrift Shop Telephone: 251-626-6102

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