



The Tentmaker

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Daphne, Alabama

September 9, 2026

Message From Thack

9/11: Twenty-Five Years, and a Telephone Call

The twenty-fifth anniversary of 9/11 is this Friday. It is hard to believe that was a quarter of a century ago.

I still remember how I learned what was happening. The telephone rang that Tuesday morning, and it was Gaynor Turner, excited and insistent, the way she could be when something mattered. She said, "Turn on the television! A plane has crashed into one of the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in New York."

We had no television at the church then so we listened to the news broadcast on the radio. By that time only the North Tower had been struck. I trying to make sense of what at first appeared to be a terrible accident. Then, while I was listening, the newscaster reported a second plane had struck the South Tower.

I think that was the moment it became clear to all of us: this was no accident. This was an attack, and it was not over. Whatever sense of security most of us carried into that ordinary September morning did not survive the hour. Our country, and in many ways the world, was rattled to the core. Life as we knew it before 9/11 changed forever.

Gaynor has since gone on to be with the Lord, and I find that I cannot think about that day without thinking about her. There is something fitting in that. The news came to me not from a television news anchor but from a member of the church, one voice reaching out to another. In many ways, that is how the Body of Christ has always carried both grief and good news.

We opened the doors of St. Paul's for a prayer vigil that night, not knowing whether anyone would come. I was surprised by the turnout. Many were not members of our congregation. Some, I suspect, had not been inside a church in years. They filed in quietly, subdued and more than a little anxious, and sat together in the presence of God because they did not know what else to do with what they were carrying.

There was not much that needed to be said. Mostly, we prayed, and we handed it over to God.

Twenty-five years later, that is the picture that has stayed with me most clearly. It was the pews that evening. Because that is what people often do when the ground moves beneath them. They look for somewhere to put their fear. For many people that evening, that place was our church.

Fear is not a sin, and I want to be plain about that. Fear is information. It tells us that something we love is in danger. The psalmists were not ashamed of it. David wrote, “When I am afraid, I put my trust in you” (Psalm 56:3). Notice that he did not write *if*. He assumed the fear. He simply refused to be left alone with it.

Scripture never asks us to pretend that we are unafraid. It asks us to give our fear somewhere to go. “Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you” (1 Peter 5:7). “Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:6–7). “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea” (Psalm 46:1–2).

Those who gathered at St. Paul’s did not receive an explanation that night. Nobody in America received an explanation that night. What they received was a place to set down a weight too heavy to carry alone in their living rooms. That is not a small thing. It is one of the most important things the Church offers. We call it *sanctuary*.

A quarter century is long enough to be honest about what fear can do to us. Fear, left to itself, does not stay fear. It hardens. It goes looking for someone to blame, and it is not always careful about accuracy. While much of our response to the attack was righteous, some of it was not. I am not accusing anyone here. I also had mixed emotions that ranged from confusion to sadness, and admittedly, to rage. Yes, anger was a predominant emotion for several days after the tragic events of 9/11. Like my own fear, I had to give that to God as well. That is precisely why some of our responses to this event must be named. Evil is contagious, and the surest way to be beaten by it is to borrow its methods.

So we say again what we have been given to say: “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God” (Matthew 5:9). “Do not repay anyone evil for evil.... Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good” (Romans 12:17, 21).

Peacemaking is not the same as pretending nothing happened. Nearly three thousand people died that morning, and their families are still living with the loss. The peace Christ gives does not require us to call evil something other than evil. It requires us to refuse to become evil.

On this somber anniversary, let us remember those who died on 9/11. Remember the firefighters, police officers, and other first responders who climbed the stairs while everyone else was coming down. Remember the passengers and crew of Flight 93 who decided, in the space of a few terrifying minutes, what courage required of them and, by their actions, likely prevented the deaths of many more people.

And remember the pews.

Remember our parishioners and frightened neighbors who discovered that the doors of our church were open, that there was a place for their fear, and that someone was listening.

I hope and pray that we never experience another 9/11. God forbid that we should. But if such a day ever comes again, just know the doors of the Church will still be open. And I pray that those who enter will know that God is still there, and God is still listening.

Peace, Thack

Financial Report

September Operating Income To-date:

\$23,668.00

September Operating Expenses To-date:

\$16,952.12

September Operating Net To-date

\$6,715.88

2026 Capital Campaign Goal:

\$200,000

Received to date (September 8):

\$165,412.04—82% of our goal

83 Donors—20% of Congregation

Capital Improvement Expenses to-date:

- Threshold and Window Pros - \$500.00 for Door Repair in Malone Hall and Office Areas
- Real Floors —\$18,564.76 for Carpet and Flooring in Malone Hall and Office Areas
- Greg Hobbs Painters—\$4500.00 for painting in Malone Hall and Office Areas

Capital Improvement Fund Balance: \$141,847.28

Please help us reach our goal by September 30th



*New Flooring in
Malone Hall*

***Thank you for your generous
support of St. Paul's Ministries!***



May we pray for you?

The Book of Common Prayer tells us that “*prayer is responding to God, by thought and by deeds, with or without words.*” The members of the Julain of Norwich chapter of the Daughters of the King TM are committed to daily prayer, and would like to pray for you.

In the narthex of the church, on the choir room side table, you can find a blue metal box, and next to it, some forms for you to fill out with your prayer concerns. The members of the DOK will keep your request confidential, and pray for your request for the next month.

On Sunday, August 30th at the 10:30 service we as a church joined together to initiate our very own Junior Daughters of the King Chapter, the Brigid of Kildare chapter. I wanted to warmly thank each and every one of you for making the service such a special experience and for welcoming Jane Searcy, the National President of the Order, with such open arms and hospitality. It meant the world to me and to her. Jane remarked that our church’s coffee hour was one of the most attended coffee hours she has ever been to, and I love that for us! Your continued support of the girls and me is something I am forever grateful. I look forward to keeping all of you informed about the future services and studies that our Junior Chapter will accomplish.

For His sake,
JoAnna Delgado
Junior Daughters of the King (JDOK) Directress



By the grace of God
and the people consenting

The Right Reverend James Russell Kendrick
Bishop of the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast

will ordain

JESSICA MERYL WALKER

to the Sacred Order of Priests
in Christ's one holy catholic and apostolic church

on Wednesday, the 21st day of October
in the year of Our Lord two thousand and twenty-six
at six o'clock in the evening

at

Holy Spirit Episcopal Church
616 W. Fort Morgan Road
Gulf Shores, Alabama 36542
251-968-5988

Your prayers and presence are requested.
The ordination service will be livestreamed at
<https://www.facebook.com/holyspiritgulfshores>.

*Reception to follow the service.
Please RSVP to holyspirit@gmail.com.*

Clergy attending are asked to vest: alb or cassock/surplice and red stole.



Hello fellow parishioners and greetings from the Howard Wilson Life Center:

There has been lots happening this summer in the Life Center; as many of you already know, we have been chasing an elusive water leak that is costing us 10 gallons of water per hour, so far without any successful resolution. I will keep you posted as to our progress.

Last month's version of Fourth-Friday Night Bingo was a resounding success! We set a new record for number of players with 150! A good time was had by all, especially one of our parish members who won the last game, a bingo blackout, for \$120!

One great event that makes a great deal of difference in our community and doesn't get a lot of attention is the Exceptional Foundation Gulf Coast's Summer Program. This program, which ran in the months of June and July, has participants from age 10 through high school. This year's version had 24 participants, who did a variety of fun activities including weekly bowling and trips to the movies. In addition there were several exciting field trips to Flight Works, sponsored by Airbus, which is an interactive experience designed to teach children and adults the history, future and fundamentals of aviation.

The group also went to the Exploreum, a Mobile-based science museum featuring special and permanent exhibits designed to expose children and adults to science learning and family fun. All in all this year's EF Summer Program was a great success, as you can see by the happy participants in the enclosed photos. I urge all our church members to support the outstanding programs offered by the Exceptional Foundation. I can't say enough about the wonderful work of the loving and dedicated staff who do so much for our community!

Until next time, that's the news from the Howard Wilson Life Center, thanks for reading!

David



Grounds Work Day!



Grounds Work Day—September 19—8:00 a.m.

Saturday September 19 will be a Campus Grounds Work Day. We will start at 8AM and be finished by Noon.

We will be pulling weeds, trimming trees, and making the church grounds look much better.

Please bring your gloves, trimmers, shovels, rakes and any other equipment you want to work with.



This could be your pew.

Dear Fellow Parishioners

Live-streaming church services has become a lifeline for those who, for whatever reason, are not able to attend church services in person. To date, Dave Hale has done the majority of the 8:00AM services and Caron Richards and Sam Thompson the 10:30 AM services and also the noon Healing Service on Wednesdays. We need more 8AM videographers. It would help to have 8:00AM videographers for just one Sunday a month. Please consider volunteering for this important ministry. The livestreaming process is not difficult. You don't have to be a computer guru. Once you learn it, it does not take away from your worship experience. We will train you and stay with you until you learn the process. Please contact Dave at (251) 422-1244 or Caron Richards at (251) 698-8236 if you could assist in this ministry.

Thank you



In thanksgiving to God for all the love, prayers, and support that you my St. Paul's Family gave to me at the loss of my husband Ron Waites. Your love, prayers, gifts and kind words of condolence were and are of great comfort to me as I grieve my husband's death.

Susan Waites

ST. PAUL'S 18TH ANNUAL "PORKFEST"

Saturday, November 21, 2026

at St. Paul's Episcopal Church ,
28788 North Main Street, Daphne, AL

251-626-2421



Boston Butts — \$49.00 Each

Pulled Pork Sandwiches — \$5.00 Each

****Boston Butts can be picked up
between 10:00 a.m. until NOON.**

Contact Marty Ollinger for more information:

251-651-5902



Spaghetti Dinner

SPAGHETTI DINNER and BINGO...

Come join the fun in the
Howard Wilson Life Center
beginning at 5:45 p.m.

at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Daphne
the 4th Friday of each month, January - October...

Friday, September 25th and October 23rd!

Enjoy a delicious spaghetti dinner -
and then play 11 games of BINGO

All proceeds go for the support of St. Paul's ministries.



Tee up for a great cause! Join Exceptional Foundation Gulf Coast on Thursday, September 17, for our annual Golf Tournament at Lakewood Golf Club. Every golfer and sponsor helps us continue providing year-round social and recreational programs for individuals with special needs in our community. We hope you'll join us for a great day on the course while supporting the mission of EFGC!

JOIN THE CHOIR

Greetings fellow parishioners! The school year is well underway now and we hope that all are adjusting to the new schedule. Perhaps you may have time to sing with the Parrish choir! We meet on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 and Sunday mornings at 9:45 to rehearse music for the next Sunday and future anthems. We have so much fun and welcome all!

We are excited to have a couple of new members: Audrey Ford and Susan Waites. We also welcome back Hope Brooks. We are so happy to have them with us!

If you are interested in hearing more about our choir, contact Christopher Conger or any member of the choir and we will gladly answer your questions and/or concerns! We can guide you and help you learn to sing and even read music if you like!

Arrior's SWEET TREAT CART

DONATE A SWEET OR SAVORY
TREAT TO THE SWEET CART!

THE YOUTH WILL BE SELLING
THESE TREATS TO HELP OUR
CHURCH AND ITS GEOWPS
GROW!

WE ACCEPT TREATS BEFORE
BOTH SERVICES

Thank you!

SERVED AFTER BOTH SERVICES

YOUTH BIBLE STUDY

SUNDAYS

9:15AM IN THE
UNDERGROUND

WEDNESDAYS

6:30 PM IN THE
UNDERGROUND

5TH - TWELFTH GRADE

— St. Paul's Thrift Shop —

Fall Re-Opening is Tuesday, Sept. 15!



Our End of Summer Clearance Sale ends
on **Friday, Sept. 11th** with **15% off furniture
and rugs** and **60% off storewide**.

We will be emptying the shop on Saturday, Sept. 12th
and giving it a thorough cleaning.

On Monday, our team will bring in fresh fall merchandise
and our talented decorators will work their magic with
new clothes, furniture, housewares, home décor
and so much more — all perfect for the fall season!

*Be sure to be first in line when the shop
reopens at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 15th!*



Happy Birthday to our Volunteers with September Birthdays!

— ♥ —
Gloria Fisher
Donna Broussard
Janet Norman
Carol Balch
Pam Parker
Thack Dyson

*and Happy 90th Birthday
to Linda Stealey!*



Prayer Requests

Immediate Prayer Requests:

Ray Bing, Hunter Bowman, Jeff Brown, Tommy Burnett, Frances Coleman, Deanna Cook, Faith Cornett, Jody Davis, Wayne Davis, Patrick Foster, Richard Foster, Gentry Garrett, Laura Ann Gibson, Glenda Gravley, Toni Gray, Jim Gullede, Mary McIlwayne Hadley, Ed Harris, Marilyn Harris, Sharon Hoiles, Carl Hucke, Dave Johnson, Leslie Johnson, Susan Johnson, Thomas Kielek, Tracie Knight, Beverly Koepp, Pat Lieb, Donelle McBride, Leigh McKibbon, Bob McKnight, Marcie Morrow, Dorothy Moore, Lainey Owen, Cindy Patterson, Bill Petka, Michael Pirtle, Harry Davidson Poole, Gayle Robinson, Bobbi Sue Ross, Julie Saucier, Julie Schiffner, Phyllis and Stephen Schneider, Michael Schwarte, David Robert Scott, Judson Sherrell, Becky Simpson, Donnie Smith, Robbie Spencer, Avos Stickney, Cleighton Strickland, Mark Taylor, Karen Thomason, David Tiefenthaler, Mary Haston Vest, Julia Warren, Brandon Webb

Ongoing Prayer Requests:

Bobby Acosta, Christopher Blackwell, Betty Borroni, Dakota Burchett, Pat Cannon, Janice Clifford, Jim Clifford, Jennifer Conner, Margie Cowart, Suzanne Damour, Tom Davidson, Nancy Dziubakowski, Sylvia Forbes, Dee Grantham, Kay Hardin, Terri Hare, Hannah Harper, Richard Hatchett, Eddie Hill, Susan Hill, Jossie Hurst, Shari Hyde, Shannon Kern, Alexander Kielek, Neil Magruder, Leigh Marsh, Angela Mason, Buddy Morrow, Bo Nichols, Sonny Nichols, Sam Pace, Mary Pace, Sara Patton, Janet Penry, Judy Reeves, Mary Rudolf, Marilyn Russell, Jesse Rutherford, Larry Rutherford, Kem Rudledge, Stephanie Sanchez, Pat Schlimmer, Marie Schreiner, Cathy Slagle, Ken & Genette Stephens, Vicki Thompson, Anna & Bill Waid, Ken Wallis, Bob & Beth Wickwire, Andy Wilson, Kern & Mary Wilson

For the Departed: Irene Elia

For Those Serving in the Military:

Bradley Billingsley, Graham B'Wade, Ryan Bowman, James Cassebaum, Matthew Cheatham, Chase Clark, Jackson Deaton, Josh Dedrickson, Michael Duchesne, Christopher Dukarm, Steven Grey, Matthew Harris, Adam Harrison, Rusty Henry, Karen Hubley, Walker Jackson, Daniel James, Jake Jerome, Matt Jones, Harrison Key, Daniel Lambert, Chris Lessard, Jackson May, Bryan Quinn, Holden Quinn, Madie Quinn, Neil Quinn, Justin Ramsey, Neil Sevelius, Michael Strohlein, Dan Strohlein, Aiden Walker, Brad Yonkers

For Those with Birthdays:

September 1-30: (01) Barry Taylor, Connor Dimoff, (02) Sarah Walter, David Wetzel, (03) Bonnie Hebert, Shelley Haga, (04) Claudia Coleman, Michael Quinn, (05) Albert Kennington, David McMillan, Hayes Hare, (06) Marcie Morrow, (07) Robert Jernigan, (08) Christian McDowell, Elise Harris, (09) Julie Saucier, Melissa Kielek, Bill Erickson, (10) Mike Sager, Rebecca Dyson, Laura McFarland, (11) Mary Dunn, (13) Marynell Nour, Sharon Wallace, Nicholas Kessler, Will Carico, (14) Brian Evans, Jo Delgado, (15) Linda Stealey, Beverly Koepp, Luciano Briones, (16) Owen Friedland, Anna Thomason, Lane Faust, (17) Gary Borroni, (22) Bob Hoeb, Janet Norman, (23) Randolph Kapeluck, (24) Thack Dyson, Nancy Kennington, Jim Jackson, Elizabeth Thomason, (25) Susannah Jackson, (26) Dick Schmidt, (27) Dylan Loes, (28) Anna Kate Meter, (29) Lily Wilson, Lilah Delgado, (30) Jennifer Doyle, Levi Caspers

Please let the office know of any names to be added or removed from the Prayer List.

SEPTEMBER 2026

DATE	9/6/2026	9/13/2026	9/20/2026	9/27/2026
TIME	8AM	8AM	8AM	8AM
Verger	Susan Hurst	Tina Erickson	Susan Hurst	Tina Erickson
Chalice	Bella Forrest	Elizabeth Kaye	Court Hurst	Davis Daniel
Chalice	Bob Wakeman	Mary Claire McTaggart	Elizabeth Thomason	Joe Cook
Lector-Scripture	Bill Carr	Linda McDowell	Brett Nestande	Martha Lathan
Lector-Prayers	Megrez Rudolf	Elizabeth Thomason	Frances Coleman	Rachael Wetzel
Server-Crucifer	Verger	Anna Thomason	Anne Collins Daniel	Emma McTaggart
Server-Trainee				
Torch		Paul Thomason		
Torch		Astrid Wetzel		
Usher	Joe Cook	Gaye Wilson	Matt Thomason	David Kielek
Usher	Brad Hare	Josh Bond	Davis Daniel	Jim Jackson
Vestry	Liston Jones	Judi Gullledge	Elizabeth Thomason	Joe Cook
TIME	10:30AM	10:30AM	10:30AM	10:30AM
Verger	Judy Hale	John Sharp	Donna Nolte	Richard Foster
Chalice	Edith Henry	Judy Hale	Heather Barnard	Janet Norman
Chalice	Donna Nolte	Richard Foster	Jim Rivers	Alyson Jackson
Chalice	Jim Rivers	Mike Turnipseed	Allen Simpson	Clay Rankin
Lector-Scripture	Albert Kennington	Vonnie Foreman	Donna Nolte	Phil Kelley
Lector-Prayers	Boyd Miller	Arthur Oken	Kay Taylor	Betsy Leslie
Server	Allison Hamilton	Mia Stephens	Leah Hamilton	Lee Herrington
Server-Trainee				Audrey Faust
Crucifer	Leah Hamilton	Noah Pino	Allison Hamilton	Audrey Faust
Torch	Timothy Pino	Timothy Pino	Lily Wilson	Eley Hatcher
Torch	Lucas Hoeb-Root	Vada Evans	Lila Sharp	Vada Evans
Usher	Dean Mosher	Doug Stephens	Tom Walker	Bob Hoeb
Usher	Phyllis Bruce	Michael Taylor	Beverly Koepp	Mike Koepp
Usher	Dolores Jones	Shawn Alves	Diane Watson	Meredith Portman
Vestry	Mike Turnipseed	John Sharp	Boyd Miller	Richard Foster
Altar Guild	Phyllis Bruce Hope Brooks	Judi Gullledge Melissa Kielek	Kathy Lovell	Bonnie Bryan
Flower Guild	Jo Delgado	Sue Cody	Rebecca Dyson	Rhonda Jones

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
28788 North Main Street
Daphne, Alabama 36526

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**Daphne, AL
36526**

Return Service Requested

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

28788 North Main Street
Daphne, Alabama 36526

The Rev. Thack H. Dyson, *Rector*
The Rev. Judith W. Comer, *Priest Associate*
The Rev. S. Albert Kennington, *Priest Associate*
Elizabeth Faust, *Christian Education & Preschool Administrator*
Hali Everette Nestande, *Youth Leader*
David Kielek, *Howard Wilson Life Center Sexton*
Christopher Conger, *Church Musician & Choirmaster*
Joan McKnight and Donna Brown, *Staff Assistants*
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
Church App: <https://tithely.app.link/st-pauls-eastern-shore>
Website: www.stpaulseasternshore.com

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