



The Tentmaker

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Daphne, Alabama

January 13, 2021

Message from Thack

Happy Epiphany Season! The season of Epiphany lasts from four to nine weeks, from the Feast of the Epiphany (Jan. 6) through the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday. Our season will last six weeks this year. The length of the season varies according to the date of Easter (April 4).

The gospel stories of this season describe various events that manifest the divinity of Jesus. The coming of the Magi is celebrated on the Epiphany. The Baptism of our Lord is observed on the first Sunday after Epiphany. The gospels for the other Sundays of the Epiphany season describe the wedding at Cana, the calling of the disciples, and various miracles and teachings of Jesus. The Last Sunday after the Epiphany is always devoted to the Transfiguration. Jesus' identity as the Son of God is dramatically revealed in the Transfiguration gospel, as well as the gospel of the baptism of Christ. We are called to respond to Christ in faith through the showings of his divinity.

The Incarnation—God with us in the flesh—transforms every aspect of our human experience into a place of encounter with the Holy One. To have these experiences requires us to be present to every moment we can. That's why a seminary professor once said, "This is the season of paying attention."

That said, should we take this season in the Church year seriously? I ask that because some people find themselves in an emotional slump after the intense waiting of Advent, which culminates with Christmas, and then is followed immediately by celebrations associated with the chronological New Year. This let-down is understandable given the fast pace of the holidays. It can feel like everything we looked forward to is now behind us and all that lies ahead is getting back to work.

This year, in particular, it's hard to know what to feel. Most of us are grateful to have left 2020 behind but we are still in the midst of one of the most extraordinary events any of us have ever lived through—a pandemic. The specter of the coronavirus is ever present and it has already cast its dim shadow in 2021.

Even so, the celebration of Epiphany is important with its emphasis on how God reveals the mystery of God's divine presence in the midst of our ordinary lives. So yes, we should take the season of Epiphany seriously. Take advantage of this season to deepen your awareness of God's presence and pray to God daily that you don't miss out on anything, especially close encounters with the Divine.

Peace, Thack

Bishop Russell's Visitation

Bishop Russell will make his annual visitation to St. Paul's on Sunday, February 14, 2021. He will perform Confirmations, Receptions, and Reaffirmations at that time. If you would like to Reaffirm your Confirmation then, please call Terri at 626-2421 by no later than Friday, January 22, 2021. Those who completed our Covid-19 Confirmation instruction last spring will meet with Thack via Zoom on Sunday, January 17 at 1:00 p.m. Thack will send out the Zoom invitation by Friday, January 15.

Because of the pandemic, you must RSVP your attendance before coming. Seating will be limited to 100 persons per service. Those being Confirmed, Received and Reaffirmed and their immediate families will have first priority in seating. Also, because of health concerns Russell will not have his typical informal reception in Malone Hall or meet with the vestry during his visitation.

Roof Repairs

Hardly anyone at St. Paul's escaped the wrath of Hurricane Sally when it rudely blew through here last September 16. St. Paul's took some licks as well. There was enough roof damage to the worship space, Malone Hall, and the Thrift Shop to require replacing all three roofs. After lengthy negotiations with our insurance company we finally reached a settlement. The problem is our deductible. It will be \$41,384.00. This expense was not in our budget. Consequently, I am asking for donations to help us cover this unexpected expense. If you can help, please make your checks payable to St. Paul's with the notation "Roof Deductible." Thank you. Thack

St. Paul's Thrift Shop

The Thrift Shop wants to say Happy New Year to all of the St. Paul Parishioners. The Shop is already busy with pricing items in hopes of a Holiday Shoppe event this fall. We all pray for the vaccine to be distributed and working so that we can gather as we have in previous years.

The Shop is also beginning a new year with four newly elected Board Members; Margaret Cummins, Donna Brown, Janet Norman, and Edith Henry. These ladies will serve three year terms. If you do not know them, please introduce yourself and say hello. Also, we would like to thank the outgoing Board members (Tim Michael, Donelle Weed McBride, Linda Monley, and Becky Spann) for their faithful Board service.

The Thrift Shop is Looking for silver polishers - you can do it at your home on your own time schedule. Please contact the shop, 251-626-6102, if you are able to help.

Thankfully, we have said goodbye to 2020 and all of its ups and downs and hope that 2021 will be a stellar year for St. Paul's Thrift Shop, St. Paul's Church, and each of you.

Prayer Requests

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

Immediate Prayer Requests:

David Barnett, Randy Bridges, Erin Acosta-Burns, Sally Clark, Rochelle Coburn, Rip Cox, Mike Dasinger, Ana Deaton, Michelle Ellison, Joe Faust, Patti Gatlin, Alice Gordon, L.C. Greene, Lawson Haddock, Ray Hamilton, Joann Huber, Linn Hyde, Dave Johnson, Theresa Johnson, Tracie Knight, Beverly Koepp, Carolyn Magruder, Joshua Magruder, John McClendon, Lance Monley, Ursel Norman, Derek Norman, Campbell Peters, Karen Presnall, Elizabeth Reed, Judy Reeves, Bob Rutherford, Sheila Schreiner, Rucker Taylor, 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, Susan Hill, Jossie Hurst, Leslie Johnson, Geoff Jones, Alexander Kielek, 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: Irene Laskowski, Annette Parker LaPorte

For Those Serving in the Military:

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: January 1-31

(01) Mary Miley, Jack Kessler, (02) John Graham Parker, (04) Linda Monley, Jimbo Cassity, Sarah Santa Cruz, (05) Joyce Pierce, Merrill Rigby, (07) Glen Currie, Colton McKenna, (08) Jane Shoultz, Anita Rankin, (09) Brenda Holbein, Wendi Jackson, (10) Mary Michael, Kris Mullins, (11) Laura Anne Gibson, (12) Mac Parker, (14) Vincent Long, Walker Hendricks, (16) Ben Leininger, (17) Richard Whitehurst, (20) George Cotten, (22) Mary Richardson, Evelyn Walker, Lilah Nagel, (23) Shad James, Ford Taylor, Timothy Pino, (24) Deanna Cook, (27) Donna Brown, William Johnson, Grace Kessler, (28) Chris Dedrickson, (30) Samuel Collier, Nick Shoultz, (31) Glenn Robinson

What's Happening in Chris Ed?

Children's Chapel

Happy New Year to all of our families! My prayer for all of us this New Year is that we all draw closer together, closer to God! I hope we are able to get back into a new and exciting normal soon and are able to come together again in new ways. All of our little ones are dearly missed!

In Chapel at our 8:00 and 10:30 services, we have begun a 7 week journey, learning the ways of love that we have been encouraged to practice by our Presiding Bishop Michael Curry. With the guidance of the children's book, "The Very Best Day" by Roger Hutchison, we'll be learning to grow more deeply with Jesus as we: **Turn, Learn, Pray, Worship, Bless, Go, and Rest** in God's love. Short activities and lessons will be posted on our children and family ministries Facebook page coming soon!

On Epiphany Sunday, we blessed Children's Chapel in abundance! Here's to a new year and a new opportunity to love our neighbors and grow in Christ.

Miss Lilah blessing

Children's Chapel

With our yearly

"chalk blessing"

20+C+M+B+21

You can bless your

Home too!



Wednesday Night Live- 3rd -5th graders

Coming Soon!

We hope to meet for our first in-person get together since COVID, on February 3rd @ 5:30 in the underground. We will begin a new Bible Study using Priscilla Shirer's "**Unseen**". We will post virtually on a weekly basis until our next meeting, which is scheduled for March 3rd. "**Unseen**", is a 7 week study. I hope we can do it together both virtually and in person.

For more information, please contact Elizabeth Faust, 251-626-2421 or ea.fst@hotmail.com

St. Paul's Nursery

Did you know our nursery is open on Sundays at both services?

We are fully staffed and operating every Sunday. Our nursery is spacious, clean, and welcoming!

Our nursery staff consists of several dedicated workers who have been a part of our nursery ministry for several years.

Ms. Stefanie Patterson is a long time St. Paul's Preschool teacher, who has been serving our tiniest sheep in the nursery on Sunday and Wednesday nights for 5 years now.

Brian Robicheaux is our newest addition to our nursery staff. Brian has been a counselor at VBS, and volunteer for St. Paul's Preschool for many years now. He enjoys playing with the children and brings a fun, playful energy to our nursery!

Kristina McKenna has been a huge part of children's ministry at St. Paul's now, serving as an aide in Children's Chapel, Wednesday Night Live, other events, and most recently, rocking babies in the nursery on Sundays.

Olivia Clark, also a staff member at St. Paul's Preschool, has served as a nursery aide for the last year and a half. The babies love her calm, quiet, sweet spirit and she is a wonderful help to us!

We are all dedicated to keeping our nursery a clean, quiet, and happy place for our precious little ones.



Live Nativity - Thank you

The drive-thru Nativity was a large undertaking and huge success! We had 132 cars drive through and we received fantastic feedback and zero injuries!!! I wanted to take the opportunity to recognize and thank those “behind and in front of the scenes.”

Christopher Conger – Thank you for immediately saying, “yes,” for reaching out to the choir and New Song in order to organize and provide the beautiful music following the narration, AND of course, for the accompaniment during the narration. I am so proud of your talent, but even more amazed at how willing you are to actively participate in the life of your church.

William Erickson – Thank you for reading and recording (and re-recording!) the narration. You were amazingly patient with me and I very much admire the quality of your reading voice and poise with which you presented the story of Jesus’ birth!

Dave Hale – Thank you so much for the hours you spent arranging (and re-arranging!) the links for the narration and music. You also immediately said, “yes” and I am so thankful for your support.

St. Paul’s Choir and New Song – Thank you for taking your practice/free time, especially during COVID, to contribute your vocal talents to our youth event.

St. Paul’s Men’s Group – **ESPECIALLY** Coleman Wood, Howard Wilson, David Chavers, David Kielek, and Bill Erickson...thank you for constructing & deconstructing the stable, which absolutely set the scene and made the Nativity beautifully authentic. I am also thankful for your finding and/or donating the spotlights and many extension cords it took to light the way!

Ross Moore – Thank you for asking to be a part and for helping those driving through access the narration.

Bill Erickson – Thank you for visualizing and organizing our traffic flow.

St. Paul’s Thrift Shop & Come and Behold Committee – Thank you for the use of your materials to supplement our scenes. We are so fortunate to have the resources we have at St. Paul’s and I am eternally grateful for your willingness to share them with us!

The parents of our little ones – Thank you for bringing your babies on a chilly, slightly rainy night to participate; for staying and helping to coral or remind our youth when cars were approaching; and for teaching your babies that giving to their church is an important and meaningful task.

Judy and Dave Hale – Thank you for bringing your precious goats, who not only helped to make the scene more realistic to those driving by, but also helped the youth to visualize and temporarily experience the reality of Mary and Joseph on that dark night so long ago.

Joe Cook – Thank you for representing the Vestry and coming to the church solely to be sure the van was out of the way!

Cecil Christenberry – for donating the pine straw and hay to help set the scenes despite having a church home elsewhere and Ward Faust for delivering these materials to our church. Please support Old Tyme Feed in Fairhope as you are able!

The church staff – Thank you for supporting ideas, preparing the space, helping to visualize various needs, communicating the event to others, and as always, saying, “yes!” Thank you made a great shepherd and I hope you were able to experience how thankful we are that you lead us!

Elizabeth Faust – Thank you for taking my endless phone calls, helping me organize my crazy ideas, reminding me to breath, problem solving weather, providing “paint by number” to hide my lack of artistic ability, hauling items out, hauling items in, trips to the store, etc. etc. etc.!!!

Audrey Faust – Thank you for helping to set up backdrops and lighting, cleaning up at the end, and most importantly, for sharing your mother during the busy Christmas season!

The preschool staff and especially Mrs. Charlotte – Thank you for providing your artistic talents, organizational skills, showing up early to set up, staying late to clean up AND for providing last minute youth participation!!!

The youth – Thank you for always amazing me even though I know that you will...every time! You worked hard, you laughed, you gave to your community. You were/are the light of Jesus Christ in this world and you inspire me. I am filled with hope knowing that you are our future church.

My mother, Toni Henry – Thank you...never enough...but from the bottom of my heart. You are always by my side, always my support, and ALWAYS willing. I am so thankful for your vision, ideas, energy, and love. You are a light in my life.

Last, but certainly not least, to our Parish – Thank you so much for supporting our event. 132 cars on our first drive-thru Nativity makes all of the work before, during, and after COMPLETELY worth it. I am overwhelmed with gratitude for the efforts of our youth to be acknowledged, supported, and truly recognized... evidenced by your participation. I hope the joy you experienced was at the very least, a fraction of my own joy from seeing our youth thoughtfully and successfully spread the light of Jesus’ love into their community.

I am not unique in saying that 2020 has been a difficult year. I, like many of you have struggled with the isolation of COVID, exhaustion from cleaning up after storms, disintegration from the dialogue of hate and division, alongside the difficulties associated with daily living. However, I cannot remember a Christmas so filled with joy and community and connectedness! I know God played a role in my Christmas experience this year... to highlight the reality of His presence in a seemingly dark world. Thank you all for your participation!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! – Tina Erickson



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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)

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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.*