



The Tentmaker

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Daphne, Alabama

March 15, 2023

Message from Thack

Most of you know that St. Patrick's Day is March 17. On that day everyone, including those without Irish blood, can become Irish for a day and many glasses of green beer will be hoisted to honor St. Patrick's memory. People will wear green and in some cities the adjoining rivers will be dyed green. It is a festive day filled with parades and eating corned beef and cabbage.

That said, who was St. Patrick? To many, St. Patrick has become a caricature of everything we think is Irish. He's a leprechaun like figure dressed in green with a hat, pipe, a four-leaf clover protruding from his pocket and a pot of gold in his hand.

The real St. Patrick was nothing like the caricature I previously described. The real St. Patrick wasn't even born in Ireland. He was born in Britain around 385 A.D. and his name wasn't even Patrick. Instead, his given name was Maewyn Succat. According to tradition, Maewyn's parents were Christians. Despite this background, Maewyn was an indifferent Christian at best.

One morning in 401 when Maewyn was 16 years-old, he was walking along a beach in western Britain with his family when a fleet of Irish longboats rushed ashore. The warriors crashed onto the beach with braying war horns, terrorizing Maewyn and his family as they fled toward town. The warriors demolished the village, discovered Maewyn in the ruins, and dragged him aboard a boat bound for the east coast of Ireland. He was sold to an Irish warlord named Miliucc and began living like an animal, spending his days in the wild as a shepherd-slave, terrorized by his master.

In his desperation, Maewyn found his nominal Christianity slowly taking on a more substantial form. He began to pray many times a day, and he discovered a rising love and faith in God within his heart. He would stay out in the forests and awaken before daylight to pray in the snow and rain, warmed only by the Spirit of God burning in his heart.

After six years of servitude, Maewyn heard a mysterious voice assuring him he would soon return to his homeland. Not long thereafter he heard the same voice say, "Come and see, your ship is waiting for you." Answering what he deemed to be the call of God, he fled 200 miles across Ireland to a harbor far in the south, where he boarded a ship to Gaul (modern day France). Upon arrival, he found his way to a monastery, where he studied to become a priest, and ultimately he returned home to Britain. But after many years of faithful service, he heard another voice crying, "We beg you, holy youth . . . come and walk again among us." Hearing this as a call from God, he rose to answer and served the remainder of his life among the Irish, with whom he had lived as a slave so many years before. By then Maewyn had changed his name to Patricius which is better known today as Patrick.

It is hard to imagine a time or place that was more opposed to the gospel than fifth-century Ireland. Its economy was built almost entirely on raiding, slavery, and warfare. For several centuries before and after the birth of Christ, the Irish marauded the English coast with relentless zeal. Those who survived their raids were taken captive and sold as slaves. Imagine the horror of serving an Irish war chieftain whose home was protected by a palisade of sharpened tree trunks capped with the heads of slaves who were captured while trying to escape.

The religious life of Ireland offered no respite from bloodshed. Irish druid paganism was as terrifying as the Irish pirates themselves. Theirs was a bloody religion of human sacrifices, strangled or beheaded to please the druid gods. Several remarkably well-preserved victims have been found in peat bogs. Vessels with them are adorned with images of gods deriving erotic pleasure from eating humans whole.

In short, the realities Patrick confronted in fifth-century Irish life make the challenges facing most others pale in comparison. Even more remarkable is that despite the opposition, Patrick's efforts were overwhelmingly successful. Within 30 years his small band had converted between 30 and 40 percent of Ireland to Christ. Human sacrifice was eliminated, and slavery and the slave trade were almost entirely abolished.

What is most unique about Patrick's mission was its successful transformation of Irish culture. How did he foster such effective engagement? In short, he did it by faithful action at a local level. He was absolutely committed to the conversion of the entirety of Ireland, but his strategy was always expressed by working in local communities.

Patrick returned to Ireland at age 48, which was about the normal life expectancy at that time. He had no idea how long his ministry would last, but from the first moment he returned to Irish soil he was building something that would continue long after he was gone. He arrived with 12 companions and a simple plan. He would approach a tribal chieftain to seek his conversion, or at least permission to form a community of faith adjacent to the tribal settlement. The team would then become involved in the life of the community, engaging them in conversation and acts of service such as mediating disputes and tending the sick. Those who were responsive would join the apostolic band and worship with them. If God blessed the efforts, they would build a church. When the group moved on, Patrick would leave a protégé behind to serve the fledgling church while taking one or two young people to join in planting a new church near another tribal settlement. This simple plan was repeated again and again until an Irish civilization arose, like a phoenix, from the ashes of war, slavery, and human sacrifice.

Patrick's story reminds us that opposition is opportunity. The harsher the oppression, the deeper the wounds and the more desperate the need for the gospel. Patrick landed in an Ireland awash in conflict. A peace-filled monastic community was a colony of heaven in a land of hell. Creating enclaves of human flourishing and peace and reconciliation made the most compelling of arguments in favor of the gospel he preached.

One of the observations commonly made by Patrick's biographers is the depth of love he felt for the Irish people and their culture. For all of Irish culture's appalling problems, Patrick was keenly aware of its beauty. He found himself in the midst of loyal, courageous, and generous people—qualities that he could not help extolling when he described the Irish to others. He found people who were deeply in awe of the beauty of nature, and whose posture toward creation served as a ready foundation for Christian worship. Having been a slave himself, he deeply empathized with the plight of the slaves who surrounded him—all too many of whom were Irishmen enslaved by their brethren. Patrick could admire and praise the image of God in all he encountered, no matter how badly it was tarnished.

St. Patrick died on or about March 17, 461 A.D. Though never formally canonized a saint by the Catholic Church, he is regarded as one and venerated by all Christians. He was also consecrated a bishop before he was commissioned to return to Ireland.

On the occasion of his feast day on March 17th, many mugs will be raised around the globe and all, if only for a moment, will be Irish. This is a rare, even eucharistic image---in which diverse humans will rise above their differences to meet as one. May God grant us the spirit of Patrick's love and expansiveness so that his message of unity may be realized throughout the world. Happy St. Maewyn's, a/k/a St. Patrick's Day!

Peace, Thack

Worship in the Woods, April 23

Salem and Diane Saloom will host a worship and fellowship experience on their tree farm in Evergreen, Alabama on Sunday, April 23, 2023. Called “Worship in the Woods,” folks will gather at the Saloom farm and walk the Stations of the Resurrection. This will be followed by the celebration of the Eucharist and a picnic. The theme of the event is “Celebrating God’s Creation.” Our own Necie Borroni will be the guest preacher for the worship service. The program will begin at 2:30 that afternoon and conclude at 5:00 p.m. The address to the Saloom property is 2835 Bookers Mill Road, Evergreen, AL 36401. Bring your own picnic, lawn chair and/or blanket. Wear closed-toe shoes. Bottled water will be provided. You must RSVP if you plan to attend. The link to RSVP may be found on the Diocesan website and Facebook page. Thack



Wondrous Love, by John Matson, Choirmaster

“What Wondrous Love is This” is a hymn we use during Lent that is one of my favorites. In this hymn of quiet reflection where we are reminded of the great sacrifice our Lord made on our behalf to save our souls from death. It is also a hymn of thankfulness and praise for lifting us up when we feel as though we can’t carry on.

Let us all “join the theme” and “sing on”!!

John Matson, Choirmaster

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul.

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,
When I was sinking down, sinking down,
When I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown,
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul, for my soul,
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul.

To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing;
To God and to the Lamb, I will sing.
To God and to the Lamb Who is the great 'I am';
While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing;
While millions join the theme, I will sing.

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on.
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be;
And through eternity, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
And through eternity, I'll sing on.

**NEXT
MOURNERS PATH
GRIEF WORKSHOP**

MAY 7, 2023 - JUNE 25, 2023

8 SESSIONS

2:00 P.M. SUNDAY AFTERNOONS

MALONE HALL

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT

**HERB MCDONALD
BECKY COSTLOW**

**215-771-1067 (YES 215)
251-391-8102**

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED

St. Paul's Thrift Shop Scholarship

High School Seniors and Current College or Trade School Students: I can't believe none of you could use an extra \$2000 to spend as you want or need! St. Paul's Thrift Shop is giving away two \$2000 Scholarships again this year. The Scholarships are available to graduating Seniors or to current students in a College or Trade School who have not previously received the Scholarship. If you applied before and did not get the Scholarship, try again! The application process is simple: fill out the application, get two folks to write letters of recommendation, and submit the paperwork. All of this can even be done online! To qualify, all you need is to be a member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church OR be the child of a volunteer at St. Paul's Thrift Shop who has been there at least one year OR be an actual volunteer at the Thrift Shop who has been there one year. Grades are not the most important part of the qualifications! The applications are available on the Church website or copies are available in the Narthex or at the Thrift Shop. When the application is complete, either return it to the Thrift Shop or the Church office marked to the attention of Jane Shoultz, or email the completed form to Jane Shoultz at jtshoultz@gmail.com. If you have any questions, email Jane or call Jane at 251-689-0301.

Applications MUST be submitted no later than **midnight** on
April 23, 2023. No late applications will be accepted.



Greetings from St Paul's Youth!

We are having a wonderful lent season! We have four youth completing confirmation classes. We are starting to plan our Easter morning activities in Malone Hall between the 8:00 am and 10:30 services. Families, Please join us for fun games, activities and an Easter Egg Hunt.

Save the dates:

Sunday May 7: graduate Sunday

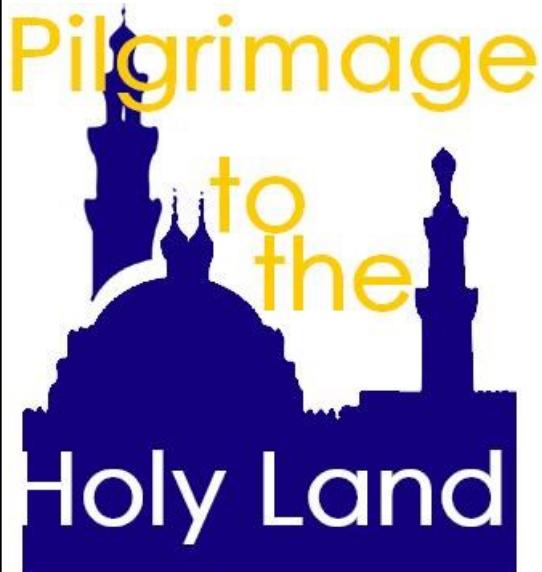
If you or your child/grandchild/ family member is graduating from high school or college, please contact me at 205-616-5194. We will need a brief bio and photo of the graduate.

June 12, 14, and 16 MAD Camp

June 26-29 VBS

Join us Sunday mornings at 9:15 Sunday school and Sunday evenings 4:30-6:30 youth in the underground.

Much love! Bonnie Hindman, Youth Leader



Pilgrimage to Israel - October 4-18, 2023

Thack will be leading a pilgrimage to Israel,
October 4-18, 2023.

If you are interested in going and would like more information please call or email

Terri in the church office.

Everyone registering for the trip must accept the responsibility for being in good health and able to walk and travel throughout the pilgrimage. It requires a lot of walking on uneven rocky ground and climbing steps throughout the journey.

The trip is fast paced and sites are not handicap accessible.

2023 Trip Video Link:

<https://youtu.be/HneNkdjOh3c>

ST. PAUL'S SERVICES:**Sunday**

Holy Eucharist, Rite I
8:00 am

Holy Eucharist, Rite II
10:30 am

Monday-Saturday

Morning Prayer
8:05 a.m.

Live Streamed on
St. Paul's Facebook page only

Sunday-Thursday

Evening Prayer
5:00 p.m.

Live Streamed on
Judith Comer's Facebook page only

Wednesday

Healing Service with
The Holy Eucharist
Wednesday
NOON

*Church Services are also live-streamed
on our Facebook Page*

BIBLE STUDIES**Tuesday**

Men's Bible Study
7:00 am

ZOOM Meeting only

Wednesday

Morning Bible Study
(Malone Hall)
10:30 am

SUNDAY SCHOOL**Adults**

9:15 am
in Conference Room A

Youth

9:15 am
in the Underground

Children

9:15 am
in the Preschool

St. Paul's Vestry

2023-2025

Terms Ending

December 31, 2023

Necie Borroni
Alyson Jackson, Sr. Warden
Michael Koepf
Vivian Silliman

December 31, 2024

Edith Henry
Matthew Thomason
Sue Ann Turnipseed
Tom Walker

December 31, 2025

Michael Quinn
Cathy Slagle
Gaye Wilson
Howard Wilson, Jr. Warden
~
Martha Lathan,
Clerk of the Vestry

Clergy

The Rev. Thack H. Dyson,
Rector
The Rev. John K. Talbert,
Curate
The Rev. Judith Comer,
Priest Associate

Church Office Hours**Monday-Thursday:**

8:00 am -- 4:30 pm

Friday:

8:00 am -- 11:30 am

St. Paul's Thrift Shop

10:00 am -- 3:00 p.m.
251-626-6102

St. Paul's Preschool

251-626-2774

Church Website

www.stpaulseasternshore.com

Email Address

offices@stpaulsdaphne.org

Facebook Page

[St. Paul's Eastern Shore](https://www.facebook.com/StPaulsEasternShore)

Phone

251-626-2421

Church App

<https://tithe.ly/app.link/st-pauls-eastern-shore>

Stations of the Cross – a unique Lenten devotion

Over the centuries, as a Lenten devotion, the Stations of the Cross have offered a powerfully visual and spiritual experience for Christians sharing Jesus' journey to Calvary. These Stations depict 14 poignant moments as Jesus walked the Way of the Cross. At St. Paul's we are blessed by an offering from Sally Boom, who needlepointed each of these 14 Stations and had them mounted on walls inside the Nave of Church. These small framed pieces of art offer a unique opportunity to walk with Jesus to the Cross, as He did that Good Friday long ago.

St. Paul's is offering you – individually or as a small group – a Lenten opportunity to journey to Calvary by following a written Stations of the Cross guide which will lead you around Church as you pause and prayerfully experience each of these 14 Stations. Hopefully this will be a deeply spiritual time of devotion and prayer as you prepare for Jesus' glorious Resurrection on Easter morning!

Church will be open following the Sunday services for you to prayerfully walk this path of Jesus. Pick up the devotional **Stations of the Cross** guide from a basket in the Narthex and please return it when you have finished. May you feel blessed and renewed as you continue your Lenten journey!

Prayers following the Service

The Daughters of the King at St. Paul's is an Order dedicated to prayer and has offered to be present at the end of each service to stand at the altar rail and pray with anyone who desires. Individuals may come forward after the final hymn and dismissal to ask for prayer – everything will be held in confidence – as we are honored to share this prayerful moment with you.

Want a great Friday night family outing?

Have fun over Spaghetti and BINGO!

St. Paul's is serving up

delicious spaghetti, salad, bread, dessert, drinks

... and of course winning BINGO numbers!!



[This Photo](#) by Unknown

Come join family and friends – on **Friday, March 24, 2023 at 6pm**

begin with a **\$5 spaghetti dinner** ... salad, bread, dessert and drink – wine extra

purchase an **11 game BINGO packet for \$20** ... daubers available for use

play 11 games (each sheet has 3 chances to daub and win!)

play regular BINGO ... plus fun postage stamp, T, picture frame and blackout games!

during last two games you can purchase extra tries for \$1 each

each game ends with increasing ca\$h prizes for single – or multiple – winners!

y'all come!! BRING FAMILY and FRIENDS!!

There's nothing quite like 4th Friday BINGO at St. Paul's on the Eastern Shore!!

Prayer Requests

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

Immediate Prayer Requests:

Bobby Acosta, Crystal Anderson, Dave Baldock, Jim Blackwell, Dakota Burchett, Deanna Cook, Harry Cooper Dismukes, De Freeman, Wayne Gatlin, Hoot Gibson, Laura Ann Gibson, Lonnie Godwin, Shari & Linn Hyde, Elizabeth Kaye, Ed & Brenda Kirby, Beverly Koepp, Herb McDonald, Pat McKeown, Jo Moran, Carter Morgan, Mike Nussbaum, Jose Pena, Victoria Phelps, Bob Powell, Judy Reeves, Adell Rivers, Glenn Robinson, John Rudolf, Sexton Scott, Jayne Sharp, Nick Shoultz, D'ana Snow, Ken Stephens, Alan Talamo, Ken Wallis, Frieda Ward, George Warren, Diane Watson, Gene Young

Ongoing Prayer Requests:

Marty Adams, Allison Badurak, Christopher Blackwell, Betty Borroni, Kit Caffey, Pat Cannon, Janice Clifford, Jim Clifford, Faith Cornett, Jim Council, Margie Cowart, Suzanne Damour, Sylvia Forbes, Louise Gannuch, Dee Grantham, Terri Hare, Susan Hill, Jossie Hurst, Dave Johnson, Ann Kenney, Alexander Kielek, Tracie Knight, Jim Lonnergan, Donelle McBride, Lou Morgan, Buddy Morrow, Sara Patton, Janet Penry, Shirley Petersen, Judy Rayner, Billie Jo Robertson, Mary Rudolf, Kem Rutledge, Stephanie Sanchez, Pat Schlimmer, Cathy Slagle, Albert Thompson, Julia Warren

For the Departed: Camille Gattuso, Marie Ashdown, Gordy Daniels

For Those Serving in the Military:

Bradley Billingsley, Ryan Bowman, James Cassebaum, Matthew Cheatham, Chase Clark, Jackson Deaton, Michael Duchesne, Christopher Dukarm, Chris Evans, Deron Frailie, Steven Grey, Matthew Harris, Rusty Henry, Karen Hubley, Walker Jackson, Daniel James, Matt Jones, Shane Kennedy, Daniel Lambert, Chris Lessard, Patrick Mong, Bryan Quinn, Justin Ramsey, Neil Sevelius, Kaleb Sharpless, Michael Strohlein, Dan Strohlein, Brad Yonkers

For those with birthdays:

March 1-31: (01) David Johnson, Jessica James, (02) Nancy Dziubakowski, Brittany Norman, Causey Thompson, (04) Phyllis Bruce, Boyd Turnipseed, (05) Shastady Bridges, (06) John Lee, Erica McDonald, Rachael Wetzel, (07) Hoot Gibson, Meredith Portman, Mackenzie Nolte, (08) Matt Lovitt, (09) Owen Dalto, (10) Tara Smith, (11) Shirley Hirs, Sophia Rains, (12) Jenna Meshejian, Julianna Rains, (13) Alyson Jackson, (15) Freda McDonald, Valerie Conner, Elizabeth Podgers, William Nicolson, (16) Richard Dodson, Kim Nolte, Jill Lott, AnnMarie Turpen, Dusty DeNeefe, Julia Johnson, (17) Catherine Dorrough, (18) Avos Stickney, Justin Dimoff, (19) Bill Carr, Liston Jones, Libbi Crowe, Virginia Harris, (20) Gaye Wilson, (21) Jackson Chamberlain, (22) Pat Cannon, Joseph Cox, (24) Eileen Head, Jim Gulledge, Claire Wyckoff, (25) Jack Taylor, Sam Kapeluck, (27) Tracie Knight, David Taylor, Noah Pino, (31) Susan Hurst, Gary Lathan, Karen Thomason



2023 Easter Flowers

To donate toward the Easter flowers, to decorate the church please complete this form and return it to the church office with your payment of **\$30.00** no later than **Wednesday, March 22nd**. Questions, call Rebecca Dyson, 251-923-8173. All donations will be accepted and acknowledged in Easter Memorial and Honorarium bulletin insert.

Please complete this information to be printed in the Easter Memorial and Honorarium bulletin inserts:

Please Print Clearly

1. Given to the glory of God in/ memory of/ honor of/celebration of/thanksgiving for:

by _____

2. Given to the glory of God in/ memory of/ honor of/celebration of/thanksgiving for:

by _____

Check # _____ for \$_____ is enclosed.

Name and daytime phone # of donor:

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

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36526

Return Service Requested

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

28788 North Main Street
Daphne, Alabama 36526

The Rev. Thack H. Dyson, *Rector*

The Rev. John K. Talbert, *Curate*

Elizabeth Faust, *Christian Education & Preschool Administrator*

Bonnie Hindman, *Youth Leader*

David Kielek, *Life Center Sexton*

John Matson, *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://tithe.ly/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.*