



The Tentmaker

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Daphne, Alabama

April 30, 2025

Message From Thack

From Persecutor to Proclaimer: How God Transforms Us

The Easter season leading to Pentecost is rich with stories of transformation. It's a season when we celebrate new life and fresh beginnings. One in particular will be in our reading from the Acts of the Apostles this Sunday. The story of Saul's conversion in Acts 9:1-20 stands out as a dramatic reminder of God's power to change hearts and lives—sometimes in the most unexpected ways.

Saul was on a mission. As a zealous Pharisee, he believed he was serving God by rooting out followers of Jesus. But on the road to Damascus, his world was turned upside down. He encountered a blinding light, a heavenly voice, and a question that cut to his core, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" (Acts 9:4).

While Saul waited in blindness and confusion, Jesus was working behind the scenes, calling another disciple, Ananias, to an unlikely act of obedience and mercy. Jesus wanted Ananias to convey God's plans to use Saul as His apostle. Ananias knew Saul persecuted Christians and hesitated, knowing Saul's reputation for violence. But the Lord said, "Go, for he (Saul) is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." (Acts 9:15-16)

Ananias' call is not the kind of call many of us hope for. Most of us, if we're honest, prefer God's plans for us to be comfortable, safe, and easy. But here, Jesus makes it clear that faithfulness will involve cost and sacrifice. Like Ananias' call, Saul's calling, so central to the spread of the gospel, would require courage, endurance, and trust, even in the face of hardship.

But this is only half the story. When Ananias laid hands on Saul and prayed for him, "something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored." (Acts 9:18) In that moment, Saul's physical and spiritual blindness was lifted. He could see the world, and his own life, with new clarity. Immediately, Saul rose, was baptized, and began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, astonishing everyone who heard him.

Saul's story reminds us that no one is beyond God's reach. The things in our lives that blind us—pride, anger, resentment, and prejudice—can be removed by the healing touch of God's Spirit. Sometimes, what feels like loss or suffering is actually God's way of remaking us for a greater purpose.

What about us? Are there “scales” over our eyes that keep us from seeing ourselves, others, or God as we should? Is God calling us, like Ananias, to step out in faith—even when it feels risky or uncomfortable? Are we open to the possibility that God might use us, and even our pain, for something bigger than ourselves?

May we, like Saul and Ananias, be open to God’s transforming power. May we trust that, whatever the cost, following Christ is always worth it. And may we rejoice that God opens our eyes to see and serve the world in Jesus’ name.

Peace, Thack

Message From Thack

Thank You!

As we bask in the joy of the Resurrection, I want to take a moment to extend my heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you who helped make our Holy Week observances so meaningful and beautiful.

To our Altar Guild—thank you for your faithfulness in preparing the altar for every service throughout the week. Your quiet, dedicated service allowed each liturgy to flow with reverence and grace.

To our Flower Guild—thank you for transforming our worship space into a glorious celebration of new life. The beauty of the flowers echoed the beauty of the Resurrection we proclaimed.

To our incredible Choir, Choir Master John Matson, and Organist Christopher Conger—your music lifted our hearts and gave voice to the joy of Easter. Thank you for the countless hours of preparation and the gift of your talents.

To our faithful ushers, acolytes, torchbearers, servers, vergers, crucifers, chalice and paten bearers, lectors, and all who offered their gifts to facilitate our worship—your service is essential, and I’m grateful for your commitment and care.

To our Daughters of the King for their prayerful support throughout the week.

To Albert, Judith and our seminarians, Vivian, Necie, and Jessica, thank you for assisting in worship and for your leadership during these sacred days. Your presence among us is a blessing.

To Terri McMillan, our business administrator—thank you not only for preparing all the service bulletins (no small task!) but also for assisting me during worship and offering your prayers and steady support in countless ways.

To Elizabeth Faust and Bonnie Hindman---Thank you for planning and coordinating the Easter activities for our young people and for setting up our Stations of the Cross on Good Friday evening.

To Joan McKnight—thank you for the behind-the-scenes work that so often goes unseen but never unappreciated. You help keep the life of our parish running smoothly.

To Donna Brown—thank you for assisting Terri during this incredibly busy season. Your help made a real difference and Terri was especially grateful for your presence!

And finally, to the people of St. Paul's—thank you for your prayers, your support, and your faithful attendance at our many worship services. I am truly blessed to serve such a wonderful congregation. Peace, Thack

Four Principles For Living Through Political Change

The following article was submitted by my friend Sam Crosby. Sam is a lawyer in Daphne and a past President of the Alabama State Bar Association. He called me one day to share his concern about the volatile political environment in our country and his hope for reconciliation of the various factions. His reflection is entitled, *Four Principles for Living Through Political Change*.

Before the recent presidential election, I had a friend anxiously ask me, “If Donald Trump is elected President, what am I going to do?”

Another friend anxiously asked me, “If Kamala Harris is elected President, what am I going to do?”

In my opinion, these four basic principles from the scriptures are helpful through any political administration.

First, know who is in control.

“Everything in the heavens and earth is yours, Lord, and this is your kingdom. We adore you as being in control of everything.” 1Chronicles 29:11.

Knowing who is in control can be a great source of peace amid the current storms and those to come.

Second, know who to trust.

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding...” Proverbs 3:5.

Also, “Blessed is the person who trusts in the Lord....” Jeremiah 17:7.

Placing trust in any candidate or political party is likely at some point to be a disappointment.

Third, know how to act.

“Do justice, love kindness and . . . walk humbly with your God.” Micah 6:8.

Every day we should all work hard to insure justice, fair treatment and kindness for every person.

Fourth, know how to use your gifts.

“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others.” 1Peter 4:10

We cannot go wrong in any administration using whatever talents we have to help others.

The smell of summer is in the air! Fire Safety Month

The days are getting longer and brighter, and the temperatures are slowly increasing. Many will soon be dusting off their grills and BBQs to enjoy some of their favorite foods and bring back that typical smell of summer.

...but there are some things to consider before every grill season.

Statistics on Grilling Fires

Based on 2017-2021 annual averages:

- July (16%) was the peak month for grill fires, followed by June (14%), May (12%) and August (11%).
- The grill had not been cleaned in roughly one-fifth (20%) of the fires.
- More than one-quarter of grill structure fires started on an exterior balcony or open porch. Eight percent began when an outside wall caught fire; 4% began with some type of structural member or framing.
- Gas grills were involved in an average of 9,079 home fires per year, including 4,454 structure fires and 4,625 outdoor fires annually. Leaks or breaks were primarily a problem with gas grills. Six percent of gas grill structure fires and 15% of outside gas grill fires were caused by leaks or breaks.
- According to data from the Consumer Product Safety Commission, in 2017-2021, an average of 22,155 patients per year went to emergency rooms because of injuries involving grills.

Safety Tips

- For propane grills, check the gas tank for leaks before use in the months ahead.
- Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup from the grills and in trays below the grill.
- Place the grill well away from the home, deck railings, and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- Always make sure your gas grill lid is open **before** lighting it.
- Keep children and pets at least one meter away from the grilling area.
- If you use starter fluid when charcoal grilling, only use charcoal starter fluid. Never add charcoal fluid or any other flammable liquids to the fire. When you have, or are finished grilling, let the coals cool completely before disposing in a metal container.
- Never leave your grill unattended when in use.

Source: NFPA Research.



St. Paul's Thrift Shop - Volunteer of the Month

Gaye Wilson is our Volunteer of the Month for April! She was born and raised in Mobile and attended St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Mobile before joining St. Paul's, Daphne in 1994. A counselor and physical therapist, Gaye has spent her life helping others in multiple clinical settings. Her hobbies are gardening, golf, walking, kayaking and cooking. At St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Gaye has served in many ministries including the Cooking Ministry, Altar Guild, Daughters of the King, the Flower Guild and as an Usher and a Lay Eucharistic Visitor. Gaye has also served multiple terms on the Vestry as both the Jr and the Sr Warden and has been on the Diocesan Standing Committee as well as a Diocesan Convention Delegate. At St. Paul's Thrift Shop, she works as a cashier and is also the Secretary of the Thrift Shop's Board of Directors. Greeting and interacting with the shop's customers and experiencing God at work in this special place is her favorite aspect of being a Thrift Shop volunteer. We're grateful for Gaye Wilson who is always willing to lend a helping hand wherever and whenever needed. Thank you, Gaye.

You set the bar high for the rest of us!



SPAGHETTI DINNER and BINGO ...

Join the fun in the Howard Wilson Life Center of St. Paul's

(the 4th Friday of each month)

Friday, May 23rd, beginning at 5:45 pm

with delicious spaghetti dinner (*\$8.00)

followed by 11 games of exciting **BINGO** (\$20.00)

family ... friends ... food ... fellowship ... and cash prizes!

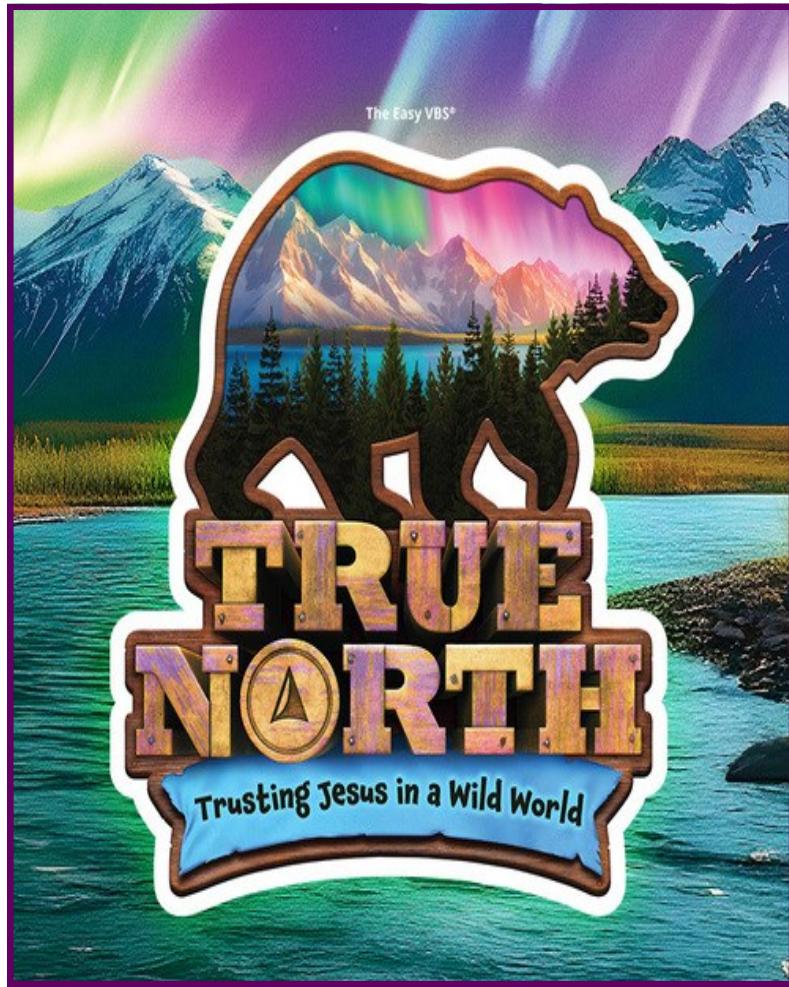


BINGO supports the ministries of St. Paul's.

**The price of a meal is now \$8 for adults (and meal take outs);*

\$5 for children (first time increase since BINGO started!)

The price of an 11-game packet remains at \$20



**St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Vacation Bible School 2025**

June 23-26, 2025

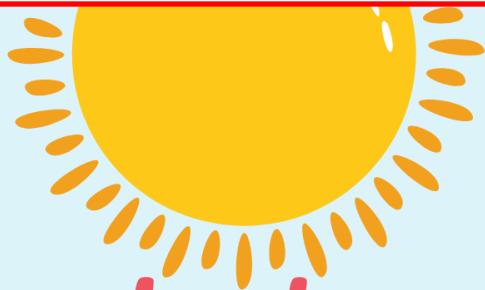
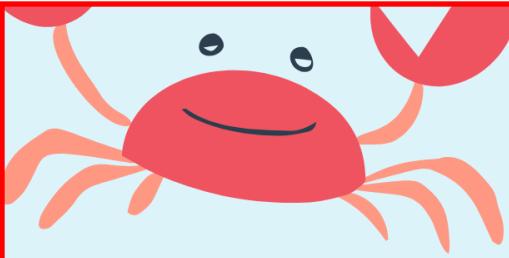
9 am - 1 pm

Guide kids on the ultimate Alaskan adventure where northern lights glow over majestic mountains, racing rivers, and glistening glaciers. As kids trek the tundra, they'll explore how easy it is to lose sight of what's true in our wild world today. Pointing them toward Jesus, True North VBS shows them that he is a faithful friend we can always trust. He's our True North!

For VBS Information go to the link below:

https://vbspro.events/p_early/stpaulseasternshore

ADULT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!



St. Paul's Preschool

Summer Camps

June 2-6

June 9-13

July 7-11

July 14-18

Ages
18 mo - current
K-L

JOIN US!

registration fee: \$25 per week

Hours: 9am-1pm \$125 per week

Ext. Day: 8-4:30pm \$75 per week

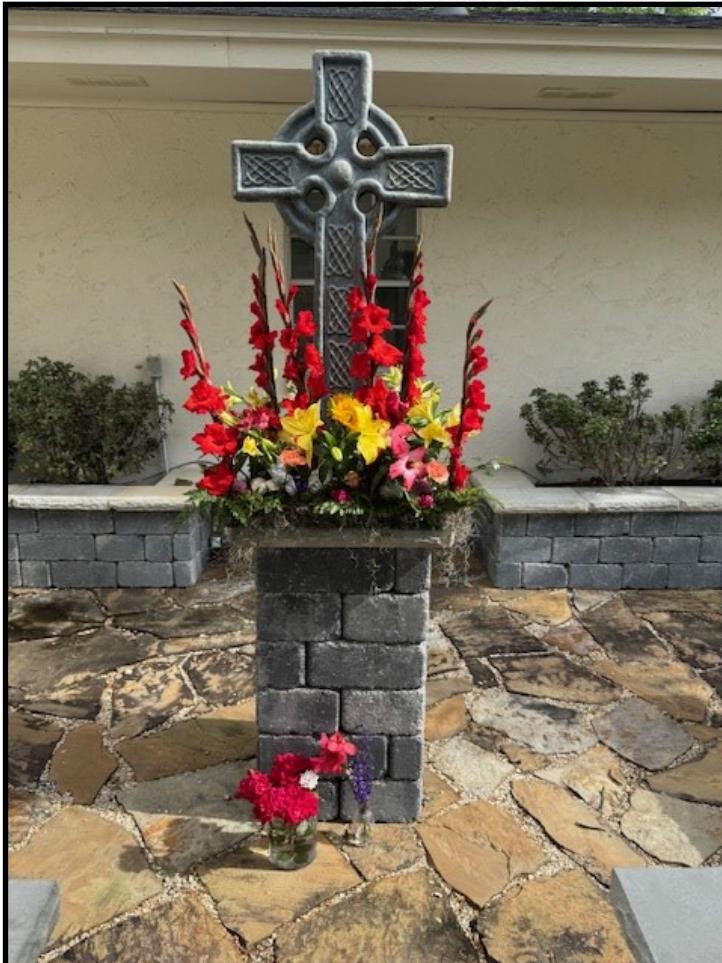
For more information

please email us at

stpaulspreschooldaphne@gmail.com

28788 N Main St. Daphne, AL 36526





Thank you to the Altar Flower Committee for the beautiful Easter arrangements!

They filled the nave with a Spirit of renewal and resurrection.

“Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.”

Matthew 6:28-30



For the Beauty of the Earth, BCP p840

We give you thanks, most gracious God, for the beauty of earth and sky and sea; for the richness of mountains, plains, and rivers; for the songs of birds and the loveliness of flowers. We praise you for these good gifts, and pray that we may safeguard them for our posterity. Grant that we may continue to grow in our grateful enjoyment of your abundant creation, to the honor and glory of your Name, now and for ever. *Amen*

On “low church Sunday”, the Sunday after Easter, a beautiful Worship in the Woods took place on the property of Saloom Properties in Conecuh County. Worship began by walking the Stations around the property. It was a lovely day, and the icons were placed among the trees and in the blueberry bushes. Between the perfect day, the magnificent setting, and the inspired icons, it was sometimes challenging to pay attention to the readings! Eucharist was held in the pastoral chapel on the property. It included reading *Canticle 12: A Song of Creation II — The Earth and Its Creatures*. The prayers focused on caring for our resources. The collect offered praise and thanksgiving to our “Creating God”, and went on to speak of God’s mercy in loving us despite our tendency to take the gift of the earth for granted. The dismissal commanded us to take care of that which we have been given freely.

All of this brought to mind the thanksgiving For the Beauty of the Earth. Read it, contemplate it, pray it, live it.

Vivian Silliman

Note: Salem Saloom, who owns and manages the property will be ordained Deacon in the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast on May 3, 2025.

April 28, 2025

Parish Finances at a glance:

APRIL TO-DATE INCOME: \$69,534.00

MARCH TO-DATE EXPENSES: \$84,798.49

NET TOTAL: (-\$15,264.49)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF ST. PAUL’S PARISH!!!!

MUSIC Notes



Music Notes, by John Matson

"O the Deep Deep, Love of Jesus" is a well-known [Christian hymn](#), written by the London merchant Samuel Trevor Francis (1834–1925) had a spiritual turning point as a teenager, contemplating suicide one night on a bridge over the River Thames. Experiencing a renewal of faith, he went on to author many poems and hymns and was a preacher in addition to his merchant career. [Wikipedia](#) · Text under [CC-BY-SA license](#)

While you read the text of this hymn, think of the tune of "Morning has Broken".....a beautiful melody that fits with this poem of everlasting love and grace.

1. O the deep, deep love of Jesus, vast, unmeasured, boundless, free! Rolling as a mighty ocean in its fullness over me! Underneath me, all around me, is the current of Thy love Leading onward, leading homeward to Thy glorious rest above!
2. O the deep, deep love of Jesus, spread His praise from shore to shore! How He loveth, ever loveth, changeth never, nevermore! How He watches o'er His loved ones, died to call them all His own; How for them He intercedeth, watcheth o'er them from the throne!
3. O the deep, deep love of Jesus, love of every love the best! 'Tis an ocean full of blessing, 'tis a haven giving rest! O the deep, deep love of Jesus, 'tis a heav'n of heav'ns to me; And it lifts me up to glory, for it lifts me up to Thee!

Coffee Hour

St Paul's coffee hour is the hottest ticket in town-second only to St. Paul's Bingo. Most Sunday's it is standing room only. It has become a great way to snack, and socialize.

During the past few weeks, our St Paul's church groups have hosted and delighted us with their snacks. A big thank you to the Vestry, Thrift Shop, Flower Guild, and the Choir for hosting. Make sure to join us on May 18th, when our Daughters of the King host coffee hour.

Magazine Ministry

As we get ready for summer, remember to save your magazines and bring them to church. Noah Pino takes them weekly to local emergency room waiting rooms. They are always appreciated by the community.



The St. Paul's Men's Group would like to thank Tim Op't Holt for his leadership after the passing of our former leader Howard Wilson. I have prayed and after serious consideration have taken the leadership position of the St. Paul's Men's Group. We are a very active group of men with lots of talents. We cook breakfast on the first Sunday of each month, cook butts in November, and cook fish lunches two to three times a year. We assist with campus cleanup days, Come and Behold Him weekend, Trunk or Treat, and the drive-thru Nativity. If you would like to be a part of this wonderful group of men, please contact me.

Tom Walker

251-379-4907

Twalker818@yahoo.com

ATTENTION GRADUATES!

St. Paul's Thrift Shop is now accepting applications for THREE \$2,000 scholarships:

The Thrift Shop Scholarship

The Howard Westbrook Scholarship

The Gerald and Rochelle Robinson Scholarship.

REQUIREMENTS:

- 1- Applicants must be either:
 - A- a member of St. Paul's Church or
 - B- an active Thrift Shop volunteer who has worked at least one year or
 - C- the child of an active Thrift Shop volunteer who has worked at least one year.
- 2- Applicant must plan to attend an accredited college, university, technical trade school or is currently attending one.
- 3- Applicant cannot be a previous recipient of a Thrift Shop scholarship.
- 4- Previous applicants who have not received a Thrift Shop scholarship are encouraged to re-apply.
- 5- Recipients are not selected solely on grade point averages.
- 6- Deadline for receipt of applications is April 30, 2025. Late applications will not be considered.
- 7- Application forms are available by email and in the Narthex.
- 8- Please read the application carefully before submitting it and be sure to include ALL required attachments and information. Incomplete applications are disqualified immediately without notice.
- 9- An Applicant may receive only ONE of the three available scholarships.

The three scholarship winners will be recognized during services on Sunday, May 11, 2025.

If you have any questions or would like to receive a copy of the forms by email, please contact Gaye Wilson, Scholarship Committee Chair, at 251-604-4118 or email Gaye.Wilson2011@gmail.com

ST. PAUL'S THRIFT SHOP

251-626-6102

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 Only

on

St. Paul's Facebook page

Wednesday

Healing Service with
The Holy Eucharist
NOON

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

Church Office Hours**Monday-Thursday:**

8:00 am -- 4:30 pm

Friday:

8:00 am -- 11:30 am

St. Paul's Thrift Shop

Tuesday - Saturday
10:00 a.m. -- 3:00 p.m.

Donations Accepted

Thursday - Saturday
10:00 a.m. -- 3:00 p.m.
251-626-6102

St. Paul's Preschool

251-626-2774

BIBLE STUDIES**Tuesday**

Men's Bible Study
7:00 am

ZOOM Meeting only**Wednesday**

Morning Bible Study
(Malone Hall)
10:30 am

Great Wednesday

6:00 pm
Malone Hall

SUNDAY SCHOOL**Adult**

9:10 am
in Conference Room A

Youth

9:15 am
6th - 12th Grades
in the Underground

Children

9:15 am
K-5th Grades
in the Children's Chapel

St. Paul's Vestry**2025-2027**

Terms Ending

December 31, 2025

Michael Quinn, Sr. Warden
Cathy Slagle
Gaye Wilson
Tim Michael

December 31, 2026

Joe Cook, Jr. Warden
Judi Gullede
Liston Jones
Boyd Miller

December 31, 2027

Richard Foster
Donna Nolte
Marty Ollinger
John Sharp
~
Martha Lathan
Clerk of the Vestry

Mike Sirmon
Treasurer

Clergy

The Rev. Thack H. Dyson
Rector
The Rev. Judith Comer
Priest Associate
The Rev. S. Albert Kennington
Priest Associate

Church Website

www.stpaulseasternshore.com

Email Address

officestpaulsdaphne@gmail.com

Facebook Page

St. Paul's Eastern Shore

Phone

251-626-2421

Church App

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

MAY 2025 SERVERS SCHEDULE

DATE	5/4/2025	5/11/2025	5/18/2025	5/25/2025
TIME	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM
VERGER	Susan Hurst	Susan Hurst	Tina Erickson	Tina Erickson
CHALICE	Court Hurst	Davis Daniel	Leah McTaggart	Elizabeth Kaye
CHALICE	Tim McTaggart	Joe Cook	Mary Claire McTaggart	Court Hurst
LECTOR-SCRIPTURE	Elizabeth Thomason	Sarah Beth Walker	Bill Carr	Casey Williams
LECTOR-PRAYERS	Megrez Rudolf	Martha Lathan	Court Hurst	Bill Carr
SERVER/CRUCIFER	Mary Claire McTaggart	Ann Collins Daniel	Anna Thomason	William Erickson
USHER	Brad Hare	Gary Latham	Joe Cook	Tim Michael
USHER	David Kielek	Gaye Wilson	Matt Thomason	Liston Jones
VESTRY	Cathy Slagle	Gaye Wilson	Joe Cook	Liston Jones
TIME	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM
VERGER	Avos Stickney	John Sharp	Donna Nolte	Richard Foster
CHALICE	Becky Costlow	Hayleigh Hamilton	Jamie Jernigan	Jim Rivers
CHALICE	Richard Foster	Barry Taylor	Robert Jernigan	John Sharp
CHALICE	Judy Hale	Janet Norman	Avos Stickney	Hayleigh Hamilton
LECTOR-SCRIPTURE	Christian McDowell	Vonnie Foreman	Clay Rankin	Barry Taylor
LECTOR-PRAYERS	Reagan McDowell	Arthur Oaken	Anita Rankin	Kay Taylor
SERVER	Mia Stephens	Allison Hamilton	Olivia Jernigan	Leah Hamilton
CRUCIFER	Noah Pino	Leah Hamilton	Audrey Faust	Allison Hamilton
TORCH	Timothy Pino	Owen Dalto	Caroline Jernigan	Lila Sharp
TORCH	Lucas Hoeb Root	Cooper Dalto	Dylan Loes	Eley Hatcher
USHER	Michael Taylor	Bob Hoeb	Tom Walker	Dean Mosher
USHER	Shawn Alves	Donna Brown	Beverly Koepf	Coleman Wood
USHER	Doug Stephens	Mike Koepf	Meredith Portman	Diane Watson
VESTRY	Richard Foster	Martie Ollinger	Donna Nolte	John Sharp
ALTAR GUILD	Avos Stickney	Melanie Davis	Robin Dilsaver	Joanne Gibson
		Debi McClary	Kay Taylor	

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

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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*
Elizabeth Faust, *Christian Education & Preschool Administrator*
Bonnie Hindman, *Youth Leader*
David Kielek, *Life Center Sexton*
John Matson, *Choirmaster*
Christopher Conger, *Organist*
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.