# The Tentmaker

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Daphne, Alabama

October 28, 2026

## Message From Thack

**An All Saints' Meditation on Revelation 7:9–17**

"After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands."

John wrote the Book of Revelation to Christians who were weary and afraid. Many had suffered for their faith, and some had died. To those discouraged believers, God gave John a glimpse behind the curtain of this world. What he saw was not defeat, but a vast and joyful company gathered around the throne of God.

The people in that crowd are too many to count, and they come from everywhere. No nation, race, or language is left out. They are dressed in white, the color of victory and purity, and they hold palm branches, the sign of triumph. With one voice they sing, "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

When John asks who they are, an elder answers: "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." They are not people who escaped hardship. They came through it, and Christ has brought them home.

Then come some of the most tender words in all of Scripture: "They will hunger no more, and thirst no more... for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

This Sunday is All Saints' Day. On All Saints' Day, we celebrate that great multitude. We give thanks for the well-known saints of the Church, the apostles, martyrs, and teachers whose names fill our liturgical calendar. But we also give thanks for the saints we have known and loved: the parents and grandparents who inspired our faith, the friends who stood by us, and the faithful members of St. Paul's who once worshiped in these pews, served at this altar, and shared our lives. This year we especially remember those of our parish family who have died since last All Saints' Day. We miss them deeply. And we believe they now stand among that great multitude, where every tear has been wiped away.

All Saints' Day reminds us of three great truths. First, death does not break the bonds of love. In the Creed, we profess our belief in "the communion of saints." The Church on earth and the Church in heaven are one family in Christ. When we gather at the altar, we join our praises with "angels and archangels and all the company of heaven," which includes those we love who have gone before us.

Second, sainthood is God's gift, not our achievement. The saints in John's vision are not robed in their own goodness. Their robes are made white in the blood of the Lamb. Saints are not perfect people. They are forgiven people who let God's grace shine through their lives.

Third, we are called to join them. The faithful who have gone before us have passed the faith on to us. Now it is our turn to live it and to hand it on to those who follow.

So as we celebrate All Saints' this year, let us give thanks for those who have gone before us. Let us take comfort in the promise that they are safe in the care of the Good Shepherd. And let us live in such a way that, one day, we too will join that great multitude, singing with them before the throne:

*"Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."*

Peace, Thack

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**St. Paul's Episcopal Church**
**Financial Report- 2026**
**Mike Sirmon., Treasurer**

We are just completing a very successful Capital Maintenance Campaign, whereby we have well exceeded our goal of $200,000. You should already be seeing the results of this effort in and around the church with new flooring, carpet and painting. Thanks to each of you that supported this campaign in any way. These funds will carry forward for additional maintenance in 2027.

Our operational budget is not doing as good. We are half through October of our 2026 calendar year and at this point we are $47,000 behind budget. With only a little over two months remaining in our year, we have a lot of ground to catch up to break even. We need a good November & December to close this gap. We continue to receive extraordinary support from the Saint Paul's Thrift Shop. We are so blessed to have the Thrift Shop and many thanks to them and the many volunteers. Please give them a hand if you get a chance.

We will be sending out a year-to-date giving statement soon. Please use this as a tool to see if you are up to date on your 2026 pledge. We ask that you help us finish the year strong and cover some of our shortfall.

We will soon be working on our Annual Budget for 2027. We continue to work hard at reducing our expenses where possible. We realize that costs are rising everywhere and it's hard to find reductions, but we continue to look for savings. You are receiving your 2027 Pledge Cards and we encourage you to PRAY OVER them and return them to the church office as soon as possible. These pledge cards are what we use to budget and guide our financial decisions going into 2027.

One of our larger financial hurdles is our mortgage debt. Our monthly payment is approximately $18,000. We would encourage you if possible to make an additional monthly pledge to our Capital Campaign to reduce our mortgage. It will take ALL of us doing our part to accomplish these goals. Your ministry is a Labor of Love, a Love For Our Lord Jesus Christ, a Love For Our Church and our brothers and sisters in Christ. God's Ministry is Worthy of your gifts, your money, your tithes and your prayers.

**Financial Report**

**October Operating Income:**
$70,251.46

**October Operating Expenses:**
$107,451.05

**October Operating Net Total:**
- $37,199.59

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**Year to Date Operating Income:**
$861,411.16

**Year to Date Operating Expenses:**
$954,165.15

**Year to Date Operating Net Total:**
-$92,753.99

***This does not include money spent for the Capital Improvement Campaign.***
***It is only our everyday Operating Income and Expenses.***

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**2026 Capital Campaign Goal**:
$217,498.50—*Received to Date*
$134,425.78—*Current Balance after expenses*

**Capital Improvement Expenses to-date:**
$500.00 - Door Repair
$1200.00 - Door Mats
$18,564.76 - Carpet and Flooring
$38,200 - painting, powerwashing, etc.
$6,118.45 - Brick Work
$161.80 - Paint
$2,000 - Donation Correction - Donation intended for Thrift Shop Scholarship
$10,000 - Donation Correction - Donation intended for Church Operations
$6,327.70 - Light Fixtures

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**2027 Pledge Cards Received:**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Operating | $227,983.60 | 45 Pledges Received |
| Building | $47,950.00 | 28 Pledges Received |

**Please turn in your 2027 Pledge Cards as soon as possible.**
**Our Treasurer has to prepare a 2027 Budget and cannot do it without your pledge.**
**Pledges do not automatically renew each year - <u>we need a new card for 2027</u>.**
**Thank you for your help!**

Annual Meeting of the Parish
Malone Hall
Sunday, November 15, 2026
9:15 a.m.

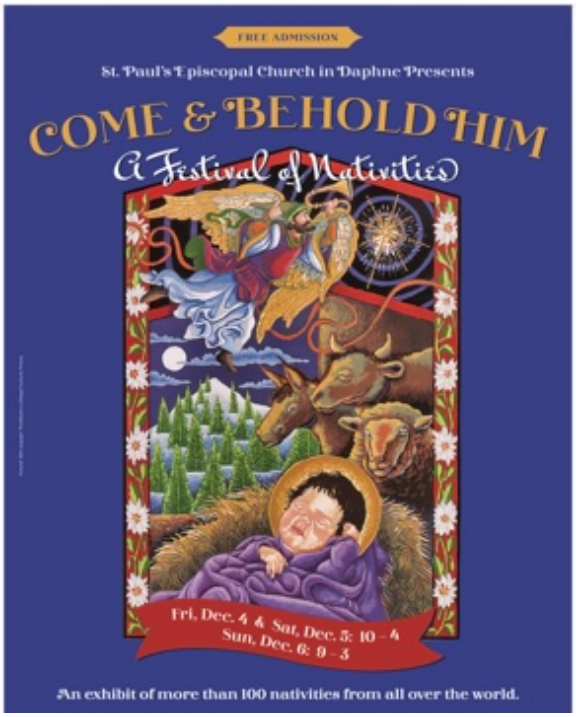
The Annual Meeting of the Parish is Sunday, November 15, 2026 at 9:15 a.m. in Malone Hall. We will elect 4 new members to the vestry and 5 delegates to the Diocesan Convention. The names and biographies of the candidates will be made available to you soon. Your presence, input and vote are important. 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. To be a member in good standing means, among other things, one is a confirmed member in the Episcopal Church. No absentee ballots will be accepted.

Dear People of St. Paul's …



**THANK YOU** for your generous donations to our DOK SOCKtober outreach ministry!
Through your gifts we were able to warm the "*soles*" of many a soul - child to adult!
Thank you again for helping us "SOCK-it to the sockless"!!
(Then coming in January, a 'brief' opportunity to support DOK's **UNDY Sunday**!)

*The Julian of Norwich chapter of Daughters of the King!*




On behalf of the Come And Behold Him committee, I want to thank everyone that came to the meeting last Saturday. It was a great turnout and this ministry is being well supported. Once again, the committee invites you to share your nativities, especially if you are new to our church family. Part of what makes this ministry so special is adding different Nativities with the history and stories about them. Please contact me if you have one to share or if you want to volunteer to help. We need extra hands in preparation for the opening and removal on the final day. We also will need fresh greenery cut and delivered to the life center. A special thanks in advance to David Kielek and our men's group who set up the tables, erect the stable at the entrance, and carry and return all the heavy fabrics and risers from the basement for us. We could not create this holy space without their help.

This is such an exciting time for our community. I invite you to come be part of this joyful event.

Thank you, Rebecca



# Christmas Eve Pageant Practice

BELIEVE IT OR NOT, IT'S ALREADY ALMOST TIME TO BEGIN PRACTICES FOR THE CHRISTMAS EVE PAGEANT!

***PRACTICES IN NOVEMBER WILL BE FOR 3RD-12TH GRADERS ONLY. YOUNGER CHILDREN MAY ATTEND BOTH DECEMBER PRACTICES.***

## PRACTICE DATES/TIMES/LOCATION

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| NOV.8 | 9:15-9:45AM | CHAPEL |
| NOV. 15 | 9:15-9:45AM | CHAPEL |
| NOV. 22 | 5-6PM | CHURCH |
| NOV 29 | 5-6PM | CHURCH |
| DEC. 6 | 9:15-9:45AM | CHAPEL |
| DEC. 13 NO PRACTICE DUE TO DRIVE THRU | | |
| DEC. 20 | 5-6PM | CHURCH |

The Daughters of the King here at St. Paul's are excited to announce our Advent Quiet Day to be held here at our parish on Saturday, December 12 from 9:00 am-2 pm. We are inviting all of the women at St. Paul's to attend this spiritual offering as we ready ourselves for Christmas.

We will also be hosting the Diocesan DOK chapters for our Quiet Day and they will conclude their time here that day with their Fall Assembly business meeting and officer election after the Quiet Day. We are delighted that we can have these two events together.

Judith+, our chaplain, has arranged for Sisters Madeleine Mary from the Community of St. Mary, Sewanee to be our Quiet Day speaker. Her community is a Benedictine order, and Sr. Madeleine Mary will be helping us deepen our understanding of how we can live into a rhythm of prayer and service not only as individuals, but also as a faith community.

Sister Madeleine Mary comes to us as a seasoned retreat leader, spiritual director, environmental activist, ecumenical proponent, former Reverend Mother, Prioress, Formation Director, and a monastic for over 50 years. She holds an MDiv from the School of Theology, Sewanee. She will be accompanied by Sister Felicity who will be bringing some of the handmade items the sisters make and sell in their gift shop.

Our Daughters of the King here at St. Paul's hope many of you will join us for this Advent Quiet Day on Saturday, December 12. It will begin at 9:00 am, will include Eucharist, and will conclude with lunch, ending by 2 pm.

Please reserve your place by emailing our President, Libbi Crowe, at or texting her at 850-582-7261

May your Advent be truly blessed and may you know deep joy this Christmas season.

The Order of the Daughters of the King

MAGNANIMITER CRUCEM SUSTINE

FHS

St. Paul's
THRIFT SHOP

A Ministry of
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Since 1977

# Direct Assistance Overview for 3rd Quarter 2026

**69** Vouchers were processed for

**182** people

who were allowed to pick out 3 outfits each plus shoes, jacket and other items as available.



Our volunteers delivered clothing, bedding, household items, baby supplies, a large screen tv, books, building, pet and medical supplies and miscellaneous other items to a number of agencies including:

- Penelope House
- Homeless Ministry at 1st Christ Church, Mobile
- The Shoulder for Men
- Lifeline Ministries
- Victory Clinic
- Eastpointe
- Prodisee Pantry
- The Gardens of Daphne
- The Haven
- Ransom Recycling

*Many Thanks*
to our donors, customers, volunteers and staff!

## Thank You
**for your generous response to our request for donations.**

Please keep them coming as we are still short on housewares and gently used furniture.




## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We have a variety of opportunities and would love to have you join our St. Paul's Thrift Shop family!

***If you have a few hours to share, we would love to hear from you!***

Tuesday – Friday
9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Saturday 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

**Donation Drop Off**
Thurs–Sat 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

**251-626-6102**

*Giving our hands to serve and our hearts to love.*

**There are many exciting musical dates coming up at St. Paul's!**

**Eastern Shore Chamber Music Festival —** November 15 at 2:30 p.m.
St. Paul's will be hosting the Eastern Shore Chamber Music Festival for a special concert featuring patriotic music in celebration of the 250th anniversary of our country.

**Lessons and Carols** — December 6 at both services
Our choir will be singing at both services for our celebration of Lessons and Carols, a beautiful Advent tradition of Scripture readings and beloved carols as we prepare our hearts for Christmas.

We hope you'll join us for these wonderful musical offerings at St. Paul's!



# Prayer Requests

## Immediate Prayer Requests:

Becky Anthony, Ray Bing, Donna Brown, Jeff Brown, Tommy Burnett, Frances Coleman, Deanna Cook, Faith Cornett, Jody Davis, Wayne Davis, Patrick Foster, Laura Ann Gibson, Glenda Gravley, Toni Gray, Jim Gulledge, Sharon Hoiles, Carl Hucke, Dave Johnson, Leslie Johnson, Susan Johnson, Thomas Kielek, Tracie Knight, Beverly Koepp, Pat Lieb, Donelle McBride, Michael McCollum, Leigh McKibbon, Bob McKnight, Marcie Morrow, Dorothy Moore, Lainey Owen, Cindy Patterson, Phyllis and Stephen Schneider, Marie Schriener, Michael Schwarte, David Robert Scott, Marc Silliman, Avos Stickney, Cleighton Strickland, Karen Thomason, Mary Haston Vest, Nancy Walker, Julia Warren, Richard Weaver

## 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:** Wayne Blackwell

## 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, 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:

**November 1-31:** (01) Joe Cook, Mike Dasinger, (03) LeeAnn Collins, MacLain Rigdon, Grace Sanford, Ivy Wilson, (04) Brian Robicheaux, (05) Ana Maria Carrera, (06) Virginia Michaels, Bella Forrest, (07) Steve Lovell, Hayleigh Hamilton, (08) Jayne Sharp, Robert Edward Daniel, (09) Jennifer Conner, Bernell Dorrough, (10) Lynn Martin, Delia Wetzel, (12) Bud Wallace, Marian Harris, (14) Frances Clark, (15) Liz Cobb, (16) Pam Carlson, Laurie Simpson, Stefanie Patterson, (17) Bobbi Sue Ross, Camille Stephens, Tracy Godwin, (18) Elizabeth Kennington, Samuel Sanford, (19) Alicia Spencer, Davis Daniel, Bonnie Hindman, (20) Debi McClary, Megrez Rudolf, Luis Briones, William Erickson, (21) Julia Hobbs, Megan Dimoff, (22) Mary Ann Hampton, (23) Gayle Robinson, Nancy Walker, (25) Tim Op't Holt, (26) Vivian Rigby, (28) Ross Hobbs, Erika Mitchell, (30) Anne Smith, Susanne Johnson

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

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

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# 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 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.