



The Tentmaker

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Daphne, Alabama

January 21, 2026

Message From Thack

Each year, the **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**, January 18-25, invites Christians across traditions to pause, pray, and remember a truth that is both ancient and urgently contemporary: *we belong to one another in Christ*. This week is beautifully framed by two feast days that stand like bookends on the church calendar, the Confession of Saint Peter (January 18) and the Conversion of Saint Paul (January 25). Together, they tell a story not of easy agreement, but of hard-won unity.

At first glance, Saint Peter and Saint Paul could hardly have been more different. Peter, the fisherman from Galilee, was shaped by long days with Jesus, learning faith through proximity, failure, and forgiveness. Paul, the zealous Pharisee turned apostle, encountered the risen Christ not by the lakeshore but on the road to Damascus. After being struck blind by our Lord, then converted as a follower of Christ, he was sent out as an apostle with relentless zeal. Peter was impulsive and pastoral and Paul was precise and missional. These two pillars of the early Church did not always see eye to eye.

The New Testament does not sanitize their disagreements. Paul recounts confronting Peter in Antioch over the inclusion of Gentile believers into the faith. Peter's position was that Gentiles could not convert to the faith unless they were first circumcised. This was no minor squabble. It went to the heart of what the Church would become. Would Christianity remain a small, culturally bounded movement, or would it grow into a truly universal body? The tension was real, public, and uncomfortable. But here is the miracle: they did not walk away from one another.

At the Council Of Jerusalem recorded in Acts 15, the issue of circumcision came to a head. Together, through prayer, argument, compromise, and discernment, the early Church learned that unity is not the absence of disagreement, but the commitment to remain at the same table even when convictions clash. Following James of Jerusalem's proposal, Gentile converts to the faith would not have to be circumcised. As we learned from this controversy in the early Church, unity was not sameness. It was faithfulness to Christ that proved stronger than personal preference or cultural habit. That lesson echoes powerfully today.

In a fractured Christian landscape marked by denominational divisions, political polarization, and theological suspicion, the witness of Peter and Paul feels almost countercultural. We are often tempted to retreat into like-minded enclaves or to define ourselves over and against one another. Yet the Gospel calls us to something deeper and more demanding: unity rooted in Christ, not uniformity enforced by fear.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity reminds us that our shared confession, "Jesus is Lord," matters more than the labels (Episcopal, Catholic, Baptist, etc.) that follow our church names. It challenges us to pray not only for agreement, but for humility; not only for cooperation, but for love. Like Peter and Paul, we are invited to trust that the Holy Spirit can work through honest disagreement to lead the Church into greater faithfulness.

As we stand between Peter's confession and Paul's conversion, we are reminded that the Church is always being shaped by both: steadfast faith and ongoing transformation. May this week renew our commitment to one another, and may our prayers help the world see that Christian unity, though imperfect and unfinished, is still one of the Church's most compelling witnesses. "*There is one body and one Spirit... one Lord, one faith, one baptism*" (Ephesians 4:4–5).

Peace, Thack

Thank you, Gracias, Merci, Danke, Cnacuño, Todá (תודה)

Dear Friends,

On behalf of myself and the parish staff, thank you for your generous Christmas gift. Your kindness and thoughtfulness mean more to us than words can adequately express. We are deeply grateful for your generosity, and even more grateful for the privilege of serving you. Each of us experiences our work here not simply as a job, but as a calling, one that we do not take for granted. It is a joy and an honor to serve alongside you and among you. Thank you for your support, your encouragement, and your faithfulness. You are a blessing to us.

Peace, Thack

New Adult Sunday School Class

You are invited to join the Adult Sunday School class as we begin a new study of Paul's Letter to the Colossians. Our first class will meet on **Sunday, February 8, at 9:15 AM in Conference Room A of the Howard Wilson Center.**

The Letter to the Colossians was written by the Apostle Paul around AD 60–62, most likely during his imprisonment. Addressed to the Christian community in Colossae, the letter responds to challenges facing a young church trying to remain faithful amid competing teachings and cultural pressures. Some believers were being drawn toward ideas that diminished the sufficiency of Christ, blending Christian faith with philosophy, mysticism, and strict religious practices.

Paul writes to re-center the church on the truth that Christ alone is supreme and sufficient. Colossians offers a powerful vision of who Christ is, how deeply we are rooted in Him, and what it means to live a life shaped by gratitude, holiness, and love. It is a letter both theological and practical, grounding everyday Christian living in the fullness of Christ.

We would love for you to be part of this study as we read, reflect, and learn together. Whether you are new to Sunday school or a long-time participant, you are most welcome.

Peace, Thack

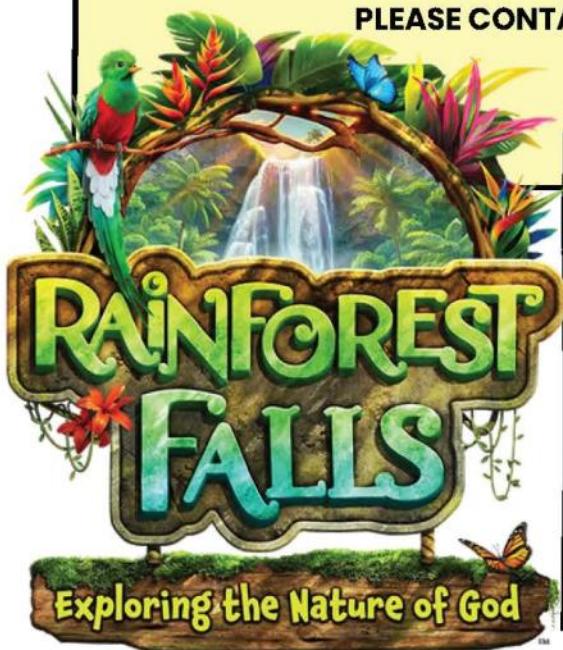
CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

WHAT WE'RE LEARNING!

In Children's Chapel at both 8:00 and 10:30 Services we have been learning about the Liturgical Calendar, and symbols in the church. Last Sunday we took down Advent's purple and replaced it with Ordinary time's green. We looked at Advent, Lent, Pentecost, Christmas and Easter! Over the next few weeks, we will be learning about Jesus as a boy and the beginning of His ministry!

WE'RE LOOKING FOR A SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER!

PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER BECOMING A SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER FOR OUR K-5TH SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS FROM 9-9:45 AM! FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT ELIZABETH @ 626-2774.



SAVE THE DATE FOR VBS!

JUNE 22-25

EMBARK ON A WILD, CREATURE-FILLED AMAZON ADVENTURE THROUGH THE PSALMS, WHERE KIDS WILL DEEPEN THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD, THEIR LOVING CREATOR.

COMING SOON!

February 15- 4-5:30pm 3-5th graders Valentine's Party

February 17, 6pm-Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner

Children's Chapel is every Sunday at 8am and 10:30am!

2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION

OPENS TO CURRENT
PRESCHOOL FAMILIES
FEBRUARY 2, AND OPEN TO
THE PUBLIC FEBRUARY 23!

FOR MORE
INFORMATION,
CALL US AT
251-626-2774
OR EMAIL US
AT

stpaulspreschooldaphne@gmail.com



St. Paul's Choir

Thank you to our choir for the time and dedication spent in preparing the music for our Christmas Eve services. I am so grateful for their commitment to this ministry and look forward to the year ahead.

This Sunday, Jan 25th at 2:30 everyone is invited to a piano recital held at our church, presented by me and my classmates in the University of Mobile Piano Department. The recital will feature works from Rachmaninoff, Albeniz, Sieg, Ginastera, Scarlatti, Scriabin, Chopin, Beethoven, Liszt and local composers.

Please join us for this special musical event. It is open to the public; however, tax deductible donations which directly benefit the students are appreciated and can be made to my piano teacher's 501c3 foundation, the Gulf Coast Steinway Society.

Refreshments will be provided afterwards in the narthex.

Christopher



THRIFT SHOP VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

Sam Thompson was chosen as our December Volunteer of the Month. Originally from New Orleans, Sam has lived in Spanish Fort for the past decade and, after a 40+ year career as an engineer with Lockheed Martin and Airbus, he retired several months ago. A member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Sam assists with the monthly Bingo night and dinner, participates in the annual mission trip to the Dominican Republic and in the Men's Group, serves as a videographer for the church services and tests electronics and small appliances at the Thrift Shop. When Sam is not serving somewhere on the church campus, he enjoys fishing and exploring the local waters on his boat and visiting his 4 children and 2 grandchildren in Vermont, Louisiana, Texas and Colorado. Sam was recently elected to serve for the next 3 years on the Thrift Shop's Board of Directors and, when asked what his favorite aspect of being a Thrift Shop volunteer is, he quickly responded with the people and the camaraderie among the volunteers. Thanks for all you do, Sam. We are blessed to have you!

**We Need Your Gently Used Furniture. Call
251-626-6102 to Schedule A Pick-Up!**

*St. Paul's Thrift Shop
A Ministry of St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Open Tues.-Fri. 9-3 & Sat. 10-3*



JANUARY 2026 FINANCIAL REPORT

Parish Finances at a glance:

JANUARY TO-DATE INCOME: \$54,885.52

JANUARY TO-DATE EXPENSES: \$47,227.99

JANUARY NET: \$7,657.53

Thank You for supporting St. Paul's wonderful ministries.

PLEASE...DON'T FORGET TO TURN IN YOUR 2026 PLEDGE CARDS

DOK offers you a

BRIEF

opportunity to help us collect new underwear
for infants, children, women, men - veterans too!

Join us during January

UNDY SUNDAYs

bring new undies, pampers or depends to Narthex basket ...

Thank you for helping us give to those in need!

Daughters of the King – St. Paul's Chapter



*Shrove Tuesday
Pancake
Supper*

**FEBRUARY 17TH 6:00 PM
MALONE HALL**

YOUTH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

St. Paul's Youth - 6th-12th Grades
We are still having Bible Study Sundays at 9:15!
Join us!

The Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper is February 17th at 6 PM. Everyone is invited, we need youth volunteers to help whip up the Pancakes!



BINGO is back with a **P*O*P**

Come ... bring friends and family to join in the fun!

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23

our delicious **SPAGHETTI DINNER** line begins to move at **5:45pm**
dinner is \$8.00 per person

our exciting **BINGO games** roll at **6:30pm**
an 11 game packet is \$20 – with cash prizes

POPCORN is popping all evening
\$1 for a **HOT** tasty bag

Hope you come and help us kick off the 2026 season of
St. Paul's BINGO



You are invited to
St. Paul's
February Parish Breakfast
Sunday, February 1st
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING
THE 8:00 A.M. SERVICE
in the Howard Wilson Life Center.
The breakfast is prepared for you by St. Paul's Men's Group.
No charge for children.

For the Absent, BCP, p.830

O God, whose fatherly care reaches to the uttermost parts of the earth: We humbly beseech you graciously to behold and bless those whom we love, now absent from us. Defend them from all dangers of soul and body; and grant that both they and we, drawing nearer to you, may be bound together by your love in the communion of your Holy Spirit, and in the fellowship of your saints; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Over the holidays some were privileged to spend time with family and/or friends who don't live nearby. Others were unable to get together with relatives who live far away. In either case, we may be missing them now. Let us remember them and bless them with this sweet prayer. When we look at the moon and the stars, we are comforted in the knowledge that they can share in the same experience. Likewise, we know that the same God who watches over us, watches over them. The same Holy Spirit who fills our hearts can fill theirs. In these ways, though physically distant, through God's love, we remain connected. Praise God!

A POWERFUL ALABAMA DOCUMENTARY ABOUT COAL ASH,
COURAGE, AND THE WISDOM OF AGE IN ACTION.



FREE FILM SCREENING
ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, DAPHNE
JANUARY 22, 2026 6:00-7:30 PM

Howard Wilson Life Center

The award winning short documentary **Sallie's Ashes** - an Oscar-qualifying film about an Alabama group's fight to protect Mobile Bay from toxic coal ash. Currently showing at film festivals across the US.

Arsenic and other heavy metals are already contaminating the Mobile River. If 21 million tons of cancer-causing coal ash sludge spilled into the Tensaw Delta, Mobile Bay would be polluted forever.

WWW.MOVETHEASH.COM CHECK WEBSITE FOR FUTURE SHOWINGS



The Coal Ash Action Group (CAAG), founded in 2022 by the late Sallie Smith, continues to carry forward her vision: the safe removal of this massive toxic coal ash pond threatening the Mobile River, Mobile Bay, and the treasured Tensaw Delta—known as “*America’s Amazon*.”

At age 80, while facing terminal cancer, Sallie Smith rallied fellow Alabama grandmothers to take on one of the state’s most urgent environmental battles. Together, they formed CAAG to demand accountability from Alabama Power’s Plant Barry, where 21 million tons of coal ash—laden with carcinogens, neurotoxins, and other hazardous pollutants—sit in an unlined pond just 20 miles upstream from Mobile Bay.

Their work has drawn national attention. An interview with Alabama Public Radio’s Cori Yonge was picked up by National Public Radio, catching the ear of an Oscar- and Emmy-winning producer. That connection led to the creation of “**Sallie’s Ashes**,” a moving 40-minute documentary about Sallie Smith’s final months, in which she transformed personal struggle into a campaign for environmental justice. Although Sallie passed away on October 27, 2023, her spirit continues to inspire.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Immediate Prayer Requests:

Joshua Barksdale, Stephanie Barksdale, Townsend Besson, Judith Comer, Jennifer Conner, Deanna Cook, Linda Crissy, Wayne Davis, Lillian Deason, Sara DeWitt, Mary Jordan Dukes, Jeanne Evans, Patrick Foster, Joann Gibson, Laura Ann Gibson, Brooks Gordon, Toni Gray, Mary Green, Catherine Greenslade, Leslie Greer, Linda Hamilton, Mary Ann Hampton, Stewart Hampton, Marian Harris, Kelsey Henderson, Sharon Hoiles, Scott Hollingsworth, Shari and Linn Hyde, Dave Johnson, Leslie Johnson, Billy Jones, Phil Kelley, Dennis Kiehna, Doug Kinney, Tracie Knight, Beverly Koepp, Kay Loftin, Sam Martin, Donelle McBride, Herb McDonald, Bob McKnight, Mary Michael, Marcie Morrow, Dorothy Moore, Josh Plotniak, Bob Powell, Judy Reeves, Jerry Richardson, Kem Rutledge, Phyllis Schneider, Marie Schreiner, Nick Shoultz, Fran Siemssen, Tim Smith, Diana Spillman, Cleighton Strickland, Mark Taylor, Karen Thomason, Mary-Haston Vest, Nancy Walker, Julia Warren, Myralyn Watson, Katherine Weaver, Avery and Rachel Willow, Andy Wilson

Ongoing Prayer Requests:

Marty Adams, Allison Badurak, Jim Blackwell, Betty Borroni, Dakota Burchett, Pat Cannon, Janice Clifford, Jim Clifford, Joe Cook, Sr., Faith Cornett, Diana Costlow, Mark Costlow, Jim Council, Margie Cowart, Suzanne Damour, Nancy Dziubakowski, Sylvia Forbes, Dee Grantham, Joyce Griffis, Terri Hare, Eddie Hill, Susan Hill, Jossie Hurst, Shannon Kern, Alexander Kielek, Matt & Penny Kratochvil, Neil Magruder, Angela Mason, Lou Morgan, Dorothy Moore, Buddy Morrow, Bo Nichols, Sonny Nichols, Sam Pace, Mary Pace, Sara Patton, Janet Penry, Mary Rudolf, Marilyn Russell, Jesse Rutherford, Larry Rutherford, Stephanie Sanchez, Terry Sandlin, Pat Schlimmer, Cathy Slagle, Ken & Genette Stephens, Kay Taylor, Vicki Thompson, Anna & Bill Waid, Ken Wallis, Bob & Beth Wickwire, Kern & Mary Wilson, Diane Young, Joe Young, Mike Young

For the Departed: The Rev. Fletcher Comer, William Bond, Scott Nelson

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, 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, Justin Ramsey, Neil Sevelius, Michael Strohlein, Dan Strohlein, Aiden Walker, Brad Yonkers

For Those with Birthdays:

January 21-31: (21) Pam Christakos, (22) Evelyn Walker, (23) Shad James, Ford Taylor, Timothy Pino, (24) Deanna Cook, Ellie McMillan, (27) Donna Brown, William Johnson, Emma Talbert, Grace Kessler, (28) Christopher Dedrickson, (29) Jenny Connell, (30) Sam Collier, Nick Shoultz, (31) Harper Dismukes

February 1-28: (01) Jo-Anne Crawford, Mike Turnipseed, Aurora Bond, (02) Madison Dismukes, (03) Mary Smith, Jeff Phillips, Tyler Norman, Brianna Portman, (04) Barbara Brousseau, Margaret Cummins, Martha Lathan, (05) Cindy Op't Holt, Amy Hillerby, Camille Doyle, (09) Jim Gordon, (10) Adam Meshejian, (12) Siddha Erickson, (14) Rhonda Jones, Allen Simpson, (15) Lauren Kapeluck, (16) Julia Warren, Dean Mosher, (17) Trenton Godwin, (18) Lisa Chamberlain, (19) Carmen Pino, (20) Jack Connell, Holly Alves, (22) Marina Hicks, (23) Terri Hare, (24) Doris Hair, (25) Corey Taylor, (26) Charles Michael, (28) Judy Reeves, Gary Dunn, Haley Hare, (29) Dave Hale

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 am
*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 - Friday
9:00 am -- 3:00 pm

Saturday
10:00 -- 3:00 pm

Donations Accepted:
Thursday - Friday
9:00 am -- 3:00 pm

Saturday
10:00 am -- 3:00 pm
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**

9:15 am
in Conference Room A

Youth

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

Sunday Children's

Chapel
8 and 10:30 am

St. Paul's Vestry

2026-2028

Terms Ending

December 31, 2026

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

December 31, 2027

Richard Foster
Donna Nolte
Marty Ollinger
John Sharp

December 31, 2028

Robert Jernigan
Elizabeth Thomason
Mike Turnipseed
Tom Walker
~
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>

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, *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://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.