



The Tentmaker

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Daphne, Alabama

January 15, 2025

Message From Thack

A Call to Prayer and Unity

Next Monday is Inauguration Day. It is also Martin Luther King Day.

These two events have something in common besides sharing the same date in our calendar.

Dr. King dedicated his public life to racial equality and national unity. He once preached the necessity for a civilized society to strive to become a “beloved community.” King observed, *“But the end is reconciliation; the end is redemption; the end is the creation of the beloved community. It is this type of spirit and this type of love that can transform opposers into friends. The type of love that I stress here is not eros, a sort of esthetic or romantic love; not philia, a sort of reciprocal love between personal friends; but it is agape which is understanding goodwill for all men. It is an overflowing love which seeks nothing in return. It is the love of God working in the lives of men. This is the love that may well be the salvation of our civilization.”*¹

As our nation prepares for the inauguration of Donald J. Trump as the next President of the United States, we are reminded of the deep divisions that have marked this past election cycle. Regardless of our political leanings, as Christians, we are called to something higher—a unity of purpose centered on love, prayer, and faith in God’s sovereignty.

The Apostle Paul urges us in 1 Timothy 2:1-2: *“First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity.”*

As President Trump takes office, let us heed this call to pray—for him, his administration, and for all our government leaders, regardless of party. Pray for wisdom, humility, and guidance as they navigate the complexities of leading our nation. Pray also for peace and unity, that we might overcome division and work together for the common good.

At the heart of our Christian faith is the Great Commandment, which Jesus reminds us in Matthew 22:37-39: *“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”*

¹ Martin Luther King, Jr., “*The Role of the Church in Facing the Nation's Chief Moral Dilemma*,” 1957.

This commandment transcends politics, calling us to love God wholeheartedly and to extend that love to our neighbors—including those with whom we may disagree. It challenges us to respond with grace, compassion, and kindness, even when our opinions differ.

As we move into this new chapter of our nation's history, let us commit ourselves to be instruments of peace and reconciliation. May we show the world that our ultimate allegiance is to Christ, who calls us to be salt and light in the world. Let us work together to build bridges, seek justice, and reflect God's love in all we do.

Let us join together in prayer for our nation, its leaders, and its people. May God bless America with God's peace, and may God's Kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven.

Peace, Thack

Prayer for the People of California

Heavenly Father, we lift up the people of California, especially those in Los Angeles, who are facing the devastating wildfires. We pray for the safety and well-being of all those affected. Grant courage and strength to the firefighters and first responders working tirelessly to contain the fires. Comfort those who have lost family members, their homes and possessions, and provide them with the support and resources they need during this difficult time. May your hand of protection be upon the people of California, and may they find strength and hope through you in the midst of this crisis. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

Peace, Thack

Celebrating Mary Claire McTaggart: Youth Delegate to the 54th Annual Diocesan Convention

I am pleased to announce that Mary Claire McTaggart, a dedicated member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, has been selected as the Youth Delegate for Convocation II to the 54th Annual Diocesan Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast. The clergy from Convocation II unanimously selected Mary Clair for this recognition. The convention is scheduled for February 21-22, 2025, at the Destin-Fort Walton Beach Convention Center in Destin, Florida.

Mary Claire, daughter of Leah and Tim McTaggart and granddaughter of Rhonda and Liston Jones, is a junior at Daphne High School. Her journey with St. Paul's began in early childhood, and over the years, she has become an integral part of our church family. She has been a faithful server and chalice bearer at the 8:00 a.m. service for several years, serving with dedication and grace. Known for her warm smile and deep spirituality, Mary Claire exudes a profound love for God and our congregation.

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Beyond her liturgical roles, Mary Claire actively engages with our youth, especially during Vacation Bible School. She is intentional about including everyone in various activities and games, fostering a sense of community and belonging among the young participants. Her joyful spirit (and her willingness to be playfully teased by me when she makes a mistake at the altar) reflects her approachable and happy nature. Mary Claire is also involved with our Diocesan youth and will attend Happening at the end of this month.

As she prepares to undertake this important role, we extend our heartfelt congratulations to Mary Claire and her family. We are confident that she will represent St. Paul's and Convocation II with distinction, bringing her unique perspective and passion to the convention.

Please join us in praying for Mary Claire as she embarks on this journey, seeking God's guidance and wisdom in her new responsibilities. Let us support her in this exciting endeavor, celebrating the vibrant future of our church through the active involvement of our youth.

Peace, Thack

**The Mourner's Path class which was scheduled
for January, 2025 has been cancelled.**

To achieve the goals and mission of the program, a minimum number of participants are needed. The number of participants registered for this session did not reach that minimum.

Matt Thomason and I are ready and willing to provide guidance through the *Mourner's Path* when God's timing is right.

If any of you are led to proceed with this enriching journey, please call the church office; questions can be addressed by Becky Costlow @ 251-391-8102. Watch for further updates in the *Tentmaker* and *Eblasts*.



St. Paul's Thrift Shop

Cindy Hoeb is our January Volunteer of the Month! A native of northern Kentucky, she and her family lived in Daphne years ago while their kids were in school. After several job transfers, Cindy and her husband returned to Spanish Fort after retirement and their son, daughter and grandson also live on the Eastern Shore. Her hobbies include reading, gardening, refinishing furniture, crafting and watercolor painting. In her spare time, she also volunteers at Willow Farms Equine Rescue in Loxley. A member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Cindy works as a decorator at the Thrift Shop and is currently serving on the Board of Directors. Thanks for all you do, Cindy!

Prayer Requests

Immediate Prayer Requests:

Denise Adams, Ada Bailey, Denise Bourgeois, Sophia Brooks, Phyllis Bruce, Fletcher and Judith Comer, Deanna Cook, Joe Cook, Sr., Diana Costlow, Wayne Davis, Mike Edwards, Beth Dearmon Einig, Patrick Foster, Laura Ann Gibson, Jim Gordon, Leif Hampton, Terri Hare, Colleen Hatchet, Sharon Hoiles, Paul Hurst, Dave Johnson, Grayton Kennington, Doug Kinney, Tracie Knight, Beverly Koepp, Donelle McBride, Freda McDonald, Herb McDonald, Bob McKnight, Tim McMahon, Mary Claire McTaggart, Marcie Morrow, David Op't Holt, Bob Powell, Karen Presnall, Judy Reeves, Marilyn Russell, Jesse Rutherford, Larry Rutherford, Shannon Rutledge, Terry Sandlin, Heather Sharp, Nick Shoultz, Brandon Smith, Dick Smith, Mary Smith, Alicia Spencer, David and Connie Stravers, Kay Taylor, Karen Thomason, Vicki Thompson, Keith Thornton, Anna and Bill Waid, Ken Wallis, Richard Ware, Julia Warren, Elke Westmoreland, Adele Wheat, Bob and Beth Wickwire, Kern and Mary Wilson

Ongoing Prayer Requests:

Marty Adams, Allison Badurak, Jim Blackwell, Betty Borroni, Dakota Burchett, Kit Caffey, Pat Cannon, Pam Carlson, Janice Clifford, Jim Clifford, Faith Cornett, Juliana (JuJu) Cotten, Jim Council, Margie Cowart, Suzanne Damour, Dana and Tommy Fletcher, Sylvia Forbes, Dee Grantham, Eddie Hill, Susan Hill, Jossie Hurst, Shari & Linn Hyde, James Jones, Shannon Kern, Alexander Kielek, Jim Lonnergan, Lou Morgan, Dorothy Moore, Buddy Morrow, Bo Nichols, Sonny Nichols, Sam Pace, Mary Pace, Sara Patton, Janet Penry, Mary Rudolf, Kem Rutledge, Stephanie Sanchez, Pat Schlimmer, Cathy Slagle, Bobbi Surgenor, Albert Thompson, Diane Young, Joe Young, Mike Young

For the Departed:

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, Dan Eshed, Chris Evans, Steven Grey, Matthew Harris, Rusty Henry, Karen Hubley, Walker Jackson, Daniel James, Jake Jerome, Matt Jones, Daniel Lambert, Chris Lessard, Jackson May, Patrick Mong, Bryan Quinn, Holden Quinn, Madie Quinn, Justin Ramsey, Neil Sevelius, Kaleb Sharpless, Michael Strohlein, Dan Strohlein, Aiden Walker, Brad Yonkers

For Those with Birthdays:

January 1-31: (01) Mary Miley, Jack Kessler, (04) Linda Monley, Jimbo Cassity, (05) Gregory Friedland, Merrill Rigby, (07) Colton McKenna, (08) Jane Shoultz, Anita Rankin, (09) Wendi Jackson, (10) Mary Michael, Kris Mullins, (11) Laura Anne Gibson, (13) Heather Barnard, (16) Ben Leininger, (17) Mabel Kinard, Richard Whitehurst, Leslie Talbert, (21) Pam Christakos, (22) Evelyn Walker, (23) Shad James, Ford Taylor, Timothy Pino, (24) Deanna Cook, Ellie June McMillan, (27) Donna Brown, William Johnson, Jr., Emma Talbert, Grace Kessler, (28) Chris Dedrickson, (29) Jenny Connell, (30) Samuel Collier, Nick Shoultz

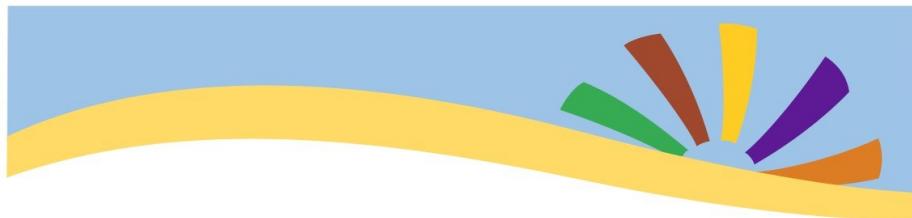
Undy Sunday(s)

Every Sunday in January

Please bring new underwear for Men, Women and Children to the Narthex (diapers too!), every Sunday in [January](#).

These items will be given to Baldwin Family Village, William F. Green Veterans Facility, Clothesline Ministry St. Johns, St. Paul's Thrift Shop (given to Prodisee Pantry Voucher families), Family Promise, and St. Paul's Pre-School.

This is a service project of the Julian of Norwich chapter Daughters of the King.



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December 2024

Parish Finances at a glance:

DECEMBER INCOME: \$112,649.26

DECEMBER EXPENSES: \$92,701.10

NET TOTAL: \$19,948.16

Please don't forget to turn in your *2025* Pledge Cards.

Prayer for Disasters

This prayer is not from our prayer book. I found it on the Episcopal Relief and Development page, and they credit it as a Jesuit prayer. In response to the California fires, I believe it is appropriate at this time.

Lift Up Those Who Have Fallen

Holy One, you are our comfort and strength in times of sudden disaster, crisis or chaos. Surround us now with your grace and peace through storm or earthquake, fire or flood. By your spirit lift up those who have fallen, sustain those who work to rescue or rebuild, and fill us with the hope of your new creation; through you, our rock and redeemer.

It's hard to imagine and difficult to contemplate what it would be like to have your whole block, street, neighborhood, city destroyed. If it were one house, one family, neighbors would come together in support of that family. But who is to help when everyone else is in the same boat? Thank God for the Red Cross, and for organizations like Episcopal Relief and Development.

In addition to any material support each of us chooses to provide, we can always pray. We can pray for the Holy Spirit to give these fire victims the peace that passes all understanding. We can pray for the souls of those who died. We can pray for the incredibly brave first responders, who put others' lives ahead of their own.

Let's not allow this terrible disaster to become yesterday's news. Please pray this or a prayer of your own every day.

Vivian Silliman

Hello Fellow Parishioners!

There has been a real flurry of activity in the last month or so at the Howard Wilson Life Center, starting off with the very popular Come and Behold Him Nativity presentation, which was well attended both by the parish members and the community in general. We then had the Drive-By Nativity, which also drew a big crowd.

We have had our regular full slate of meetings and events in the Life Center including the Exceptional Foundation, Scouts, Vestry and Thrift Shop Board meetings, Daughters of the King, Young Women's Bible Study, Cursillo Reunion Groups, to name just a few. I have also received inquiries from new groups requesting space for a Girl Scout Troop, as well as others. I think our Life Center is making a real positive difference in the community, and I want to thank every volunteer who comes out to help.

Remember, BINGO is set to kick off the 2025 season on Friday, January 24th.

Also, there have been a couple of repairs: the annoying bricked-in step at the entrance to the Life Center has been replaced with a smooth concrete step. Also, the broken stair rail at the top of the stairs leading to the middle parking lot has been repaired. Thank you! to the Vestry, and especially Joe Cooke, for helping make this happen.

Upward Basketball has kicked off for the 2025 season; our first slate of games was on Saturday morning, January 11th. Our 3rd and 4th grade league has six teams of seven players each, easily outdoing last year's census of 19. The kids are a real joy to work with! This year we even have kids from our own parish attending; thanks and good luck to Lila Sharp! Everyone is invited to attend the games free of charge, beginning at 9 AM Saturday mornings through February.

That's all for now, I'll have more happening news from the Howard Wilson Life Center in the next issue.

David Kielek, Howard Wilson Center Sexton

Grounds Sprucing Day

Hello, Everyone!

I have the sign up sheets for those of you that checked "Grounds Sprucing" on Rally Day and I will be contacting you soon. I would like to schedule a Sprucing Day for the first Saturday in February. We will have to keep an eye on the weather in case we need to postpone. We have a tremendous amount of trimming that needs to happen. As it gets closer to February we will be in touch. Hopefully the weather will be nice to us.

God's peace! Donna Brown

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

Wednesday

Healing Service with
The Holy Eucharist
Wednesday
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 Preschool

St. Paul's Vestry**2024-2027**

Terms Ending

December 31, 2025

Michael Quinn
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. John K. Talbert
Curate
The Rev. Judith Comer
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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St. Paul's Episcopal Church

28788 North Main Street
Daphne, Alabama 36526

The Rev. Thack H. Dyson, *Rector*

The Rev. John K. Talbert, *Curate*

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.