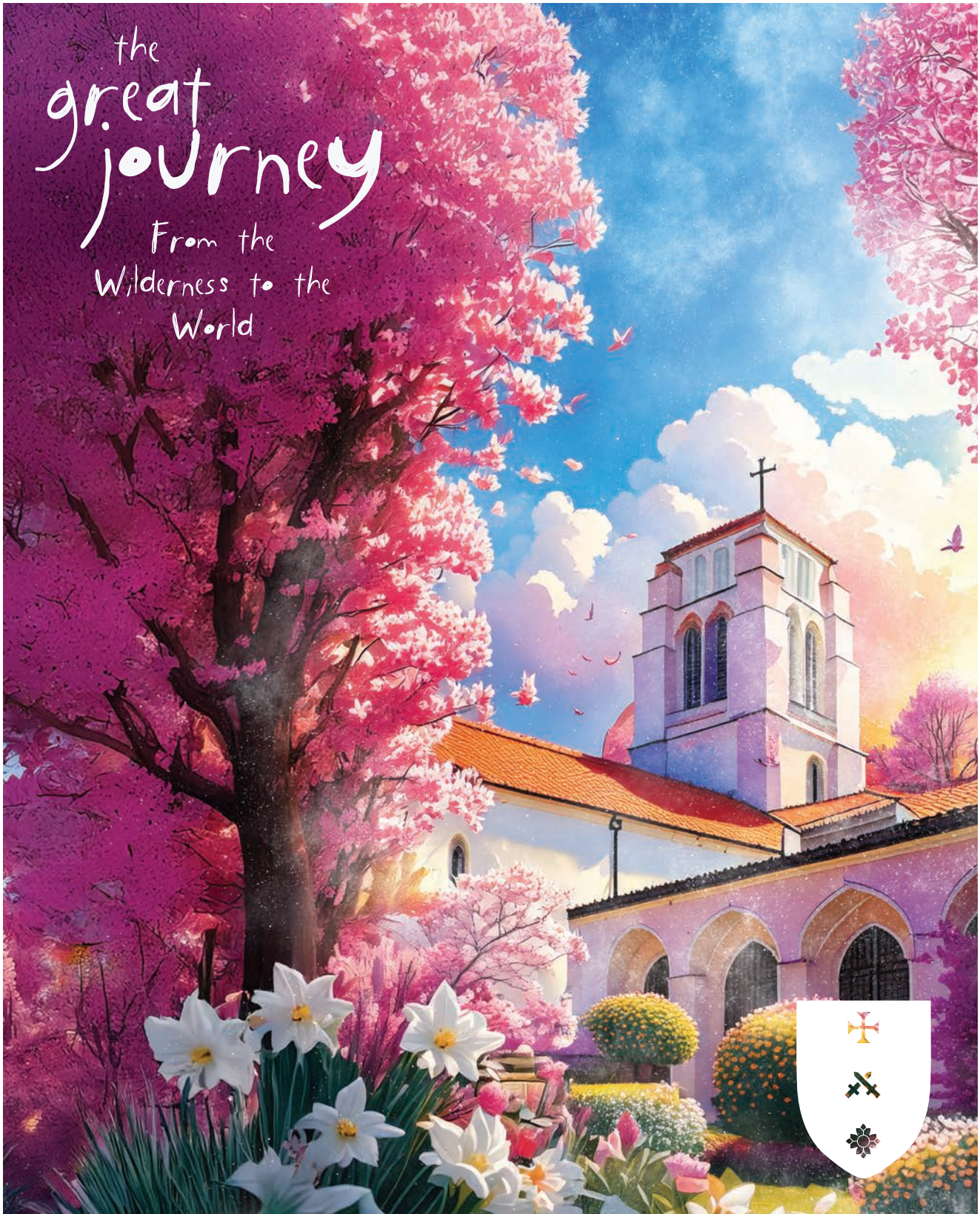


Parish Life

VOL 53 - ISSUE ONE

SPRING/SUMMER 2025



the
great
journey
From the
Wilderness to the
World



ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN WINSTON-SALEM, NC

The Great Journey: *From the Wilderness to the World*

Lent brings us into the wilderness, a place of reflection, challenge, and preparation. **Holy Week** invites us into the path of Christ's sacrifice, where love and suffering birth hope. **Easter's** triumph calls us to rise, embracing new life in Christ. But the journey doesn't end at the empty tomb—**Pentecost** thrusts us into the world, filled with the Spirit, to live the Gospel boldly.

In this issue, we explore how faith transforms us through these sacred seasons, looking back at the seasons of Lent, Holy Week, and Easter, while calling us from reflection to action, from the wilderness to the world. Where is God leading you on this journey?

Parish Life is the voice of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, where faith in action, boundless love, and hope for all come together to transform lives. Through inspiring stories, reflections, and community highlights, we celebrate the ways our faith is lived out in worship, service, and connection. Rooted in tradition and looking toward the future, Parish Life invites all people to deepen their faith, engage in meaningful dialogue, and experience the grace of God in everyday life.

Editor-in-chief:

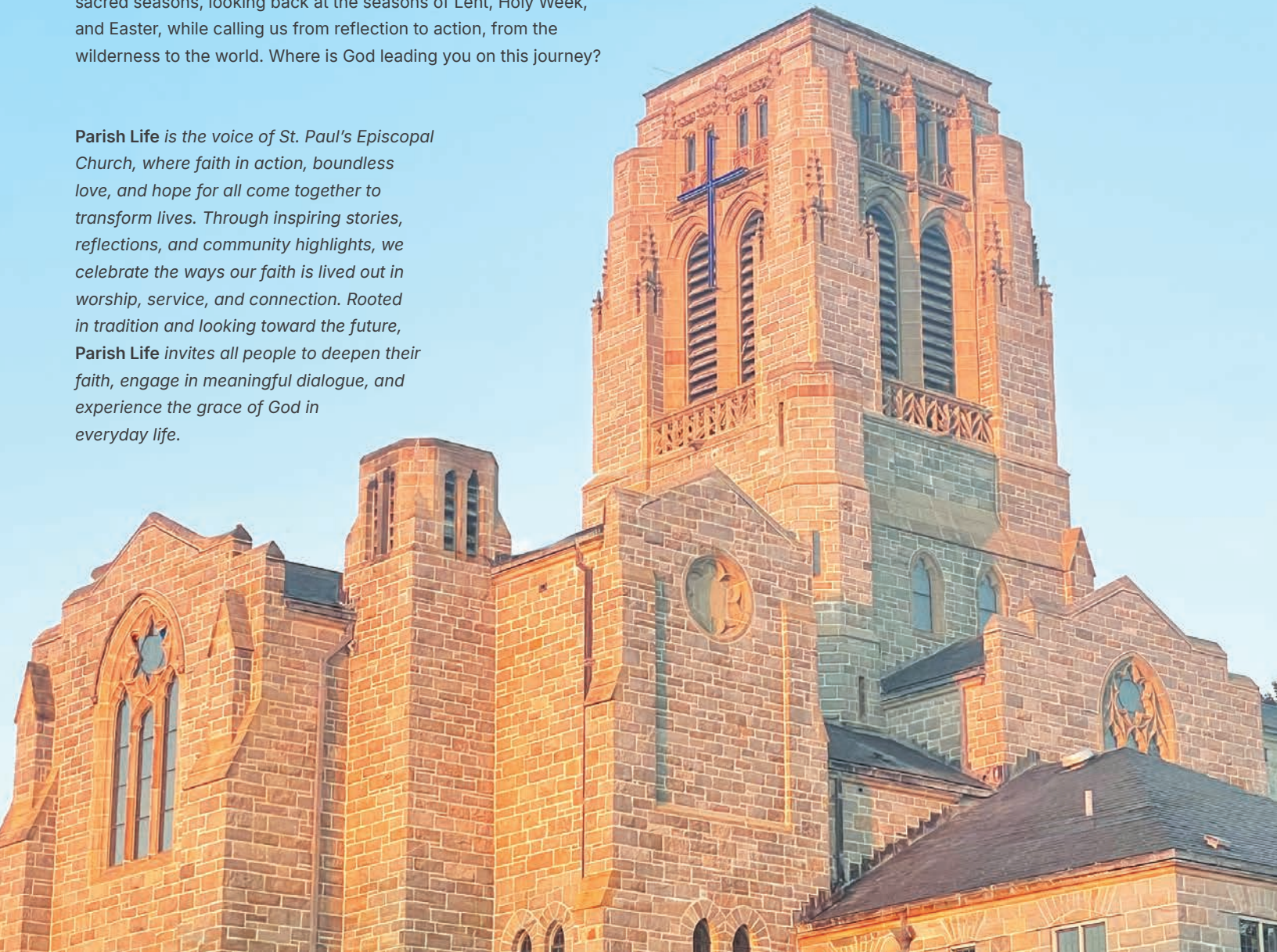
Jason Franklin, *Director of Communications*

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520 Summit St., Winston-Salem, NC 27101

Speak to us:

jfranklin@stpauls-ws.org
336-723-4391, ext. 1402



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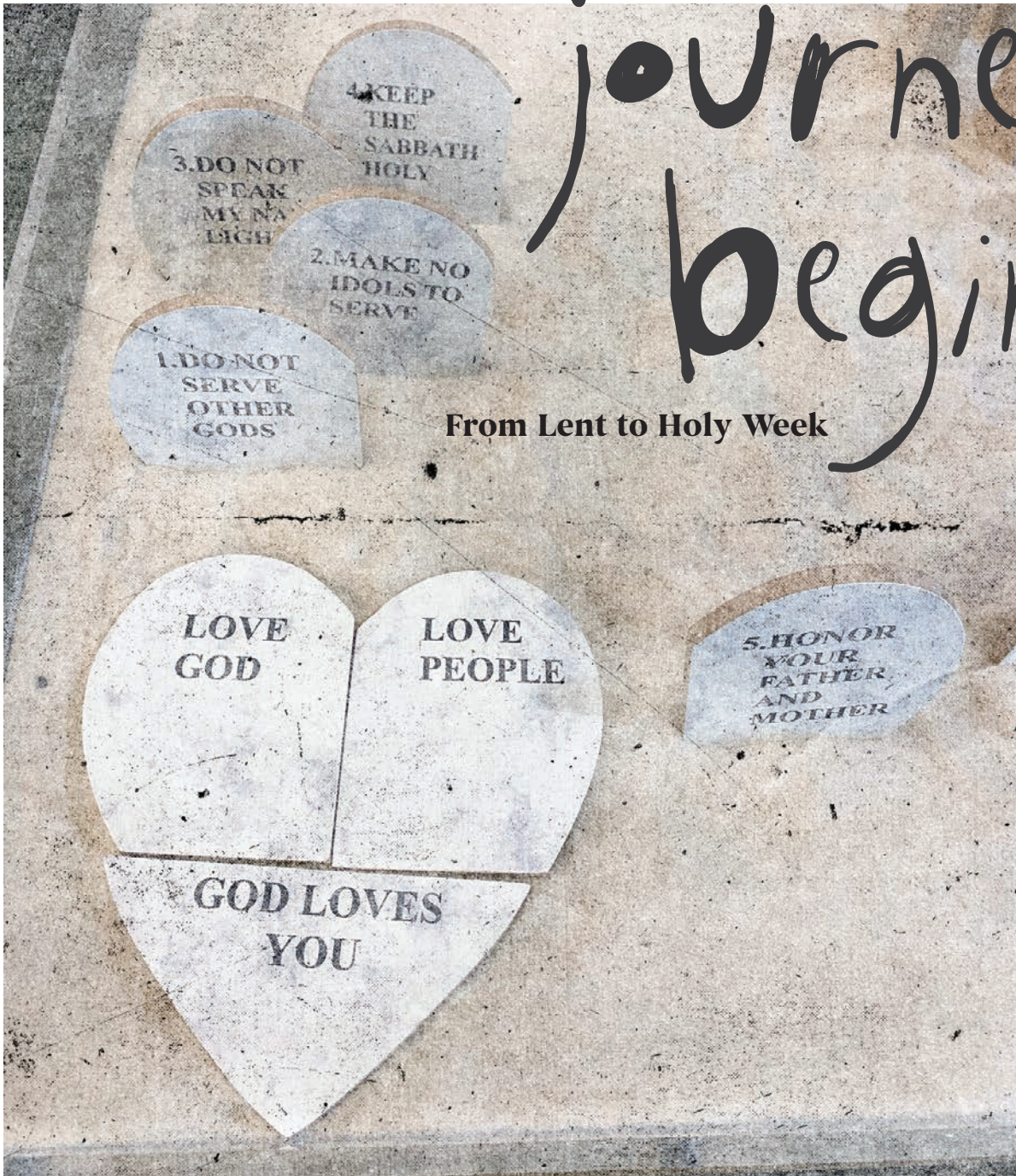
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Part One

the journey begins



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Above

Wednesday in Lent, we used the Godly Play model to prayerfully engage with Scripture stories

Lent Is Springtime

by The Rev. Lucy Strandlund

My husband and I adopted a kitten a couple of years ago, a rescue cat from the humane society who I met at St. Paul's very own Blessing of the Animals. He is a very sweet cat, but he has different ideas than I do about how much sleep I need. This meant that during our first winter with him, as the days were short and the nights long and I wanted nothing more than to sleep in, we had a kitten who wanted to hang out at 5 AM. Despite my own preferences, there were lots of mornings that winter when I would get up early, way before the sun.

I would feed the kitten breakfast, then raise the blinds, light a candle, and sit on the couch with my coffee (and usually the kitten who had fallen promptly back to sleep after scarfing said breakfast) and watch the morning arrive outside our living room window.

First the sky was pitch dark, then deep blue, and then the soft light of a winter morning spread around the black outlines of the leafless trees until all of a sudden I didn't really need to have the lamp or the candle

lit, and morning had arrived. Without the leaves on the trees or the distractions of anything other than a sleepy kitten in my lap, I was able to see the morning happen, little by little, through my living room window. More than any year before, I paid attention to the gradual lengthening of the days as spring drew near. I came to appreciate the spareness and simplicity of those mornings, both for what they allowed me to see but also for the quiet centeredness they instilled in me for the day ahead.

Journeying through Lent can be something like this. It is a season to pare back, to simplify if we can. We might choose to reduce the notifications that pop up on our phones and steal our attention from what is in front of us. We might go without alcohol, certain foods, or habits that distract us from the things we need to address. We may choose to go for daily walks, not for the purpose of burning calories but in order to take time to be outside and notice the world around us. All of these practices can help us to slow down and hone our attention on what matters most.

Lent has long been a season for this kind of simplicity and tuning our attention. In the earliest centuries of the Church, catechumens—or new converts to the faith—were baptized at Easter, and therefore the season prior to Easter was a time for preparation and instruction. This season of prayer, fasting, and self-examination allowed

the baptismal candidates to prepare their hearts and minds for the beginning of new life marked by their baptism at Easter.

Our understanding of Lent has its roots in this season of preparation, and we still view it as a time to simplify and to tune our hearts to God. It mirrors those forty days Jesus spent in the wilderness, before he began his public ministry, as he faced temptation and then emerged from the wilderness to teach, to heal, and to proclaim the good news.

Those of us who are already baptized are also preparing. At the Great Vigil of Easter, we all get to renew our commitment to the promises made at our own baptism. At Easter we are invited to live into new life in Christ, and Lent helps us open ourselves up to this transformation.

In a video message about Lent filmed while he was Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams reflects on the season as a time to "sweep and clean the room of our own minds and hearts so that the new life really may have room to come in and take over and transform us at Easter."

He also reminds us that the word "Lent" itself comes from the old English word for "spring." He says, "It's not about feeling gloomy for forty days; it's not about making yourself miserable for forty days; it's not even about giving things up for forty days. Lent is springtime. It's preparing for that great climax of springtime which is Easter – new life bursting through death."

The season of Lent invites us to make room in our lives, through simplifying and paying attention, so that when the great feast of Easter arrives and we rejoice in the resurrection, we are able to experience transformation within ourselves as surely as the leaves and flowers around us are bursting into the bright green of new growth and the riotous color of new life.



Through the Wilderness: A Parenting Journey in Lent

by Jordan Capps

To me, parenting is an endless walk through the wilderness. When you think you have found a clear path, an obstacle appears and you are forced to go in a different direction. From the moment you find out that you are a parent, you face the joys and struggles of guiding a child down the pathway to becoming an adult. As the guide, I have at times felt lost, helpless, in need of answers, afraid, and frustrated. I have also felt intense joy, amazement, awe, and appreciation. In today's world, I think parents are more bombarded than ever with advice, expectations, and challenges, on top of the everyday demands of making sure children are housed, fed, clothed, clean, and educated. We are tempted to follow the latest parenting trend, put our children into every activity available, pushing ourselves and our children into a state of exhaustion. Parenting can feel overwhelming.

During the season of Lent, I am reminded that it is a time of contemplation and renewal, a chance to ponder and reassess. This Lenten season, I have chosen to focus on how to make myself better, so that I can better take care of my children. What is working in my life and what is not? How can I acknowledge my gifts as a parent and work on my struggles? What are the essentials in our family and what can we do without?

One thing that I have learned being a single parent for most of my seventeen-year journey is that being in community with other parents has been invaluable as I walk through the wilderness. I seek out older adults, who have walked the path, for their wisdom. I seek out parents, who are currently walking the path, finding camaraderie in the day-to-day struggles. What I am challenging myself to do more of is to seek out the parents just starting the journey to offer an ear, a shoulder, or just encouragement.

As I reflect on the Lenten journey, the time to get ready for the Mystery of Easter, I think about how Godly Play walks children through Jesus' life in preparation for his death and rebirth. I can't help but think of each of our children's journey from infancy to childhood, and on to adulthood. What a miraculous journey it is; different for each one, yet similar in so many ways. As I take this time to contemplate my parenting journey, I am striving to support my children in the best way that I can and to remember that along with the struggles also come the joys.

If you want some friends to walk on the parenting journey with, come to Coffee and Chaos Sunday mornings at 10:15 AM in the conference room!

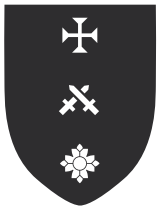


Left
Children's programming on
Ash Wednesday

Above
(Left) Wednesday formation.
(Right) Worship during Lent

Below
Confirmation and Bishop's
visit during Lent

Lent
2025



Part Two

the turning point



Easter & Resurrection Life

On the Road

by The Rev. Erika Takacs

One of my favorite liturgies of the year is the evening service for Easter Day. After the fanfares of Easter morning, the Easter evening service, while still wonderfully joyful, feels quieter, more reflective. The Gospel for that evening is not the story of the women arriving at the tomb but that of the two disciples walking along the road from Jerusalem to Emmaus. Yes, that's right – two disciples of Jesus, who had already heard the stunning news of his miraculous resurrection, walking away from that resurrection the very same day.

It seems unfathomable that in the face of such a mystery, anyone could just leave – that on Easter afternoon, as the disciples in Jerusalem are sharing the wild story of thundering angels and discarded burial clothes, at least two of them choose to just disappear. But that is exactly what this Gospel story describes: that these two disciples are unable to sit in their own unknowing. And so they run away, flee from the mystery, the miracle – maybe even from their faith. Knowing what we know about the resurrection, it seems like a strange decision; knowing what we know about human nature, it could not make more sense.

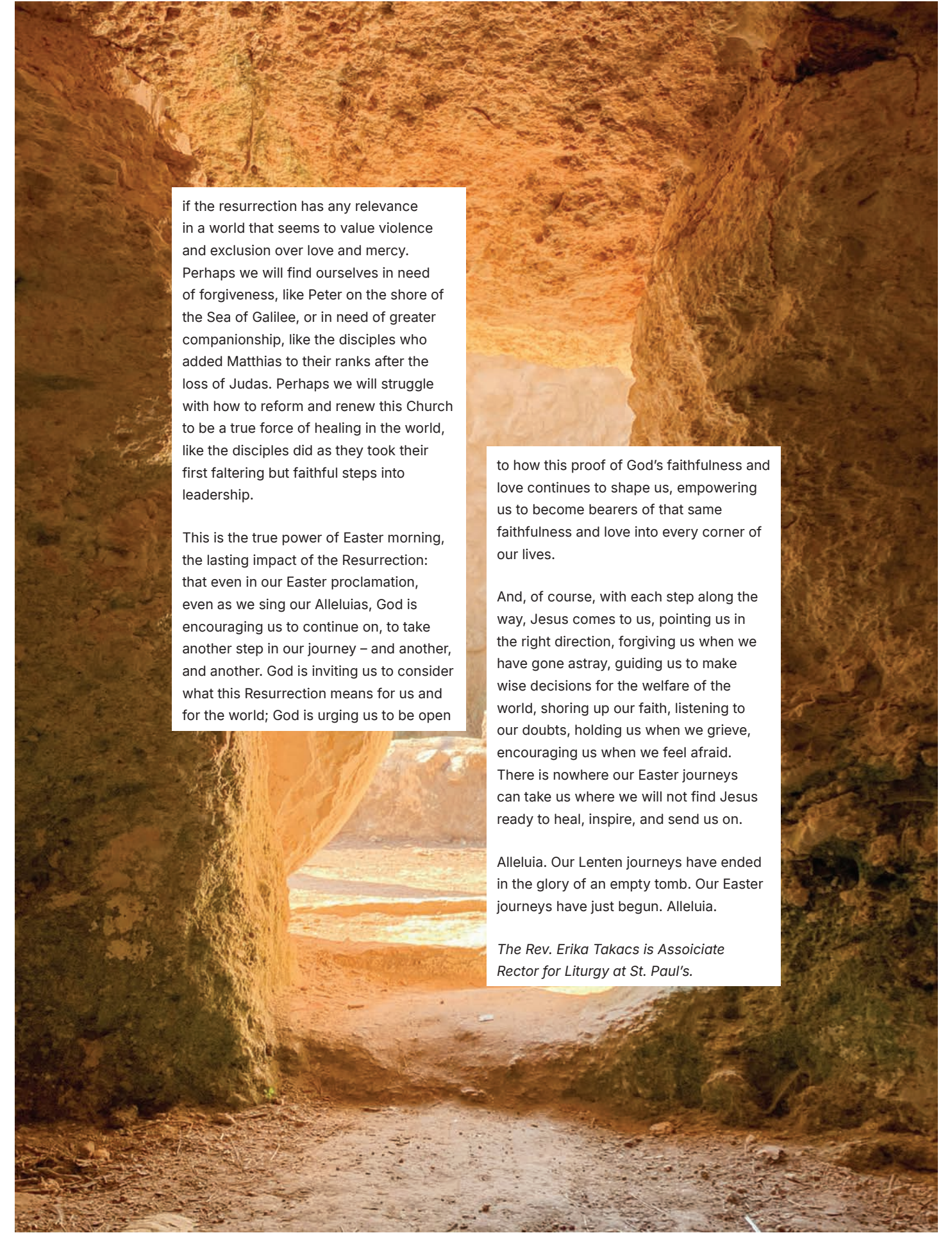
Of course, if you remember the story of the road to Emmaus, you remember that Jesus meets these two wayward disciples on the road. His resurrected body is changed, their hearts are frightened, and so they do not immediately recognize him. But when he blesses and breaks the bread, their eyes are

opened – they recognize the mystery of the Resurrection in the flesh and run back down the road to Jerusalem to share their story with the rest of the disciples.

This story seems to be inviting us to consider that as much as Easter rightfully feels like the culmination of a long season of waiting, the very thing the disciples have all been hoping for, it does not close the chapter on their formation. Easter morning does not resolve everything for the disciples once and for all; the stone rolled away from the tomb does not, in fact, prove to be the capstone for their journey as disciples of Jesus. Easter morning is not the end of the story. Even after the resurrection, there is still work for them – still work for God – to do.

Easter morning is not the end of the story for us, either. In our journey to and through the Day of Pentecost, God invites us into a journey of deepening faith, greater understanding, and braver love. The Resurrection we have been waiting for has real power to transform our lives – and that transformation does not stop when the fanfares of Easter morning fall silent. How could it, when we, like all disciples, are still so in need of that transformation? After all, at certain times in our lives it is possible that we too, will find ourselves at times heading in the wrong direction just like those two disciples, walking away from the revelation of God's love for the world. Perhaps we, too, will find ourselves unsure of our faith, like Thomas was that Easter morning, wondering

Continues on next page.



if the resurrection has any relevance in a world that seems to value violence and exclusion over love and mercy. Perhaps we will find ourselves in need of forgiveness, like Peter on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, or in need of greater companionship, like the disciples who added Matthias to their ranks after the loss of Judas. Perhaps we will struggle with how to reform and renew this Church to be a true force of healing in the world, like the disciples did as they took their first faltering but faithful steps into leadership.

This is the true power of Easter morning, the lasting impact of the Resurrection: that even in our Easter proclamation, even as we sing our Alleluias, God is encouraging us to continue on, to take another step in our journey – and another, and another. God is inviting us to consider what this Resurrection means for us and for the world; God is urging us to be open

to how this proof of God's faithfulness and love continues to shape us, empowering us to become bearers of that same faithfulness and love into every corner of our lives.

And, of course, with each step along the way, Jesus comes to us, pointing us in the right direction, forgiving us when we have gone astray, guiding us to make wise decisions for the welfare of the world, shoring up our faith, listening to our doubts, holding us when we grieve, encouraging us when we feel afraid. There is nowhere our Easter journeys can take us where we will not find Jesus ready to heal, inspire, and send us on.

Alleluia. Our Lenten journeys have ended in the glory of an empty tomb. Our Easter journeys have just begun. Alleluia.

The Rev. Erika Takacs is Associate Rector for Liturgy at St. Paul's.

Youth ministry is important more now than ever. For the past few years, I have noticed how much weight our youth accumulate — having to fulfill everything that is expected of them. What church does (and should do) is provide a space for its people to move out of their identity that is bound to expectation and move toward one that is inherited from our creator. To give this youth a space to reflect on what they have done and what is coming — on other words, a practice of presence. After all, this space is where we can witness the Holy Spirit reminding us of who we are. Here are two stories from youth and, while different, have many connecting threads. These two young persons reveal a level of earnestness and honesty that make me proud to be their youth minister. Why can they do this? Because they trust their church to hear what they have to say.

- **The Rev. Nick VanHorn**, Associate Rector and Dir. of Youth Ministries



My name is Josie Cabana and I am a Junior boarder at Salem Academy. I grew up in the Episcopal Church, attending service every week, and granted there was a bride of breakfast. this truly did start my love for the church and connection with God. I started to serve as an alter guild not long after turning 10, and from there I went on to join the order of St. Vincent. After middle school, I moved to a city with a low attendance and unwelcoming Episcopal church, causing a drop in my faith for two years. When I got the chance to attend Salem Academy, I wanted to take it as a chance to renew my faith as well. Upon moving to Winston Salem, I wanted to find myself in a church community again. It was a way to find a community away from school. I learned about St. Paul's from my grandmother who grew up in Winston and shared with me that my uncle had been baptized at St. Paul's. When I got connected with the youth ministry at St. Paul's, I truly did find a community. The youth ministry have allowed me to grow, not only as in individual, but also grow my connection with God.

- **Josie Cabana**

Stories of Resurrection



As a member of the St. Paul's Episcopal choristers, church has become a huge part of my life. Being part of the service makes me feel closer to my community and to God. Being part of an anxiety-ridden generation that is almost completely controlled by the media of today, I am glad to have the sense that I am part of something bigger. I am eternally grateful to have a kind and supportive community of diverse people. Being part of the St. Paul's Youth also gives me more to be involved in at church. It's amazing to have a place to go every Sunday night where I can have fun, laugh and pray.

- **Carly Schaub**



— Thank you to Carly (Left) and Josie (Right) for their contributions, seen here with Ellie Phillips



Holy Week & Easter

On this page

Thank you to everyone who made Holy Week and Easter so important this year. From the clergy, property and grounds staff, parishioners, and volunteers, this year's events were truly special.

Part Three

sent into the world



Pentecost & Mission

The Promise of Pentecost

by The Rev. Dixon Kinser

Pentecost is the fulfillment of a promise. In John's Gospel, Jesus promises his disciples that he will not leave them alone but send them a comforter. He says this comforter will be an advocate to remind them of what he taught, guide them into truth, and empower them in their mission. This promised one is the Holy Spirit, and the Spirit is the way God makes connections. The Holy Spirit connects the disciples to one another, to Jesus himself, and through Jesus, to the Father. It is on the day of Pentecost that this promise comes true.

But why this day? What about this particular moment made it the right occasion for the promises of God to be fulfilled? And is there something about the occasion that points to its purpose? Some of the answers to these questions lie in the feast's name: Pentecost.

The word Pentecost comes from the Greek word *pente*, which means fifty because Pentecost falls fifty days after Easter Sunday. However, this feast also maps onto a much older Jewish festival called Shavuot. Shavuot means "weeks" in Hebrew and was celebrated seven weeks after the spring holy day of Passover. The Feast of Weeks (as it was also known) commemorated YHWH's giving of the law at Mt. Saini and the moment God remade Israel as a new people. As such, the Feast of Weeks was both a pilgrim and a harvest festival. This means, first, that you had to travel to Jerusalem to celebrate it if you lived in the diaspora, and second, that part of keeping the feast was offering some of your harvest to God. That is why there were so many Jews who spoke different languages in Jerusalem on the day the Spirit came down on the apostles. They had come from all over the diaspora to make a harvest offering to God in observance of the Feast of Weeks

Such offerings ritualized a bigger part of what the law instructed Israel to do: care for the poor among them by sharing what they have (Lev 23:22, Deut 15:4-11). The character of God's people on earth is defined by generosity and compassion. It is part of how their life witnesses to who God is. Faithful worship of God was always connected to what you did with your belongings. When a harvest offering was brought to the priests, they also shared it with the poor.





Over time, the Feast of Weeks also took on an eschatological importance. It symbolized the way that God would one day draw not only the Jews but also all the nations to God just as had been promised to Abraham years before. Ultimately, the harvest of Pentecost would also be people.

This brings us back to the disciples receiving tongues of fire and communicating with people who spoke other languages. When the Holy Spirit descends on Jesus' friends, they begin communicating with all sorts of people that they never imagined they would be speaking to. Here, divine connection, and providence move into missional focus. First, we see that the Jesus message and his good news was for everyone in the world. Everyone everywhere- from Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the very ends of the earth – is invited to be part of God's work in Christ. And, second, we see that the Gospel is not information about Jesus, but instead, a community whose love for God and neighbor took concrete expression in shared what they had:

42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43 Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. 44 All the believers were

together and had everything in common. 45 They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need.

Which brings us to today. The Holy Spirit is still alive and active, bringing about God's purposes in our world, drawing us into and empowering us for that work. But where does one start? With all the needs in the world, how do you figure out what your contribution is supposed to be? The answer is wonderfully simple: start looking for the places where the Holy Spirit is already working and join that good work. Just like those first Jesus disciples, we receive the Holy Spirit, pay attention to the needs around us and then share what we have to meet those needs. All you require is what you already have.

Where have you noticed deep need in the world? Where have you seen work being done to meet that need? Where does the world's deepest needs meet your strongest gifts? These questions can help us pay attention to the Holy Spirit's movement. You may notice the work of the Spirit already happening in one of our outreach ministries, or it may be in our common life at St. Paul's. It could also be in your neighborhood or at your place of business. As Jesus says, the Spirit blows where it will, and there's no telling where the advocate's handiwork might turn up. So, may we live into the promise of Pentecost, pay attention, join the work of the Spirit where we find it, and trust the rest to God.





Love, Dignity and Detergent

by Laura Pallavicini

Wh

I'm pretty sure that if laundromats had been around in ancient times, Jesus and his disciples would have frequented them as often as possible. Stepping into a laundromat is an experience like none other. The hum of machines, the warmth of dryers and the smell of detergent is immediately comforting. Typically, there are folks sitting together, folding clothes and sharing conversation. Children tend to congregate and play while caretakers sit and rest. It's an instant community where no one necessarily knows the others' life stories but are simply sharing time together doing the most basic of chores.

There's something extremely humbling and human about doing laundry. Which is why, Laundry Love through St. Paul's Outreach, is such an impactful mission.

Laundry Love is a national program that began in 2003 in Portland, OR and quickly gained popularity around the nation. As stated in their description, "Laundry Love is a neighboring movement that partners with groups, schools and local laundromats to wash the clothes and bedding of low-income and/or no-income families and person(s). The Laundry Love initiative consists of regular opportunities to come alongside people who are struggling financially by

assisting them with their laundry. We see the laundromat as an inclusive and welcoming place where strangers become friends, people are known by name, hope is hustled, and the worth of every human being is acknowledged and celebrated."

Started locally in 2018 by the clergy and volunteers at St. Anne's Episcopal Church, the Episcopal Student Fellowship at Wake Forest University and St. Paul's; and aided by a Missionary Resource Support Team (MRST) seed grant of \$3,000 the program is one of only 2 in the state of North Carolina. There are over 30,000 locales in the US and over 100,000 people are served each year.

The third Tuesday of the month, volunteers from St. Paul's, St. Anne's and WFU gather to greet guests at the Wisly-Washy laundromat to provide free laundry as well as pizza, drinks, snacks and fellowship. We start with the question, "Can we pay for your laundry tonight?" and either get a huge smile and a "YES!" or a curious look of skepticism. If you haven't been to the laundromat recently, one load of wash in cold water is approximately \$9 and to dry that is close to \$1.50. For a family of four to do their laundry and bedding twice a month can cost as much as \$90 per visit. With the price of everything increasing, we believe that providing free

laundry and the comfort of clean clothes and bedding is one less thing our neighbors must worry over financially.

The stories we hear, and share are like those of any gathering. Parenting, work, money, relationships, faith, lack of faith, gossip, hairstyles, art, dreaming, education, and the list goes on. Single moms with children, single dads with children, whole families, grandparents, aunts, uncles, siblings and couples all come together for a few hours of community in a very unassuming space. Many people share their struggles in being unhoused or close to being unhoused. Many are working several jobs and trying to complete a degree or just trying to make ends meet. People are drawn to the community and companionship that Laundry Love offers. The evening ends as we offer a circle for anyone, in any language, to hold hands, share a prayer or a thanksgiving and then offer up the Lord's Prayer in closing. It's as close to the heart of Jesus as I can imagine.

No one is judging, everyone is vulnerable, and love is palpable. Love, dignity and detergent make an impact that reaches far beyond the laundromat.

Where is the Spirit leading us
Where

?

by Margie Hodgin

Today's world is suffering. We fear what's to come, as if ascending on a roller coaster, anticipating the white-knuckle descent on the other side. When the Holy Spirit descended during the festival of Pentecost, the Disciples were anxious about entering the world and building the Church without Jesus. Today's Christians have our mission to heal the broken world. Pentecost is a time for "What now?"

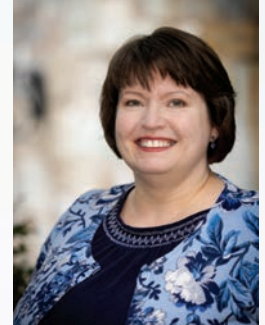
I asked several St. Paul's clergy and lay people: "Where is the Spirit leading us?" The answers varied, yet common themes appeared.

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The Rev. Nick VanHorn suggests our walk out of Pentecost is helped by practices carrying us through the ebb and flow of life. "Lent offers a theological practice of walking through hard seasons, which we all experience. Easter encompasses both death and joy. The disciples' experience at Pentecost gives a narrative to underpin our faith and equip us with hope. Resurrection words have continuously been used throughout the worst of history, so joy can inhabit even difficult times.

Discernment around freedom was on **Stacy Holley's** mind: "Pentecost feels reminiscent of the parting of the Red Sea - crossing through danger into a new reality of freedom. Stacy feels the Spirit calls us "as Pentecost people, triumphant and free, in a world seen crumbling around us." She refers to author Timothy Snyder's description of two kinds of freedom - FROM something we don't want (or want to be) or TOWARD choosing something good for our lives or the world. We can ask the Spirit to guide us toward positive freedom and what can come from that rather than looking back from where we came.



"A liminal space of holy transition" is where **Rebecca Gordon** finds herself in discernment for the priesthood. "I am trying to figure out our time vs. God's time. It's a faithful journey, and we must trust and lean on God. It's overwhelming to figure out which obstacles are from God or not, but retreating is a privilege that many don't have." For Rebecca, walking with Spirit means connections with the community "so we can learn where the needs are and grow in ways we need to grow. There is fertile ground for beauty, connection, and introspective relationship."

Life's overwhelm also concerns **The Rev. Erika Takacs**, who expressed a call to care for those living locally - performing small acts at first. She feels that following the Spirit falls into an action/contemplation paradigm that brings attention to the impact of sharing the love of Christ. "Spirit is comfort in turmoil. We are not the first to have difficult Christian lives. Jesus showed compassion for his disciples and himself, going alone to pray, contemplate, and listen to God. With joyful excitement, the Pentecost story gives us answers to hold onto hope and reminds us we are not alone. Spirit is Wisdom leading toward where we are needed."



Glenn Fleming witnesses "energy meeting energy" in his laity ministries - being present and connected to others. "It means walking together, hearing and valuing opinions, meeting each other where we are." Following the Holy Spirit feels to Glenn like "people gathered around the Holy Table - together in God's likeness, reaching out to someone else who may not necessarily need help walking in the dark, but would rather not do it alone."



Discernment, Community, Presence, and Faith in our shared stories are summed up well by **Reverend Nancy Vaders**: "The spirit calls us to walk toward people in love, rather than to pull them to where we think they need to be, by following Christ's model of walking toward suffering to a different story of redemption and reconciliation. Acts of faith are deciding to take small steps toward healing, listening, and praying differently, which is risky. The Spirit is not always comfortable or safe. But you can be scared and faithful simultaneously, just as Christ's anguish in the garden of Gethsemane exists in the same story as the Resurrection. God is calling the church, and it is our time to be reminded that God's love guides us, not always where we want to go, but where we are needed.



What would it mean for you to live into Pentecost?

Part Four

Walking together



Life at St. Paul's

together at St. Paul's

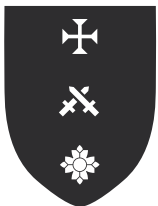


Above Top Left
Parishioners make Palm
Crosses for Palm Sunday

Above Top Right
Senior Adult group trip to
explore Senior Housing

Above Left
Chamber music concert in
the Colhoun Room

Above Right
A scene from the Easter Vigil



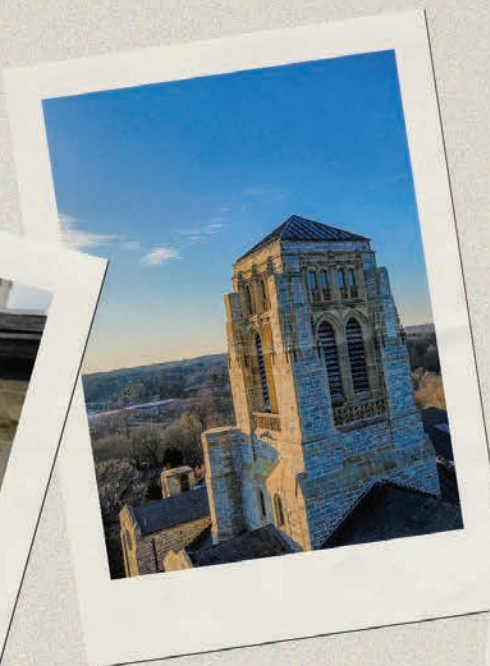
Above Three Photos
Scenes from this year's
Pancake Supper on Shrove
Tuesday.



—
Left
A day of service following
the Annual Meeting.



—
Above Left
Making brunswick stew for
superbowl sunday.
Above Right
Announcements during
Easter
Left
Another scene from the
Easter Vigil



Finding Your Place: *Serving, Learning, and Growing at St. Paul's*

by Kate Reece

I've long thought that one of the best things about our church is the endless amounts of ways you can be involved. St Paul's has many committees and groups of people doing all sorts of fun things. You can truly do just about anything- arrange the flowers, teach Sunday School, help with the finances, manage the library, welcome newcomers. On every committee I've been a part of, there are both experts and beginners, and a really beautiful mix of teaching and learning takes place.

If you've been lucky enough to watch Betty Butler arrange flowers, listen in on children's chapel when Roger Echols is teaching, or sit in a finance meeting with Jackie Piscetelli – then you've seen some of our many experts in action. It's fun and rewarding to learn from these folks (and many others!) in the work that they do around St Paul's each week.

Last year my husband Mark and I were asked to join one group that, at the time, seemed a bit out of our comfort zone. When Sally and Ricky Shore called to ask us if we would consider the Stewardship Committee, if I'm being very honest, our "yes" was more hesitant than I care to admit. While I have worked in nonprofits before, I can't say that asking others for money puts me at ease, and we are certainly not experts. But, after prayerful consideration, we felt like this might be an area that would allow us to serve our Parish in an important way, so we dove in.

Serving on the Stewardship Committee has challenged me to dig deeper into our church's financial picture, understand better the breadth and depth of what we're doing across our church, think strategically about how to communicate that vision to the Parish as a whole, and ask others to support that work.

Reflecting back on the time we've been on this committee, I am so thankful for this opportunity to serve our church. The Stewardship Committee has helped me to better understand how St Paul's runs and works, and has challenged me to open up with others about how important supporting our church financially is. Mark's gotten a better understanding of how important the stewardship communications are, and I have a better understanding of what goes into those reports. It's instilled in us both a deep appreciation for those who quietly and consistently give to St Paul's and encouraged us to do the same.

The intersection of faith and philanthropy makes for a deeply personal choice about how and when to give, and it's humbling to be able to serve that work. Our appreciation of what it takes for this special place to do all of the wonderful things that it does has grown tremendously, and we've made wonderful friendships along the way.

Happy 150th, St. Paul's!

By Heather Bratland and Gwynne Taylor, Co-Chairs, St. Paul's 150th Celebration

“What season of the church year at St. Paul's is your favorite?” Dixon asked at a meeting last spring. We were gathered to brainstorm how to celebrate St. Paul's 150th anniversary in 2026.

“Easter!” “Advent!” “Christmas!” “Lent!” — the responses spanned nearly every season. At another meeting, Dixon asked about favorite services: “Easter Vigil!” “Feast of Lights!” “Christmas Lessons and Carols!” “Christmas Eve!” The list went on.

St. Paul's is truly “A House of Prayer for All People,” offering inspiration through art, architecture, worship, music, intergenerational programs, and outreach. But above all, it's us — the people of St. Paul's, past and present — who reflect God's love and keep our parish vibrant and connected to the community.

Dixon often says, “Welcome to St. Paul's! This is who we are: we are a community of people who believe that God is healing the world.” Inspired by this, we've chosen “We Are St. Paul's!” as the theme for our 150th celebration.

In a meaningful parallel, St. Paul's 150th coincides with America's 250th. Just as we reflect on our identity and responsibilities as citizens, we'll also explore what it means to be God's people — inheritors and stewards of a sacred tradition in this place.

We'll ask: Where are we proud of our legacy? What challenges have we overcome? How will we be remembered 150 years from now? How do our building, liturgy, and music reflect our values? How do our actions in the world witness to God's love?

Whether you're new or your family has worshiped here since 1876, we invite you to celebrate every “season” with us.

The celebration kicks off in January 2026 with the Feast of Lights. Our 150th Festival Weekend — May 15–17, 2026 — will include special services, guest speakers, and parish-wide activities. Throughout the year, you'll see historical exhibits, enjoy special programs, and even help create a new St. Paul's history book. Our Tower Room Archives team is ready to help!

You'll also be invited to record a short video sharing what “We Are St. Paul's!” means to you. Please share photos or memorabilia that highlight St. Paul's role in your life and family history.

Children and youth will take part in special activities all year. A major outreach project will honor St. Paul's historical impact on our community. And of course, you can expect 150th anniversary swag!

Above all, this anniversary is a bridge to the future. What do we hope St. Paul's will be in the year 2176?

Committee Contacts

Join us to make 2026 unforgettable! Visit the 150th Celebration table at the Parish Fair on August 25.

Co-Chairs: Gwynne Taylor
gwynne.taylor@icloud.com
Heather Bratland hmassler@gmail.com

150th Festival Weekend: Peggy Slater
peggyplater@gmail.com

Special Exhibitions & Programs: Katherine Watts
katherinewatts@salem.edu

Outreach Projects: Ruth Prongay
ruth.prongay@bhhs Carolinas.com

Celebrations for Children & Youth: Kelly Gould
kellyecgould@gmail.com
Dave Crass david.crass@gmail.com

“Bridge” Committee: Ed Colhoun
ecolhoun@jtstratford.com

150th Swag: Heather Zifchak
mheatherm@yahoo.com

Highlights:

Upcoming events at St. Paul's

The offerings listed here include just a small highlight of some of the upcoming events at St. Paul's. From formation to small groups, from worship services to bible studies, from fellowship gatherings to outreach opportunities, there are many powerful ways for you to connect with your community.

To learn more, you can always visit the St. Paul's website at www.stpauls.ws.org. You can also sign up for email notifications by scanning the QR code on the next page.

Outreach Offerings: This Summer

We're excited to host another great year of **Summer Enrichment** for children in the community. Jun 23 to Jul 18 the church will be filled with the joy of summer! **Summer Enrichment Sunday**, Jul 13 will celebrate the accomplishments of students and the incredible staff who make it all work. Stay tuned for opportunities to support campers, field trips, lunch outings and supplies beginning Jun 9.

New for 2025: Laundry Love has expanded to serving our neighbors through the summer. Join us May 20, Jun 17, Jul 15 and Aug 19 at the Wishy Washy for love, laundry and community.

Senior Lunch Jun 18 speaker will be Summer Enrichment Director, Aliessa Oakes and will include an opportunity to meet the counselors for the Summer Enrichment session and hear about the plans for the 2025 season.

Meals for Center of Hope will continue a twice a month schedule for the summer. Upcoming dates include May 14 and 28, Jun 4 and 25, Jul 3 and 17.

Aug 1-31, **Blanket our Neighbors** with LOVE! During the hottest month of the year, we'll be collecting new and gently used blankets to help stock the shelves of neighboring shelters and closets with blankets that will be needed for the coldest months of the year.

Children, Youth, and Families at St. Paul's

The youth of St. Paul's have a lot happening this summer! All youth are invited to make a **lip sync video** (under 3 minutes) with their favorite songs. We will then have a premiere on May 18 and the church will vote for this year's champion! Deadline is Wed, May 14. Youth Grade 8+ are invited to participate in our **youth trip to Florida** from Jul 13-18. Cost is \$550 BUT youth are currently fundraising and the goal is to raise enough to pay for everyone.

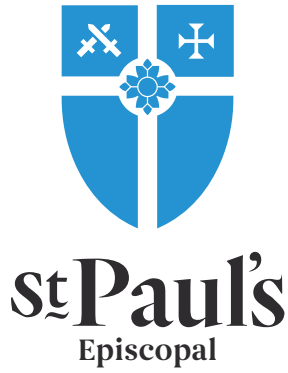
Highlights for Children and Families include:

- Jun 1: Children's Chapel at 10 AM
- Jun 8: Pentecost-wear Red!!
Children's Chapel at 10:00am with planting Pentecost Garden
Parish Picnic at 11:15am
- Jun 16-18: Vacation Bible School 9 AM-Noon
- Jun 20: Vacation Bible School 9 AM-Noon
- Jun 22: Children's Chapel at 10 AM -Camp Firelight themed
- Jun 29: Superhero Sunday! Wear a super hero outfit.
Children's Chapel at 10 AM
Popsicles on Playground at 11:15 AM

Additional Highlights

St. Paul's at Winston-Salem Pride: St. Paul's will have a booth at Winston-Salem Pride on Jun 14! If you are interested in volunteering to help, please contact Jason Franklin at jfranklin@stpauls-ws.org. In preparation for pride, everyone is invited to "**Embracing Diversity: The Episcopal Church and LGBTQ+ Inclusion**," on Sun, May 18 from 2 to 3 PM at the Station.

Dash Baseball Parish Outing: Join us on Friday evening, Jun 20, at 6:30 PM for St. Paul's night at the Dash for parishioners and staff. We'll have seating together and there will be fireworks after the game. Tickets are \$12. Email Betsy Reiners for information and tickets at breiners@stpauls-ws.org.



About St. Paul's:

Faith in action, boundless love, hope for all.

St. Paul's is a vibrant and welcoming parish in the heart of downtown Winston-Salem. Grounded in the grace of God and guided by the love of Christ, we come together in worship, formation, and community so that we may go out to serve. With a rich history and a deep commitment to the present, St. Paul's offers both sanctuary and challenge—a place to grow in faith, to be transformed, and to share God's light in the world. Rooted in love, we are called to live with compassion and purpose, **radically loving our neighbors** in all we do.

Currently, St. Paul's has many ways to worship, both in-person and online. Our regular Sunday service times until Memorial Day are 7:30 am (Spoken, Rite 1), 9 am (Rite 2), 11:15 am (Rite 2), and 5 pm (Rite 2 or Evensong). During the summer, we worship in person at 8 AM (Rite 1), 10 AM (Rite 2), and 5 PM (Rite 2) with the 10 AM service also livestreamed.

VISIT US

520 Summit St.
Winston-Salem, N.C. 27101

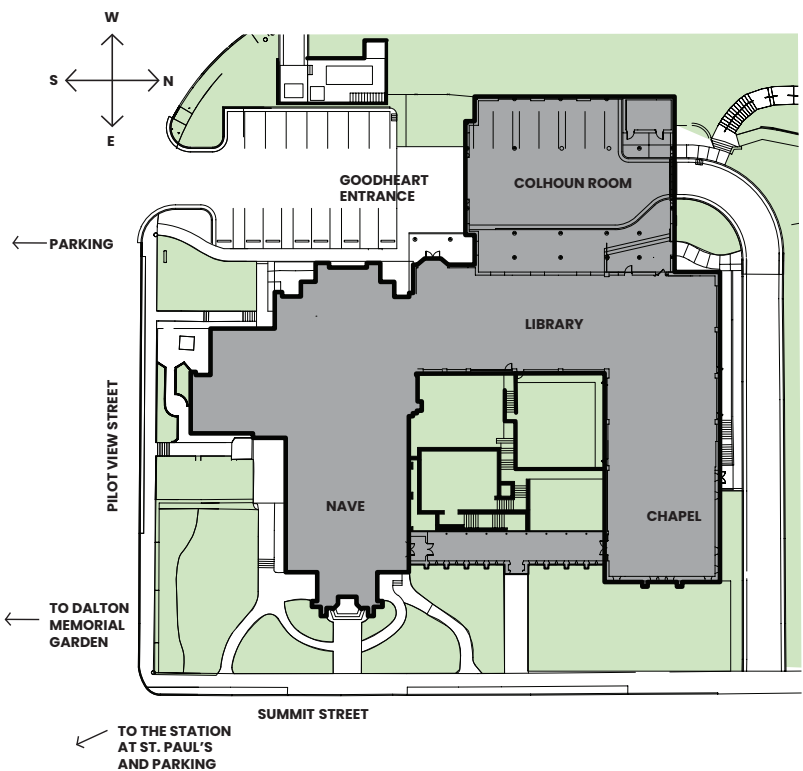
CONTACT US

Phone: 336-723-4391
Web: stpaulswns.org
Email Sign-up: scan the code or visit link.stpaulswns.org/emails



SOCIAL MEDIA

[/stpaulswinstonsalem](https://www.instagram.com/stpaulswinstonsalem)



Transitions at St. Paul's

January 1, 2025 to April 28, 2025

Births

Elizabeth Bobbi Beckham, Jan 13, 2025,
granddaughter of Chris Lyon

Carter Chappell Allen, Feb 12, 2025,
*daughter of John and Caroline Allen,
granddaughter of Warren and Elizabeth Allen*

Baptisms

Robert Bruce Calder, Jan 12, 2025, *son of
Sallie and Stewart Calder*

William Patrick Grantham, Jan 12, 2025, *son
of Mary and Will Grantham*

Arabelle Anderson Parker, Jan 12, 2025,
daughter of Caroline and Harrison Parker

Katherine Florence Benson, Feb 16, 2025,
*daughter of Austin Ferguson and Zack
Benson*

James Owen Zackeru, Feb 16, 2025, *son of
Erica and Jeff Zackeru*

Estelle Maya Pearce, Apr 19, 2025, *daughter
of Beatrix Hutton and Calvin Pearce*

Levi Wallace Crowley, Apr 19, 2025, *son of
Loring and Casey Crowley*

Conrad Timothy Crowley, Apr 19, 2025, *son
of Loring and Casey Crowley*

Marriages

Callie Stanek and Nathan Wilsey,
March 1, 2025

Caroline Merrick and Ryan Nicholas,
March 15, 2025

New Members

**Austin Ferguson and Zack Benson, and
daughter, Kay**

**Loring and Casey Crowley, and children
Conrad and Levi**

**Ashley and Anthony Peters, and children
Charlotte, James and Luke**

Suzanne and Norman Veasey

Anne Litton White

Kelly and Don Leads

Deaths

William Frank Moser, Jan 5, 2025, *brother of
Bob Moser and Barbara Safrin*

James Burnitt Bealle Jr. Jan 9, 2025

Jean Watkins, Jan 9, 2025, *grandmother of
Whitney Simpson and great grandmother of
Ellen Fuller*

Art Weber, Jan 27, 2025, *husband of Dannie
Weber and father of Jody Shaw Weber*

Janice Philipp, Feb 5, 2025

Nancy Glaize, Feb 11, 2025, *grandmother of
Anna Grace Glaize*

Lou Prongay, Feb 13, 2025, *mother of Peggy
Slater, Ruth, Barbara and David Prongay*

Alexander Galloway, Feb 14, 2025, *husband
of Barbara Galloway*

Richard Thomas Vernon, Jr., Feb 23, 2025,
*husband of Ann Vernon, father of Kathryn
and Matt Vernon*

Virginia Ewing, Mar 1, 2025

Barbara Lewis Prongay, Mar 5, 2025, *sister
of Peggy Prongay Slater and Ruth Prongay*

The Transitions List is maintained by the St. Paul's Membership Coordinator. If you have a question or wish to report a correction, contact Betsy Reiners at breiners@stpauls-ws.org or 336-723-4391, ext. 1219.

Barry Poe, Mar 14, 2025

Robert Cass, Mar 15, 2025, *father of
Elizabeth Stafford*

Jean Grogan, Mar 17, 2025, *mother in law of
Saundra Grogan*

Errol Clauss, Mar 25, 2025, *father of Lorre
Ruffin*

Diane Bachman, Mar 26, 2025, *sister of Don
Leeds*

Ann Skok, Mar 26, 2025, *mother of Lilly
Bunch*

Marjory Joan Roth, Mar 28, 2025, *wife of
Tom Roth*

Rosalind Sheppard Willis, Mar 29, 2025,
sister of Mildred Payden

Mary Rode Kerr, Mar 31, 2025

Sam Robinson, Apr 5, 2025, *brother of
Nancy Robinson*

Dorothy Fisher, Apr 19, 2025, *grandmother
of Megan Marshall Wicker*

Susanne "Dannie" Weber, Apr 24, 2025,
mother of Jody, Weber Shaw

Cheerful Giving! What If?

Thank You for Your Generosity!

We are deeply grateful to all who have made a pledge to this year's **Cheerful Giving! What If?** campaign. Your commitment sustains the life and ministry of St. Paul's and helps us dream boldly about what's possible.

Your gift makes a difference—thank you!

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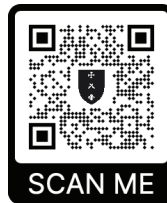
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Thank you, additionally, to all of our donors who indicated that they wish to remain anonymous.

If you would like to pledge to this year's stewardship campaign and have not, it is not too late! You can call or email Victoria Bass, Director of Stewardship with questions at vbass@stpauls-ws.org or 336-724-4391 ext. 1210.

Please forgive any misspellings or unintentional omissions and let us know so that we can make any corrections. Note that this list reflects those that have pledged on or before January 31, 2025.



Giving at St. Paul's

Your generosity sustains **St. Paul's ministries, programs, and outreach**, helping us live out our mission of **faith, love, and service**.

To make a pledge payment or set up recurring giving, scan the QR code. Thank you for supporting this community we all love!

a blessing for the journey

First: that you will notice the road
already beneath your feet. That though
you may feel you have yet to begin,

or that you are immovable, mired
in all your unknowing, you will look
and find the path arranged happily

under your shoes, rolling along
to the edge of all things. Then:
that you will know God

is not at the end of this road,
watching as you slide into ditches
and pant over rocky crags. Blessed

are you when you believe
there is no step along the way
God does not take with you.

By The Rev. Erika Takacs



Parish Life is published by:
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
520 Summit St.
Winston-Salem, NC 27101-1195

Coming Soon

Let your artist heart shine for St. Paul's! The ECW presents its **first art sale fundraiser**, "ArtReach."

We are in search of artists and volunteers within our parish! Artists are encouraged to donate original or estate pieces of any art medium.

Mark your calendars for September 6, 2025, from 5 to 8 PM. Tickets will be sold at the door for \$10. ArtReach proceeds will fund our Outreach ministry programs.

We ask all submissions to be delivered by 9/4/2025 to the church. Please contact Kabler Meyer (kabler.meyer@gmail.com or 336-413-9007) or Anna Geras (annatgeras@gmail.com or 336-341-0065) with any questions, artist names or talents to share.

SEPTEMBER 6, 2025

artREACH

