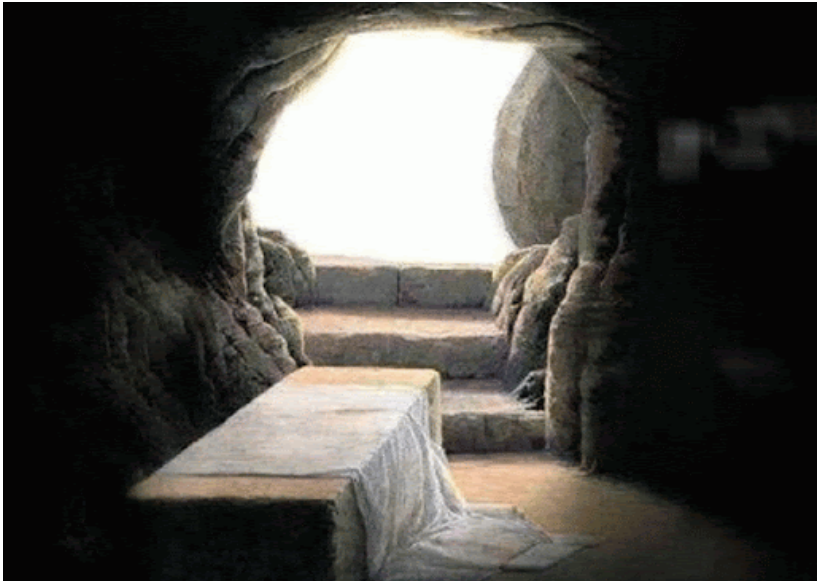




APRIL 2026



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY

*The mission of the Church of the Epiphany is to offer a home to all
those who are seeking God's unconditional love.*



From the Vicar

I received the following letter via the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast the Tuesday before Holy Week 2026 began. I believe it is appropriate that as the Church enters the season of Resurrection, we hear this message from the House of Bishops of the Episcopal Church.
Peace be with you, Father David+

A Pastoral Word from the March 2026 gathering from the House of Bishops

Dear people of God:

Grace and peace to you in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Introduction

The bishops of The Episcopal Church gathered from March 17-24 at Camp Allen Conference Center in Navasota, Texas. Our gathering included 122 bishops and bishops-elect, representing 89 dioceses and special ministries across 17 countries and territories. As we conclude our meeting, we give thanks for the mutual affection and fruitful collaboration we experience during our time together, and we renew our commitment to bear witness with clarity and unity to the transforming power of the Gospel.

Reflections from our meeting

Our gathering was focused primarily on the challenges and opportunities before us as a church. We welcomed 12 representatives from Episcopal seminaries and local formation programs to engage in thoughtful dialogue about the state of theological education and our need to better integrate traditional and innovative modes of discernment, recruitment, and training for future clergy and lay leaders. We explored possibilities for expanding the work of church planting and the redevelopment of existing congregations. We reflected on our relationships within the Anglican Communion, including discussion of [The Nairobi-Cairo Proposals](#) and expressed our concerns regarding the urgency to change the definitions and structures of the communion. We rejoiced in the election of the Rt. Rev. Alba Sally Sue Hernandez Garcia as primate of the Anglican Church of Mexico. Finally, we issued a courtesy resolution celebrating the installation of the Most Rev. and Rt. Hon. Dame Sarah Mullally as the 106th archbishop of Canterbury.

While engaged in this important work for the church, we gathered each day to pray for the church and the world. We prayed for a swift conclusion to the armed conflict with Iran; the wars in Ukraine, Sudan, and Myanmar;

and all hostilities across the globe. We prayed for peace in the Holy Land, for Archbishop Hosam Naoum, the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East, and for all those living in the reality of violence in that region. We prayed for healing and reconciliation among the nations of the world, that there may be justice and peace on the Earth. We prayed for those who are victims of injustice and discrimination, terror and war, and the pervasive degradation of human dignity. We prayed for strength and courage to continue the robust and tangible response in our respective dioceses to the myriad and varied challenges before us. And yet, in the face of these challenges, we are not without hope.

A word of hope

We find our hope in God's promises as made known to us in the words and actions of Jesus Christ. Christian hope is the sure and present confidence, grounded in the resurrection of Jesus, that suffering is not the end. Hope is the stubborn trust that God is not finished. Even in the shadow of the cross, God is already at work, bringing life out of death.

This promise of hope is central to the story of the raising of Lazarus (John 11:1-45). Jesus stands before the tomb of his friend, surrounded by grief and despair, and a community aching for his intervention. It is precisely in the moment when all hope seems lost that Jesus speaks the Word of life. There is hope because "even in death, Lazarus has access to the voice of life." Jesus, the Word of God, commands Lazarus to "come forth," and that same divine Word immediately calls the gathered community to "unbind him and let him go."

In our present moment, in a world ravaged by war and the degradation of human dignity, Jesus is still speaking the Word of life. There is hope in this moment, because even in the face of grief, death, and despair, we have access to the voice of life—the voice of the One who calls us to participate in the Gospel mission of unbinding those who are held captive by the bonds of injustice and ensnared by the cords of corruption and oppression. We do not raise the dead; God alone does that. But we are summoned into the tender, deliberate work of unbinding, of participating in resurrection by loosening the grave clothes that still cling.

It is in this hope, as those who have received life and heard the voice of life, that we go forth in faith to bear witness to the resurrection, to unbind what is still bound, and to trust in Christ's promise to make all things new.

As we prepare to celebrate the Paschal feast, with the hope of the resurrection ever before us, may the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit.



UPCOMING EVENTS In The DIOCESE

In Montgomery, we will visit the National Memorial, the Legacy Museum, and the Sculpture Garden.

Check the Bulletin Board for further details.

Pilgrimage to **EQUAL JUSTICE INITIATIVE** National Memorial for Peace and Justice and Legacy Museum Saturday, April 18, 2026

We will travel by chartered bus, leaving from Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church, 902 Daphne Ave. Daphne, AL 36526, at 6:45 a.m. and returning by approximately 6:30 p.m. Pack a lunch, snacks, and drinks. Dress comfortably for predicated weather and wear comfortable walking shoes.

Sponsored by



Cost: \$20 per person
Covers transportation
and admission to the sites.

Questions?
Contact Jill
Showers Chow
251-648-0817
jshowers@southalabama.edu

To register:
<https://tinyurl.com/bdmn2j8a>
or use QR code to the right



Apr 19 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Light Party Join us on the Coors Deck at the Blue Wahoos Stadium for a fun evening of baseball and Episcopal fellowship as the Pensacola Blue Wahoos take on the Knoxville Smokies! Wear your Episcopal church gear! Tickets are \$22, must be purchased in advance and covers entry into the game, food buffet, and beverage. See bulletin board for more details.

Worship in the Woods

A DIOCESAN-WIDE GATHERING

SUNDAY
APRIL 26
2:30 PM TO 5 PM
**SALOON PROPERTIES
TREE FARM**
2835 Bookers Mill Rd
Evergreen, AL
36401

Celebrating in God's Creation

Join us to walk the Stations of the Resurrection, celebrate the Eucharist in the Chapel of Divine Creation, and enjoy a shared meal provided by our hosts.

Wear closed-toe shoes and bring your water bottle or favorite beverage.



Sponsored by
Consecration 14 Churches
St. Mary's, Andalusia
Trinity, Alabama
St. Stephen's, Brenton
Nativity, Dothan
Epiphany, Enterprise
St. James, Gadsden
St. Thomas, Greenville
St. Peter's, Jackson
St. John's, Mendenhall
St. Michael's, Ozark
St. Anna's, Peach
St. Mark's, Troy

Beckwith Camp & Conference Center, 10400 Beckwith Ln, Fairhope, AL

All are invited to attend the 10:30 am Service, 12:00 pm Cookout and pool party.

Please RSVP to Rhona@BeckwithAL.com to confirm your attendance.

Join us for a
Beckwith Sunday Celebration
at Beckwith
for the consecration of the new
swimming pool
April 26th • 10:30 am – 3:00 pm
Holy Eucharist 10:30 am
Cookout & Pool Party 12:00 pm

Faith and Consequences

On March 18 at our Lenten Soup and Speaker program, we heard from our own Melanie East. She shared with us her perspective and research about what faith does in our life, and what the consequences may be. She pointed out that most of us may think of the consequences as negative. She went on to say we should think of this as to its importance, significance, or weight of it.

She then shared an article published by Don, from the website walkingwithchrist.net which connects with several bible verses. The first, 2 Timothy 3:12 - "Indeed, all who want to live a godly life in Christ will be persecuted." It isn't enough to simply acknowledge that God exists and that Jesus is all that the bible claims. Living a godly life "in Christ Jesus" requires faith. But what are the consequences of having such faith? Timothy points out, we will be persecuted.

What else is a consequence of deep unshakeable faith? Faith is defined in Hebrews 11:1 "Now faith is the assurance, conviction or confidence in things hoped for and the certainty of things not seen."

Eternal Rewards - Matthew 25:34 "you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." The righteous will inherit the kingdom prepared for them.

Salvation and Eternal Life - John 3:16 "everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life."

Obedience and Good Works - Faith leads to good works. James 2:17 teaches that one cannot exist with the other. If good works is missing, it is a sign that faith is either dead or in danger.

Transformation and Sanctification - 2 Corinthians 5:17 "So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away, see, everything has become new!" The transformation process from old to new is called sanctification. This is an ongoing work by the Holy Spirit that aligns every part of our lives with the image of Christ.

Empowerment by the Holy Spirit - The Holy Spirit living in us will work through us to spread the Gospel. Every interaction can be a work of the Holy Spirit for the Kingdom.

Perseverance through Trials - James 1:2-4 teaches, every trial serves to strengthen us. Faith doesn't remove trials it provides strength to endure them.

Community and Fellowship - We know we are not alone. Acts 2:42 teaches we are part of the larger body of Christ. We are a community that loves and supports each other.

Justification and Righteousness - Romans 5:1 says we are justified by our faith. We are declared righteous before God because of Christ.

Hope and Assurance - Hebrew 11:1 shows us that our faith is the root of our trust in God and His ultimate plan.

Peace with God - True peace is to release control to God knowing that He is truly in control and all will be ultimately be well.

Love and Compassion - Galatians 5:6 shows us that genuine faith manifests in love—love for God and for others.

The Parable of the Mustard Seed (Matthew 13:31-32)

The parable of the Mustard Seed is a simple story that illustrates a deeper moral or spiritual, instructional lesson. You may remember how Jesus told his disciples this smallest of all seeds when planted it grows into the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree. It reminds us how something small can grow into something significant, such as the Church and our faith.

Faith is not a burden but a gift for us to share and continue to cultivate. We should have faith to see the significance in the insignificant. At this time Melanie introduced a small project for us. She had some mustard seeds, small Viles with a cork and necklace to string it on. When we wear them hopefully people will ask about it so we can tell them the story and our experiences perhaps drawing them Christ.

March Property & Maintenance Report

Projects Completed

- ◆ Quotes have been received for the installation of a fence at the back of the property, as well as for lighting the sign in front and to fill in the area between the 2 handicap pads.
- ◆ Handicap signs have been installed for the new handicap pad.
- ◆ The parking bumpers on the new handicap have been pressure washed are ready for painting.

In Work

- ◆ The sturdier handrails for the handicap ramp and front steps is awaiting quotes for the work.
- ◆ The new doors on St. Joseph Hall and the Garage Shed need painting.
- ◆ The kneelers in the choir pews need repair.
- ◆ Three church pews need the seats reupholstered.
- ◆ The new handicap pad needs to have the bumpers and lines painted..
- ◆ The security lights on the church and St. Joseph's Hall are inoperable.
- ◆ FPL is scheduled to do an audit and replace one of the meters.

If you would like to assist on a project, or know of something else that needs attention, please let me know.

- Maurice Phillips, Property Chair

EPIPHANY'S

BIRTHDAYS



Jordin Robinson Apr 3rd

and

ANNIVERSARIES



None reported this month



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

April 2 - Maundy Thursday

5:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist and foot washing

April 3 - Good Friday

12:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist

5:30 p.m. Stations of the Cross

April 5 - Easter Sunday

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist followed by Potluck Lunch

April 12 - The Second Sunday of Easter

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist followed by Vestry Meeting

April 19 - The Third Sunday of Easter

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist followed by Healing Service

April 26 - The Fourth Sunday of Easter

10:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist followed by Healing Sounds, St Joseph Hall



LECTOR SCHEDULE

April 2 - Maundy Thursday

1st Reading - Ginny Bauer

2nd Reading - Cathy Clothier

April 3 - Good Friday

1st Reading - Sharon Lundy

2nd Reading -

April 5 - Easter Sunday

1st Reading - Flo Procino

2nd Reading - Kat Ivanov

April 12 - The Second Sunday of Easter

1st Reading - Megan Belliveau

2nd Reading -

April 19 - The Third Sunday of Easter

1st Reading - Ginny Bauer

2nd Reading -

April 26 - The Fourth Sunday of Easter

1st Reading -

2nd Reading -

EASTER

Easter is the feast of Christ's resurrection. According to Bede, the word derives from the Anglo-Saxon spring goddess Eostre. Christians in England applied the word to the principal festival of the church year, both day and season. Easter Day is the annual feast of the resurrection, the pascha or Christian Passover, and the eighth day of cosmic creation. Faith in Jesus' resurrection on the Sunday or third day following his crucifixion is at the heart of Christian belief. Easter sets the experience of springtime next to the ancient stories of deliverance and the proclamation of the risen Christ. In the west, Easter occurs on the first Sunday after the full moon on or after the vernal equinox. Easter always falls between Mar. 22 and Apr. 25 inclusive. Following Jewish custom, the feast begins at sunset on Easter Eve with the Great Vigil of Easter. The Eastern Orthodox Church celebrates Easter on the first Sunday after the Jewish pesach or Passover (which follows the spring full moon). Although the two dates sometimes coincide, the eastern date is often one or more weeks later.

The Great Fifty Days.

The feast of Easter is a season of fifty days, from Easter Eve through the Day of Pentecost. From early times the Greek word pentecost (fiftieth day) was used also for the whole Paschal season. During this season there is no fasting. The Council of Nicaea (325) directed that Christians are to pray standing. The word "alleluia" (praise the Lord) is said or sung repeatedly, which contrasts sharply with the season of Lent when the alleluia is omitted. The color of liturgical vestments and hangings is white or gold. The Book of Common Prayer notes that it is customary for the Paschal candle to burn at all services of the Easter season. The "Alleluia, alleluia" may be added to the dismissals and their responses during the Great Fifty Days. The traditional Christian Easter greeting is: "The Lord has risen indeed!" (Luke 24:34). It serves as the opening acclamation at the eucharist during the Easter season.

*<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/glossary>**<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/glossary>*

Symbols of the Paschal Candle



The Paschal candle is a large, decorated candle that symbolizes the light of Christ. It is used in the Episcopal Church in the following ways:

- Carried by the celebrant if there is no deacon.
- Lighted at the Easter Vigil, and at all services during the season of Easter.
- Its flame may be used to light candles held by members of the congregation, symbolizing the spreading of the light of Christ into the congregation and the world.
- Burning as the service begins during Easter season.
- Borne by the deacon or celebrant and leads the congregation in procession to the chancel at the Easter Vigil.

The origin of the Paschal candle is uncertain, but it is believed to have derived from the Lucernarium, the evening office with which early Christians began the vigil for every Sunday and especially that of Easter. This rite is probably inspired by the Jewish custom of lighting a lamp at the conclusion of the Sabbath. Most theologians tie the Paschal candle to the Jewish tradition of lighting a candle at the end of Sabbath, so the foundation of the practice was in place during the birth of Christianity.

Lucernarium is the singular form and Lucernaria the plural of the Latin word for “light.” In the Book of Occasional Services and The Hymnal 1982 (S 305-S 320 in the Accompaniment Edition, Vol. 1), the term is used for the optional anthems which may be sung during the lighting of candles in the Order of Worship for the Evening (Book of Common Prayer, p. 109). These anthems, which vary with the season, were used at the lighting of the evening light in old Gallican liturgies.

www/episcopalchurch.org



EPIPHANY'S FAVORITE RECIPES

Jambalaya Soup

by Pat Shew

Ingredients:

- 1 broiler or fryer Chicken, shredded
- 3 Onions, chopped
- 1 Carrot, sliced
- 1 clove Garlic, minced
- ½ tsp dried Oregano
- ½ tsp dried Basil
- 1 tsp Salt
- ⅛ tsp Black Pepper
- 1 14oz. can Tomatoes, diced
- 1 lb. raw Shrimp, shelled and deveined
- 2 cups Rice, cooked



Directions:

1. In a crockpot, combine the chicken with the onions, carrots, garlic, oregano, basil, salt, pepper and tomatoes.
2. Cover and cook on low for four to five hours.
3. Add the shrimp to the pot and cook for about 30 minutes or until the shrimp is done.
4. Cook the rice separately and serve on the side.

Please remember in your prayers:

Addice Thomas, Addison Hendrix, Amelia Gorman,
Amy & Anthony Lehatto, Barbara Procino, Betty Schwartzkopf,
Bill Jones, Brenda Faulkner, Buni O'Brien, Carol McCartney,
Charlotte Green, Debbie Evans, Debbie and Jim Larson, Dennis Jackson,
Donna Andrews, Eddie Stevens, Florie Angelini, Herselie Hendrix,
Janice Tyler, Jeff Evans, Jerry Giles, Judy Tinsley, Karen Traggorth,
Kerrie Schwartzkopf, Lester Taylor, Lynn Smith, Mary Meehan,
Michael Mazzerat, Michele Dennis. Mindy Post, Mitzi Purvis,
Nancy Delierre, Nick Humeston, Nikole Webb, Phyllis Alles,
Rocky Robinson, Sharon Lundy, Stacy Burseson, Susan Cole,
Sybil King, Terry Algood, Thomas Giles, Tom Holmes,
Ward Hendrix and Yisrael Goldman

The Episcopal Church of the Epiphany

424 Garden Street

Crestview, Florida 32536