

# REFLECTIONS

MAY - 2020

## FROM THE RECTOR.....

*This is another day, O Lord. I know not what it will bring forth, but make me ready, Lord, for whatever it may be. If I am to stand up, help me to stand bravely. If I am to sit still, help me to sit quietly. If I am to lie low, help me to do it patiently. And if I am to do nothing, let me do it gallantly. Make these words more than words, and give me the Spirit of Jesus. Amen.*

This prayer, found in the *Book of Common Prayer* on page 461, might well be retitled “Prayer for the days of quarantine.” While many people continue to work regular schedules, or overtime, many of us are staying at home as our part of mitigating the spread of Covid-19. It’s especially hard on us to fulfill the part saying, “if I am to do nothing, let me do it gallantly.”

I’m finding it hard to feel “gallant” or even worthy with the church office closed and in-person worship suspended. But we’re doing everything we can to keep you connected to the church and to one another, continuing our livestream services and weekday evening prayer. Please take advantage of these offerings, and stay in touch with one another by phone, text, and email.

I want to update you on worship services and other matters at St. Peter’s. Bishop Seage has *extended* the suspension of in-person services through May 17<sup>th</sup>, which means the earliest we would start transitioning to services would be May 24<sup>th</sup> (Ascension Day, by the way). In our clergy meeting Wednesday, he said that our transition may involve a Eucharistic service live-streamed, and then a series of very small services of “Communion from the Reserved Sacrament.” That service, which Dennis leads in the absence of the priest, is a shorter service, and the Bishop envisions that we would have multiple communion services to avoid having large crowds of people in the church at once.

If we move to that plan in the interim, it will satisfy one need—the longing to take communion—but it will only start to satisfy our need to be together. We will certainly restart services in a way which allows us to be together, but apart, where we are in the church building together but with room for distancing. When the bishop eases restrictions, we will figure out how to transition back to our



The Rev. Carol Mead

small group meetings: Bible study, knitting, EfM, and others. In all of it, stay safe! If you are compromised or physically vulnerable, you may want to stay away from in-person services a bit longer.

For now, we will continue our livestream Eucharist on Facebook and Boxcast each Sunday morning at 9:30. I will also continue leading evening prayer each weekday evening at 6:30 p.m., and hope that you will join me to appreciate that beautiful service in our Prayer Book.

I will also start, in the next few days, a segmented “instructional Eucharist.” You may know that churches occasionally do an instructional Eucharist, in which the clergy explain or further explore the Eucharistic service *while it is going on*. Those explanations can lengthen the service considerably, so I

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have hesitated to hold one at St. Peter's. Instead, I will work through the usual Sunday service in installments, giving some background and explanation of what we do and why we do it. Many of the pieces will be recorded from my home, but I will record some in the church so that we can see the physical components of our liturgy.

I have "talked" too long here, but I miss you all and I long for connection to you. While the office remains closed, please stay in touch with me and Ginger so that we know your needs and your concerns. We are both working from home, with occasional visits to the office, so please call, text or email either of us with your needs, your prayer

requests, or a simple update on you and your family.

Whatever we are called to do (or not to do) until we meet in person, let us do it all gallantly, and in the spirit of Jesus.

Stay safe and well, dear ones. I love you and miss seeing you.

*Carol +*



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THE RT. REV. BRIAN R. SEAGE  
*Bishop*

*And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. (Heb. 12: 1b-3)*

Dear Friends,

I remain grateful for your incredible faith and patience and pray daily for your health and spiritual peace. On April 1, I issued a directive suspending "face to face" public worship in all churches through the last day of the month. After continuing prayer and discernment, I believe it is necessary to **extend the current suspension through, at least, May 17, 2020**. The continuing rise of COVID-19 cases in Mississippi and encouragement of our Governor to continue the practice of social distancing weighed heavily upon my decision. I am acutely aware of the potential social isolation and anxiety facing the people we serve. Please know, I'm doing everything possible to find safe ways for us to be together again, in person, as gathered communities of faith.

The efforts of our clergy and lay leaders remain absolutely incredible. Likewise, the steadfast faith and perseverance of our membership exemplifies the body of Christ at its best. I am humbled by the amazing displays of faith that everyone continues to offer, thank you! And, thank you for your prayers and ministry during this challenging time in the life of our church.

God Bless you,  
**+Brian**

# May

## Anniversaries & Birthdays

*Johnny & Bobbi Hatten*  
*May 3 - 51 years*

*Morgan & Emily Belote*  
*May 4 - 12 years*

*Tom & May Stafford*  
*May 4 - 37 years*

*Alex & Brandi Alston*  
*May 7 - 9 years*

*Pete & Lori Freiman*  
*May 7*

*Russ & Deb Schneider*  
*May 7 - 7 years*

*Rusty & Nichole Carruth*  
*May 11 - 18 years*

*Gary & Julie Puckett*  
*May 13 - 14 years*

*Billy & Linda Clark*  
*May 18 - 46 years*

*Owen Taylor & Debra Ferguson*  
*May 18 - 46 years*

*Duane & Ramona Mawhorter*  
*May 19 - 36 years*

*Ken & Sandy Ruckstuhl*  
*May 21 - 37 years*

*Bryant & Sonja Watkins*  
*May 22 - 33 years*

*Robby Whyte & Jackie Wilson*  
*May 22 - 19 years*

*Perry & Alecia Wasson*  
*May 23 - 22 years*

*Tim & Diane House*  
*May 24 - 40 years*

*Dennis & Rebecca Wilson*  
*May 25 - 35 years*

Kylie Carruth..... May 1  
 Jorge Miranda..... May 2  
 Leigh Bell..... May 3  
 David Watkins..... May 4  
 Alex White ..... May 4  
 Glynn Bradshaw ..... May 5  
 Rosa McIntyre ..... May 5  
 Maxine Funchess ..... May 9  
 Randy Tinney ..... May 10  
 Heather Canfield..... May 11  
 Billy McCleave ..... May 11  
 Tom Peden ..... May 11  
 Sarah Vandevere..... May 11  
 Mimi Bussell ..... May 14

Melanie Collins ..... May 16  
 Jack Whitt..... May 19  
 Gary Puckett..... May 20  
 Cody Flood ..... May 22  
 Dinah Bell ..... May 24  
 Wright Thompson ..... May 24  
 Shelby Trimm ..... May 26  
 Debra Ferguson ..... May 28  
 Alex Chambers..... May 29  
 Betty Markham ..... May 29  
 Bill Brown ..... May 31  
 Lewis Rogers..... May 31  
 Dell Zubkowski ..... May 31



JOIN US FOR



***EVENING PRAYER***  
*Monday through Friday*  
*6:30 p.m.*

***SUNDAY SERVICE***  
*9:30 a.m.*

*All services streaming*  
*Facebook*  
*Boxcast T.V.*  
*Stpetebt.org*

*Service bulletins are emailed out each week and can be found on our website.*

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## Our Staff and Vestry

The Rt. Rev. Brian R. Seage  
Bishop of Mississippi

The Rev. Carol Mead  
Rector

The Rev. Dennis Wilson  
Deacon

Ginger Perdue  
Parish Administrator  
Choir Director

Ross Hartford  
Pianist  
Bookkeeper

Mary Ann Phillips  
Organist

Kelly Alexander & Lorie Freiman  
Youth Directors

Lahoma Buckner  
Child Care Provider

### Vestry

Sr. Warden - Jim Garrison  
Jr. Warden - Carolyn Barker  
Treasurer - Dick Phillips  
Clerk - Rebecca Wilson

### Vestry Members

Tom Bondurant  
Len Bussell  
Linda Clark  
Beverly Craft  
Rita Fetzer  
Diane House  
Gloria Jones  
May Stafford  
Sonja Watkins