



THE ALTON ANGELUS

February 2026

The Reverend Garron C. Daniels, Rector XXI

*The Episcopal Parish of Alton
Rooted in Tradition. Growing in Grace.*

From Fr. Garron Daniels+



We are off to a really energetic beginning to our 2026! We have already had a number of wonderful presentations between the new St. Benedict's Community Garden and Pastor Peter Hough from Alton Mission. Soon we will begin a Lenten series that will invite people from Chestnut Health Systems and Sacred Spaces of CARE to present and teach us some important congregational tools! Events and worship opportunities are already happening throughout the Church and so much is being planned for the coming months. The Spirit is alive and well in the Episcopal Parish of Alton and there is a passion and energy present here! Everyone seems so excited for our 190th Anniversary and the launch of our *Legacy of Faith* Capital Campaign. This is a big year for our Parish and we are trying to be both strategic and prayerful about what lies ahead for us!

As we enter into February and we prepare for the beginning of many new events, projects, and ministries, remember to take time to rest and pray. If we do not first spend time alone in prayer how can we possibly spend time together as a community? As Dietrich Bonhoeffer points out, we need to worship and pray as an individual AND within a community to be able to thrive and live into what God calls us to be. Take time to pray, relax, rest, and recharge. The life of the Church is thriving and booming, but that doesn't mean rest is any less important!

I am looking forward to our many upcoming celebrations and the beginning of a holy and penitent Lent. May you find rest in our Heavenly Father and may you experience the Spirit moving and working through our shared life together!

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Garron+
Rector XXI



From the Organ Loft

Here we are in the long cold days of winter! I know I always enjoy a bit of humor during this time of the year to put a smile on my face. Of course, as this is the EPA newsletter, and I am your organist/choirmaster, it is only fitting that I share with you something that is musically AND church related. This is a list of 'Specialty Hymns' that I had tucked away for just such an occasion. I think you will be familiar with most of these even though not all are in our hymnals. So, enjoy! I hope this gives you a winter 'lift'!

Hymns of the 'Trade'

The Dentist's Hymn: Crown Him with Many Crowns

The TV Weatherman's Hymn: There Shall be Showers of Blessing

The Contractor's Hymn: The Churches One Foundation

The Tailor's Hymn: Holy, Holy, Holy

The Golfer's Hymn: There is a Green Hill Far Away

The Politician's Hymn: Standing on the Promises

The Optometrist's Hymn: Open my Eyes that I Might See

The IRS Hymn: All to Thee

The Gossiper's Hymn: Pass it On

The Electrician's Hymn: I Saw the Light

The Shopper's Hymn: Sweet By and By

If you MUST speed on the road...sing these hymns as you go:

At 45 mph: God Will Take Care of Me

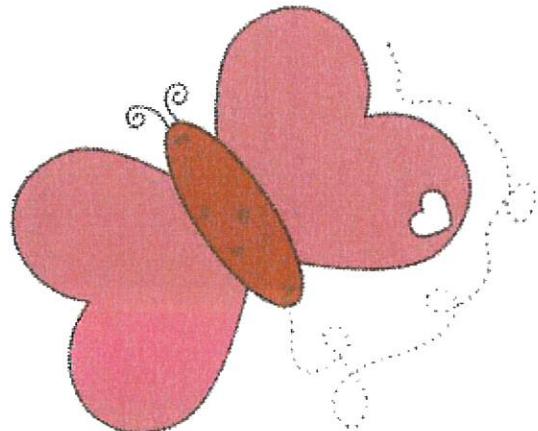
At 55 mph: Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

At 65 mph: Nearer My God to Thee

At 75 mph: Nearer Still Nearer

At 85 mph: This World is not my Home

At 95 mph: Lord, I'm Coming Home



Gay Anderson, Organist

Major Feast Days of the Episcopal Church To Be Celebrated in February

Fr. Garron will be celebrating all Principal Feasts and Major Feasts of the liturgical calendar as noted below. These feasts will be celebrated at **Trinity Chapel** with a Mass and fellowship to follow, unless otherwise stated. You will notice that if the feast day is during the week, the Mass is held at 5:30 p.m. (unless otherwise noted). If it is on Saturday or a holiday, Mass will be held at Noon.

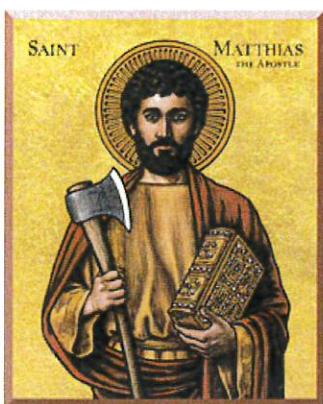
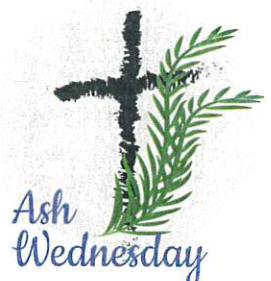


The Feast of The Presentation - Monday, February 2nd

The Feast of The Presentation, or Candlemas, reminds us that our belief in God is often lived out in honoring the observances of our faith. Mary and Joseph's act of bringing Jesus to the Temple was a simple one, yet it resonated with profound meaning. They were obedient to God's law, despite Mary's unique holiness as the sinless Mother of God and Jesus' divinity. Their willingness to submit to the law of Moses demonstrates how even they lived out their faith in humble, ordinary ways.

Ash Wednesday- Wednesday, February 18th

The ashes used on Ash Wednesday traditionally come from burning of palm branches from the previous year's Palm Sunday celebrations, remembering when Jesus rode a donkey into Jerusalem as the crowd waved Palm branches. After Palm Sunday, the palm branches are collected, dried, and burned to create the ashes which are then applied to the foreheads of worshippers in the shape of a cross as a symbol of repentance and mortality. The ashes are used to keep us mindful of our humble origin and of how the body of Adam, our forefather, was formed out of the dust of the earth; also to remind us of death, when our bodies will return to dust.



The Feast of St. Mathias—Tuesday, February 24th at 6:00 p.m.

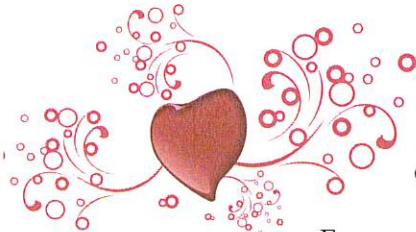
Mathias was one of the first to follow our Savior; and he was an eye-witness of all His divine actions up to the very day of the Ascension. He was one of the seventy-two disciples; but our Lord had not conferred upon him the dignity of an apostle. And yet, he was to have this great glory, for it was of him that David spoke, when he prophesied that another should take the bishporic left vacant by Judas the traitor. When it came time for the ambassadors of Christ to separate, he set out for the countries allotted to him, which we are told was Cappadocia and the provinces bordering on the Caspian Sea.

190th Anniversary Celebration Weekend

Save the dates and spread the news about our 190th Anniversary celebration which will take place July 3rd-5th! We will have a special jazz concert, evensong, our official Bishop Homecoming, more food than you know what to do with, and so much more! You are NOT going to want to miss out on this weekend! Be sure to invite friends of the Parish, especially those who live far away. We want this to be a HUGE weekend of celebration!



Second Saturdays: Healthy Living for a Holy Life



The next Second Saturday class will meet on Saturday, February 14th at 10:00 a.m. for a special Valentine's Day strength training routine. If you have light dumbbells (1-5 lbs.), please bring them. Otherwise, you can bring two soup cans or two full water bottles to use as weights! Standing and seated options will be provided. Please wear loose, comfortable clothing and supportive/athletic footwear.

For more information, please contact Nathalia at baumnathalia1@gmail.com.

Commissioning of a Verger on Sunday, February 15th

Please join us for the commissioning of our very newly appointed Verger, Robbie Cupp. Robbie will be recognized and tasked with the duties of the Verger during our 10:30 a.m. service at St Paul's on Sunday, February 15th. We will celebrate Robbie as he begins this new ministry!

The next two opening dates for the **Pet Food Pantry** are **February 1st and March 1st**. The Pet Food Pantry is open one hour monthly, on the first Sunday of the month, from 12:30-1:30 p.m. People may enter St. Paul's through the Market Street entrance.

Baskets for donations of pet food are located near the entrance at both Trinity and St. Paul's.

We are grateful for six local businesses who keep a donation jar on their counter. Please support these businesses and thank them for helping us provide pet food for families in need:

Farm Fresh, Roxana;
Daniel-Randall Veterinary Clinic, Godfrey;
Great Rivers Animal Hospital;
St. Peter's Hardware, Alton;
Mississippi Mud Pottery, Alton; and
The Bethalto Animal Clinic



Evangelism and Outreach Commission

Episcopal Church Women Notes

Our first ECW Prayer Day is scheduled for Saturday, February 7th, from 9:30-11:30 a.m., when Maryann Greenwood Kelley and business partner, Jen, will lead us in a morning of prayer. A wonderful brunch from Ralph Smith will be served first. Bring a friend, sister, or cousin to join us for this great morning of fellowship! RSVP by February 1. A free will offering will be collected for the brunch and the presenters.



Mark your calendars for the first ECW meeting for 2026. We will be meeting the third Sunday, February 15th, at 12:15 p.m. in the downstairs Recovery meeting room. Look forward to seeing you all!

Irene McLaughlin

Capital Campaign Launch Day: February 14th at 1:00 p.m.

Join us as we launch the “Legacy of Faith” Capital Campaign on Saturday, February 14th, at 1:00 p.m.! We will have appetizers and drinks at the Church and a special presentation by Marcus White, the son of the late Rt. Rev. Roger J. White. Marcus will tell us why this Campaign matters to him and should matter to our wider community as we continue building this legacy of faith! Be sure to RSVP no later than February 7th. Are all welcome to attend!

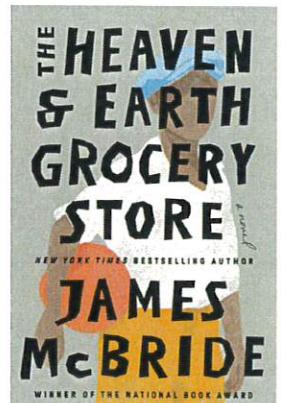
Fr. Garron+

Book Club News

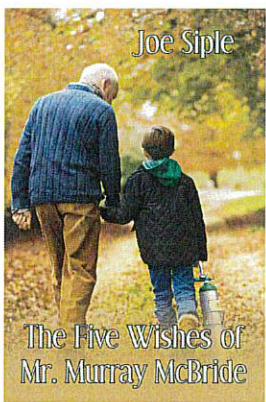
The Book Club will meet on Wednesday, February 25th, at 9:30 a.m. at Trinity Chapel. We will be discussing *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride with fellowship and refreshments!

In 1972, when workers in Pottstown, Pennsylvania, were digging the foundations for a new housing development, the last thing they expected to uncover was a human skeleton. Who the skeleton was and how it got buried there were just two of the long-held secrets that had been kept for decades by the residents of Chicken Hill, the dilapidated neighborhood where immigrant Jews and African Americans lived side by side, sharing ambitions and sorrows.

As the novel unfolds, it becomes clear how much the people of Chicken Hill have to struggle to survive at the margins of white Christian America and how damaging bigotry, hypocrisy, and deceit can be to a community. When the truth is revealed about the skeleton, the boy, and the part the town's establishment played in both, McBride shows that it is love and community—heaven and earth—that ultimately sustain us.



The March book selection is *The Five Wishes of Mr. Murray McBride* by Joe Siple. We're looking forward to **meeting for our discussion on Wednesday, March 25th, at 9:30 a.m. at Trinity Chapel.**



With all his family and friends gone, one-hundred-year-old Murray McBride is looking for a reason to live. He finds it in Jason Cashman, a ten-year-old boy with a terminal heart defect and a list of five things he wants to do before he dies. Together, they race against the limited time each has left, ticking off wishes one by one. Along the way, Murray remembers what it's like to be young, and Jason fights for the opportunity to grow old. But when tragedy strikes, their worlds are turned upside down, and an unexpected gift is the only thing that can make Jason's final wish come true.

About the author: Long before *The Five Wishes of Mr. Murray McBride* began winning awards and hitting Amazon bestseller lists, Joe Siple could be found at his computer, developing his voice as a writer. It took seventeen long years from the day he started his first fiction manuscript until Murray, Jason, and Tiegan propelled him to bestseller status. Seventeen years of failure, rejection...and growth. Now, Siple's stories are known around the world.

The scheduled books for 2026 are:

April – *Theo of Golden* by Allen Levi

May – *Broken Country* by Clare Leslie Hall

June – *Museum of Lost Quilts* by Jennifer Chiaverini

Mimi Almonroeder

Confirmation Classes begin in February

On Sunday, February 8th, Father Garron will lead a short presentation explaining baptism, confirmation, and reception in the Episcopal Church. The presentation is meant for those inquiring about joining the Christian Faith and/or officially joining the Episcopal Church. The presentation will be held in the conference room at Noon at St. Paul's.

On Sunday, February 15th, Confirmation classes will begin for those who discern that they would like to officially become members of our Church! Classes, unless otherwise decided, will occur on Sundays at 12:15 p.m. in the St. Paul's conference room. Reading is required with the use of *Walk in Love: Episcopal Beliefs & Practices* as our main text. Books will be free for those seeking to be confirmed or received!

Fr. Garron+

Brotherhood of St. Andrew Chapter



Join the Brotherhood of St. Andrew for their **monthly meeting at Trinity Chapel on Friday, February 6th, at 7:00 p.m.** The meeting is open to all men of the Parish. Bring snacks to share and your Bible as we dig in with some theological & scriptural discussion!

Tim Thrush, Director

The Episcopal Community

An invitation for women of the Parish: How do we translate our Sunday morning worship into a daily walk with God? Join us for the inaugural meeting of The Episcopal Community where we will explore our mission of living out our Baptismal vows through the Benedictine tradition.

Come to our first gathering on Thursday, February 5th, at 6:30 p.m. at St. Paul's, when we will be laying the foundation for our shared journey and discussing the practices of Lectio (holy reading) and Ora et Labora (pray and work). Whether you are seeking a more structured prayer life or a supportive sisterhood, there is a place for you here.

Our second gathering will be held on Thursday, March 5th, when we will discuss the steps to be taken in our daily lives to recognize God's grace and the Holy Spirit's guidance, and share our experiences.

What Do I Say When I Receive the Body and Blood at Mass?



Some wonder what the proper reply, if any, is when you receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ at the Altar during Holy Eucharist. Some won't say anything, some say "Amen", and if you really want to confuse the Priest some say "Thank you!". The proper thing to say when receiving communion is to say, "Amen". Why? Think of what "Amen" means. The word "Amen" means "truly" or "so let it be". We say this at the end of every prayer or statement of faith, speaking that we believe it to be true or we hope in the certainty of God it will be done.

When we are given the "Body of Christ the Bread of Heaven" and the "Blood of Christ the Cup of Salvation", we believe it to truly be the body and blood of Christ. As Anglicans and Episcopalians we believe Christ is truly present in the bread and wine and we profess as much in our faith and theology. When we reply with "Amen", we say "so let it be" to this very belief and we consume at the altar. So let it be the body and blood of our most precious Lord! Let it truly be the bread of heaven and the cup of salvation that fills us with the grace of God!

Fr. Garron+



Bible Study continues Weekly Schedule

Our weekly Bible Study group meets each Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. in the St. Paul's conference room. We are currently studying the *Gospel of Luke* and both morning and evening sessions study the same sections.

Bible Study

All you need to bring is your Bible (any translation will do!). We will also be using an additional resource that is not required to join the study, but may be helpful as we dive deeper into Luke - *Luke for Everyone: 20th Anniversary Edition with Study Guide (The New Testament for Everyone)* by N.T. Wright. Copies are available in the Parish Bookstore for purchase.

Education Commission



contribute to the ongoing needs. Monetary donations are very much appreciated as well.

Not only in the community, but for our community Collection baskets remain in the Narthex at St. Paul's and Trinity for us to

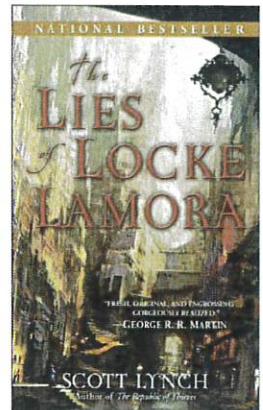


Evangelism and Outreach Commission

Twilight Tome Society Schedules February Fantasy

EPA's fantasy book club, The Twilight Tome Society, will continue its reading adventures with *The Lies of Locke Lamora* by Scott Lynch. Because of its length, we will be dividing it up for the months of February and March. February will focus on Chapters 1-8 plus Interlude, and March will focus on Chapter 9 through the end of the book.

Follow the orphan-turned-master-thief, Locke Lamora, and his crew of con artists in the city of Camorr as they pull elaborate heists on the nobility, only to become entangled in a deadly underworld conflict.



Join us to discuss the first portion on Monday, February 23rd, at 6:30 p.m. in the conference room at St. Paul's! Please contact Nathalia or Tiffany with any questions at baumnathalia1@gmail.com or temcalister@gmail.com .

Nathalia Baum and Tiffany Thrush

Saturday Café—In Service with our Neighbors

The following 2026 dates are scheduled for our parishioners to join with others to serve lunches through the Saturday Café program held at First Presbyterian Church. They are: **May 2, July 18, August 15, and November 21.**

We generally meet in the kitchen at First Presbyterian Church at 10:00 a.m., begin serving those in need at 11:30 a.m. and are done by 12:30 p.m., but you are welcome to come for a shorter time if you wish.



Evangelism and Outreach Commission

Bearing Fruit FINANCIAL REPORT

*All givers matter and
every gift
makes a difference.*

As of December 31, 2025:

Y-T-D Total Revenue to Budget

Y-T-D Revenue: \$235,371
Budgeted Revenue: \$173,720

Y-T-D Total Expenses to Budget

Y-T-D Expenses: \$315,511
Budgeted Expenses: \$261,734



“Kids’ Night In” Evening Planned for February

“Kids’ Night In” will be held on Saturday, February 28th, from 5-8 p.m. at 1st Presbyterian Church, E. 4th St. and Alby St., for all children ages 5-14. Join us for an evening packed full of activities including cooking, movies and crafts. Hosted in partnership with our friends at the 1st Presbyterian Church, this is a time for our community’s youth to come together to build friendships, foster fellowship and have fun! Detectives from S.P.I. that are joining us for Kids’ Night In will be escorted to 1st Presbyterian, so please be sure they bring a warm coat! For more information, please contact Tiffany Thrush or the office at 618-465-9149.



Ecumenical Youth Group Upcoming Gatherings

All middle school and high school students are welcome to join us for discussions about the faith, mission outreach, and enjoy plenty of food! The picture is from our first group meeting in October gathered around the fire pit in the garden at St. Paul’s. Currently the group is meeting on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month and switch between two locations. Below are our upcoming meetings:

Sunday, February 1st @ 6 p.m.
St. Paul’s Episcopal Church (10 E 3rd St.)

Sunday, February 15th @ 6 p.m.
Main Street United Methodist Church (1400 Main St.)

Fr. Garron+



S.P.I. Investigators Have a New Case: The Case of the Spring Sabotage



Spring is right around the corner and we are hard at work prepping seedlings and planning for St. Benedict's Garden, but our plans and planting schedule have vanished! We need the S.P.I. Investigators to find who stole them and help us get ready for Spring! Four suspects have been identified. Join the investigation, question the suspects, and solve the case on Saturday, February 28th, from 3-5 p.m. at St. Paul's.

Who?: All youth ages 9-14

What?: The Case of the Spring Sabotage Case Number SPI005

When?: Saturday, February 28th, 3-5 p.m.

Where?: St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 10 E. Third St., Alton, IL 62002

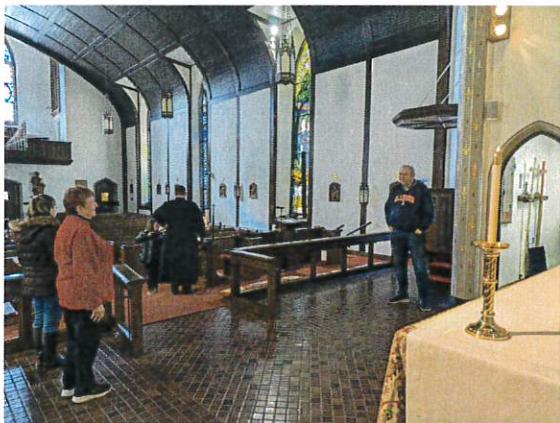
ADDITIONAL INTEL:

Detective Gear: New investigators will be sworn in and receive their official S.P.I. badges and detective notebooks upon arrival.

Fuel for the Case: "Brain Food" (snacks and drinks) will be provided to keep our investigators sharp.

RSVP REQUIRED: Please report your availability to episcopalalton@gmail.com or call 618-465-9149!

Highlighting Faith and Fellowship at the EPA



February Calendar

Sunday, February 1st

Open Offering supports Rector's Discretionary Fund

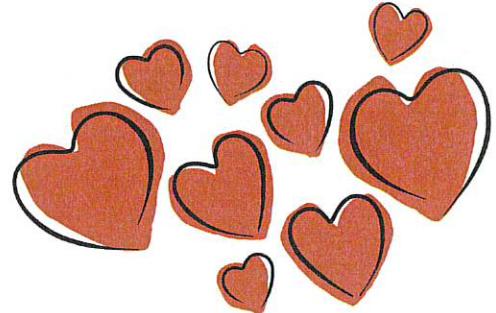
Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul - Observed

10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist at St. Paul's – One Service Only

Annual Meeting with brunch following service at St. Paul's

12:30-1:30 p.m. Pet Food Pantry

6:00 p.m. Ecumenical Youth Group at St. Paul's



Monday, February 2nd 5:30 p.m. *Feast of the Presentation* at Trinity Chapel

Tuesday, February 3rd

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer at St. Paul's

10:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Bible study at St. Paul's

Wednesday, February 4th 6:30 p.m. Education commission meeting at St. Paul's conference room

Thursday, February 5th

4:00 p.m. Bell choir; 5:00 p.m. Choir rehearsal at St. Paul's

6:30 p.m. The Episcopal Community meeting at St. Paul's for women of the parish

Friday, February 6th 7:00 p.m. Brotherhood of St. Andrew meeting at Trinity Chapel

Saturday, February 7th 9:30 a.m. Women of Faith Prayer Breakfast at St. Paul's Heneghan Hall

Sunday, February 8th *Fifth Sunday after The Epiphany*

8:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist at Trinity Chapel

10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist at St. Paul's

12:15 p.m. Confirmation Class presentation in St. Paul's conference room

5:00 p.m. Super Bowl Watch Party at St. Paul's Heneghan Hall

Tuesday, February 10th

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer at St. Paul's

10:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Bible Study at St. Paul's

Thursday, February 12th 4:00 p.m. Bell choir; 5:00 p.m. Choir rehearsal at St. Paul's

Saturday, February 14th

10:00 a.m. Second Saturdays for Healthy Living at St. Paul's Heneghan Hall

1:00 p.m. Legacy of Faith Capital Campaign Launch at St. Paul's Heneghan Hall

Sunday, February 15th

- 8:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist at Trinity Chapel
- 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist at St. Paul's – Commissioning a Verger
- Special Coffee Hour celebrating newly appointed Verger at St. Paul's
- 12:15 p.m. Confirmation Class in St. Paul's conference room
- 12:15 p.m. ECW meeting in St. Paul's Recovery meeting room (downstairs)
- 6:00 p.m. Ecumenical Youth Group at Main St. Methodist Church

Monday, February 16th Office Closed in observance of President's Day

Tuesday, February 17th

- 9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer at St. Paul's
- 10:00 a.m. Bible Study at St. Paul's – No Evening Bible Study will be held
- 6:00 p.m. Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper at St. Paul's Heneghan Hall

Wednesday, February 18th

- Noon Ash Wednesday service at Trinity Chapel (said service)
- 5:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday service at St. Paul's (sung service)

Thursday, February 19th 4:00 p.m. Bell choir; 5:00 p.m. Choir rehearsal at St. Paul's

Sunday, February 22nd

- 8:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist at Trinity Chapel
- 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist at St. Paul's
- 12:15 p.m. Confirmation Class in St. Paul's conference room

Monday, February 23rd

- 6:30 p.m. Twilight Tome Society fantasy book club at St. Paul's conference room



Tuesday, February 24th

- 9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer at St. Paul's
- 10:00 a.m. Bible Study at St. Paul's and 5:00 p.m. Bible Study at Trinity Chapel
- 6:00 p.m. *Feast of St. Mathias* at Trinity Chapel

Wednesday, February 25th 9:30 a.m. Book Club at Trinity Chapel



Thursday, February 26th 4:00 p.m. Bell choir; 5:00 p.m. Choir rehearsal at St. Paul's

Saturday, February 28th

- 3:00-5:00 p.m. S.P.I. Investigators at St. Paul's
- 5:00-8:00 p.m. Kids' Night In at 1st Presbyterian Church

**Fr. Garron will lead Morning Prayer in St. Elizabeth's Chapel at St. Paul's
Monday-Thursday at 9:00 a.m.**

A Reminder: A new locking system has been installed on the Garden Door. There is a new code to use for entry - the old code no longer works. The code is not being widely publicized, but we are happy to provide the code if you contact the church office.



February Birthdays

01 Michael Garland
04 Donna Fisher
06 Sean Downey
13 Pat McLaughlin
18 Bruce Bayer
25 Bill Moyer

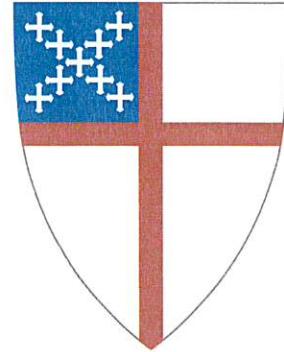


March Birthdays

02 Charlie Drennan
05 Collin Downey
15 Nancy Simpson
19 Gay Anderson
26 William Johnson
26 Brenden Drennan
31 Donovan Stone

Vestry

Fr. Garron Daniels+—Rector XXI
Robbie Cupp—Senior Warden
Chuck Drennan—Junior Warden
Judy Jones—Treasurer
Linda Dunnagan—Clerk of the Vestry
Tony Springman – People's Warden Emeritus



Vestry Commissions:

Education: *Robbie Cupp, Dave Elson

Evangelism & Outreach: Marti LoRusso, April Drennan, Mary Molloy, *Robbie Cupp

Liturgy & Music: Robbie Cupp, *Chuck Drennan, Millie Hancock

Parish Life: *Mary Molloy, Marti LoRusso, April Drennan

Property & Maintenance: *Bill Moyer, Chuck Drennan, Dereck Cook, Tom Harris, and
Dave Elson

Public Relations & Publicity: *Millie Hancock, Meg Dorris, Dereck Cook

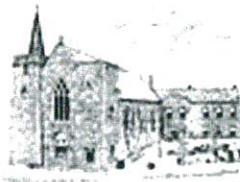
Finance & Insurance: *Judy Jones (*ex officio*), *Meg Dorris, Tom Harris, Bill Moyer, and
Dave Elson

* Indicates lead person



The deadline for the March *Angelus* is February 20th. Please email your
articles and photos to episcopalalton@gmail.com.

The Episcopal Parish of Alton



St. Paul's Church
10 E. 3rd Street
Alton, IL 62002

Trinity Chapel
1901 State St.
Alton, IL 62002



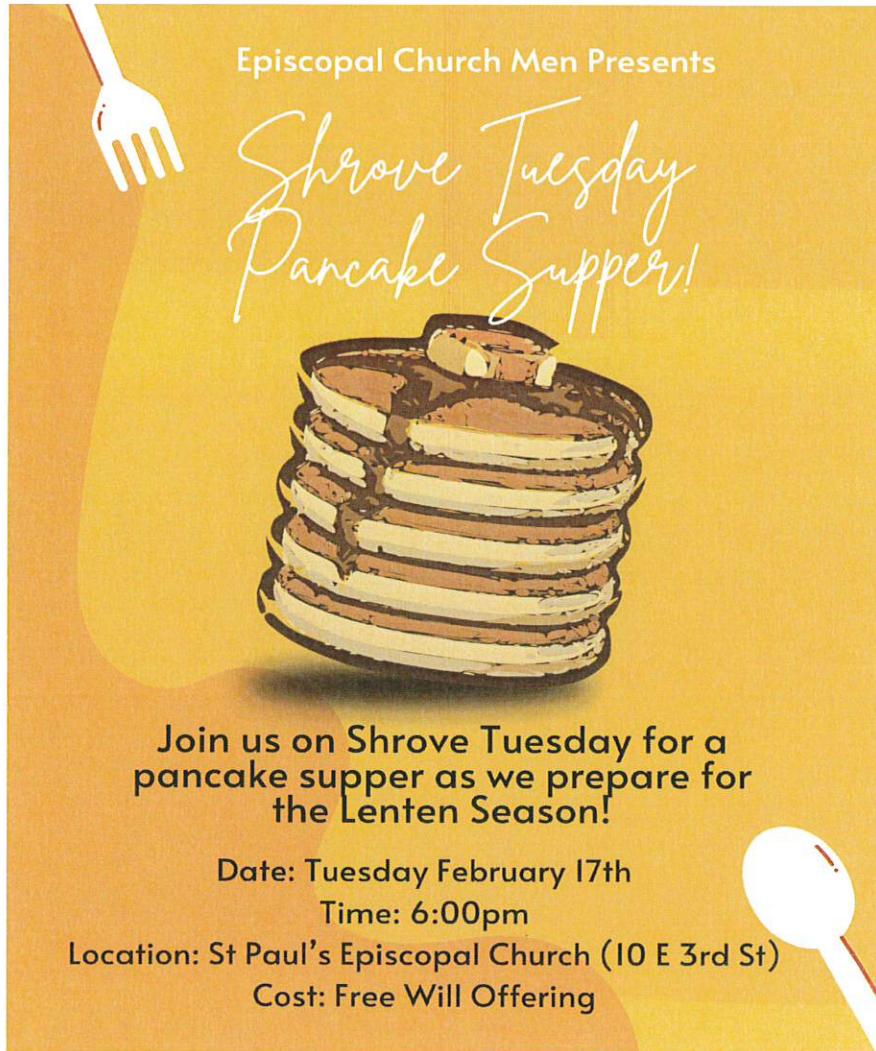
Telephone: 618-465-9149

Priest's contact: phone 816-262-1904 and email frgarron@gmail.com

E-mail: episcopalalton@gmail.com

Website: www.episcopalalton.org

Facebook.com/episcopalalton



2026 LENTEN SERIES

Certified Recovery Congregation

Join us for our 2026 Lenten Series where we put our faith into action by learning about recovery and wellness. Chestnut Health Systems will guide us through several trainings that will certify our congregation as "Recovery Friendly". All are welcome to attend!

Topics & Dates:

- 02/25 Mental Wellness 101
- 03/04 Substance Use
- 03/11 QPR: Suicide Prevention
- 03/18 Narcan Training
- 03/25 Sacred Spaces of CARE presentation

Date & Time:

Wednesdays
5:30pm Prayer Service
6:10pm Meal & Presentation

Who Should Attend?

- Parishioners
- Local & Downtown Leaders
- Recovery Ministry Leaders & Supporters
- Anyone who desires to learn more!

**St Paul's Episcopal Church
10 E 3rd St, Alton, IL 62002**