

December, 2020

Advent Wreaths



Sam Goodpaster



Julia Bates



Christianna Taylor

From the Rector— Worshipping at All Saints' Chapel

We have been blessed by weather that has allowed us to worship outside every Sunday but two since the beginning of

September. Our bonds of communion with each other have been strengthened, and will be further strengthened, by the ability to worship together safely in person. I cannot repeat often enough how grateful I am to Chaplain Peter Gray and Vice Chancellor Reuben Brigety for allowing Otey to hold our 11am service in All Saints' during university break (subject to change if COVID cases rise too severely). It is a generous gift to the broader Sewanee community.



Morning Prayer will continue (online-only) from Otey on our Facebook page at 8:30am, and will be available afterward there and on our YouTube channel. Both Godly Play and Sunday Forum will continue via Zoom. **Holy Eucharist will be offered in person at 11am in All Saints' Chapel through Sunday, January 24.** We also plan other observances to take place at All Saints':

Children's **Christmas Pageant** at 4:00pm on Sunday, December 20

Christmas Eve services at 4:30 and 10:00pm (with festive music starting at 9:30) (It's not yet known if our **Christmas Day** service will be at All Saints' or online.)

Feast of the Epiphany Holy Eucharist on Wednesday January 6 (time TBD)

Some practicalities about attending All Saints': The current maximum capacity including those "up front" is 100 people. Everyone should enter the west door. In addition to taking your temperature, ushers will ask you to respond to a COVID screening poster and will write down the names of all attendees in case contact tracing becomes necessary. Since this process of entry will take longer than usual, please plan to arrive a little early and bear with the process. Once inside, keep masked and maintain 6 feet of distance at all times from anyone you don't live with. You may be seated in the rows that have yellow "Please sit here" cards at the ends, but not in other rows. If it's not possible to avoid going to the restroom while at All Saints, you may reach one by walking through the arch to the congregation's left and turning down the hallway to your left.

Because we will be inside, sadly there will be no congregational singing. We will, however, hear the magnificent organ and have other instrumental music. Vocal soloists and small ensembles will be able to be in the chancel with extra distancing. We will continue sharing Communion as we have outside: remaining masked, bread administered at arm's length of both priest and communicant, one person per household picking up a chalice. Once back at your seat, then unmask, consume the Sacrament, and remask. At the end of the service, please have one member of your household return the chalice to one of the tables, and be sure to maintain distancing as you exit the chapel. Like everything else with COVID, it is frustrating that procedures are more cumbersome and physical closeness is lacking. Bearing with and adhering closely to protocols will help keep one another safe and will show respect to our hosts. (All Saints' is continuing the 8am service it holds year-round.) Please join me in expressing thanks for the gracious hospitality we are receiving from the University of the South.

Rob Lamborn

Sundays at Otey:

8:30 am - Morning Prayer via Facebook, then via YouTube starts at 11:00 am

9:30 am Godly Play and Sunday Forum via Zoom

11:00 am Holy Eucharist in person at All Saints', also via Facebook and YouTube (later)

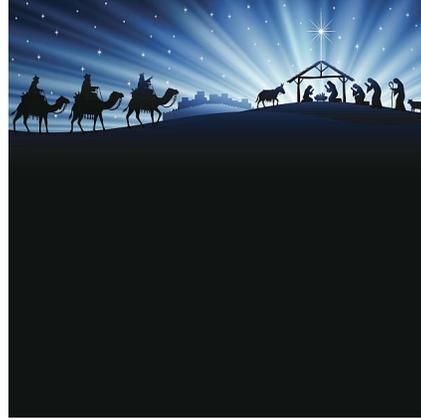
4:00 pm Youth Sunday School/ Fire on the Mountain

Office Closures

Otey's office and the Community Action Committee will be closed December 23, 24, 25, and January 1.

Everyone have safe and happy

holidays.



Vestry Highlights - Meeting November 19

- Received the report of the Advisory Committee on the Name of the Parish (reprinted in this newsletter)
- Reviewed the status of 2021 pledging, and the preliminary 2021 budget
- Approved the 2019 Parochial Report
- Reviewed the COVID-modified plans for the Annual Parish Meeting
- Accepted, with regret, the resignation of Vestry Member Louise Irwin (effective December 31), noting deep appreciation for her many decades of service to the church and community

Annual Parish Meeting - November 22, 2020

This year's Annual Parish Meeting was unique because of the need for adaptations related to COVID-19. The meeting took place outdoors between the church and parish house, with people also able to participate via Zoom. 45 people took part between the two formats, fewer than usual, but still a healthy representation.

Since no nominations were offered from the floor, Beth Chamberlain, Lynn Taylor, and Lauryl Tucker were elected to three-year terms, and Tom Phelps was elected to serve the remaining 2 years of the term from which Louise Irwin resigned (see Vestry Highlights). Nominating Committee convener Lisa Howick also recommended that Julia Bates be nominated for the position of Clerk at the Vestry's first meeting in 2021.

We recalled and prayed for those connected to the parish who died in the past year. Rob Lamborn offered a lengthier-than-usual recap of the past year, given the challenges of COVID, and noting our country's increased focus on issues of race and the current state of national political division. Stewardship Chair David Burnett, Treasurer Alec Moseley, Deacon Betty Carpenter, Curate/CAC Director David Goodpaster, and Formation Director Jeannie Babb offered reports as well. Chair Karen Keele introduced the report and recommendations made by the Advisory Committee on the Name of the Parish to the Vestry on November 19 (reprinted in this newsletter) and invited questions or comments. None were offered.

Rob noted that Diocesan Convention would be held completely online all day Saturday, January 23, and invited members interested in being nominated for election by the Vestry to contact him or another member of the Vestry. Otey

qualifies for 3 lay delegates, and we usually also name a couple of alternates. The meeting closed with a recitation of our mission statement, and with prayer.



David Goodpaster speaking at the Annual Meeting.

From Karen Keele Chair of the Advisory Committee on the Name of the Parish

You probably have seen by now the report of the Advisory Committee on the Name of the Parish. As the committee met by Zoom every few weeks for several months, we learned a lot about the man we've honored for 150 years, Bishop Otey. As a slave owner, he was a man of his times. We agreed that he was one of the most dedicated of churchmen, as he planted many churches in the area, and is the founder of the Diocese of Tennessee. It was fitting that his name was used to remember his legacy.

The committee looked at the history of the original church building in Sewanee, which served both the Black congregation, known as St. Mark's, and the white, known as St. Paul's. Woody Register's current work, on the Black people who lived in Sewanee and attended St. Mark's, made an impression on the group. Though none of us expressed an opinion on what our final report should contain, it became clear that we ought to, and wanted to, look forward, not back at another time, and consider what our church should look like and represent in the next 150 years.

At our final meeting, a draft was drawn up, everyone had a say in its wording and its intention, and we found all 7 of us in agreement. The name of our church should reflect our intent to make sure all of God's people live in harmony with one another. We want our current parishioners and those of the future to feel a sense of welcoming inclusion in our beautiful, historic church.

Advisory Committee on the Name of the Parish Report to the Otey Memorial Parish Vestry November 16, 2020

The Advisory Committee on the Name of the Parish was formed by the Rector and the Vestry of Otey Memorial Parish in August 2020. It has been chaired by Karen Keele, and its other members are Ted Clarkson (Seminarian, non-voting), Joel Cunningham, Susan Holmes, Deborah Jackson, Rob Lamborn (Rector, non-voting), Waring McCrady, and Shirley Taylor. The Committee held six meetings of 1 ½ hours' duration over the past three months, and every member attended all meetings. It reviewed a variety of historical sources, beginning with Ted Clarkson presenting information on slavery in the Bible. We heard presentations on Bp. Otey's life, attitude toward slavery and race, and treatment of slaves from Otey biographer Howard Lotti and Sewanee

professors Woody Register and John Willis. We offered a feedback questionnaire to all parishioners, and carefully reviewed the 36 responses received. Rob Lamborn spoke with two descendants of people held in slavery by the Otey family. After prayer and deliberation the Committee has unanimously reached the following conclusions and recommendations:

1. The Right Reverend James Hervey Otey was the first Episcopal Bishop of Tennessee, holding that position from 1834 until his death in 1863, and was a principal founder of the University of the South. He was a remarkable servant leader for the Church, who was revered for his extraordinary dedication and the results of his missionary zeal in Tennessee, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, and the Oklahoma Territory. He resisted the formation of the Confederacy, but accepted it when it occurred. He owned slaves throughout his years as Bishop, from two or three in the 1830s to seven or eight in the 1850s and 1860s, and many of his achievements as a Bishop were enabled by the care provided by his slaves.

2. Our Parish was founded in 1870 as St. Paul's-on-the-Mountain and its first church building was consecrated in 1875. Between 1889 and 1891 the present church building was constructed across the street from the first one. At the initiation of the second Bishop of Tennessee, the Right Reverend Charles Todd Quintard, it was dedicated to the memory of Bishop Otey. The earlier building continued to be used by African-American members who had worshiped separately there under the name St. Mark's, and that congregation came to be known as St. Paul's, while the new "White Church" was more often known as the Otey Memorial. The St. Paul's congregation used the old church building until it was dismantled in the 1930s. Building materials salvaged from St. Paul's were used to construct a church building on Magnolia Ave. for the Black congregation. Otey Rector Charles Widney determined that the name of the "Colored Mission" should revert to St. Mark's. It was with that name that the new church, school, and community center were dedicated in 1949 in gratitude for the fifty years of leadership and service to the community by John Manally Kennerly (1875-1948), who taught generations of Black students and served for some thirty years as Otey's sexton. His wife, Gertrude Willis Kennerly (1887-1982), continued her service as a teacher in the new school.

3. In 1962, eighteen members of St. Mark's transferred "to form at Otey the first fully integrated Episcopal Parish in Tennessee," leaving a remnant of members in St. Mark's. Six years later Bishop of Tennessee William Sanders concurred in the request of St. Mark's members for a merger of their congregation with Otey Parish, leaving the details as the responsibility of the Parish. A study completed by the Reverend Matilda Dunn in 2014 brought to light concerns on the part of several of those St. Mark's members that although they were welcomed at Otey, they were less fully engaged in leadership in the merged Parish than had been the case in their earlier separate experience. In the years since 1968, the African American community in Sewanee has become considerably smaller, which many have regretted but have not been successful in countering.

4. It is unusual for Episcopal parishes to be named as memorials to a person of relatively recent history. More commonly they are named for a patron saint or saints, a Biblical event, or a doctrine or other theological concept.

5. In recent years, there has been growing recognition and concern, in Sewanee and more broadly, about patterns of systemic racism, and new steps have been taken to distance the University of the South and the Sewanee community from memorials that could be seen as honoring positions or values that are no longer acceptable. To reconsider the parish name is not to condemn Bp. Otey as a person or hold him to the standards of a later time. Rather it is to ask how our parish name should function now and in the future.

6. In light of this background, the Committee recommends:

- that the Vestry seek the approval of Bishop of Tennessee John Bauerschmidt and the Diocesan Convention to rename Otey Parish as the Episcopal Parish of St. Mark and St. Paul on the Mountain;
- that a well-crafted plaque be installed in a prominent place on the Church building, noting the building was completed in 1891 and dedicated in memory of the first Bishop of Tennessee, James Hervey Otey; and that a marker be installed on the campus recalling Otey's remarkable leadership and service, his holding of slaves, the history of the parish's having been named for him for the 130 years from 1891 to 2021, and its reversion to the earlier names of St. Mark and St. Paul in 2021 to affirm the joined history in the nearly sixty years since 1962; and
- that St. Mark's Hall in the Claiborne Parish Hall be renamed Kennerly Hall in honor of Gertrude and John Kennerly.



Inclement Weather Policy

Otey Parish and CAC follow Franklin County Schools for closures and delays on account of snow or icy conditions. Sewanee Children's Center decides and publicizes its own closures.

Christmas Poinsettias

Help us fill All Saints Chapel with the blessings of our memorials and thanksgivings! We have so much for which to be Grateful Together. Call or email Diane Jones with the names of your loved ones. Telephone 615-594-4805 or email djones.sewanee@gmail.com. Cost is \$40.





Christmas will be here before we know it and while many are already making plans for gifts to buy and meals to make, there are those in our area not so fortunate. This year, in particular, might even be harder for many. Once again, CAC is partnering with the Sewanee Volunteer Fire Department (SVFD) for **Operation Noel**. Operation Noel was formed many years ago by the SVFD to provide help for individuals and families in the area who need a little

extra help during the holiday season. This “operation” provides food and toys, and CAC works with the SVFD with the purchasing and distribution of these goods. Please consider supporting Operation Noel this year. Donations of money (for purchasing food/toys), non-perishable food items, and/or new toys, can be brought to CAC. Checks can be made out to **Operation Noel**. These donated items will be distributed in the Cravens lot off of Kentucky Avenue on Dec. 23 from 9 to 11 a.m.

This Sunday, December 6th, is **CAC Sunday**. All donations made to CAC will go toward **Operation Noel**.

The information needed for help through Operation Noel is also included below. Please pass this along to anyone in the area you think might need a little extra help this holiday season.

2020 Operation Noel Application

Please mail completed information by **Monday, Dec. 14th, 2020**
Mail to: Tracie Sherrill 138 Lake O’Donnell Rd. Sewanee, TN 37375
or email to: sewaneoperationnoel@gmail.com

Family Name: _____

of Family Members: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____

Food only: _____ YES _____ NO

Food & Toys: _____ YES _____ NO

Please fill out information for each child age 16 & under to receive toys.

Child's Name: _____

Age: _____ Gender: Male _____ Female _____



Rooted Here, the South Cumberland Farmers Market and Food Hub, is giving patrons the opportunity to donate any amount in addition to their market purchases to go towards a local food bank of their choice. If you are a patron of this farmer's market, please consider a donation to

CAC. This gift will be given directly to CAC, as a credit, to use to buy local products from Rooted Here's Market, for inclusion in the food pantry and for folks in need of food assistance. Rooted Here will also provide CAC the name and address, and the amount donated so that this can be credited as a tax-deductible donation to CAC directly. With your support, we can continue making a positive impact on supporting our community with nutritious, locally grown food this holiday season and beyond.

You can donate when you place an order on the South Cumberland Farmer's Market website, <http://sewanee.locallygrown.net> when the market opens at 9pm on Friday, Venmo us (Rooted-Here), or send a check to the South Cumberland Food Hub at 974 Old Sewanee Rd, Sewanee, 37375.

Rooted Here and CAC appreciate your support!



Christian Formation: Expecting

When we first meet Mary in Luke chapter 1, she is "perplexed." A messenger has come to her from God, foretelling impossible things. She is young, but old enough to know this is not how things work. She knows how babies are made. She has questions, and despite her surprise that she is face to face with an angel, she does not bite her tongue. The angel's response is vague, but she cannot argue with the simple response that nothing is impossible for God. She begins her reply, "Here am I."

Here am I. Here I am. In either order, this simple sentence can be spoken by anyone, anywhere, and it will always be true. In Biblical parlance, the phrase carries some weight. It is an answer to a call.

When God spoke to Abraham, Abraham replied, "Here I am."

When God called the name of Jacob in a dream, Jacob answered, "Here I am."

When God called to Moses from the burning bush, Moses said, "Here I am."

Perhaps the author of Luke's Gospel is using the phrase as a signal that Mary is a prophet in the mold of Abraham, Jacob, and Moses. Perhaps like these men, she is the leader God has chosen to usher in a new era and a new relationship

with the divine.

If so, the sequence is notably backward. Abraham, Jacob, and Moses respond to God's call ("Here I am") and then receive instruction. Mary does not present herself to God until she hears the plan. She gets the mission up front. She knows the outrageous thing she is being asked to do, when she says, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word."

After this, she doesn't seem perplexed anymore. We see her going forth boldly to visit Elizabeth, some hundred miles away. Arriving, she breaks into song.

And Mary said,
"My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever." (Luke 1:46-55)

It almost makes me wonder what happened on that road. We see how she gets from "perplexed" to "Here am I." (She's a rational person and a person of faith; the angel responds to these qualities.) But where does the joy come in? When I read the Magnificat, I catch a glimpse of the kind of person God chose to bear the Christ Child. She is not merely a vessel that God can occupy. Her words express deep faith, historical and scriptural understanding, and a passion for justice. She has a strong idea what God is like, enough to imagine what it will mean for the Divine to suddenly break into the realm of the ordinary. She is expecting, and what she is expecting becomes clear: She expects joy. She expects God's glory to be revealed. She knows what that will look like. She expects mercy. She expects justice.

Jeannie Babb, Director of Christian Formation

Fire on the Mountain: Youth News

Fire on the Mountain continues to meet 4-6pm Sunday afternoons. When possible, we meet outdoors on the lawn of Brooks Hall. If we need to be indoors, we open the windows. Social distance and masks are always used. In case of Covid-19 increase, meetings are moved to Zoom. If you are not on our text list, please text Jeannie at 423-255-6479 and ask to be added.

Dec 6 – In the Spirit of the Circle, work on Fire on the Mountain Banner

Dec 13 – Service project: Christmas pageant costume prep

Dec 20 – Christmas pageant at All Saints’ Chapel (narration, solo, other assistance)

Dec 27 – White Elephant Third Day of Christmas Party (bring a wrapped gift/re-gift – don’t spend money on it)

Christmas Pageant

Our annual Christmas Pageant will be held in **All Saints’ Chapel** this year! We are so excited! Protocols for social distancing will be included in all our planning, practices, and production. The pageant will be performed on **Sunday, December 20th at 4:00 pm.**

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, our pageant will be quite different this year. We are still working out exactly what that will look like. Children will sit with their parents and be physically distant from other families. We will probably do few or no lines, and the acting will be more of a costumed procession than acting out scenes.

Parts are assigned based on desire and ability, and sometimes costume size! We may also group siblings by scene. Costume fitting will take place at home this year; costumes will be packaged for pickup or delivery on Dec 13. Basic costumes are mostly provided, but may need supplementation or repair at home. You are also welcome to make your own.

We need child actors, child musicians, teen/tween narrators, and adult volunteers. Please register here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090A4BA4AB2DA4FC1-2020>



Expect a pageant set up very differently this year so we can safely remember the birth of Jesus.



Godly Play Through Advent
Zoom, Sundays, 9:30 am - 10:30 am

Godly Play continues on Zoom for children as young as 3 and through 5th grade. Parents are welcome to stay for

the story as well. Beth Wiley is our storyteller for the season of Advent, which began November 29.

During Advent, our Reflection Bags are a bit different. Look on the back porch of Claiborne Parish House and St. Mark's Hall, near the CAC door for large brown grocery bags. Each one contains 4 smaller bags.

These Advent stories will take us from the prophets through the birth of Christ. This big bag contains four bags: one Reflection Bag for each week of Advent. I wonder what could be inside each bag?

Let's encourage the children not to open them all at once! It will be a surprise for each week! However, parents may want to look in the bags and anticipate what is coming.

Advent 1 – The Prophets contains materials to make a tiny Advent wreath with birthday candles. Please remind your child(ren) house rules about lighting candles. There is a scroll with prayers you can say when you light the candles.

Advent 2 – The Holy Family contains peg dolls to represent Mary and Joseph, and a wool felt ball for the donkey. Smaller children may enjoy them just as they are, simple and faceless like most Montessori and Godly Play figures. Other children may wish to paint or dress the dolls and give the donkey a face, ears, or some pipe cleaner legs. We have included non-toxic paints. Crayons and markers also work on the peg dolls. Blue is traditional for Mary, and pink is also one of her colors, so there are ribbon and a sash that could be used for her clothes. A piece of the paper bag would make a nice robe for Joseph, perhaps using the deco tape for a belt. There is also a velvet bag that can serve as an underlay, and can hold them after Christmas.

Advent 3 – The Shepherds contains a peg doll to represent a shepherd, and two wool felt balls for sheep. Again, the children can decide to decorate or leave them simple. We included some burlap ribbon that could be used for a shepherd's tunic. Some children may want to make a stable using a box, popsicle sticks, sticks from the yard, or a painted backdrop. Encourage them to do as much as little as they want.

Advent 4 – The Magi contains three peg dolls children may want to paint or decorate with glittery ribbons. We have also included a star for them to follow. For the feast we have included chocolate coins wrapped with gold. ***The baby is also included in this bag! It is traditional to wait, and place the baby in the manger on Christmas Eve. Perhaps you'd like to save this for bedtime. Another tradition is placing the magi a little ways off, and not bringing them to the crèche until Epiphany, January 6.***

Children might not use all the supplies in each bag. We want them to be creative! They can also use materials that you have at your house. Scissors and glue are needed for most projects. There is also a Parents' Page for each week. This will help families talk about the story we heard during Godly Play.

How to participate:

Email formation@oteyparish.org for the link, and to be added to the mailing list.

Many thanks to all the children, parents, and teachers who make our Godly Play

program successful, even during a pandemic.

Godly Play by Appointment

Recognizing that Zoom is not for everyone, we are also offering families a Godly Play story once per month by appointment. There is no age maximum for this ministry; we tell stories to everyone who wants to hear them! If there are children present, at least one parent must remain with them. We can meet in the Godly Play room at Otey or we can bring the story to your porch or yard. Email formation@oteyparish.org

Godly Play Wishlist

To donate materials, you may leave them on the CAC porch marked "Godly Play."

- Individually packaged snacks (Goldfish, Animal Crackers, etc.)
- Small boxes of crayons, markers, colored pencils
- Pipe cleaners
- Large beads and string
- Play-doh
- Glue sticks
- Acrylic paint kits
- Raffia
- Colored tissue paper
- Tiny plastic bags (for glitter, etc.)
- Felt
- Water color paper or cards

Reflection craft from Godly Play story
Jonah, the Backward Prophet



Nursery

The nursery at Otey Memorial Parish will remain closed while we are not having indoor services. Nursery Coordinator Annika Derham and Nursery Caregiver Cara Kitzrow remain committed to the ministry, and are eager to stay connected with our little ones and their families. Please contact us if we can minister to you and your smallest children during this time.

Sunday Forum, 9:30 am - 10:30 am

Otey's Ministry & Witness: Past, Present, & Future

The forum continues to meet on Zoom. We have had some wonderful

discussions that are giving context to our current ministries and helping us to grow as a church. We hope you'll come join us. It's easy, just click on the link below:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81949212720?pwd=dE5rbGhWdGk3Z1YxRjVOVGpSMnNldz09>

Meeting ID: 819 4921 2720

Passcode: 980868

December schedule:

6 Desegregation in Sewanee: Parish and Public School
Robin Bates

13 Ministry with Children & Youth
Jeannie Babb

20 Music at Otey
Kathy Sturgis

27 Christmas Break: No Forum

Help tell the story of Otey, St. Mark's, and St. Paul's!

For our upcoming celebration of Otey's sesquicentennial founding as St Paul's-on-the-Mountain in 1870 - 71, we are planning to add to our archives with memorabilia, create a digital scrapbook, and perhaps a bound hardcover book, to look back on 150 years of Otey's ministries, celebrations, and families. During this quiet time of staying at home, many parishioners have remarked that they are going through boxes of collectibles. This is a great opportunity to look through your scrapbooks and memorabilia to unearth your treasures that might tell part of Otey's story. Please be in touch about items you have that you would be willing for the church to scan and return to you, or that you'd like the church to have. We may ask you if the church can borrow some items to put on display this coming year, but certainly we want your prized possessions to come back to you.

We are looking for photos, pamphlets or flyers, programs, artwork, costumes, quilts, and the like. We also want to record your stories, spoken aloud to a video recorder or written in your hand. So please take these summer months to do a bit of research on the ways that Otey was instrumental in your life through the years.

For questions or to report what you've found, contact Lisa Howick at lisa.m.howick@gmail.com; Greg Maynard at coachmaynard@gmail.com; or the Church Office at admin@oteparish.org.

Sewanee Mask Directive

Beginning Saturday, July 3, Vice Chancellor and Mayor Reuben E. Brigety, II instituted a mandatory mask directive that is in effect for all persons on the Sewanee Domain. This directive applies to all



residents, visitors, students, faculty, and staff, and will remain in force until further notice.

All residents of, and visitors to, Sewanee are required to wear face coverings over their nose and mouth when in public or inside buildings other than private residences, with five exceptions:

- When they are alone
- When they are asleep (such as in a residence hall room or hotel room)
- When they are eating or drinking
- When they are maintaining a social distance of six feet or more from any other person, and
- If they have a documented medical condition that precludes their wearing a face covering.

In situations that may be ambiguous with regard to the above exceptions, individuals are asked to exercise their best judgment with regard to their likelihood of spreading the virus to others. If in doubt, individuals should wear a mask. Everyone is asked to have a mask on their person at all times so that they may don it when circumstances require it as outlined above. The Vice Chancellor expresses his gratitude for your cooperation in helping to keep our community safe during this unprecedented health crisis.

A Prayer for Putting on a Mask By the Rev. Richard Bott

Creator God as I prepare to go into the world, help me to see the sacramental nature of wearing a mask. Let it be a tangible and visible way of living love for my neighbor, as I love myself.

Christ Jesus since my lips will be covered, uncover my heart that people would see my smile in the crinkles around my eyes. Since my voice may be muffled help me to speak clearly, not only with my words but with my actions.

Holy Spirit, as the elastic touches my ears, remind me to listen carefully and caringly to all those I meet. May this simple piece of cloth be shield and banner and may each breath that it holds be filled with your love. In Your name and in that love I pray. Amen

Mental Health Resources

*If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and the light around me become night,"
even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day,
for darkness is as light to you.*

Ps. 139:11-12

Christians are not exempt from feeling the effects of isolation, loneliness, and fear, especially during these months of social distancing and quarantine. There is no doubt that the COVID-19 pandemic has taken a toll on mental health. While taking care to prevent physical complications

of the disease, many neglect to safeguard their mental well-being in the process.

If you or someone you know is experiencing a mental health crisis, there is help available! You can call **855-CRISIS-1 (855-274-7471)** to speak with the State Crisis Line, or **text HOME to 741741**. Just need someone to talk to? Call the Church Office at **931-598-5926** and let us know. We will be happy to lend a listening ear, pray with you, and help connect you with any additional services you might need.

Giving to Otey Memorial Parish

Bill Pay from Your Bank Website

Use the Bill Pay service provided by your bank. If your bank offers online bill pay services, follow their setup directions to add the church as a payee, and add recurring automatic payments. Use the name and address below for the payee:

Otey Memorial Parish Church
P.O. Box 267
Sewanee, TN 37375
(931) 598-5926

By Mail

Mail us a check, or place cash or check in the offering plate on Sunday. If you are giving toward a pledge, please write "Pledge" on the memo or envelope. If mailing, send to us at the above address.

Online Giving

Convenient and secure -- You can make a one-time donation or set up a recurring gift. Choose credit, debit or bank account payments. If you already have a login for our Realm software, you can either [Give Now](#) or text "Otey\$75" (or any amount) to 73256. Follow the prompts and manage your account. **More information regarding Realm below.**

Get Connected with Realm

Let's get connected. ✨

Download our Connect app today.

- 📄 Update your personal information
- 🗣️ Communicate with groups & teams
- 📄 Follow church announcements
- 🔍 Look up members
- 💰 Manage giving
- 📅 Create and join events

Let's be the church... together.



Our new church management software has expanded capabilities to help parishioners get connected and stay that way. You can easily update your personal information, see the status of your giving, and set up online one-time or recurring electronic giving. As always, we are still able to receive gifts by check.

Interested or have questions?
Call the Church Office at 931-598-5926.

Prayer List: Stewart Abercrombie, Abu-Ali Abdur'Rahman, Bonnie Babb, Jeannie Babb, Phoebe Bates, David Burnett, Leigh Ann Campbell, Corky Carlisle, Matthew Collins, Stephanie Faxon, Barb Ford, Catherine Garcia, Linda Hutton, Peter Hutton, Ariel Jones, Houston King, Jennifer Lewis, Mary Lynch, Jeff Mazur, Raymond McCoy, Waring McCrady, Jane McKenna, Mary Matlock Newman, Elizabeth Noland, Allen Peek, Jennifer Sturgis Roberts, Glenn Smith, Russell Stubblefield, Elizabeth Taylor, Van Tucker, Peggy Ward, Scott, and those others we name.

December Birthdays

Susan Holmes 12 / 1 ; Sarah Ward 12 / 2 ; Frank Lankewicz 12 / 6 ; Zell Hoole 12 / 7 ; Diane Getty 12 / 10 ; Laurie Ramsey 12 / 11 ; Franklin Lowe 12 / 13 ; Rachel Lynch 12 / 15 ; Ramona Rose-Crossley 12 / 18 ; Kathy Solomon 12 / 18 ; Addison Willis 12 / 24 ; Robert Black 12 / 24 ; Bill Davis 12 / 25 ; Jennie Murray 12 / 27 ; Mary Gatta 12 / 29 ; Jim Jackson 12 / 29 ; Matthew Mollica 12 / 30 ; Luwin Lewis 12 / 30; Annwn Myers 12 / 31



The deadline for submissions for the January 2021 issue of *Otey Notes* is: 3pm Friday, December 18. Please note on your calendar. Email submissions to: admin@oteyparish.org

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