

I50TEY MEMORIAL PARISH

Founded in 1870-71 as St. Paul's-on-the-Mountain

February 2021

From the Rector: Next Steps

Please expect Sunday services to be virtual-only through the month of February unless there is unseasonably warm weather. We'll worship on Ash Wednesday at 12:15pm and 7:00pm (see announcement). We'll start in-person services outside again in March as weather permits, and continue outside as long as needed.

Our Bishop's Visitation is scheduled for Sunday, May 2. In addition to his leading worship, preaching, and administering Confirmation/Reception/Reaffirmation, he will lead us in dedicating the plaque to be installed on the church in Bp. Otey's memory and in other prayers marking our change of name to St. Mark & St. Paul.



Rob Lamborn

Ash Wednesday-February 17

Services will be held at our usual times of 12:15 and 7:00pm in St. Mark's Hall for greater social distancing. Attendance is limited to 30 at each service; look for an Evite to sign up for the services. The 12:15 service will also be livestreamed on our Facebook page and be available afterward on our YouTube channel.

Office Closure

Otey's office and the Community Action Committee will be closed February 15 in honor of Presidents' Day.



Vestry Highlights - January 2021

Regular meeting of January 21, 2021

- Elected Julia Bates as Clerk, Susan Holmes as Senior Warden, Annette Smith as Junior Warden, and Alec Moseley as Treasurer after reviewing the position descriptions for those offices.
- Established program area responsibilities for the coming year (see vestry listing)
- Confirmed the Rector's nomination of Finance Committee members Joel Cunningham, Susan Holmes, Linda Lankewicz (2-year term) and Eric Hartman.
- Set its annual retreat for Saturday, February 6



The Feast of Absalom Jones

Sunday February 7th

4:00 p.m.

Livestream on Christ Church Cathedral [Facebook](#)

Will be available on [Youtube](#)

Join us for a Service of Evening Prayer

in honor of

The Rev. Absalom Jones

First African priest in The Episcopal Church

Preacher: The Rt. Rev. Phoebe Roaf, Bishop of the Diocese of West Tennessee

Celebrant: The Rt. Rev. John Bauerschmidt, Bishop of the Diocese of Tennessee

You will have an opportunity to donate to Episcopal HBCUs
(Historically Black Colleges and Universities)

The recording will be available on Facebook and YouTube for the month of February. We encourage individuals, small groups and congregations to utilize the recording, including the preaching by The Rt Rev. Phoebe Roaf, in gatherings and worship.

***A Partnership of Beloved Community Commission for Racial Reconciliation,
and Christ Church Cathedral***

Supporting the Work of Our Diocese

More than three-quarters of the funding for the Episcopal Diocese of Tennessee comes from Fair Share Assessments paid by congregations. Each diocese is a little different. The amount in our diocese is 10% of a church's Normal Operating Income averaged over the previous two years. The Diocese of Tennessee's rate is among the lower ones in the Episcopal Church. Each fall we receive the amount for the coming year from the diocesan office along with a form to say how much the Vestry plans to pay in the coming year.

(There is also a provision in this diocese for congregations to divert the part of their assessment that would go to the Episcopal Church overall to a different outreach purpose. It arose a number of years ago from the intense anger some felt about the first openly gay bishop in the Episcopal Church. Otey has not taken this option any year, to my knowledge.)

At Diocesan Convention each year there is published a list of churches' diocesan

asking for the coming year, along with their stated intentions of fulfillment. It has been important to people here to fulfill our entire asking, although during mid-2010s building project there was one or more years we did not. With the pandemic and its financial effects, our 2021 budget reduces our planned fulfillment by 14%, the proportion we anticipate revenues to be down in 2021. Here's some diocesan-wide context:

Out of 43 churches reported:

- 1 intends to exceed their asking
- 19 intend to meet their full asking
- 4 reduced their commitment by fewer dollars and a lower percentage than Otey
- 7 reduced their commitment by fewer dollars and a greater percentage
- 11 reduced their commitment by more dollars and a greater percentage

The \$42,262 asked of Otey for 2021 was 10th highest in the diocese. Our commitment of \$36,342 is 7th highest commitment made for this year.

Annual Diocesan Convention

189th Convention of the Diocese of Tennessee, January 22-23, 2021

On Friday, January 22, pre-convention hearings were held on the proposed budget and two general resolutions: 1) mandating anti-racism training for those elected and appointed to diocesan and congregational offices, commissions, and boards; and 2) our resolution to change the name of the parish from Otey Memorial to the Episcopal Parish of St. Mark and St. Paul on the Mountain. Discussion on our resolution was centered primarily on details of internal diocesan housekeeping: adding a clause that the request for changing the name had been approved by the Bishop and stipulating that all of the details necessary to legally effect the name change would be attended to by the parish in a timely manner. Discussion of the anti-racism requirement was wide-ranging, including the question of whether a particular anti-racism training program should be specified as required.

On Saturday, January 23, Bishop Bauerschmidt opened the 189th Convention of the Diocese of Tennessee with prayer. The morning session included the official business of certifying a quorum, electing the officers of convention, adopting rules of order, and receiving notice of appointments by the bishop to committees, commissions, and boards. The late morning brought general elections to Bishop and Council, the Standing Committee, and the Dandridge Trust Board. Also elected were those nominated by the Bishop to serve in a number of diocesan offices and on various boards. The diocesan budget was presented.

In his address to the convention, Bishop Bauerschmidt noted the need to meet in Zoom in a condensed format as part of our journey together on the Wilderness Road, acknowledging our collective and individual sense of loss in the time of pandemic, a reminder of our deeply felt need to continue to gather as we can as the Body of Christ. "The Church cannot sit genteelly on the sidelines and wait this out." Instead we have journeyed the Wilderness Road together with prudence, keeping in mind the safety and wellbeing of all, ready

to change our meeting patterns as the situation itself has changed, so that work of the diocese has continued. The Bishop offered thanks for the clergy and lay leadership who have been willing to stretch themselves for the sake of Christ. He acknowledged that challenges this year included tornado relief and the Christmas morning explosions in downtown Nashville, among other crises, economic and political, in addition to the pandemic. He commended a new initiative of chaplaincy partnership between Christ Church and St. Anselm's and called for a renewed commitment to racial reconciliation in our work to become the Beloved Community. He spoke against violence in political life and the idolatry at the heart of the attempt to overthrow our nation's constitutional order. In conclusion, he drew our attention to the picture of the early Christian community in Acts from which the early evangelist Philip went out on the Wilderness Road where he finds his mission and ministry has changed in ways over which he has little control.

In the afternoon session the diocesan budget was discussed and approved. Two general resolutions were the next order of business. Our resolution to change the name of the parish, amended to include the recommended changes regarding the bishop's approval and the requirement to attend to legalities, was presented first. Karen Meridith spoke on behalf of the parish, noting our careful work in discerning the need to change. With no other discussion the resolution passed overwhelmingly (95%-5%). The second resolution, instituting a requirement that anti-racism training be required for elected and appointed officers of the diocese and its parishes, missions, chaplaincies, and missions, was presented with changes engendered by discussion at the Friday hearing. Much of the discussion centered on whether further amendment was needed, resulting in a brief period of editing the resolution onscreen. When the changes were accepted the resolution was put forward for vote and passed, with the Beloved Community commission charged with developing widely available training to address this need across the diocese. The final texts of both resolutions will be available in the minutes of convention. After this, the four convocations caucused separately in breakout rooms to elect representative clergy members to Bishop and Council, then the convention reconvened in plenary to hear reports and other business. After a prayer, the convention adjourned.

Attending on behalf of Otey were lay delegates Lisa Howick, Karen Keele & Karen Meridith, clergy delegates Betty Carpenter & Rob Lamborn, and visitor David Goodpaster.

Karen Meridith

Name Change Resolution

2021 Annual Convention of the Diocese of Tennessee General Resolution II:
Rename Otey Memorial Parish as the Episcopal Parish of St. Mark and St. Paul
on the Mountain

Proposed by the Vestry of Otey Memorial Parish; amended by General
Resolutions Committee

Whereas, the Parish Church in Sewanee was founded in 1870 under the name
St. Paul's on-the-Mountain, and (normally at times separate from Caucasians)
African Americans worshiped there at services organized by the St. Mark's Guild
of the Theological Department of the University of the South, and

Whereas, in 1891 the present church building was completed and, at the initiation of Bishop Charles T. Quintard, was dedicated in memory of the Rt. Rev'd James Hervey Otey, first Bishop of Tennessee, and

Whereas, Bp. Otey was a remarkable leader for the Church, revered for his extraordinary dedication and the results of his missionary zeal in Tennessee, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, and the Oklahoma Territory, and as one of the principal founders and first Chancellor of the University of the South, and

Whereas, Bp. Otey opposed secession to form the Confederacy, but accepted it once Tennessee seceded, and resisted dividing the Protestant Episcopal Church, and

Whereas, Bp. Otey was a vocal supporter of slavery who held a total of at least 16 persons enslaved at some point over the course of his adult life, and

Whereas, in response to the Vestry's request to rename the Parish of S. Paul-on-the-Mountain as the Otey Memorial Parish, the 1891 Annual Convention of the Diocese of Tennessee adopted a resolution renaming it the Otey Memorial Church, and

Whereas, what was then called the "colored congregation" did not move to the Otey Memorial Church, but at Bp. Quintard's behest remained in the St. Paul's building, coming to be known by that name until the St. Paul's building was dismantled in the 1930s, and

Whereas, building materials salvaged from St. Paul's were used to construct a church building for the Black congregation, whose name Otey Rector at the time Charles Widney determined should revert to St. Mark's, and

Whereas, in 1962, a substantial group of St. Mark's members (18) transferred to form at Otey the first fully integrated Episcopal parish in Tennessee, and six years later Bishop William Sanders concurred in the request of the remaining St. Mark's members for a merger of their congregation with Otey Parish, and

Whereas, several former St. Mark's members felt that, although they were welcomed at Otey, they were less fully engaged in leadership there, and the identity of their previous church was effaced, and

Whereas, in 1971 the Otey Parish Centennial Committee recommended adopting a name that would include St. Paul and St. Mark in conjunction with Otey Memorial, and

Whereas, during much of the 1970s and into the 1980s, versions of the name "Otey Memorial Church of the Parish of St. Paul's-on-the-Mountain" were used, and

Whereas, it is unusual for Episcopal parishes to be named as memorials to a person of relatively recent history, but more commonly are named for a patron saint or saints, a Biblical event, or a doctrine or other theological concept, and

Whereas, in recent years, recognition and concern about patterns of historic and systemic racism have grown in Sewanee and elsewhere, and new steps have been taken to distance ourselves from memorials that could be seen as honoring positions or values that are no longer acceptable, and

Whereas, a number of members of Otey Memorial Parish have requested that

its name be changed because of Bp. Otey's connections to slavery, and

Whereas, in conjunction with the sesquicentennial of the parish, an advisory committee engaged in a course of prayerful discernment, consulting the Bible, three historians, a survey offered to the congregation, and two descendants of persons held in slavery by the Otey family, as well as inviting feedback at the Annual Parish Meeting, and

Whereas, this resolution does not condemn Bp. Otey as a person or hold him to the standards of a later time, but seeks a parish name that would not act as a barrier to welcome and inclusion of persons of color now and in the future, and

Whereas, it is the parish's intention to install a well-crafted plaque in a prominent place on the church building noting its completion in 1891 and dedication in memory of Bp. Otey, and a second marker 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 names of St. Mark and St. Paul to affirm the shared history of Black and White Episcopalians in Sewanee; and

Whereas, this request to the Annual Convention has been approved by the Bishop and does not appear to be in conflict with the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese, and

Whereas the Vestry of the Otey Memorial Parish herewith petitions the 189th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Tennessee to approve the change of the name of the parish from "The Otey Memorial Parish" to "The Episcopal Parish of St. Mark and St. Paul on the Mountain," therefore be it

Resolved, that the petition be granted and the 189th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Tennessee approve the name change from "The Otey Memorial Parish" to "The Episcopal Parish of St. Mark and St. Paul on the Mountain", and said name change to be made effective by the Parish on or about the date of the next Bishop's Visitation; and be it further

Resolved that upon the change of the name of the Parish, the Rector, Wardens and Vestry take all necessary steps to effect compliance with all ecclesiastical, legal, and pragmatic requirements resulting from said name change.

Adopted by diocesan convention on January 23, 2021, with 95% in favor and 5% opposed.



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.



The CAC continues its work of serving the needy with food and in other ways. Director [David Goodpaster](#) is staffing CAC, taking sensible precautions while serving people in need 9 to 11am, Monday through Friday. Please call 931-598-5927 for assistance.

CAC Sunday

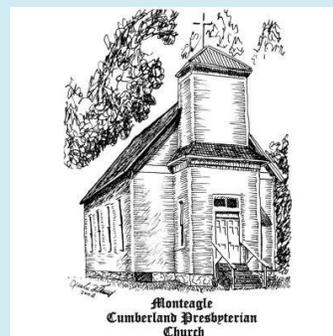
Sunday, February 7th, is CAC Sunday. Otey Parish, St. James (Midway), All Saints Chapel, Sewanee Cumberland Presbyterian, and Monteagle Cumberland Presbyterian are all participating churches that contribute to the food bank here at CAC. Although Otey's service will be online this Sunday, CAC encourages parishioners to either bring food donations to CAC or send an email to cac@oteyparish.org and your donations can be picked up. CAC is especially in need of sliced white sandwich bread and canned fruits and vegetables (except corn). Thank you for your continued support of CAC!

Sunday Forum on February 7

The Sunday Forum for February 7 is a discussion of CAC (Community Action Committee.) Please join presenters Director David Goodpaster and past directors, Betty Carpenter and Laura Willis, as they discuss and take questions about the past, present, and future of CAC and the essential bond this long-serving outreach ministry has with the parishioners of Otey Memorial Parish. The forum will be from 9:30am to 10:30am via Zoom. The Zoom link will be included with the bulletin email from Otey Parish for this Sunday

CAC & Monteagle Cumberland Presbyterian Church

CAC is happy to announce a new outreach partnership with Monteagle Cumberland Presbyterian Church located at 343 College Street in Monteagle. MCPC organizes a robust clothing ministry that CAC will help to stock through interested parties in the Sewanee area and the University. MCPC will become an "outpost of outreach" for CAC's Kitchen2Table program, expanding CAC's reach in feeding people from throughout the Cumberland Plateau who come to MCPC for help. MCPC is also a new participating church in the collection of food donations for CAC Sundays that



take place monthly.

Scouts Sponsor Food Drive



Each year in February, the local Boy Scout troops in Middle Tennessee join together to collect as much food as possible to help feed those in need. The St. Andrew's-Sewanee scout troop will be participating in this effort, collecting donations for the National Scouts BSA Food Drive. Troop 14 will be distributing drop boxes throughout the area to collect canned and nonperishable foods for CAC. CAC is thankful for the service these scouts are providing.

Christian Formation News

Fire on the Mountain: Youth News



Students are creating badges for a Fire on the Mountain banner.

Fire on the Mountain meets 4-6 pm on Sundays. During the month of January, we met on Zoom because of high Covid-19 numbers in the surrounding areas. We still had a great time! We have a wonderful group of young people who enjoy checking in on each other, playing games, and reflecting together about where we see God in our lives.

In February, we hope to meet mostly in person. We will continue work on the new Fire on the Mountain banner. We will have at least one service project, some just-for-fun madness, and

some quiet reflection. We will be incorporating some of the material we use for confirmation training. This material comes from *My Faith, My Life: A Teen's Guide to the Episcopal Church*, by Jenifer Gamber. Students who wish to be confirmed in May should join us for these sessions.

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.

Lenten Series

Wednesday Night Learning Series on *Reading While Black* with special appearance by Esau McCaulley

Feb 24-March 24

According to Isaiah, true practice of religion ought to result in concrete change, the breaking of yokes.

He does not mean the occasional private act of liberation, but "to break the



chains of injustice.” What could this mean other than a transformation of the structures of societies that trap people in hopelessness? Jesus has in mind the creation of a different type of world.

— **Esau McCaulley, Reading While Black: African American Biblical Interpretation as an Exercise in Hope**

During the season of Lent, Otey will host a learning series based on McCaulley’s groundbreaking new book. Steeped in Scripture and gorgeously written, *Reading While Black* will serve as a framework for considering the implications of Christian theology and text through the lens of the Black Christian experience. Author Esau McCaulley will join us the final night of the series. Feb 24 – Chapter 1. The South Got Somethin’ to Say: Making Space for Black Ecclesial Interpretation

Mar 3 – Chapter 3. Tired Feet, Rested Souls: The New Testament and the Political Witness of the Church

and Chapter 4. Reading While Black: The Bible and the Pursuit of Justice

Mar 10 – Chapter 2: Freedom Is No Fear: The New Testament and a Theology of Policing

Mar 17 – Chapter 6. What Shall We Do With This Rage? The Bible and Black Anger

Mar 24 – Discussion with author Esau McCaulley

Please join us each Wednesday via Zoom from 7 to 8 pm, by clicking the link below.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82410831318?pwd=WUzsaHFCckFVSS9qWmM2MDIKbFBJQT09>

Or open your Zoom account and enter:

Meeting ID: 824 1083 1318

Passcode: 289183

The book is available on Amazon or at your favorite bookstore.

Practicing Lent

We sometimes associate Lent with fasting or “giving things up.” Some Christians forgo chocolate, caffeine, or meat. Other Lenten practices are more an addition than a subtraction. You may read Scripture before the evening meal, follow a certain Lenten devotional series, or attend additional worship services. You may add a class such as our Wednesday night study of Reading While Black.

Art and poetry offer another way to reflect on Lent. One of my Lenten practices is to write and share a poem every day, and invite others to join me with the hashtag [#40poemsforlent](#). I write poetry anyway, but this practice of daily sharing is different for me. You see, I am a slow writer. I like to let my poems gestate for months or sometimes years. Sharing the poems as I go encourages me to let go of perfection and focus on the shared connection.

Here are just a few of the poems this practice has inspired. I wonder what Lenten practices you observe? I wonder how you might share these practices with those parishes or the wider world?

Day 1: Ash

remember that you are dust
you are dust

you are stardust
the entire cosmos conspired
to create you
beloved of God
for behold, you look for Truth deep
within me
open my lips, o Lord
what fast do you desire?
o that i might live into your light
bear Christ into this world
to dust you shall return
home among the stars
in all the heavens
where truth and love
abide
you will make me understand wisdom
secretly
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise
where shall my treasure be?
o that i might seek only your light
bear Love into this world
beloved dust, sacred dust, holy dust
You Are
stardust, light born
of light
remember
remember that you are dust
remember
and to dust
always beloved
you shall return

--Lauren Kay, 2020

[#40poemsforlent](#)

When you feel like you don't have
one wrong turn left in you
and you want to disappear
into the curl of a walnut shell
to hide in the sticky black tar
and sleep and grow smaller,
and your greatest fear is hope
because another disappointment
is more than you think you can bear,
Then remember that shells
are for sheltering things,
for a while,
but nothing grows
until the shell breaks open
and the sleeping thing wakes
and stretches like a newborn baby
to test the space:
Is it safe to come outside?
Oh nothing is safe about being alive!

And nothing is safer than being alive.

-- Jeannie Babb, 2016

[#40poemsforlent](#)



Godly Play

Zoom, Sundays, 9:30 am - 10:30 am

Godly Play continues each Sunday at 9:30 a.m. on Zoom! The link is the same each week, and is provided to families via email in order to keep the space safe for children. If you are not receiving our weekly emails, please let Jeannie know at formation@oteyparish.org.

A reflection bag is provided for each child containing art supplies or other reflection materials, and a small snack to keep the feast. After the story, we log off for reflection time and the feast. The reflection bags are placed on the CAC porch at the back of St. Mark's Hall in Claiborne Parish House on Friday afternoons so parents can swing by after school. If you don't know how to find them, just ask.

Story schedule for February, told by Barbara Prunty, with Jeannie Babb and Cheryl Lankhaar serving as doorkeepers:

Feb 7 – Parable of the Mustard Seed

Feb 14 – Parable Game

Feb 21 – The Greatest Parable, Part 1

Feb 28 – The Greatest Parable, Part 2

March stories, told by Cheryl Lankhaar, with Julia Bates serving as doorkeeper:

Mar 7 – Faces of Easter 1&2

Mar 14 – Faces of Easter 3&4

Mar 21 – Faces of Easter 5

Mar 28 – Faces of Easter 6&7

Many thanks to our wonderful storytellers and doorkeepers! We are also grateful to our Nursery Coordinator Annika Derham for making the reflection bags each week, and to Nursery Caregiver Cara Kitzrow for the seedling project. We miss them at church as much as they miss our little ones! We are all praying for the end of the quarantine so we can reopen the nursery.

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



Storytellers devote many hours to learning and telling Godly Play stories.

MLK reflection: Siblings picture people of every creed and color holding hands in unity around a smiling earth.



A child's reflection on the Parable of the Sower.



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

February schedule:

7 The Community Action Committee - David Goodpaster, Betty Carpenter, & Laura Willis

14 Otey & Other Episcopal Institutions - Rob Lamborn

21 Otey & the University - John McCardell

28 Community Partnerships - Trudy Cunningham, Sandy Baird

March Schedule

7 Rector's Forum - Rob Lamborn

14 Demographic Patterns: American Christianity & The Episcopal Church & Meghan Mazur

21 Directions in Episcopal Worship

28 Palm Sunday: No Forum

Episcopal 101: Sundays at 2:30

Are you new to the Episcopal Church? Are you interested in confirmation, reception, or reaffirmation of faith? Would you like to know why we practice Christianity in the ways we do? Are you a longtime member who would like a refresher? Do you need something to do with your Sunday afternoons? Episcopal 101 online may be for you!

We will meet via Zoom Sunday afternoons at 2:30 starting January 17, with the topics announced each week.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81510369847?pwd=endqdDR0NjZZS3dkbGtjTWZDSjEvQT09>

or dial on your telephone: +1 312 626 6799 US
Meeting ID: 815 1036 9847; Passcode: 281380

Mary, Did You Know?

As most of you know, I enjoy researching the backgrounds of our hymns. If you heard my session on the history of Otey Parish music, I mentioned how few

new hymns come along that really have the staying power of many of our standard hymns. This month I want to mention one that came out of the late 80s by a hyperactive musician named Mark Lowry. His friendship and participation in the Gaither Vocal Band with Mark Lowry and Bill Gaither. They are a foremost group in gospel music. Not a place where we normally find a hymn acceptable for liturgical use. However, *Mary, Did You Know?* has made its way into the mainstream Christmas music.

Why would we be drawn to such a hymn? Why might we consider adding it to our hymnal during the next revision? Why? Because it causes us to look at Mary in a totally new and interesting way. How did Mary feel? What did God let Mary know? Don't we really want to know more about the mother of Jesus? Of course we do. It gives us insight into Jesus and his family. Can any of us really answer the questions in the song? No, but we still find it interesting to consider. We love Mary for her decision to do as God requested. We love her for being the handmaiden of the Lord. We wonder what we would say, should God ask a similar thing of us.

Buddy Green added a lovely and touching melody. When added to the inspirational text, it is a moving event for the listener. Mark Lowry penned the text in 1984 from the viewpoint of an interview. He was a life long, outstanding singer, so his feel for line was intuitive to him. However, he didn't like his first efforts and left it sit until 1988 to revisit the piece. He felt it needed more time and inspiration. The collaboration didn't happen until 1990 when Buddy Green became part of Gaither Vocal Band. Only then did Mark Lowry ask Green to provide a melody for *Mary, Did You Know?*. It came out of southern gospel music. Michael English recorded the song first, followed by many others such as Kathy Mattea, Natalie Cole, and others. The vocal arrangers put together several settings of the melody for choral groups. The song simply spoke to the people. Former President Bill Clinton declared it his favorite Christmas song. For the first time in decades, a new Christmas song had become an important facet of traditional holiday celebrations. It was a song like no other Christmas carol ever penned, written about a mother like no other, and came from the hand of a man who is said, to be totally unique about another who was even more unique. If you haven't heard *Mary, Did You Know?*, I encourage you to go on you tube and listen to it. You will definitely feel the uniqueness of one of our newest hymns.

***Best wishes to you and yours for 2021.
Kathleen Sturgis***

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@oteyparish.org.

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: Abu-Ali Abdur'Rahman, Sandra Babb, Marjorie Burnett, Corky Carlisle, Carolyn Davis, Barb Ford, Catherine Garcia, Bill McDonough, Jennifer Sturgis Roberts.

February Birthdays

Jeff Lynch 2 / 1, David Goodpaster 2 / 1, Barb Ford 2 / 2, Elliott Duncan 2 / 3
Jay Fisher 2 / 6, Mac Croom 2 / 9, Beth Wiley 2 / 12, Trudy Cunningham 2 / 13
Miree Wood 2 / 14, Brenda Matthews 2 / 14, John Gatta 2 / 15,
Jane Holmes 2 / 16, Jeannie Babb 2 / 16, Jimmy Blythe 2 / 17,
John Fisher 2 / 17, Julia Bates 2 / 17, George Dick 2 / 18, Tim Nelson 2 /
19, Amy Neubauer 2 / 19, Maddie Van de Ven 2 / 19, Jett Fisher 2 / 22, David
Kearley 2 / 23, Thomas Macfie 2 / 23, J.T. Jenkins 2 / 23, Liz Camp 2 /
24, Hampton Mauzy 2 / 27, Bonnie McCardell 2 / 28,

The deadline for submissions for the March 2021
issue of *Otey Notes* is: 3pm Wednesday, February



19 . Please note on your calendar.

Email submissions to: admin@oteyparish.org

The mission of Otey Parish is to worship God, to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ, to serve the world for which Christ died, to educate and nurture our community, and welcome all.

Staff:

The Rev. Robert C. Lamborn, D. Min., Rector, rector@oteyparish.org

The Rev. Elizabeth Carpenter, Deacon, deacon@oteyparish.org

The Rev. David Goodpaster, CAC Director, Curate, curate@oteyparish.org,

Frieda Hawkins, Parish Administrator, admin@oteyparish.org

Kathy Sturgis, Organist, music@oteyparish.org

Jeannie Babb, Christian Formation Director, Acting Youth Director

formation@oteyparish.org

Meghan Mazur, Seminarian, mazurmj0@sewanee.edu

Dewey Hammond, Financial Administrator, finance@oteyparish.org

Franklin Lowe, Youth Ministry Intern, lowejf0@sewanee.edu

Annika Derham, Nursery Coordinator

Vestry:

Beth Chamberlain, CAC

Joel Cunningham, Finance

Susan Holmes, Sr. Warden & Newcomers

Karen Meridith, University/Community Relations

Sue Moseley, Christian Formation

Tom Phelps, Pastoral Care

Annette Smith, Junior Warden

Lynn Taylor, Parish Life

Lauryl Tucker, Stewardship

Alec Moseley, Treasurer

Julia Bates, Clerk

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