

EPISCOPAL CHURCH of the
HEAVENLY REST

God's Love. For All.

*Heavenly Rest is dedicated to serving and creating community by proclaiming the good news of God's love for all.
New here? Please fill out a welcome card from the back of the pew or on our website at heavenlyrestabilene.org/visit.*

LIFE IN OUR COMMUNITY

The Eve of the Epiphany and the Twelfth Night Feaste will be January 5, 2026 starting at 5:30. The festivities will begin with the service of the Eve of the Epiphany in the nave and followed by a procession following the piper to the Great Hall (Gerhart Hall) for singing, feasting on glorious fare and the chalking of the doors. Come one, Come all to participate in the last day of the Christmastide. Tickets are \$12.00 per adult and \$3.00 per child. Childcare will be provided for the service in the nave and childcare provided by reservation only (ages 5 and under) for the Feaste. This is a time for families to celebrate together and have one last time to sing those favorite Christmas Carols.



Exploring Spiritual Treasure - Exploring Spiritual Treasure is Heavenly Rest's program for those who are new to this community or are interested in deepening their faith. Please join us as the class resumes on Sunday January 4 at 9:15 - **Role of the Bishop** with a video message from Bishop Payne. Breakfast will be served and we will learn about the role of the Bishop. Until then, we, the EST mentors, wish you a wonderful and merry Christmas! Mark your calendars for the spring classes: **Role of Priests & Deacons** (1/11) - Rev Joe Biles, **Role of the Laity** (1/18) - Sister B, **Councils of the Church** (1/25) - Kathy Balch & Kate Haney, **Annual Meeting and Confirmation Rehearsal** (2/1), **Bishop Visitation & Confirmation Sunday** (2/8) - Breakfast with the Bishop.

The Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus - Join us for the Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus which celebrates the naming and circumcision of Jesus eight days after his birth. The angel gave Jesus his name before he was conceived (Luke 2:21). The name Jesus comes from the Hebrew "Yehoshuah" which means "Yhwh will save." St. Paul reminds us of the importance of the Holy Name in his letter to the Philippians, "at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth." The Holy Eucharist will be celebrated in observance of this feast on January 1st at noon in the chapel.

Wednesday Night Programming Resumes: January 7 - On Wednesday, January 7, we invite you to a special evening of supper, fellowship, and birthday celebrations! After enjoying supper and cupcakes, we'll gather at tables by birthday month for a fun time of sharing and answering a variety of questions. It's a great opportunity for all ages to connect and learn more about each other. Last year was a blast, and we can't wait to do it again! Additionally, Adult Choir, Chorister, Handbell, and Children's Music rehearsals will resume that evening.

Baptism Opportunity - On January 11th, the sacrament of baptism will be offered at a combined English and Swahili service. To schedule a baptism on this date for you or your child please contact Father David at dromanik@heavenlyrestabilene.org.

Vestry and Delegate Nominees - The following persons have been nominated for three year terms on Vestry: Dan Harbaugh, Gretchen Henson, Jay Moore, and Dustin Rainwater. Kate Haney has been nominated for a one year term. Five members of Vestry will be elected at the Annual Meeting. The following persons have been nominated to serve as delegates to the 68th Diocesan Convention in October of 2026 and the Special Electing Convention in January of 2027: Yvonne Batts, Melody Brown, Connie Collier, Judy Godfrey, Lisa Goolsby, Debbie Hurt, Harry Hurt, Bijoux Mashauri, Jay Moore, Dustin Rainwater, Shelly Reed, Bill Young, and Terry Young. Eight delegates will be elected at the Annual Meeting. Those not elected will serve as alternates. We are grateful to all of these individuals for their willingness to serve! More information about the nominees may be found in the upcoming Lay Reader.

Bishop Visitation - Sunday, February 8th will be our annual visit by the Bishop and we will have Services for Confirmation, Reception, & Reaffirmation. If you have any further questions or are interested in participating in Confirmation this year through Confirmation, Reception, or Reaffirmation, please contact Mother Ashley as soon as possible!

Wednesday Night Programming during Epiphany - On Wednesday nights during the season after the Epiphany, we will explore stories of "Faith in Times of Crisis," drawing inspiration from our ancestors in the faith, as well as contemporary examples of those whose faith shapes the way they approach some of the greatest challenges this world has to offer. Join us for supper at 6:00 and the program at 6:30.

Job's Witness: How Suffering Changes the Way we Speak of God (January 14)

Awe, Science, Religion, and Eudaemonia (January 21)

"With Undivided Hearts": Bonhoeffer and the Cost of Discipleship (January 28)

The Witness and Work of the Novi Community (February 4)

Christmastide at Heavenly Rest

Sunday, December 28 - First Sunday after Christmas

8:00 am - Holy Eucharist Rite I (Nave)
10:30 am - Holy Eucharist Rite II (Nave)
1:00 pm - Worship in Swahili (Nave)

Thursday, January 1 - Holy Name

12:00 pm - Holy Eucharist (Chapel)



Sunday, January 4 - Second Sunday after Christmas

8:00 am - Holy Eucharist Rite I (Nave)
10:30 am - Holy Eucharist Rite II (Nave)
1:00 pm - Worship in Swahili (Nave)

Monday, January 5 - Eve of the Epiphany

5:30 pm - Holy Eucharist with Hymns (Nave)
6:30 pm - Twelfth Night Feaste (Gerhart Hall)

The Christmas music and flowers are offered to the Glory of God and in thanksgiving for...

Davis & Norah Goolsby by Jeff & Lisa Goolsby
The John Nichols Family; Frank & Carolyn Sheffield; Jakeb, Kennedy & Jenna Hall by Dru & Franklynn Hall
Family by Jeff & Penny Terrell
Clergy and Choir by Annabel House
William Harbaugh by William Harbaugh
Grandchildren by Richard Veigel
Elon Mues, Charlie Teague by Olivia Mues
Children: Carol, James & Tave Nichols by Nancy Nichols
Franklynn & Dru Hall and Family by Nancy Nichols
Amanda Biles by Joe Biles
The Lawler Family by Gerry & Sharon Lawler
Cindy McCarty by Jan Henson
Family by Cheryl Niblo
The Heavenly Rest Staff; St. John's Episcopal School by David and Sarah Beth Romanik
All of our family, especially welcoming Thomas David by Amanda and Tom Watson
Children & Grandchildren by Glen & Carol Hall
Heavenly Rest by Janice & Glen Funkey
Arcadia, Peden & Greg by Jim & Weezie Fitzhugh
Finneas McCartney & Tripp Brown by Debbie Sherman

and in memory of...

Jack & Sue Hall, Holly Frizzell by Dru & Franklynn Hall
Steve Strain by Bill Bailey
Helen Andrews by Doug & Deanna Thomas
Marvin & Camille Lynch, Bill & Grace Walts by Gay Ann & Charles Walts
Ed & Pat Tippens by Ann & Darryl Tippens
Nick & Helen Andrews, Irene Vletas, Jerry Hoegner by George Andrews
Marion Vandergriff, Jeff David by Tiffany Wagstaff
Gary Mues by Olivia Mues
Jerry Henson & Bruce Klingensmith by Jay & Gretchen Henson
Austin Denny, Burce Denny, Gerri Denny, Raleigh Brown, Margaret Brown,
Hallie Taylor, Steve Strain by Mike & Julie Denny
Tom Niblo by Cheryl Niblo
Holly Frizzell by John & Nancy Nichols
Jim Holmes by Cheryl Holmes
Dr. and Mrs. W.R. Sibley, Jr. by Sharron Ann Sibley
Bob & Geneva Riethmayer, Jenny Riethmayer, Ralph & Thelma Rogers, Harold Barnes by Jen Rogers
John & Kathryn Bevan, Doug Boschen, Walter & Virginia Boschen, C. Beaumont Felton, Lloyd Felton,
Victor & Alice Romanik, Paul & Elizabeth Yoder by The Romanik Family
Dot Pope by George & Cindy Straughan

Ruth Ann Choate by Thomas Choate
Jamie Sue Dunn by Chris & Susie Rockett
Donald McDonald & Janice Reddick by Tim & Debbie Lillick
Charles Scarborough by Candy Scarborough
H Glenn McWilliams, Mr & Mrs Stanley C Morris, Mr & Mrs Harry B McWilliams,
Mr & Mrs Bob J Morris, Sharon McCleskey Wylie by Sue McWilliams
Suzanne & John Stowe by Emily & Danny Hyde
Dorothea & Henry Ernest by Margret Garcia
Mac & Essie McCarty by Cindy McCarty
Mary Peterson by Robert Peterson
Lt Col Wayne Jepson by Viola Jepson
Larry Godfrey by Judy Godfrey
Henry Klingler & Jack Luther by Paula & Paul Klingler
Bill & Marylu Megginson, Cara Tucker by Debbie Sherman
Stella Olivia Lindley by Tom & JDana Lindley
James, Carolyn & Steve Strain by Jayne Strain Richardson
Fred & Jennie Shaw, Tom Boyd, Brad Rowland & Katherine Rowland by Tom & Lynn Boyd
Mary Duggan by Kris and Mike Fouts
Shirley, Jeff, and Jimmy Weston by Carol Ann Weston

other gifts offered by...

Shirlene and Rusty Plocheck
Bikole and Fabiola Mulanda
Cindy Strain
David Ekombe
Jack Ramsey
Steve and Rosemary Suttle

“Let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one.”

Many thanks to Ron Rainwater for the light displays on our campus!

THE WEEK AHEAD

View a detailed schedule at heavenlyrestabilene.org/calendar

Wednesday, December 24th - (office closes at noon)

4:00 PM Family Holy Eucharist*
6:00 PM Lessons and Carols*
10:00 PM Festival Holy Eucharist

Thursday, December 25th - (office closed)

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist
1:00 PM Holy Eucharist in Swahili
7:00 PM Unity Group AA

Friday, December 26th - (office closed)

Saturday, December 27th

8:30 AM Swahili Prayer
9:00 AM Altar Guild Preparation
10:30 AM Afternoon Children's Choir Rehearsal
4:30 PM Aleluya Kwaya Rehearsal

Sunday, December 28th

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist - Rite I (Nave)*
- No Sunday School -
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist - Rite II (Nave & livestream)*
1:00 PM Holy Eucharist (in Swahili)*
2:00 PM Grow Sunday School

Monday, December 29th - (office closed)

5:30 AM Breakfast on Beech Street

Tuesday, December 30th - (office closed)

7:00 PM Abilene Pipers
7:00 PM Unity Group AA

Wednesday, December 31st - (office closes at noon)

Thursday, January 1st - (office closed)

12:00 PM Holy Eucharist - Feast of the Holy Name
7:00 PM Unity Group AA

Friday, January 2nd

8:30 AM Morning Prayer
9:00 AM Grocery Distribution

Saturday, January 3rd

8:30 AM Swahili Prayer
9:00 AM Altar Guild Preparation
10:30 AM Afternoon Children's Choir Rehearsal
4:30 PM Aleluya Kwaya Rehearsal

Sunday, January 4th

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist - Rite I (Nave)*
9:00 AM EST - Exploring Spiritual Treasure (Gerhart Hall)
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist - Rite II (Nave & livestream)*
1:00 PM Holy Eucharist (in Swahili)*
2:00 PM Grow Sunday School
7:00 PM Evening Prayer
7:30 PM Encounter - Young Adult Ministry

* Nursery available (ages 0-4 years old)

PRAYERS

Thanksgivings for those celebrating birthdays this week: Kolby Anderson, Kathryn Anderson, Lyla Rose Bennett, Karen Boyd, Sarah Dannemiller-Martin, John Christian Gloyna, William Harbaugh, Sherry Rankin, Raphael Robery, Angaza Robert, John Walton, Owen Williams, Mwajuma Zuberi

Intercessions: John Best, Nolan Kelley, Mary Ellen Shorten, Brianna Johnson-Onielle, Charlotte Harbaugh, Crystal and Abigail Keet, Don Bridges, Roberto Becerra, Johnny Musselman, Annabel House, Olman Santeliz, Keith Boyd, Chuy Lopez and Krystan Powell, Jim, Chuck Hurlbut, Scott Mead, Gilbert Knapp, Charlie Donovan, Jacob Moore, Mitch Barnett, Rosalie Cox, Evelyn French, Chris Thomas, Laura Dickson, Alice Townsend Poirier, Charles Fairchilds, Bryan Gibbs, Karen Telck, Don Balch, Leslie Smith, Rita Sepuvela, Barbara Arnold, Frances Renfro, Mary Angermueller, Dianne Cash, Martha Swartz, Nancy Williams, Thomas Madrid, Mike Mansell, David Weigle, Hubert Smith, Arnold Guerra, Susan Langford, Sandy Bridges, Dawn Ahart, Jerry Gulley, Jeannie Best, Ralph Webb, Rusty Plocheck, Barbara Brock, Anne Melcher, BJ Madrid, Larry and Leta Bell, Christopher Choate, Shane Jones, Amanda Sellers, Russell McKeever, Francois Mulanda, Suzie Ramsey, Barbara Payne, Glen Funkey, Angaza Alembo

Intercessions for deployed military and first responders: Weaver Lilly, Riziki Mulanda, Michael Scarborough, Fire, Police, and Sheriff's Departments, Health Care Workers

Intercessions for the recently departed: Jessie Turner, Donald McDonald, Frank Sims, Jaime Burchfield, Stan Brown, Dorothy Pope, Sharon Haynes

CONTACT US

To learn more or to contact the clergy, visit us online at heavenlyrestabilene.org or by email info@heavenlyrestabilene.org.

602 Meander Street, Abilene, Texas 79602

Office Hours: M-Th 8:30 AM-12:00 PM, 1-4:30 PM, F 8:30-12:00 PM

Hands On-Assistance (Online) M,W,F 10:30 AM-12:00 PM, Grocery Distribution F 9-11:30 AM

Phone: (325) 677-2091

@heavenlyrestabilene



Thrift House, 761 Walnut Street, Abilene, TX 79601

(325) 672-3812

Open: Tuesday-Friday 9:30 AM- 4:30 PM

Is there something you would like to share with the church? Please submit announcements and materials to the Communications office.

Contact Jen Rogers at jrogers@heavenlyrestabilene.org.