

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

THE GOOD NEWS

April 2021

*The mission of St. Paul's is to be the Body of Christ
and instruments of his love and grace
committed to serve and nurture this church and community.*

Our Easter Hope

from the Rector

"There is probably no doubt in anyone's mind by now," I began my remarks in *last* April's Good News, "that we are living through a very unusual Lent this year, an extraordinarily challenging wilderness journey."

For me, at least, Lent began last year with novel-coronavirus-19 being something that was a problem for the *other* side of the world—you know, like the previous several rounds of such viral outbreaks.

As I learned more and more over those next few weeks, trying to take in new information, as they say, like trying to drink water from a fire-hose, I became convinced that the social distancing I had come to fear as much as the virus itself was the only thing that I could offer to stand between the spread of an unseen enemy and all of *you*, my beloved Family.

And so on Thursday of the third week of Lent, I sent you a note outlining the changes the Vestry and I felt we needed to make to the way we live our lives in order to keep us all safe and well. "I will offer our blessed 'sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving' on all our behalf," I said, "and you... will stay home."

That decision led to one of the loneliest times of my vocation as a Priest, as Easter came and went with my celebrating the riches of our liturgy physically isolated, a camera and your spirits the only congregation. Like most of you, I suspect, I hoped then that we would be able to share our "Alleluias" when the storm had finally passed. Perhaps by Pentecost, I thought, and sometimes even said aloud. Perhaps by summer. Perhaps in the fall. Perhaps for Christmas.

Over these weeks and months, over this *very* long Lenten *year*, your Vestry and I have tried to find creative ways to sustain our worship and conduct the "business" of our Parish, while resisting the temptation to "normalize" these distinctly abnormal times. I've got to say, we've gotten it right more than some I've seen, and many of *you* have found ways of being Church that have

nothing to do with the rhythms and building we love so much.

But now we have made it through *another* Lenten journey... without *that* Lent having ever come to the end for which we so eagerly longed.

An impossibly long time ago, it seems, before this *very* long Lent became part of our consciousness forever, I reflected in these pages on the last portion of the *Outline of the Faith* from the Prayer Book. I concluded that the whole outline of our faith comes down to the assurance that because Jesus Christ died for us, and because he was *raised* from the dead that first, bright Easter morning, the power of death, indeed, death *itself*, has been overthrown by the absolute power of *life*.

Each time we recite the Creed, each time we proclaim the Mystery of Faith in the Eucharist, we affirm that at the end of time, Christ will come again in glory to make *all* things new. We believe in heaven and hell, eternal life in the presence of God or eternal death in our rejection of his presence. We pray for and with those that have traveled before us because we trust that they still hold us in their love, just as we hold them still in ours.

But more importantly, we believe that Jesus Christ has already done *everything* that is necessary for our salvation, that he has already made us whole. In the fullness of *our* resurrection, we will be perfected in ways that Paul said we can only imagine. But in the here and now, we are already called to live into the hope that Christ has won for us, the assurance that nothing, *nothing* can separate us from God's love.

Though the hope for an end of our wilderness wandering is, as yet, still but a glimmer for many of us, the hope established forever by the risen and ever-rising Light of Christ remains the shining ray that points to Easter come *at last* once again, and points *beyond*, to our everlasting hope of glory with him. Perhaps that one thought is truly enough for any of us to remember

Peace and joy,

Upcoming Events

We are delighted to continue to welcome you to join us for in-person worship, but please know that depending on your situation, you are always welcome to continue to experience services livestreamed on St. Paul's Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/St.PaulsHenderson>

Sundays

- 8 a.m. — Holy Eucharist, Rite I (In-Person and FB Live)
- 10 a.m. — Holy Eucharist, Rite II (In-Person and FB Live)

Holy Week

- Maundy Thursday, April 1, 6:00 p.m. — Holy Eucharist, Rite II (In-Person and FB Live)
- Good Friday, April 2, 6:00 p.m. — Stations of the Cross (In-Person and FB Live)
- Holy Saturday, April 3, 8:00 p.m. — Great Vigil of Easter (In-Person and FB Live)

All other Parish activities continue to be suspended for now.

Around the Parish



Susan and Marilyn lift high their palms as they tend to the Altar.



One of their managers, Caitlyn presents a donation from Casey's to Henderson Christian Community Outreach.



Always beautiful Holy Week Altar at St. Paul's.

The Easter Light

from the Deacon

The First Letter of John the message they have heard from God and proclaim to us, that God is light and in Him there is no darkness at all. It proclaims our fellowship is with the Father and with his son Jesus Christ.

I am reminded of the song we sing, "I want to walk as a child of the light." The refrain I love to sing or hum: "In him there is no darkness at all. The night and day are both alike. The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart Lord Jesus!"

The last year has not been easy for any of us to walk in the light with the pandemic forcing us to wear mask and social distance ourselves from each other. I missed the fellowship of being with my sisters and brothers in Christ. The fellowship we share is definitely walking in the light of Christ!

It's a blessing to be a Christian celebrating the light of Spring and Easter together because they are both symbols of a new beginning, a new life and a new transition.

The weeping cherry in front of the Church was covered in white blossoms and the tulips in the large pots are gorgeous. The bees are out, flying around the beautiful blossoms. I am talking about spring and Easter, the new beginning. It's all about the resurrection of the risen Savior, who is the light of the world!

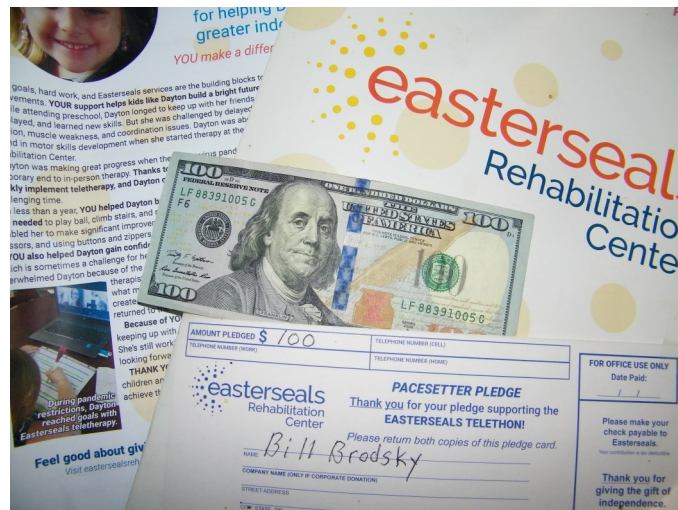
What is it that we wish or want to remind Christians and inform our neighbors, concerning Easter Sunday? It's time to say, "Alleluia, Christ is risen!" Yes, the resurrection of our Lord and Savior has arrived, it's time to celebrate the light of eternal life! It is a chance for Christians to renew their baptismal vows and for new believers to be baptized. A chance for all to become a new creation. We are not the same anymore, for the old life is gone and a new life has begun at Easter! It's time to walk in the light of Christ! It's time to have fellowship with our sisters and brothers in Christ as we worship the light of Christ on Easter morning.

In the Easter Vigil, we bring the light of Christ back into the Church. Rejoicing with the heavenly hosts and choirs of angels, shouting the salvation of our mighty King, for darkness has been vanquished by our eternal King!

A new light to show kindness, a new light of being patient, a new light of compassion, a new light of forgiveness and love. This wonderful light of Christ is a new way of dealing with what life will throw our way. His light will give you a new life to live, so live it!

My hope and prayers are that most of us will come and celebrate the light of Christ on Easter Sunday. This one event frees everyone to live with joy because we know the promise of salvation is real! Go in peace of the risen Christ, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Peace and Love,



\$100 Challenge—Easter Seals

Bill Brodsky—As some of you may remember, last year I gifted my \$100 Vestry Challenge to the Easter Seals Rehabilitation Center. I have decided to do so again. The Easter Seal Rehabilitation Centers mission statement is as follows:

“The mission of the Easter Seals Rehabilitation Center is to make profound, positive differences in the lives of local people with disabilities every day and to change the way our community defines and views disability.”

Brod and I have been involved with Easter Seals since 1978. Even at age 98, Brod is still an active volunteer. He is a Pacesetter and works Henderson County asking for pledges for the annual telethon. The 2021 Telethon has been rescheduled for this summer, with the exact day is TBA. During my involvement, I have seen the wonderful progress many children and adults have made by their involvement with Easter Seals. It has truly been amazing to witness.

A facility such as ESRC has a multi-million dollar budget, so how, I thought, would my \$100 really help?

Hmm... It could pay for a therapy session where a child turns the corner and reaches a milestone. Or pay for a part of a motorized wheel chair for someone who has mobility issues. While \$100 may not seem like much, it actually is when considered as part of the whole effort.

As Christians we are many, 2.4 billion worldwide. However, as one person we seem very small. We can feel a bit like that \$100 from the Discretionary Fund — a very small drop in a very large bucket. But when added to the overall mission we can do great things. I guess what I'm trying to say is, just because something is small doesn't mean it is any less important.

It is my hope that my gift to ESRC will make a difference in some ones life by allowing them to be more independent and productive. Happy Easter To All! Thanks be to GOD! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

**CCO Donation for April:
Deodorant**
Bring your items to church with you, or drop them by the Parish Office by the third week of the month.



EYC Staying Safely Active

Leslie Newman—EYC continued meeting via Zoom throughout March. We have continued to discuss and use the *Forward Day by Day*, our Henry Nouwen Lenten devotionals, and the *Book of Common Prayer* to teach our youth the use of readily available resources to build their spiritual foundation and discipline. This focus is another silver lining of the pandemic.

With the coming of spring, longer days and return to in-person four-day-a-week instruction for Henderson County students (meaning Sunday is a school night), it appears we may be moving our start time back (or is that up?!) to 7 from 5:30 p.m. That said, we are flexible based on the availability of our youth and families, and that is one positive of having a small youth group.

With the coming of warmer days, we also are making plans for meeting outside, socially distanced, for fellowship, fun, fresh air, and in keeping with the need to feed teens when they gather, prepackaged food!

We learned from each other that our Parish families have undertaken the Downtown Henderson Project scavenger hunt we otherwise might have done as a group.

Project Resources Needed

Leslie Newman—Kayleigh has suggested we tackle the litter in the church neighborhood as an EYC service project. If you happen to be in a store that has those handy “grabbers” that can be used for trash pickup, even and especially at a Dollar Store, Mighty Dollar or Dollar General, please grab up to six for us. Keep your receipt, please, in case several of you run across them! Or if you know a source where we could borrow some for a Sunday, that would fill the bill - and we will return them!

Healing Prayers for Our Monessa

Leslie Newman—Miss Monessa joined us for EYC on March 22 and the youth were very glad to see her! Monessa is recuperating from shoulder surgery and is ready for the day when she is released to drive again. In the meantime she is staying busy with physical therapy and rehabilitation. We were, and are always, glad to have Monessa with us. She is always thinking of creative ways to form our youth and serve our parish with Christian education.

The Youngest Vestry Member

Leslie Newman—Congratulations to EYC alum Alexis Purdy for her election to the St. Paul’s vestry! The project Alexis is considering for her \$100 vestry expenditure ties in with an opportunity to educate our youth about the work of the organization she has chosen. And that is a welcome benefit of Alexis’ newest form of service to our parish. The youth will be following the example of the vestry and choosing a way to help others outside our Parish with \$100 they will choose how to spend. Stay tuned!

The Newest Eagle Scout

Leslie Newman—Congratulations to Rad Mattingly for having achieved his Eagle Scout ranking! His review board met the same time as EYC and we learned during our gathering that he had learned his results. Thunderous and well-deserved applause followed.

And we are especially proud and grateful that Rad chose the refurbishing of St. Paul’s columbarium as the beneficiary of his Eagle Scout project. He and his fellow Scouts had to work around the worst weather we have had in a couple of years to get the job done on schedule, but spring has revealed what a wonderful job they did with this place of quiet rest for those we love.

All Saints Camp Cancelled

Leslie Newman—The Diocese has announced that after much discussion, research and prayer, there will not be summer camp at All Saints this summer.

All Saints is the center of many of our youth’s spiritual lives and the kids look so forward to being with friends from all over the Diocese at camp. I sure didn’t like being the bearer of that sad news to our youth, but I am so proud they understand and accept the decision is for their health and safety. Our youth look forward to a hoped-for late summer or early fall gathering at their beloved All Saints.

A Very Happy Easter from EYC

Leslie Newman—While we will miss our preparation for the Easter egg hunt (one piece of candy for you... and one for the egg), and the laughter and general chaos that comes with stuffing and hiding the eggs, as well as hunting them, and seeing our Parish alive with children, EYC looks forward to the celebration of a blessed Easter and wishes all our parish family a Holy Week and a Happy Easter!

Vestry Retreat Notes

At their videoconference Retreat on Sunday afternoon, March 21, St. Paul's Vestry:

- Based on technical difficulties that left insufficient time to review financial reports ahead of the meetings, tabled the February reports until April's regular meeting.
- After two rounds of break-out sessions, conducted via Zoom or multi-point phone conversations, each of the seven ministry area committees discussed issues, goals, and plans both for the remainder of this year and for further in the future.
- Budget & Finance discussed the benefits of scheduling a full external audit of the Parish's finances in 2022, the first in more than a decade. Such a process is much more costly than the annual reviews we have conducted, but provide more robust assurance of stability to all stakeholders.
- Worship & Music outlined plans for Holy Week and Easter, still mindful of pandemic realities and, specifically, the Bishop's directive. Organist Suzanne Perry also shared her plans to move to Florida this summer. Suzanne's last Sunday with us will be July 4, but Marla has said she will still be at the piano.
- Parish Life, in a fallow time mandated by the pandemic-driven suspension of non-worship activities, is looking to more precisely define the many facets of Parish life at St. Paul's, while looking forward to our full calendar of social functions when that is once again possible.
- Communication expressed pride in how St. Paul's has grown in our use of streaming to reach out to those who cannot be with us physically, but wondered what other platforms may be available for those that do not use Facebook. The group hopes to expand more traditional communications as well.
- Christian Formation is leaning forward, within current constraints, to expand programs for our children and youth from the online-only format that has continued throughout the pandemic, to offer outside, distanced activities.
- Building & Grounds continues to be concerned for the integrity of our beautiful and historic physical structure, and received support from the Vestry to allocate resources to engage professionals to assess needs and make recommendations, not only for repairs of existing faults, but long-term care for the underlying issues as well.
- Outreach reviewed and approved its list of agencies

and programs to be given grants this year from the \$10,000 Vestry Outreach budget. The Rector also renewed last year's popular \$100 Challenge, giving each Vestry Member that amount to make some difference in our community.

The next Vestry meeting will be at 5:30 April 20, again by teleconference.

Holy Week Online and In-Person

In past years, many Parishioners have carefully folded the palm frond they received as part of the Palm Sunday Liturgy at St. Paul's into crosses for display in their homes, one year, even offering a class how to do so. At this year's Liturgy on March 28, those that were present in person at either service received a palm already formed as a cross, and Fr. Rich arranged for delivery of several others to those who had participated virtually. Each year, the Parish Office orders our palms from a supplier in Texas and we were glad this year to have them make these crosses for us to distribute.

Because our traditional Maundy Thursday Table Liturgy is not possible in person again this year, and because it simply does not lend itself to an online format, we will celebrate the Eucharist at 6:00 Maundy Thursday evening and then strip the Altar in preparation for Good Friday. You are welcome to participate in person, but it will be livestreamed to Facebook as well.

With thanksgiving, our Good Friday observance of the Stations of the Cross at 6:00 April 2 will be on FB and in-person. We will, of course, wear our masks and keep to our social distancing as at other services, but this year we are pleased to be able to welcome Deacon Larry back to his traditional (and beloved) role leading this moving part of St. Paul's Holy Week. And we are pleased, as well, to welcome any of *you* who are able and willing, in person or online, to join our Lord's Passion along the *Via Dolorosa*.

The Great Vigil of Easter will begin at 8:00 Holy Saturday evening, as always, with the kindling of fresh fire and the lighting of the Paschal Candle on the church steps. Accompanied by a simple chant, the Light of Christ is then carried into our worship space, where volunteers from among the participants will read selections from the salvation history of God's people. As the rest of the lights are lit, the service culminates with the first Eucharistic celebration of Easter.

In years past, those who have attended this quiet celebration, have found it very meaningful, and though we will livestream the service to our Facebook page, this year we are excited to welcome back those who are ready, to join the celebration *in person* as well.

Financial Summary as of February 28, 2021

Pledged Income Received to Date	\$21,540
Non-dividend Income from Investments to Date	\$0
Small Business Funds Available	\$0
Other Operating Income to Date	\$7,682
Total Budgeted Expenses to Date	\$40,801

St. Paul's Episcopal Church Staff

The Very Rev. Rich Martindale, Rector
The Rev. Larry Courtney, Deacon
Leslie Newman, EYC Director
Judy Duncan, Parish Secretary
Phone—270-826-2937

Service Times

Sunday 8:00 Rite I
10:00 Rite II
Wednesday 12:10 Rite II w/ anointing for healing

Vestry Ministry Teams *(*indicates Vestry liaison)*

Sr. Warden
Jr. Warden
Clerk
Treasurer

Susan Sauls
Bill Brodsky
Susie Watkins
Mike France

Budget and Finance
Worship and Music
Parish Life

Mike France, *Bill Gentry, Hugh Hennessey
Fr. Rich, *Susan Sauls, *Connie Spivey, Mike France
*Bill Brodsky, *Corey Hill, *Connie Spivey, *Alexis Purdy, *Susie Watkins,
Susan Sauls

Communications
Christian Formation and Youth
Building and Grounds

*Lydia Johnson, *Jacob Martin
*Corey Hill, *Alexis Purdy, Leslie Newman, Monessa Curry
*Bill Brodsky, *Bill Gentry, *Susan Sauls, *Susie Watkins, Hugh Stone,
Michael Minton, Joe Mattingly

Outreach
Pastoral Care

Dcn. Larry, *Lydia Johnson, *Jacob Martin
Fr. Rich, Dcn. Larry, Marty White

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

5 South Green Street

Henderson, KY 42420

www.stpauls-henderson.org

