



St. Paul's Episcopal Church

THE GOOD NEWS

August 2020

*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.*

Touch-Free Delivery

from the Rector

It seems like everyone wanting to sell us something has adapted their marketing to the realities of the current pandemic. Some of them are merely pathetically transparent appeals to fear and uncertainty. But every now and then one of them does something creative enough to make me laugh, cry, or even want to actually buy the product being advertised.

One of my favorites is from the Domino's Pizza franchise in which we see a procession of blue-shirted and blue-visored associates who are asked what Domino's can do to make the provision of their product easier for their valued customers to obtain in our current situation. One after another, each young face is seen in close-up, with a single suggestion:

"Deliver it." says the first, and the second, and the third. Until the last, lanky youth, who says, "Frisbee it!" Cut to outside the local Domino's where a customer's family sedan has pulled up. Our earnest young man opens the door and slings the pizza box frisbee-style toward the car, where it bounces off the window and plops unceremoniously to the parking lot. "So we went with what we do best," the voice-over announcer proclaims, "delivering it..."

These days we have to work very hard indeed to stay ahead of all the new ways we are having to reschedule our calendars, and reinvent how we communicate, and rethink how we do...nearly *everything*.

These days, there are days when I get literally dizzy trying to keep it all together. And then there are others.

Just yesterday, we welcomed the newest member of the Body of Christ. At a small family service after the Sunday morning "crowds" had gone, we baptized Sylvia Ruth Shelton into Christ's one, holy, apostolic Church. Everyone present wore our masks, of course, to protect the guest of honor, and we kept our distance as best we could. I was robbed of the greatest privilege of my vocation, but mama Dana held our precious initiate as I said the prayers and poured the water—including a few

drops I collected from the Jordan River a year ago. Then I did the nearly unthinkable these days: I dipped my thumb in the holy oil, reached over to where little Sylvia still slept peacefully in her mother's arms, and I made the Sign of the Cross on her small, tender forehead.

Even with a bit of chatting, a bunch of photos, and looking for a misplaced phone, we were in and out within the twenty minutes recommended by the CDC. And it was wonderful.

While it is human nature to see our own place in history as utterly unique, this is not the first time that the Body of Christ has faced challenges to the way we have "always" done things. This is not the first time that the followers of the Risen One have not been able to gather as they naturally are meant to do. This is not even close to the first pandemic plague that the Church has been called to weather.

We could get all historical about it, but suffice it to say that, through all the changes and chances of history, the Holy Spirit has *always* found a way to comfort and to bless those that look to God in hope. And always, *always* that blessing comes from one hand to another to another.

Yesterday afternoon as Jenny and I were hurling down first I-64 and then I-44 toward Lamar, I leaned my head over to rest on my hand, and was struck with a "vision" of the Kingdom of Heaven as I caught just a scent of the *Sacrum Chrisma*, the holy oil of anointing that lingered on my hand. The oil, I've told some of you before, is blessed anew by the Bishop each year after being prepared by mixing the purest olive oil with spices in a recipe that seeks to recreate the oil which anointed Moses' brother Aaron as the first Priest of the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

With that *Chrism*, with a splash of the waters of Baptism, and with the *touch* of the Sign of the Cross, we are, *all of us*, made priests of the Living God, and marked as Christ's own forever.

Just a touch.

Peace and joy,

Upcoming Events

As we again begin to return to in-person worship, please know that depending on your situation, you are always welcome to experience all services livestreamed on St. Paul's Facebook page:

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

Sundays

8 a.m. — Holy Eucharist, Rite I

10 a.m. — Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Sunday, August 2-23—8:00 and 10:00—Worship livestreamed remotely to Facebook

Tuesdays-Friday—8:00-noon—Parish Family "Open House" by appointment

Sunday, August 30—8:00 and 10:00—Welcome back to in-person worship at St. Paul's

All other Parish activities continue suspended for now.

Around the Parish



Dana holds blissfully quiet Sylvia as Fr. Rich pours the water of Baptism, making her part of the Body of Christ.



With a touch and the Sign of the Cross, the newest member of the Body of Christ is sealed by the Holy Spirit... forever!



The rest of Sylvia's family was represented on her big day by a token praying lamb.

Holy Land Travels—Part 14

from the Deacon

We were so crowded as we entered the area of the church called Calvary which contains the next four stations. We could barely move once we reached station ten where Jesus is stripped of His garments. It took us at least thirty minutes to view station eleven where Jesus is nailed to the cross, stations twelve and thirteen are also at this Holy site. The twelfth station Jesus dies on the cross and the thirteenth station Jesus is removed from the cross. This Holy site I believe is the most impressive because of the ornate altar built over the Rock of Calvary, where it is believed the cross stood.

This beautiful altar belongs to the Greek Orthodox Church, which is the Rock of Calvary. The rock can actually be seen under glass on both sides of the altar and beneath the altar there is a hole believed to be the place where the cross was raised.

Due to the significance of the Rock of Calvary, it is the most visited holy site in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. The authenticity of the Altar shrine makes it the place of reverent beauty. Whether you believe in the historical authenticity or not, you can't help yourself from feeling the power of worship of fellow Christians as you stand silently viewing the Altar with all the gold and silver incense holders hanging from the ceiling. Lighted candles are everywhere, reflecting their light off all the gold and silver wall behind the altar, an ancient and precious representation of saints and angels and Jesus on the cross for our sins.

We retraced our steps back down the Calvary stairs, until we reached the rotunda which is the site of the fourteenth station. It took us about thirty minutes to catch-up with the group there waiting in the rotunda. I could see Kyle's head over all those people across the huge dome, room. Rick and Mike were both glad this was the last station in the church. Mike was ready to eat lunch and Rick just wanted to sit down and rest.

There was no time for seeing the tomb of Christ. There were just too many people waiting to see the Tomb of Christ. It probably would have taken us two hours to even get to the opening of the tomb. Jerry was ready to get everyone together and lead us out of the Church.

After leaving the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Jerry took us to a café nearby with tables outside on the street where we could have lunch. I wanted something cold to drink and they had cold soft drinks! After looking over the menu I decided to order the Israeli Chicken Shawarma Pita sandwich, which I pronounced wrong, with fries! The fluffy pita bread is filled with spicy chicken shawarma, caramelized onions, fresh Israeli salad, hummus, creamy tahini and topped with some sliced jalapeno. The sandwich was fantastic! I actually ate all of my sandwich and my fries.

After lunch we toured the bazaars to shop for souvenirs before returning to our hotel. Next month I'll write about my last day in Israel.

Peace and Love,

Randy

\$100 for Good—

I had been wrestling with who I should gift the money Fr. Rich gave me a part of the \$100 Vestry Outreach challenge for over four months. I had no clue who to give the cash. Then, one afternoon, I had an epiphany! Brod and I were filling out his Pacesetter pledge cards for the Easter Seal Telethon. We were almost finished when he asked me if I was going to pledge. Just then, a 10,000 watt spotlight hit me. I said, Yes! Yes I will. I will pledge \$100.

The Easter Seal Telethon and I have a long history. I was there in 1978 when the first telethon was broadcast. Brod was one of the hosts and my sister, Melissa, was a "tote girl". She put the numbers up and revealed the running total on the air. I was, of course, behind the scenes. I ran camera, directed, produced and edited features and technical directed at the station. That first year, our microwave transmitter failed and I had to run segment spots back to the station until the transmitter was repaired. All in all, it was a family affair.

Brod hosted the telethon for 11 years. He then began his Pacesetter position, gathering pledges from Henderson businesses and residents. He is still doing this today. He really loves doing this and he loves Easter Seals. Last year he was awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award by Easter Seals and the city of Evansville.

While producing and editing the features for the show, I got to see up close the dedication, talent, and courage the clients and therapists show each other. Some of the people who use their services have severe challenges, Easter Seals will help. I am in awe of the people who work at Easter Seals. If there were ever miracle workers, they are at Easter Seals.

I hope that in some way my \$100 gift will make a person's life just a little bit better.



Brod at last year's Easter Seals fundraiser.

easterseals
Rehabilitation Center

AMOUNT PLEDGED \$ 100

TELEPHONE NUMBER () - -
TELEPHONE NUMBER () - -

PACESSETTER PLEDGE
Thank you for your pledge supporting the
EASTERSEALS TELETHON!
Please return both copies of this pledge card.

Bill Brodsky

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY
Date Paid

Please make your check payable to Easterseals.
Your contribution is tax-deductible.

Thank you for giving the gift of independence.



Leslie Newman—EYC enjoyed a fun activity in July as part of our Zoom sessions! The Purdys joined us while they were on a road trip to Webster County to study their ancestry and to visit a friend’s farm. Fr. Rich and I got to see, virtually, the farm and the horses while the girls corralled and petted them. While EYC always has fun, we were due for a diversion, and that was a good one!

Do you find as I have that a positive of the pandemic is that it opens doors to doing things in a new way? And in hindsight, I see ways that even during the pandemic we could have done some things with more innovation all along. Live and learn, right?

If you have seen or heard or learned something that would help guide our youth during the pandemic, please pass along your thoughts.

Seeing God’s Creative Spirit

Leslie Newman—And, to that point, EYC has devised a new twist on meeting via Zoom! You read in the July newsletter about the six session opportunity for a diocesan Zoom gathering to continue our Dismantling Racism study. As luck would have it, neither our registrants nor I were able to join the first two sessions.

So, Mama Doyle emailed me the recording of the second Zoom session, titled *God the Artist*. Fr. Rich, the host of our Zoom meetings, figured out how to share the recording to our screen and we were able to watch the recording, and pause it in order for us to have conversation about the conversation, which follows a curriculum provided by the Episcopal Church.

As an example, one activity involved viewing a virtual art gallery, and discussing what quality something must have in order to be considered art, the type (s) of art we prefer, ways we think the world may be better with a variety of different types of art, whether any type of art is superior to the other types in all situations, and what all art types have in common. We viewed a gallery of photographs, paintings, architecture and music.

And we listened to the discussion of the Diocesan Zoom gathering as they, and then we discussed not just Ephesians 2:10, but translations or interpretations of that Bible verse and the reference in it to “artwork” in

different versions of the Bible, and how each of us identifies with those differences.

The Diocesan group includes youth, priests and youth directors and there is a journal for participants to record their thoughts. And we will be hitchhiking for the remaining session. Another course of the program is planned for the fall, perhaps by then in-person. In-person or virtually, we are looking forward to it.

Prayers Needed More Than Ever

Leslie Newman—At this writing, plans for the reopening of Henderson County and Webster County Schools are still up in the air. The uncertainty is difficult for our youth and for our families as they try to make plans for what is best for each families’ health as they weigh the importance of their children’s education. Parish families also are struggling with our young adults’ returns to college. Please keep our children, youth, young adults and their families in your prayers.

Scholarships Awarded

We have received word from the Woodcock Foundation that our two applicants, Warner Mattingly and Hannah Stocum have each received a scholarship for their fall studies. Congratulations to them both!

New Old Tradition

For years, it has been the Rector’s tradition to spend the first afternoon of the school year (and the first afternoon of the second semester, as well) seated at the corner booth of the Dairy Queen, waiting to greet the brand new students of our Parish. The deal has always been that Fr. Rich will buy each of them a treat in exchange for a story from their first day back to school.

Attendance has been variable, ranging from a bare handful to a dozen-and-a-half kids coming in directly from elementary, middle, or even high school, public or parochial, or from their after-school activities. But each of our young Parishioners left with a full tummy, if his or her supper somewhat spoiled, and Fr. Rich was left with a heart full of excited stories.

It is hardly worth saying that the beginning of the school year in 2020 is completely different. With now only days before school would be due to open, plans for the school year are still very much up in the air. School leaders are trying to make plans that will maximize students’ learning potential, while protecting the health of the children and young adults with who’s care they are entrusted.

With the actual first day of school still a moving target, and since he will likely miss it due to the impact of the pandemic on his own summer plans, Fr. Rich has come up with a new way to engage our old, beloved tradition. Working with Judge Leslie and Miss Monessa, he will be arranging to meet our students one family at a time in the early days of September, finding a time and place to give the kids a treat from their Parish Family, and hearing for himself the exciting new ways they are engaging in learning and growth. It isn’t the same... but what is these days?

Vestry Notes

At their meeting on Tuesday, July 21, conducted again by videoconference, St. Paul's Vestry:

- Received June financial reports showing continued consistency with previous years' income patterns. We have posted another quarter of significant "unrealized loss" on the value of our investments, but the Finance Committee continues to "stay the course" through this unusual time.
- Discussed the possibility that the Governor's latest mandate might have an impact on our recent return to in-person worship, the continuation of livestreaming, and coverage plans for Fr. Rich's vacation.
- Received update on evolving challenges integrating newer equipment with older in continuing to improve the quality of our livestream worship.
- Thanked Bill Brodsky for agreeing to head up the Sunday morning A/V management to free up Fr. Rich for worship.

The Vestry will next meet on Tuesday, August 18.

Continuing the Battle

It was great to have at least a couple of weeks where we were able to welcome folks back to worship in our beautiful church home. With very careful planning by Parish Leadership, we had measures in place to assure those that felt able to come that we were doing everything we could to limit any possible transmission of disease. What's more, though the number of Parishioners who took us up on the invitation was limited, those who were here actively participated in the measures we established and said they felt safe and cared for.

Unfortunately, we seem to be experiencing an increase in transmission of CoVID in our area since we began re-opening, with a more alarming increase in people hospitalized with complications of the virus. In a conference call on July 22 with the leaders of the Kentucky Council of Churches, including our Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Terry White, Governor Beshear asked churches to voluntarily suspend in-person worship for two weeks to give public health officials a chance to assess the impact of the latest trends in the CoVID transmission rate.

Though Bishop White declined to issue a further pastoral directive mandating such a move, Fr. Rich suspended in-person worship at St. Paul's for those weeks, and extended on-line-only worship through his vacation as well. If the spread of the pandemic has stabilized, we hope to again invite those who are able to come in person on Sunday morning, August 30.

We will, of course, as we have been doing since well before the spread of this virus, continue to offer Holy Eucharist Rite I Sunday mornings at 8:00 and Holy Eucharist Rite II at 10:00 (with music again as soon as we can) live on the Parish's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/St.PaulsHenderson>

Taking Our Worship on the Road

His son, JD having had to twice delay his and his bride, Erin's plans because of pandemic restrictions, Jenny and Fr. Rich will be out of town the first weekend of August for the wedding. The Martindales had planned to extend the wedding trip into a much needed vacation to work on the house in Lamar, Missouri where they will eventually retire to be close to JD and Erin, with Fr. Rich returning to Henderson for the 16th and 23rd before completing a final week away, and coming home for August 30.

Our dear friend, Fr. Kempton Baldrige had agreed, all three times, to be at St. Paul's for the first Sunday and Dcn Larry was to lead Morning Prayer the 9th. But the again-changing landscape of the pandemic, including some CoVID complications at the Seamen's Church Institute changed those plans yet again.

Not wanting to leave a gap in St. Paul's good and joyful worship, Fr. Rich has offered to continue our community offering of praise and thanksgiving from Lamar, Missouri! Worship on Sunday, August 2 will be livestreamed, Fr. Rich says, from the as yet sparsely furnished, but usually light-filled sunroom of their home. And now, because excess back-and-forth is inconsistent with public health in either community, the Martindales will be staying put in Missouri through the fourth week of August

He will return to lead worship at St. Paul's on Sunday morning, August 30, with music returning to the 10:00 celebration, and, barring any other changes, welcoming back those Parishioners who are able to join us for in-person worship.

Thank you to all my St. Paul's family for the beautiful green plant in memory of my mom.

Thanks also to everyone for the kind words, funny stories, cards, texts, visits, and prayers during this difficult time.

All of you know how much my mom meant to me, thanks for letting me share her with you.

Sincerely, Judy

Financial Summary as of June 30, 2020

Pledged Income Received to Date	\$68,989
Non-dividend Income from Investments to Date	\$0
Small Business Funds Available	\$27,400
Other Operating Income to Date	\$23,583
Operating Expenses to Date	\$122,416

St. Paul's Episcopal Church Staff

The Very Rev. Rich Martindale, Rector
The Rev. Richard Godbold, Priest Associate
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
Communications
Christian Formation and Youth
Building and Grounds

Mike France, *Bill Gentry, *Becky Carroll, Hugh Hennessey
Fr. Rich, *Jesse Gonzalez, *Susan Sauls, *Connie Spivey, Mike France
*Bill Brodsky, *Corey Hill, *Connie Spivey, Susan Sauls
*Lydia Johnson, *Jesse Gonzalez
*Marty White, *Bill Brodsky, *Corey Hill, Leslie Newman, Monessa Curry
*Bill Brodsky, *Bill Gentry, *Susan Sauls, Hugh Stone, Michael Minton,
Joe Mattingly

Outreach
Pastoral Care

Dcn. Larry, *Jesse Gonzalez, *Becky Carroll, *Marty White, *Lydia Johnson
Fr. Rich, Dcn. Larry, *Marty White

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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www.stpauls-henderson.org

