

# St. Paul's Episcopal Church

## THE GOOD NEWS February 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.*

### A Short Story of 2020

*from the Rector's Annual Report*

In the run-up to this year's extraordinary Annual Meeting, I promised that I would try to hold the Meeting to the time normally taken by the sermon. By the time we got to my report, of course, we were already running behind, so I was glad I had decided to limit my report, A Short Story of St. Paul's Parish in 2020, to only *six sentences*, with the understanding that these sentences are considerably more complex than most.

It has been, of course, an extraordinary year all around, but I am glad to be able to report that, though we have had to learn much and change much, we have *done* much through these months of pandemic to *be* the Church for each other, and to *be* the Church for those outside our doors that we hope to serve in Christ's name.

In spite of our suspension of in-person participation from mid-March through the first Sunday of July, and for another four weeks from the last Sunday of July nearly through August, we celebrated the Eucharist together one hundred, twenty-three times this year, including all but two Sundays of 2020, and as the Senior Warden and our dear Deacon alluded to in their reports, we found other ways, some of them *very* new for us, to be Church not only for our own members, but for some that would never have, and may *never* walk through our beautiful red doors.

Although nearly all of our non-worship activities have been, and remain suspended, we found new ways, as well, to do the work we have been given to do, keeping all of our own small staff fully employed (thank you for that, by the way) and helping those other organizations in our community that are trying to meet the increased needs of our most vulnerable members by spending nearly our whole outreach budget making outreach grants regardless of those organizations' changed plans and canceled events, using 100% of our budgeted expenses, though not necessarily in the same way it was budgeted.

Not surprisingly, our investment in-

come did not meet expectation this year, and with reduced in-person gathering, perhaps it's easy to understand that non-pledged offering fell to just over half what was budgeted, but in spite of everything that was going on this year, those of you who had made a pledge before any of this began, fulfilled an incredible 92% of that pledge, and with the help of a grant from the government's Payroll Protection Program, we were able to draw less than a third of what we had expected to take from our investment reserves.

Even with the new vaccines giving hope for a resolution of the pandemic and a return to at least some degree of what we want to be our normal, we know that we have as complicated a year ahead of us as the one we have just completed, and if we are to well-weather the rest of the storm, we need to continue to provide the same kind of support that got us this far.

We still cannot predict what the financial markets will do in 2021, and we are still waiting to receive a handful of pledges that we received last year, but the Vestry has committed to a budget for 2021 that keeps expenses essentially the same as last year, continuing to be the Light of Christ at the corner of Center and Green, and through our presence in ways we might never have explored before the story of 2020.

Those are my sentences, except this last one: Even though most days I struggle with whether I have adapted to our new realities anywhere near as well as you deserve from me, after nearly nine years now, let me say again that I love being a Christian; I love being a Priest; and I love being *your* Priest. Thank you for loving me for another year, and thank you for letting me love you.

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)

### Wednesday, February 24

- 12:10 p.m. — Holy Eucharist, Rite II with prayers for healing (In-Person)

### Ash Wednesday, February 17

- 12:10 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. — Holy Eucharist, Rite I with Imposition of Ashes (In-Person and FB Live)

All other Parish activities continue to be suspended for now.

## Around the Parish

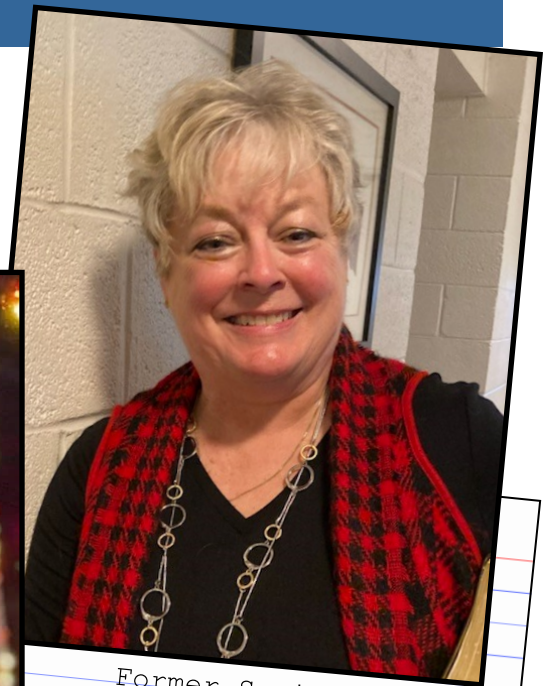
### Your New Vestry Members



Alexis Purdy, a near-lifetime member of St. Paul's is a veteran camp counselor and advocate for Diocesan involvement.



Jacob Martin is a member of St. Paul's choir and was one of the organizers of Diocesan Convention when it met in Henderson.



Former Senior Warden, Susie Watkins returns once again as a Member of the Vestry following a year as Clerk.

## Stations of the Cross

*from the Deacon*

May of 2019, I traveled to Israel for ten days. I walked the stations of the Cross twice while in Jerusalem. Each station is marked by a round medal medalion indicating the station in roman numerals. I learned real-quick that you have to pay attention though, because they are easy to miss. The stations of the cross are a narration of the final hours in Jesus' life on earth. They continue to provide a spiritual journey for millions of Christians from all over the world even today.

By today's legal standards it is unlikely that Jesus would have been convicted in any court of law. Especially since no real evidence against Him was produced. Pilate could find no fault in anything Jesus had done and wanted to release Him, but the Sanhedrin demanded that Pilate order His execution. Jesus the most innocent of all, is condemned to death. He is committed to entering our lives and so begins His final hours.

Jesus hangs on the cross that afternoon until He dies on the cross, to show us that His love is complete and without cost. It cost Jesus everything, including His life. There was no special sale price; no bargains to be had. He paid the ultimate sacrifice for all of us. Jesus paid the full price for each of us so we can spend eternity with Him in heaven. Out of His darkest moment brings us the light of Christ.

Jesus' greatest sacrifice became the victory that would defeat and overcome death. Our creator is just and fair and so demanded that the penalty for sin be paid. Because God is loving and merciful as well as just, He sent His only begotten Son to pay the penalty for our sins, knowing we were otherwise doomed for all eternity. God's love and mercy are greatly demonstrated by the words of Jesus as He hung dying on the cross when He asked God to forgive those who were killing Him because of their sinful ignorance.

Sunday morning after attending Church services at the Cathedral of Saint George the Martyr, in Jerusalem. I walked the Stations of the Cross again and it left me believing it makes all the difference to know that we are loved. God loves the World. We are loved by God! God's love leads to forgiveness! Because God loves the world, God sacrifices Jesus as the greatest gift of all. This is God's way of saying: I am fully invested in the world. I love the world fully, and I have proved my love through my Sons' suffering and death on the cross.

God's gift of Jesus to the world reminds me that God seeks a world in which people experience life fully. The gift of eternal life challenges the world to ask why people die violently, so often from poverty and hate! We who believe in God are called to work to make life better for everyone! We are God's community and God's family! We are the world that GOD LOVES! Amen

Peace and Love,



## A Different Lent Begins

The season of Lent begins even earlier this year than last, with Ash Wednesday falling on February 17. As we begin this season of reflection, I invite you to join us as we observe Ash Wednesday, February 17 with two services of Holy Eucharist with imposition of ashes, 12:10 at the lunch hour, or 6:00 in the evening. Both services will be open to in-person participation, and both will be streamed on Facebook Live as well.

One of the Lenten traditions in our community is the Lenten Luncheon series sponsored by the Henderson County Ministerial Association. Last year, we got through the first two weeks of our usual ecumenical services followed by a light lunch at our host churches. Then our usual rhythms were disrupted by the spreading epidemic and the rest of the series, including St. Paul's participation had to be accomplished online.

This year, the Ministerial Association which sponsors the series, has decided that the entire Lenten series will be held online, with each church offering the link for their service, live or recorded, for viewing by the entire community. The first of this year's series will be broadcast from First Christian Church at noon on February 24. To participate, go to:

<http://fcchenderson.com/live-stream/>

And to contribute to the offering for the work of the Ministerial Association during the year, send a check to the Parish Office.

All non-worship Parish activities continue to be suspended for now, so our traditional Shrove Tuesday pancake supper and our Lenten soup suppers will not take place this year. This Lent, I hope you will consider joining our *online* program at 6:00 each Wednesday evening, beginning on February 24. Our program this year will be a multimedia series called, *Places of the Passion*, each week focusing on one of the places in the Holy Land where the Passion of our Lord took place, and how each came to have special meaning to Christians the world over. If you want to hear more, or if you want to get added to the list to receive Zoom login credentials, please give the Parish Office a call.

Again this year, Deacon Larry plans to lead us on the Stations of the Cross at 6:00 on Good Friday, April 2. You are welcome to come in person to make this devotion of our Lord's Passion part of your journey, but it will also be live-streamed.

### Lent at St. Paul's

Ash Wednesday, February 17

Holy Eucharist Rite I with Imposition of Ashes  
12:10 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.  
(in-person or FB)

Wednesdays, February 24 - March 24

Noon - Community Lenten Series (online only)  
6:00 p.m. - *Places of the Passion* (Zoom)

Good Friday, April 2

6:00 p.m. - Stations of the Cross  
(in-person or FB)



## Christmas Leftovers

**Leslie Newman**—Thanks to the Purdys for taking down the standards and other symbols of Christmas they cheerfully stood, filled, hung and decorated and thanks to Iris, Larry and Michael for taking down the new Christmas tree. The helpers went to great efforts to adorn the church for those who were able to attend in person and their efforts are much appreciated. The church looked as beautiful as the music sounded on Facebook Live on Christmas Eve. I can only imagine how many of us hope we will spend *next* Christmas Eve together to celebrate the birth of our Lord.

I forgot last month to ask, so I am asking now to recycle your Christmas cards and other craft items you no longer use by donating them to EYC for future art projects, and particularly for our youth and children to make Christmas cards and decorate boxes for Ministry on the River and for delivery to St. Paul's folks who are unable to attend church. Thank you to those of you who heeded the call last year we replenished our stock, but we can still use more! When you bring yours to the church, you can put them on the table outside the office and Judy will be sure we get them.

## Youth Group Still Going

**Leslie Newman**—EYC continues to meet remotely, using the Zoom platform, on Sunday evenings. Last year, Miranda received a book of daily devotionals for her birthday. The gift has been put to good use when our group is teenage girls. Each day has a reading from the Bible, a writing about the reading, and questions for discussion. The devotionals have generated much good conversation among our group. The book is not unlike the *Forward Day by Day* daily devotions available to you, complimentary, in small booklets and large print both, and found on the table outside the parish office and in the Parish Hall. Kayleigh's biological father has a daily devotional book she will be receiving soon. She is looking forward to having her own book, and we will refer to it as well. On nights where we have boys and a wider age range, we generally pray Compline with readings from the Daily Office.

## The Memory of Pancakes Past

**Leslie Newman**—Shrove Tuesday 2021 is February 16. There will be an unsolicited, if well-deserved, sabbatical this year for those who have given of their time and talent year after year as servants and ambassadors of St. Paul's to our larger parish family and our community. Many of you know we have a lot of cooks in the kitchen on this special evening, and even if we were to try to provide carry out meals to satisfy the appetites of those who look forward to this dinner, I haven't been able to concoct a way for us to safely socially distance the food preparation. We would like to think there are people who will miss the opportunity to gather for this annual tradition. EYC knows we will miss seeing you! We look forward to serving you again next year.

The pancake supper is our largest EYC fundraiser each year; if you would like to donate what you normally would spend at the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, please note on your check or envelope that the funds are intended for EYC.

Most of you remember Becky Durham, the former youth pastor at the Presbyterian Church, our partner in VBS and other memorable activities. Becky is now Pastor Becky at Peace Presbyterian Church in Fayetteville, NC. In their monthly newsletter, a member of their congregation shared this highly touted time-honored guaranteed delicious recipe given her by a family friend at a wedding shower. It seems fitting as a way to shrieve your cabinets to see if you might have these ingredients handy to make for your own Shrove Tuesday celebration. And it may provide a family project for together time at home and a learning opportunity for aspiring chefs.

The good news is, you don't have to have syrup in your cabinets to make this supper. You only have to come by St. Paul's to help us shrieve our own cabinets of the syrup we sadly won't be using. Some of it is beyond its "best by" date, but we'll leave that to your discretion. We've set all that syrup out at the pass-through so it's easy to get to. Please help us repurpose it by helping yourself! Unopened bottles that aren't taken by y'all will be donated to Christian Community Outreach after Ash Wednesday.

### *Lynn Wallace's Pancake Recipe*

- 1 1/4 cups sifted flour
- 2 1/2 tsp. baking powder
- 3 Tbsp. sugar
- 3/4 tsp. salt
- 1 Tbsp. cornmeal (optional)
- 1 egg, beaten
- 1 cup milk
- 3 Tbsp. melted shortening or butter

*Mix dry ingredients together. Add dry ingredients to beaten egg and milk. Beat until smooth. Add melted shortening and mix until blended.*

Makes 6-8 pancakes

## Annual Meeting Notes

In order to accommodate our pandemic realities, the 2021 Annual Meeting of St. Paul's Parish was held as part of a single celebration of the Eucharist on Sunday morning, January 24, including in-person participation, on Facebook, and on Zoom.

At St. Paul's Annual Meeting:

- Celebrated Sylvia Shelton who was brought into the Body of Christ through the waters of Baptism, and remembered Joan Woodring and George Caddick, who passed to God's nearer presence during 2020.
- Established quorum required of St. Paul's By-Laws, with nine members physically present, twenty-three were part of the Facebook stream, and three joined the Zoom teleconference, allowing a valid Annual Meeting to continue.
- Approved modification of By-Laws rules to allow for electronic voting for Vestry election.
- Elected Jacob Martin, Alexis Purdy, and Susie Watkins to three-year terms on the Vestry.
- Received reports from 2020 Senior Warden, Susan Saul's, Deacon Larry Courtney, and the Rector, Rich Martindale.

## Vestry Notes

At their meeting following the Annual Meeting on January 12, St. Paul's Vestry:

- Once again appointed Susie Watkins as Clerk of the Vestry and Mike France as Parish Treasurer.
- Declined to receive EOY financial reports until the Rector could finalize structuring of some Covid-related expenses.
- Elected Susan Sauls as Senior Warden and Bill Brodsky as Junior Warden for 2020.
- Requested the Treasurer pursue eligibility and file for the second wave of loan/grant through the Payroll Protection Program (PPP).
- Expressed willingness to discuss options for the Washington St. rental property.
- Appointed Corey Hill and the Senior Warden to arrange an online planning "retreat" to take the place of the February meeting.
- Accepted the Senior Warden's offer to put together a separate orientation for new Vestry Members before the next meeting.

The Vestry is tentatively scheduled to meet for their planning retreat on Tuesday, February 16 again by teleconference.

## Congratulations 2021 Vestry

At the Annual Parish Meeting, we gave our thanks to Becky Carroll, Jesse Gonzales, and Marty White as they completed their terms on the Vestry, and we elected Jacob Martin, Alexis Purdy, and Susie Watkins to three-year terms.

The new Vestry held their first meeting of the year immediately following the Parish meeting, where they re-elected Susan Sauls as our Senior Warden and Bill Brodsky as Junior Warden. Susan, Bill, and the rest of the new class, join Bill Gentry, Lydia Johnson, Corey Hill, and Connie Spivey as St. Paul's Vestry for the coming year.

With whatever means of communication you have at hand, please welcome

## Tax Help Available

**Susan Sauls**—If you or your family made less than \$72,000 last year, you can have your taxes done for free through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. This service to our community is available through the tax season at the Housing Authority each Saturday morning from 9:00 to noon and Mondays and Tuesdays from 3:00 to 7:00. This year it is also being offered at Christian Community Outreach Wednesday afternoons from 4:00 to 6:00.

In order to keep us safe in these times, the process is more streamlined than in past years. Bring Social Security cards for all in your family, your photo ID, W-2s and all your other tax documents. You'll fill out an information sheet, meet briefly with a tax volunteer to review your information, and leave. They will call you to let you know when your completed return is ready for you to sign, and then they'll even file it for you.

If you are not required to file but did not get your stimulus checks, it is *especially* important that you file this year so you can get those payments in the form of a refund on your tax return. No appointment is necessary, but masks are required at both sites.

This is just one of the many programs supported by the Volunteer and Information Center. Give me a call if you have questions or if you want to know how you can help.

## PPP Loan Forgiven

Having met the conditions established by the Small Business Administration, the Payroll Protection Loan taken by St. Paul's in 2020 was forgiven in January, recognizing the Parish's contribution to the economy.

### Financial Summary as of December 31, 2020

|   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| <b>Pledged Income Received to Date</b>              | <b>\$153,160</b> |
| <b>Non-dividend Income from Investments to Date</b> | <b>\$10,000</b>  |
| <b>Small Business Funds Available</b>               | <b>\$27,000</b>  |
| <b>Other Operating Income to Date</b>               | <b>\$41,859</b>  |
| <b>Total Budgeted Expenses to Date</b>              | <b>\$241,976</b> |

## 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  
Communications  
Christian Formation and Youth  
Building and Grounds

Mike France, \*Bill Gentry, Hugh Hennessey  
Fr. Rich, \*Susan Sauls, \*Connie Spivey, Mike France  
\*Bill Brodsky, \*Corey Hill, \*Connie Spivey, Susan Sauls  
\*Lydia Johnson,  
\*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, \*Becky Carroll, \*Lydia Johnson  
Fr. Rich, Dcn. Larry,

## St. Paul's Episcopal Church

5 South Green Street

Henderson, KY 42420

[www.stpauls-henderson.org](http://www.stpauls-henderson.org)

