



St. Paul's Episcopal Church

THE GOOD NEWS

January 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.*

Very Personally

from the Rector

Rather than inviting us to look on in wondering awe at angels and wise men and the Babe in the manger, the Gospel according to *John* takes us back to before the beginning, to show us that the Word of God has no beginning, to explain that the baby humanity first meets in the feeding trough was actually the Creator of the world, and then gets to the exact, crucial point of the story altogether – that God is taking this whole thing very personally.

“The Word became flesh,” he tells us, “and lived among us.” The divine Word of God became a child, newborn, fragile, and vulnerable, and as dependent as we all are upon the love of others for our survival. In the fullness of time, God finally speaks to us through his son. Not a son revealed in power and might, but a child born into this world like any of us, a baby who is entrusted to parents and to the world like any of us born into the world.

It goes against all our powers of reason to imagine God as dependent. God is, by *definition*, in-dependent. Yet, it is in the birth of a baby in a stable in Bethlehem that the Almighty chooses to reveal himself and the plan for our salvation. The God who could with a breath destroy the world and begin again... will not. The God who could enforce our obedience... does not. Instead, God sends his Son, the eternal, creative Word, to be born as an infant who cries and laughs, who learns and grows, who is dependent upon others to feed him and care for him, a baby who is dependent upon others for his very life. If not for the shelter of the stable, the softness of the manger hay, the warmth of the swaddling clothes, the infant Jesus would have suffered like any other infant. If not for the warning of visiting sages, Herod's armies would have found him and slaughtered him with the Holy Innocents. If not for the protective love of his parents, Jesus would never have grown to speak to the hearts of all humankind. God sends his Son to be cared for, protected, listened to – by us. God sends his Son to begin a lifetime of laughter and tears and joy and pain. The

eternal Word of God, the beginning and the end, the morning star who sang creation into being, came to be fully, and very painfully human.

“The Word became flesh and lived among us.” Anyone who doesn't see the nonsense, the utter scandal of God arriving on the scene as a newborn infant just hasn't given it that much thought. Yet it is this self-same act, this coming of the Almighty in the fleshy vulnerability of humankind, this ridiculous improbability of God become human, this is the last word in God's glory, the ultimate revelation of God's purpose for us.

The glory in the infant Jesus is that he is the Word, the message brought from God to humanity through his birth into our world. The glory in Jesus is that we ourselves are invited to share in God's hope for us. The glory in Jesus is that God so loved us – and loves us *still* – that he became *personally* involved in our lives.

“The Word became flesh and lived among us.” This is the other story of Christmas, the story that really matters: that God takes us *personally*. The Creator of heaven and earth takes it personally when we experience sorrow or rejection or oppression. The redeemer of all that is takes it personally when we suffer pain or fear or loss. The sustainer of universes, seen and unseen, takes it personally when in the night of self-doubt and indecision we find ourselves in despair.

And he takes it personally when we step from the path on which he leads us, when we allow cares and concerns and pursuits to come between us. He takes it personally when through our ignorance, or our selfishness, or our pride, we deprive others of the grace we ourselves have so freely been given. He takes it personally when, all too often, we turn away from his love.

“The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.”

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)

Wednesdays

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

Sunday, January 24

- 10:00 a.m. — Holy Eucharist, Rite II with Annual Parish Meeting (In-Person, FB Live, and Zoom)

All other Parish activities continue to be suspended for now.

Around the Parish



Caroline, the Hill crew, and even the Senior Warden visited the Little Church at Central Park.

Both the Nave and the Sanctuary were properly distanced, but the Holy Night was as blessed as ever.

Even in this exceptional year, the Altar beautifully set the stage for St. Paul's celebration of the Nativity of our Lord.

A Spiritual Resolution

from the Deacon

As the new year begins many of us start making our list of New Year's resolutions. Many make resolutions only for physical or financial goals but seldom do I hear of people making spiritual New Year's Resolutions. The New Year presents an opportunity for a new beginning of reflection and commitment to God and his Church.

So, I offer you St. Paul's advice from Colossians 3:12-14; Paul says, "As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another and if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love which binds everything together in perfect harmony." These scriptures remind us of how God would like us to treat the people around us. These virtues are described as items of clothing. Just as you would put on a new shirt or a new coat, here it tells us to put on an attitude of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, forgiveness and love.

Compassion is the opposite of someone who is cold and heartless, someone who is concerned with only himself. A compassionate person is someone that sincerely cares about other people and helps them. Kindness includes not only saying nice things, but doing nice things. Kindness is calling members who live alone to check on them. Kindness is sending a birthday card or get-well card to someone you know. Kindness is letting someone in front of you while standing in line. Be kind to one another. Humility means that you recognize your own weakness. Don't think about how great you are or spend time telling everyone how great you are! Don't always put the spot light on you! Humility is listening to your neighbor's problems. Clothe yourselves with humility. Gentleness is the opposite of someone who is ranting and arguing at the customer service counter at Walmart. Gentleness is being polite, well-mannered and courteous when the opportunity arises. Patience is the idea of being pleasant in unpleasant circumstances. Such as when the worker at McDonalds gets your order wrong or when your pizza is delivered and its cold! So, be patient with the people you come in contact with, even in trying situations. The sixth item of clothing, Paul says to bear with each other and forgive whatever grieves you have with each other. Jesus wants you to forgive the people around you. So, treat them the way God treats you: forgive!

Finally, you need to put on love, which binds forgiveness and compassion and everything else to finish off your new wardrobe for the year 2021. God wants us to love our neighbors, the stranger, the poor, the widowed, the sick and especially our enemies! Let's cloth ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, forgiveness and love which binds them in perfect harmony. Let this be on our list of New Year's resolutions. May God bless us with a healthy and happy year.

Peace and Love,

Randy

Outreach to the Rivers

Fr. Kempton Baldrige—I wanted you to know how grateful I am for the superlative job St Paul's did this year. You really saved our bacon. I wasn't sure if we could pull off Christmas on the River this year but after swinging by St Paul's to pick up your offerings on December 9, I feel as if we have a tailwind.

I really want the whole world to know what St Paul's did as far as addressing the often overlooked dental health of our society's most isolated occupation, merchant mariners (aka "the kings and queens of quarantine"). When Bill Gentry told me St Paul's had prepared 475 individual dental hygiene kits (toothbrush, toothpaste and floss) I thought he was kidding. No indeed. He loaded my little Ford Escape up with four *enormous* boxfuls of high-end, name brand ADA-approved toothpaste tubes, toothbrushes and floss dispensers, all hygienically wrapped and placed in after-care sacks for shipment to the rivers. I was blown away.

And if that wasn't enough already, I am glad to report that what St. Paul's started, ended up being a challenge taken up by others as well. Hearing about the project, other churches and other groups stepped up to help and we ended up being able to supply dental supplies to 476 towboat crews. It seems like such a small thing for those of us who have a drugstore on every other corner, but for those women and men who live their lives on the rivers, it is a blessing indeed. "I have seen the promised land!" and it's a place without tooth decay or gingivitis.



What We Didn't Do This Year

Leslie Newman—Going back over what we usually do this time of the year, I was struck with all the things EYC *didn't* do last month:

- We didn't cook a fifth Sunday breakfast on November 29;
- We didn't gather on the first Saturday morning of December for the Riverview School *Breakfast with Santa* in the Parish Hall;
- Nor did we gather on North Main Street with Ms. Ella, Aaron and Wendell, Marty, Larry and Michael, Jacob and Jesse, Corey and Jessa, Susan, and whoever youth and children we could pile on the trailer to pull our Little Church and hand out candy to children lining the streets of downtown Henderson, before delivering it to Central Park for display;
- We didn't meet at the Walaskays for chili and hot chocolate and cookies *apris* parade;
- We didn't attend A Tapestry Christmas with our VBS partners' choirs and ours;
- We didn't Christmas carol, shop or share meals.

What We Did Do

Leslie Newman—But even with events and gatherings curtailed or canceled to try to keep us all safer and healthier, with help from others inside and outside the Parish, there we a few things St. Paul's Youth managed to accomplish:

- We dismantled the beautiful Thanksgiving altar and filled Tim Sandefur's work truck in order to recycle what we could.
- We gathered with Fr. Rich, remotely, using the Zoom platform, on St. Nicholas Day, for Fr. Rich to read the story of St. Nicholas (not once but twice!) from the book the children of the Parish gave him on the anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood, and for fellowship and prayers.
- We welcomed Sophia joining us from her home in Florida, which, but not for Zoom, she could not have done.
- St. Paul's families and friends of EYC, including Alexis' preschoolers at Holy Name School and the Francke kids who often joined our activities pre-pandemic, decorated boxes and made Christmas cards (the Hendersons alone made 97 cards!) for Ministry on the River, which Bill Gentry delivered to Fr. Kempton – and faster than snail mail, they had been delivered to the barges in five days.
- Jackie Burch made 54 *more* beautiful cards also, and Fr. Rich forwarded them to Fr. Kempton, so the seamen got an extra treat!
- We gave kudos for whoever took charge of delivering the little church to Central Park for Christmas in the Park - our families made the annual pilgrimage on their own this year.
- Briana, Jacob, Jesse and Iris met at the parish hall and decorated the church's new taller, thinner and easier to assemble Christmas tree, which you will

see in the background of photos in this edition.

- Miranda, Kaleigh, Trae, Alexis, Gisele and some little helpers they recruited put up the standards and prepared the candles for the Christmas Eve service.
- Children and youth, via Zoom, joined Fr. Rich for the Blessing of the Gifts on Christmas morning. EYC met on Sunday evenings for fellowship, prayers, devotionals or compline (and we have changed our meeting time from 7 pm to 5:30 pm during these winter month);
- we scheduled around the showing of Charlie Brown's Christmas on WNIN and the Alice P. Taylor Candlelight Service.
- Rad's Eagle Scout project was approved; he will be refurbishing the columbarium. Details and photos to follow!
- AND we sold out of EYC calendars early! With Judy's help, calendars were mailed to those we otherwise would have caroled. We hope the beauty of the YGP calendars will bring you peace and cheer throughout the months of 2021, and we thank you for your support.

All things considered, we did do quite a bit in December! We don't know, of course, what *next* December will bring – whether prior traditions will resume or whether we will be looking at *new* traditions, or a hybrid of old *and* new.

This is a time of change. Change is hard. *And* change is inevitable. We are open to see what these changing times bring and what change we can bring to the life of St. Paul's. If you have ideas or suggestions for activities our youth might enjoy during the pandemic, with their families or as a group meeting remotely, for now, or ways we can evolve with these changing times, please do talk with me and with our youth!



An Extraordinary Annual Meeting

No one will argue that it has been an *ordinary* year since St. Paul's last Annual Meeting. The year began with all the usual promise, and with all the usual challenges ahead of us, and as the Vestry met in retreat last February, they were filled with excitement about what might be accomplished. Then in mid-March, the shadow of the global spread of Covid reached our own community and our own lives, bringing one change after another to the way we live, including the way we worship and fellowship and reach out to those around us.

Few of us thought this disruption would continue more than a few weeks, yet nearly ten months later, our ordinary ways of doing things simply cannot be accomplished while keeping one another safe and healthy. The extraordinary efforts that so many have undertaken for so long now need to be applied to the conduct of the principle act of business of every parish of the Episcopal Church, the Annual Meeting of the Parish.

The Annual Meeting of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Henderson, Kentucky will take place during the celebration of Holy Eucharist at 10:00 Sunday morning, January 24, 2021. We will gather for the Ministry of the Word with acclamation and the reading of Holy Scripture. The Annual Meeting will be our response to the Gospel of our Lord, rather than the usual sermon. Then we will continue and conclude by raising our thanksgiving with the Eucharist and Communion.

Those that are well and wish to do so, may attend in-person, masked, distanced, and with the other precautions we have established since we resumed in-person worship last summer. Other members may attend by registering their presence as part of their participation in the usual Facebook Live stream. We will also welcome Parishioners to participate in the meeting through a Zoom videoconferencing link. Plans are in the works to provide for as much interaction of members as possible across the three methods of access.

It is expected that the calling of a required quorum of canonical members through these three methods of participation will be the biggest challenge of this extraordinary Annual Meeting. Once completed, however, other rules for the meeting will be modified to allow the basic business of the Parish to move forward. As always, the election of three new members of St. Paul's Vestry is the primary item of the Meeting's agenda. Other items of business will be either suspended or abbreviated, including the exchange of the Rector's customary narrative presentation in favor of a brief report.

No one will argue that the 2021 Annual Meeting of St. Paul's Episcopal Church will all the components of

fellowship and celebration that ordinarily accompany our gathering to do the business of the church. We will not gather around our round tables to chat. We will not share a sandwich lunch and pass the plates of cookies. We will not review photos of the people and events that have filled our year. Some of us may not even be physically present in the same room. But as we do the work we have been given to do, even with all our present challenges, we will once again do the distinctly *extraordinary*, as we once again find a way as a Parish Family to love God with all we have, and to love each other.

Vestry Notes

At their meeting on Tuesday, December 15, conducted again by videoconference, St. Paul's Vestry:

- Received November financial reports showing pledged income substantially but not completely closing the gap from budgeted amount.
- Expressed gratitude for members' positive and generous response to the fall pledge reminder letter,
- Heard the Worship & Music Cmte's final plan for St. Paul's 5:30 Christmas Eve celebration, including properly safe-guarded vocal and instrumental music.
- Asked the Rector to formulate an on-line program of instruction to prepare for Confirmation when the Bishop is able to resume his visitation schedule, perhaps with a parallel series for adults who want to know more about our Episcopal heritage.
- Continued the Snr. Warden's conversation about Parish goals and visioning, including the establishing of an *ad hoc* Transition Cmte to begin work.
- Discussed By-Laws requirements and approved plans for conducting the Annual Meeting in-person and virtually during the service on Sunday, January 24.
- Noted that the Nominating Cmte needs one additional nominee to offer a slate for the 2021 Vestry.
- Thanked Becky Carroll, Jesse Gonzales and Marty White as they complete their terms on the Vestry.

The Vestry will next meet following the Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 24, continuing participation either in-person or via videoconference.

Vestry Nominations

Becky Carroll, Jesse Gonzales and Marty White are still looking for another nominee to round out the slate of three Parishioners to fill three-year terms on the Vestry. Just pass on the name of someone you think will represent the Parish well, and the Committee will do the work of contacting them before the Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 24.

Financial Summary as of November 30, 2020

Pledged Income Received to Date	\$135,389
Non-dividend Income from Investments to Date	\$10,000
Small Business Funds Available	\$27,000
Other Operating Income to Date	\$41,613
Total Budgeted Expenses to Date	\$222,340

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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