

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

THE GOOD NEWS

July 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.*

Come On Home July 12!

It is with great joy that I tell you that St. Paul's will welcome our Parish Family to carefully resume in-person worship on Sunday morning, 12 July! More than four months ago, I made a commitment to you, a covenant in which I promised to continue to offer our praise and thanksgiving from St. Paul's Altar at the appointed times each Sunday. On your side of that covenant, I asked *you* to stay home and stay well. We have all been faithful to that covenant, but now our long fast from one another's presence has ended!

As we are reminded, however, by news from across the Commonwealth and the Country, the pandemic has *not* ended. And we must proceed with humility in the face of what we *don't* know, and with care for each other's safety. So, let me repeat what I have said in *other* uncertain times: No one should ever feel *pressured* to be here; you should *always* make the prayerful choice that is best for *you*. If you are running a fever or not feeling well, you should stay home. If you have health complications or risks, you should probably stay home. If you are still *uneasy* about gathering right now, please continue to join us online. I fully understand, and I totally *respect* those choices.

I am asking those who *are* ready and able to be physically present to join me in a *new* covenant with one another, agreeing to make sacrifices and accommodations consistent with the Bishop's latest Pastoral Directive and mindful of the best scientific guidance, to prevent the spread of disease in our community, and to keep every member of our Family as safe and healthy as possible. As we gather:

- We will use only the parking lot entrance, allowing us the space of the Parish Hall to check temperatures and offer sanitizer and masks.
- We will not shake hands or embrace to greet one another – at the Peace, or otherwise, and we will leave immediately after the service. (I know... but we'll get back to ourselves, eventually.)
- We will spread out in every other pew to provide proper distancing, and *everyone* will continue to wear their mask throughout the service, except when someone up front reads their parts.
- We will bring our own Prayer Books from home or read from our electronic devices. Single-use bulletins will be available as you enter, but pew Prayer Books and Hymnals have been put away.
- We will *not* be singing, though our Musicians will continue to grace our worship instrumentally.
- We will receive Communion with the Bread only, carefully administered *at your seat*.
- All other education and social activities, including Coffee Hour, continue to be suspended.

I believe this new covenant is merely an extension of our Baptismal Covenant, our humble attempt to follow Jesus' simple commandment to, "Love God and Love Each Other." But let me add one *more* to the choices I am asking *you* to make: If you do not want to *deal* with the changes we feel we must make to keep each other safe, I will certainly understand if for now you remain only *virtually* present with us.

Please know that whether we see each other here soon or we have to wait a little longer, I am *always* available to talk about... pretty much *anything*, and that you are *always* in my heart and in my prayers.

Peace and joy,

Upcoming Events

As we 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, July 5—8:00 and 10:00—Worship livestreamed to Facebook

Tues-Fri, July 9-12—8:00-noon—Parish Family "Open House" by appointment

Sunday, July 12—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



Families find ways to enjoy even this odd summer—like a late bike ride with Trae and Miranda.



Jessa and Reece reel in a big one at the pond.



Ella celebrates a masked/distanced birthday at sunny Mill Park.

Holy Land Travels – Part 13

from the Deacon

Still on the Via Dolorosa, the Way of the Cross through the old city of Jerusalem, we continued on after the seventh station turning left then up more steps to the eighth station. Linda and Mary expressed being upset with their husbands unable to climb the steps. They were concerned about being left behind or separated from the tour group. So, I offered to stay behind with the husbands so they could catch up with the group. They took me up on the offer!

Once we arrived at the eighth station which is often over-looked because it is located opposite the Station Eight Souvenir Bazaar. I remarked, “This is it?” The ladies responded that no, the Station was across the street up the wall, almost to the top! There it was the eighth medallion at the very top of the stone wall. I would have missed it had not the ladies pointed it out to me. This is where Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem.

We descended back down the steps where we had left Mike and Rick at station five. To my surprise, their wives informed them that they were to stay with me! Rick and Mike just looked at each other and said nothing. After receiving their orders from Linda and Mary we continued on to station nine leaving the Via Dolorosa and headed for the entrance to the Crusader-era Church of the Holy Sepulcher, which encloses the remaining stations of the cross. We continued along the walkway until reaching an archway topped with a cross. Looking up over the arch you could see the dome of the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in the background. We could see the ninth station of the cross on the pillar (part of the stone wall sticking out) just beyond the arch, where Jesus fell the third time.

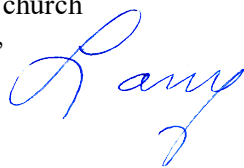
We walked along the pathway through the arch, crossed a courtyard on our left, and went through the door at the end of the courtyard. We ascended the stairs to the Ethiopians and Coptic Monasteries. Every major church is responsible for a certain part of the Holy Sepulcher Church, and the Ethiopians control the roof, and the present location of their monasteries.

We were able to view a lot of beautiful art work as we continued our walk through the huge Church of the Holy Sepulcher. We walked through the Coptic Chapel next to the Holy Sepulcher and the courtyard of the church itself. We entered the massive Church of the Holy Sepulcher through the large wooden doors. We walked up the stairs to Calvary on our right where the entire church marks the next four stations of the cross.

We were packed like sardines inside this area of the church. Mike was a bit concerned, but I let him know as long as I could see Kyle’s head over everyone, we would be able to stay with our group. Jerry, our tour guide really rushed us through this part of the church and caused some of us to get separated from the group.

I’ll stop here and continue next month with stations ten through fourteen. These stations were the most beautiful part of the church

Peace and Love,



\$100 for Good—Build-a-Bed

Susan Sauls—“\$100! Wow! I can do a lot of things with \$100!” That was my thought when Fr. Rich handed each vestry member \$100 and instructed us to do something with all those dollars. It was an easy decision for me. We were nearing the Volunteer and Information Center’s annual Build-a-Bed project and needed a few more dollars to make sure another Henderson child didn’t have to sleep in a less-than-ideal situation.

Yes, my friends, it’s real here in our hometown. Many children in Henderson sleep with one or two siblings or an adult, or on the floor or on a couch or in a chair. These co-sleeping conditions can lead to stress for not just the child but the entire family. The challenges can be increased dependency, anxiety, fatigue, low energy, depression and obesity. This can have an obvious effect on a child’s ability to perform well in school, and challenges as he faces his future. Just imagine what it MIGHT be like. It’s not a pretty thought.

So, my \$100 gift helped pay for a mattress and a bedtime basket filled with good things—personal care items, a book and night light, stuffed animal, sheets, comforter, and pillow. Working alongside his parent and several volunteers (including some of our St. Paul’s friends), a child helps to assemble and paint his bed and then takes it home where he can have fairyland dreams and positive outcomes. Now that’s a fabulous use of \$100! On behalf of that one special child, thanks Fr. Rich and St. Paul’s.



E-Giving Now Available on Tithe.ly

The Vestry continues to express their thanksgiving for the faithful way the St. Paul’s Family has kept up with their giving in these times away from each other. Now we can offer a new way to give to your Parish from home, or from anywhere you have a computer.

To make an online donation, type “tithe.ly” into your web browser and follow the directions to set up your account. You’ll have to scroll down to find St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Henderson (there are a lot of churches named for St. Paul!) but then you can set up automatic payments from your bank account, or just use a debit or credit card to make your gift. Oh, and you can check a box to even pick up the fee.

It’s that easy—from anywhere! And we’re working on ways to make it even easier to give to your Parish Family, so stay tuned.



Zoompline Continues

Leslie Newman—EYC continues to meet for Zoompline and fellowship on Sunday evenings. It is delightful (for me, at least!) to see the youth who participate and I miss those who don't. I am grateful for Fr. Rich's participation and when Ms. Monessa can join. Yet I can't seem to remember to take a screen shot to share with you what Zoompline looks like!

Youth Study to Dismantle Racism

Leslie Newman—DioKY Youth Programs featured a free webinar for youth and youth leaders on June 15: Allyship for God's People, sponsored by the Absalom Jones Episcopal Center for Racial Healing. The inestimable Catherine Meeks led the discussion of what it means as followers of Jesus to stand with the oppressed and marginalized and to ask what are new ways we can amplify the celebrity of Jesus by taking steps towards working on ourselves and loving our neighbors?

Our last road trip before the pandemic took EYC, Monessa and me to Christ Church Bowling Green for a day of learning about and discussing Dismantling Racism. As EYC has continued via the Zoom platform, so the diocesan conversation about Dismantling Racism will continue via Zoom.

All youth in (rising) grades 7-12 are invited and encouraged to attend six free Zoom sessions, two each week for three weeks, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 4-5:30 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday July 14 and 16, Tuesday and Thursday July 21 and 23, and Tuesday and Thursday July 28 and 30. This opportunity for high school young people is meant to serve as a connecting point on a journey of understanding race, racism in our culture, and our call as Christians in this world to "do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God" (Micah 6:8).

Mama Doyle tells us these conversations can and *will* be uncomfortable and invites our youth to be uncomfortable in community, to join together wherever our youth are with their questions, concerns and feelings. The diocese will strive to create a safe space, and our leaders ask our youth to be mindful safe does not mean easy. There will be ongoing resources and sup-

port as needed, and these sessions will not be the end of our conversations or our responses. You can register at <https://episcopalky.wufo>

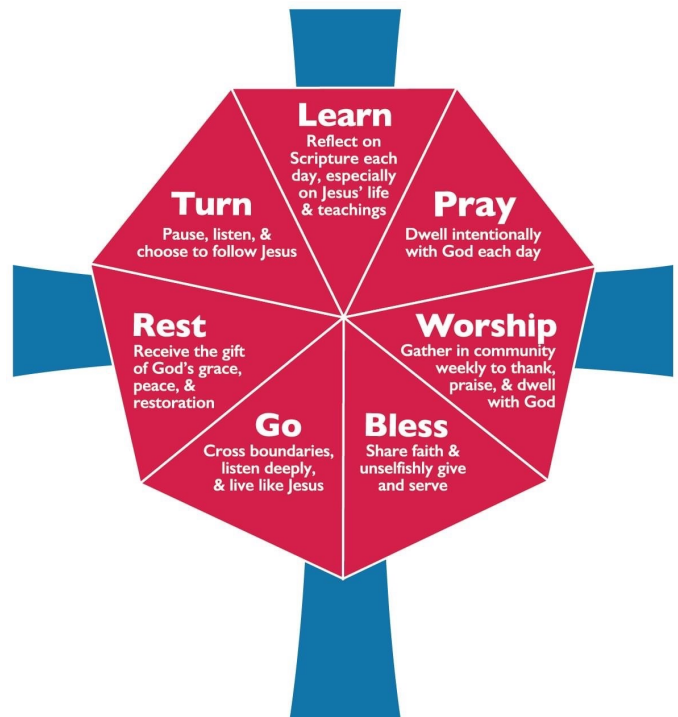
As we struggle as a nation, state and community with issues of racism, I hear many people striving to learn more and to increase their awareness as a means toward action. If you are a podcast listener, sign up for ATL Episcopal Youth Ministry and for starters go to Season 2, Episode 12: "Blackness in a Youth Ministry Context". Listen for 43 minutes. Learn.

Summer Programs Change—Again

Leslie Newman—Sadly, for our children, youth, our counselors-in-training and our counselors and staff, All Saints has announced *The Way of Love Virtual Summer Camp* that was planned for July will not take place. This is difficult for all involved. Please let the youngest of our St. Paul's family know that you recognize this is a loss for them and a setback in their Christian formation. Your prayers for how these losses will impact them in the days, weeks, months and *years* ahead will be a blessing.

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry has encouraged our youth as well as our adults this summer to follow the practices of Jesus – to turn, learn, pray, worship, bless, go, rest. Although our youth will not be able to gather with their diocesan friends at All Saints this summer of 2020, they, and you, are encouraged to follow Bishop Curry's lead.

I've included the simple graphic below to serve as a guide to *The Way of Love*. Print or cut it out and post it where you will see it. Please be reminded and please help to remind our youth that the call of Jesus to be a presence in the world has not changed.



THE WAY OF LOVE
Practices for Jesus-Centered Life

Vestry Notes

At their meeting on Tuesday, June 23, rescheduled from June 16 and conducted by videoconference due to protective measures, St. Paul's Vestry:

- Received May financial reports showing continued consistency with previous years' income patterns.
- Approved the plans of the Worship & Music Team for return to in-person worship on July 12.
- Received update on new video and sound equipment to improve the quality of our livestream worship, even as we prepare to return to in-person worship.
- Continued to discuss the careful return to in-person worship, with ideas to make our space safer as that is accomplished.

The Vestry will next meet on Tuesday, July 21.

The Bell, the Bell!

Following the response to his request that churches throughout the Commonwealth peel their bells on Sunday, March 22 as a symbol of hope in the face of rising CoVID-19 infections, the next week Gov. Beshear asked churches to ring their bells every day at 10:00 EDT. Since then, and through June, the bell at St. Paul's has been rung each morning (at 9:00 here in Central Time) to remind everyone who hears it that we are all together in spirit.

Now, as we slowly take steps toward seeing each other more and more in person, that reminder will return to its Sunday morning expression in our call to worship. Thank you to Fr. Rich, Mike France, and Cooper Lilly for giving voice to St. Paul's heart.

Safe and Secure Bathrooms

Latches were added to the hallway bathrooms some time ago for completely unrelated reasons, but those latches now give us an opportunity many other churches do not enjoy to add to our safety and care in this extraordinary time. If you need the bathroom while you are at St. Paul's, we invite you to use the latch so one person or family at a time may have the space for their use. We have also provided disinfectant wipes for surfaces you use, making it unnecessary for other cleaning between uses. Thank you for your patience.

Anointing Service Postponed

As we rethink, and even re-imagine what both our in-person and our online ministry will look like in the weeks ahead, and for years to come, we're going to put our mid-week service on hold for the moment.

During June, Fr. Rich resumed the celebration of Holy Eucharist with intention for healing, but quickly realized that that service suffered even more than others from the loss of intimacy and contact with online-only expression. "I may discover a way to bring the mid-week service back online in a way that makes sense," he said, "but it may make sense to hold off until we can return to offering anointing for those that desire it." It is hoped that may happen as early as September.

Parish Office Hours

Beginning on Wednesday, July 1 the Parish Office will return to our normal hours, Tuesday through Friday, 8:00 to noon. Since the middle of March, the Office has technically been closed, with a sign on the door asking visitors to call the office phone number. The phone was set to forward calls to Judy's cell phone, and she and Fr. Rich have been playing tag-team using the space to get everything done, with Fr. Rich coming in early to ring the bell and, during the Easter Season, broadcast the Act of Spiritual Communion, then sending Judy the all clear as he left the building, returning only when Judy gave a like sign when she was ready to take the rest of her work home to complete.

With some other aspects of our Parish Life returning to previous patterns, Judy will be resuming her more regular hours to welcome you in person if you have an issue. Consistent with current guidelines, we ask that you wear your mask when you visit, and plan to stay no longer than 20 minutes.

St Paul's Family "Open House"

Having been gone from the space we all consider so precious for so long, the thought of returning amid accommodations and sacrifices may seem a little overwhelming. If you decide that you are able and ready to return to St. Paul's when we return to in-person worship on Sunday, July 12, we want you to do so with comfort and with care.

Beginning July 1, Judy will be taking reservations for individuals or families to visit your beloved home and see for yourself the changes that we have made for our health and safety while the pandemic continues. Though reservations will be made in 20-minute blocks for the mornings of July 7-12, we anticipate that most folks who would like to make such a visit will have all the time they need.

In this way, we hope you will be better prepared, in spite of the changes, to be free from anxiety and fully present *whenever* you decide to join us for worship.

Financial Summary as of May 31, 2020

Pledged Income Received to Date	\$56,954
Non-dividend Income from Investments to Date	\$0
Federal Payroll Protection Program Funds Available	\$27,400
Other Operating Income to Date	\$19,887
Operating Expenses to Date	\$101,450

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

