



St. Paul's Episcopal Church

THE GOOD NEWS

June 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.*

Post-Pandemic Priority

from the Rector

When St. Paul wrote to the Christians there, Corinth was a happening place, and most of what was happening was happening in or around one of the temples of the Greek or Roman gods, where animal sacrifice was ever bit as big a deal in the temples of Corinth as it was in Jerusalem's Temple. A portion of the animals slaughtered in Corinth's temples was consumed in the sacrifice, of course, but the rest ended up for sale at banquet tables or in the markets. The bottom line was that if you were going to put meat on the table in Corinth, that meat would have first been offered to one of the pagan gods.

And that was true even if your table was serving the weekly feast for the local Christian congregation. Now these new Christians in Corinth were mostly Gentiles, non-Jews, who had been told that part of being a Christian was accepting at least *some* of the rules of Judaism, specifically, that they should, "abstain from things polluted by idols."

Some of them, it seems, wanted to stick to the rules, while others made the argument that meat was just meat, regardless of where it came from. Weighing into this fuss with his first Letter to them, Paul argued that since there really is no such *thing* as other gods, then idols have no standing to pollute *anything*. "Aha!" said the more liberal faction, "There ya' go!" "In Christ, we're free from the law and can eat whatever meat we can find." "It's just the weak ones that can't get that through their heads."

"Only be careful," Paul continues, and the celebration quiets, "be careful that your freedom doesn't become someone else's stumbling block." "Because when you sin against a member of your family, you sin... against Christ." Paul is all for freedom from the law – but only so that freedom opens up the way to the priority of loving each other.

Our real eating problem, you see, goes

back to the Garden, where our first ancestors traded the intimacy of relationship with our Creator for a bite of the knowledge of good and evil, a bite into the right to decide *themselves* what is good, *and* to decide what is evil.

Fast forward to the twenty-first century, where we know oh so much better than they did back in Corinth. Oh, the ones that don't think we should eat meat still look with opprobrium on those of us who do, while we look back with disdain that is barely concealed, if it is at all. But it's all good because science has figured out how to make a Whopper bleed blood that has never circulated through any best of the field. Today, the only god to which we offer any meat (or vegan-meat-substitute) is the idol of our consuming gluttony.

But in almost-post-pandemic America, we sacrifice to our own idols. Those of us who choose to follow the rules laid out by scientists and leaders look down with incredulous contempt on those who apparently simply will not do so. Meanwhile, those who, because they have been more affected by the economic rather than the viral catastrophe, or because they have the resources to ignore both and want nothing but to be left alone, look at the rest like mindless sheeple or fear-disabled weaklings.

What's more, we have let the sour taste of what has become of our political life percolate through even our health and safety decisions, to the point that we spin further and further from both directions into fantasy and conspiracy, until, in our perceived freedom to do just as *we* know to be right, we nibble the fruit of good and evil close enough to the core, that the only weak ones we feel we must to love, are the ones with *our* favorite weakness.

"Knowledge puffs up," Paul said, to more than just the Corinthians, "but love... love builds up." As we learn to build our lives again without quarantine and distance and masks, let us remember where our priorities are truly meant to be.

Peace and joy,

Upcoming Events

*We are delighted to continue to welcome you to join us for in-person worship,
but you are always welcome to continue to experience Sunday 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)

Mondays, June 7-July 19, 2021

- 1:30 p.m. — Confirmation Class (Parish Hall)

Sunday, June 13, 2021

- 10:00 a.m. — Euch-n-'Q (Church then Parish Hall and Grounds)

Tuesday, June 15, 2021

- 5:30 p.m. — Vestry Meeting (Parish Hall and Zoom)

Saturday, June 26, 2021

- 10:00 a.m. — Prayer Shawl Ministry Ingathering (Parish Hall)

Wednesday, June 30, 2021

- 6:00 p.m. — Family Supper and Compline (Parish Hall)

Around the Parish



Proud HCHS graduate Kaleigh Purdy posed with her sisters Alexis and Miranda after graduation at the Ford Center.



Happy graduate Rad Mattingly was joined by brothers Warner and Reade (and the rest of the family) after the ceremony.



For the first time in more than a year, members shared an (individually prepared) chicken dinner Wednesday, May 26.

Cecilia's Story

from the Deacon

Cecilia didn't dream to live among the aristocracy, she already had lived that lifestyle and it had left her empty. Cecilia's dream was to live in God's Kingdom. Cecilia, who lived in the second century, was a child of the aristocracy, the elitist class in Rome. She chooses to turn her back on her place of privilege and chose to follow the despised followers of Jesus, who had been persecuted in her city for more than one hundred years. When Cecilia accepted Christ's death on the cross for the forgiveness of her sins, she committed herself to be a virgin for the rest of her life. Her dream was to share the message of her Lord.

Cecilia's father disagreed and pledged her hand in marriage to another member of the aristocracy named Valarian. It wasn't long after his marriage to Cecilia that Valarian accepted Christ! It would be a wonderful story if it all ended there, but sadly when the Emperor heard the news, he ruled that Valarian should be put to death with Cecilia looking on to try and get her to forget her Christian faith.

After his death, Cecilia became even more of a witness for the Gospel of Jesus. The word got out that Cecilia hadn't stopped her witnessing for Christ. The furious Emperor ruled that she too should die, that she should be decapitated by the executioner's sword.

The day arrived and Cecilia faced execution with everyone looking on. The sword was drawn back and then finally brought down upon her fragile and frail neck. The first blow didn't sever her neck, so the executioner brought his sword down a second time and then a third time, but to no avail, he could not behead her. Roman law forbade him from trying a fourth time, so the Emperor told the men to let her die a slow death. Cecilia's neck was left mangled and bleeding for three days, until finally she passed on to the Lord, still proclaiming the dream she was willing to die for.

Today you can go to Rome to visit *Saint Cecilia's* Basilica, and deep beneath two thousand years of building, still see the home of this committed dreamer who witnessed the glory of God until her last breath.

Dreamers capture our attention because dreamers are different than most of us. I think dreamers refuse to accept the traditional way of doing things. In a world which constantly screams out at us, "You can't," "We tried that before," and "It won't work," dreamers never say no.

There is an urgency at hand every moment for a dreamer. Whether it be Martin Luther or Martin Luther King Jr, Gandhi, or the Apostle Paul, for thousands of years, society has possessed an intriguing curiosity about these who dare to dream.

Dreamers all over the world are continuing to hold to the promise of a coming Kingdom. A Kingdom in which all people, from all walks of life, will join together in glorious Alleluia—praising our Risen King!

Peace and Love,



\$100 Challenge—Martha's Place

Corey Hill—I was excited to once again, participate in Fr. Rich's \$100 challenge. The stipulation for this year—you cannot use the same organization as last year. Last year, I chose to donate items to *Landon's Hope* to help people effected by the COVID-19 pandemic. So, now I had to find a different organization.

As some of you are aware, I am expecting a sweet baby boy November 1. *Marsha's Place* immediately came to me as the place to donate my \$100 after I participated as an ultrasound model during my first trimester. For those that may not be as familiar with *Marsha's Place*, it is a pregnancy resource center in Henderson. They provide just about any service for expectant families, from ultrasounds and pregnancy tests, to helping provide formula and diapers. Their compassionate, professional staff offers free and confidential services to many women that walk in their doors with no easy choices. *Marsha's Place* focuses on providing the information to help make sound decisions.

When I went to Walmart to shop for the diapers, baby soaps, and other items I assumed they would need, my wife Jessa suggested that I call and check to see what the biggest need was at *Marsha's*. To my surprise, I was told that the *biggest* need was maternity clothes. Most people don't think about the needs of the expecting mom before birth, usually just the baby once he or she is born. So, I put everything I had already collected back, and went to the maternity clothing section. By the end of my search, I was able to purchase eight shirts, three pairs of leggings, and two belly bands. I hope that this helps several expectant mommies in our community.

CCO Donation for June:

Dishwashing Liquid

Bring your items to church with you, or drop them by the Parish Office by the third week of the month.



Youth Sunday Blessings

Leslie Newman—EYC gathered for the first time in person since the pandemic, to prepare for the Mother's Day Youth Sunday service. Whether you attended that morning in person or watched on Facebook Live (or have been meaning to, but haven't *yet*), it was a delight to have Miranda, Kiya, Kaleigh and Rad as lectionary and Psalm readers, EYC alumni Alexis and Trae leading the Prayers of the People, to hear Miranda and Kiya sing solos, to experience Kaleigh and Rad present their senior homilies, and an equal delight to see the children and youth present pink carnations to all the women who were present.

With all the challenges of the past year, after the service, it was refreshing, as well, to see the family photos taken in front of St. Paul's Altar to commemorate this *extra* special Mother's Day. Special thanks to Marla for her accompaniment and to Fr. Rich for working with the youth in preparation and for presenting our seniors with a Bible as a gift from St. Paul's.

Staying in Touch

Leslie Newman—EYC continued to meet via Zoom to catch up with each others' weeks, end of school year and senior happenings, summer plans, meditations and compline. It's not the same as the chaotic fun of having everyone together in person, but it keeps us up-to-date.

If you would like to join EYC to visit with our youth for a few minutes on a Sunday evening, please let me know. We'd love to have you join us. And if you haven't Zoomed before, I will guide you through the learning process.

EYC Alumni

Our readers would enjoy updates from you.
Please send me news to include in future editions

Lost Opportunities

Leslie Newman—It will be an odd June that we are not kicking it off with preparations for Vacation Bible School with our partner churches or All Saints' camper and counselor plans. The planning for these events takes months and the calls were made before *Healthy at Home* restrictions and Diocesan directives were eased.

It is hard on children and youth to miss these milestones of their years and to have the interruption in their traditions. It's hard on the parents, too, who have to explain the whys and find other wholesome activities to fill the days of summer. Please pray for the kids and their families to continue to find their ways, with love and understanding, through the pandemic *and* its after-effects.

Things are Happening Again

Leslie Newman—Unlike last year, however, there *are* summer activities that will proceed this year, and we are looking for ways the Youth can take advantage of them. The WC Handy Blues and Barbecue Festival, the Sandy Lee Watkins Songwriters Festival and Bluegrass in the Park and Folklife Festival are all returning to downtown Henderson this year.

If you are ready to get out of the house and would like to volunteer, please let me know and I will get your information to the right folks.



Please Come as You Are

Effective May 25, the Rt. Rev. Terry White, Bishop of Kentucky, issued an addendum to his directive from last summer, relaxing some of the restrictions he had placed on the worship and life of the parishes of the Diocese. Copies of his modified directive are available on the table in the Parish Hall, and the Rector and Vestry will make decisions about modifications to our own rhythms at there June meeting.

Until then, following the new guidance from health authorities, please know that we will continue to observe some distancing in the church, but those who have been vaccinated may remove their masks when they have reached their seats. It is recommended that those who have not been vaccinated continue to wear their mask, but you should make the decision that is right for you and your circumstances.

One way or the other, we hope that you will find a Sunday morning soon to leave behind your Facebook connection and come be with Family face-to-face.

Vestry Notes

The monthly meeting of St. Paul's Vestry held on May 18 was a *very* mixed success. In spite of technical challenges with some members online and some in-person, and failing to meet quorum, the Vestry:

- Discussed, though did not receive, April financial reports showing income still lagging behind budget, while expenses continue to run slightly *over* budget so far.
- Discussed the latest modification of the Bishop's pandemic directive. We continue to find new ways, within those directives, to reintroduce components to our Sunday worship as conditions warrant, as we await additional, more substantive easing of restrictions.
- Continued plans for Suzanne's retirement July 4. Fr. Rich and the Snr. Warden will meet with her and Marla to discuss the transition.
- Confirmed an earlier electronic approval from the Vestry to allow our neighbor to the west to remove the holly tree on Center St.
- Heard from Susan about her talk with Canon Amy about St. Paul's transition in the next year-and-a-half. Though the normal Diocesan process will need to be followed, there is some flexibility to be allowed due to the unusually long notice we have.

The next Vestry meeting will be at 5:30 June 15, in the Parish Hall *and* online.

Wednesday Night Suppers Return

The outdoor plan for our first Parish Family meal in more than a year was threatened by storm-building skies as Wednesday, May 26 began, so Fr. Rich made the call early in the day to allow the gathering to move into the Parish Hall. That evening, fifteen members enjoyed an individually packaged fried chicken dinner from *D&M* and cupcakes from *Golden Glaze*. We had planned to discuss the Bishop's new directive, but those at the distanced tables instead just renewed relationships until time came for Dcn. Larry to lead the group in our evening Compline.

Having had such a successful reentry event, and with Vestry deliberation of the current guidance at their June meeting, we are planning to gather again in the Parish Hall on the last Wednesday of this month as well. We will stick with prepared meals (rather than our more traditional potluck) for at least this one more month, and the subject of our discussion is still up in the air, but we look forward to yet another opportunity to be with one another as we move closer to pre-pandemic rhythms of our life together. Please join us at 6:00 Wednesday evening, June 30 for some good food, and for even better fellowship.

Handy Euch-and-'Q

Leading into the return of the Handy Blues and Barbecue Fest to downtown Henderson, St. Paul's is making our own comeback from the deprivations of 2020. On Sunday morning, June 13, following the 10:00 service, we are going to get back to one of our Parish Family's favorite activities—eating.

Plans for the first post-pandemic edition of our famous Euch-and-'Q are still developing, and will include some concessions to ongoing safety issues. The Vestry, which will meet the following Tuesday will not as yet have fully engaged the Bishop's latest directives, but with individual meals and drinks, we should all be able to spread out on our blankets on the cool grass or at limited and spaced seating in the (air-conditioned) Parish Hall to enjoy some bar-b-que and renewing some Family ties. As a reminder in our current circumstances, if you are not yet vaccinated, you should wear your mask for your own safety—when you are not chowing down, that is.

The Parish Life Committee is ordering plenty of meals (and maybe some more cupcakes!) so you're welcome to bring your friends to enjoy both the Church's finest feast, plus our usual fine fellowship and some mighty fine 'Q as well. Come be a part of the fun.

Financial Summary as of April 30, 2021

Pledged Income Received to Date	\$40,750
Non-dividend Investment Income Transferred	\$0
Small Business Funds Available	\$27,400
Other Operating Income to Date	\$14,934
Total Budgeted Expenses to Date	\$90,499

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

Outreach
Pastoral Care

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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