



St. Paul's Episcopal Church

THE GOOD NEWS

March 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.*

Going for It

from the Rector

There are several small Parishioners who are routinely part of our ten o'clock worship at St. Paul's. They have been regular in attendance since they were baptized here when they were just wee folks, and their presence in church week after week is a true delight to me. I have had many occasions to tell associates and friends from outside our community what you who are here Sunday mornings know from simple observation – that about half the time I get to watching one of our little ones processing the realities that seem sometimes to so challenge those of less tender years, I am struck with a grin that threatens to poke out from both cheeks.

And my favorite part of seeing them is welcoming them at the Altar. As I've shared many times in other places, the church I grew up in didn't even baptize little children, but some of you have been around long enough to remember when first Communion was sometime later, maybe even waiting until after Confirmation. By contrast, I am always delighted when the youngest of us come to the "family table." I have lost count of the number of times I have been blessed by a little one gratefully receiving the "Jesus Bread."

Here a month or so ago, one of these little ones made her usual visit to receive the Body of Christ in her tiny hands, held just so, palm over palm, like she has been taught. As I had turned my attention to give her grandmother Communion, this little one reached forward and grabbed the shiny edge of the paten on which I carry the Bread of Heaven. She didn't have to reach very far as I leaned forward, and I really didn't even notice that her little fingers had closed on the lip of the plate. It wasn't until I began to stand back up that I realized that the container was not fully in my control.

If my eager little friend had been just a little bit more insistent, she would have succeeded in plucking the ciborium from my hand, no doubt with some interesting results. I suspect that the heavier-than-it-looks chunk of vermeil-silver certainly

would not have stayed in those diminutive digits that reached for it. I suspect that there would have been a clanging, clattering cacophony that would have gotten *everyone's* full attention. I suspect that consecrated bits of bread would have spilled all over the beautiful terrazzo floor of the Sanctuary. Worst of all, I suspect that that spill would have resulted in a really interesting tableau, with yours truly scrambling around on all fours like some sort of fat, green-draped spider.

As it was, I was able to keep my hold on the paten, along with my presence of mind and (if you think about that green spider thing) my dignity, as I moved on to the next communicant while my little friend beamed at me with her brown eyes sparkling their usual mischief. I hadn't gone but a couple more steps, though, when I realized how significant that short, sweet interaction really was – and that realization brought a smile to my face that a few folks at the rail may have seen, and a tear to my eye that I'm sure no one did.

You see, Jesus said that unless we come to the Kingdom of God as a child, we will never be able to receive it. Perhaps here in this season of Lent, set aside for the deliberate purpose of self-examination and spiritual renewal, we might benefit from looking again at Christ's grace and mercy for us, looking with new eyes, with a new *heart* at our Savior's love for us.

You see, I think what Jesus meant was that if we don't lay aside the baggage of our lives and gaze upon the wonders that the Lord of Heaven has offered us with clear, unhooded, unblinded eyes, we may *never* see them. If we don't grab for the awesome greatness, the shining brightness, the luminous *glory* of the fullness of God's gifts for us we will never see that fullness in our own lives.

Of course, when we come to the rail week by week to receive Communion, it's only a bit of not-so-good-tasting bread in a shiny piece of metal – or is it?

Peace and joy,

Upcoming Events

Sundays—8 a.m.—Holy Eucharist, Rite I, 9 a.m. Choir Practice, 10 a.m. Choral Eucharist, Rite II, Children’s Atrium. Coffee Hour following the service.

Tuesdays—6 p.m.—Saints, Sinners, and Cynics—Rookies

Wednesday, March 4—Noon—Community Lenten Luncheon—First Christian Church

6 p.m.—Soup Supper and Program

Wednesday, March 11—Noon—Community Lenten Luncheon—Community Baptist Church

6 p.m.— Soup Supper and Program

Thursday, March 12—11 a.m.—Clericus Meeting—Parish Hall

Sunday, March 15—CCO Sunday—Bar Soap

Monday, March 16—Noon—St. Ann’s Guild

Tuesday, March 17—5:30 p.m.—Vestry Meeting—Rector’s Study

Saturday, March 18—Noon—Community Lenten Luncheon—Presbyterian Church

6 p.m.—Soup Supper and Program

Wednesday, March 25—Noon—Community Lenten Luncheon—First Methodist Church

6 p.m.—Soup Supper and Program

Saturday, March 28—10 a.m.—Prayer Shawl Ingathering, Parish Hall

Monday, March 30—5:30 p.m.—Confirmation Class

Around the Parish



Fr. Rich prepares to hand out an outreach challenge grant as part of the Vestry’s annual retreat February 8.



Myles shows Fr. Rich the way to the Parish Hall after service on the Last Sunday after the Epiphany.



The Rev. Robert Alves, descendant of St. Paul’s first Senior Warden celebrates at our altar.

Holy Land Travels – Part 9

from the Deacon

Our tour guide Jerry was not qualified to give us our tour of the new excavations under the Wailing Wall. Instead, we had a young Jewish gentleman, who was from Canada. I forgot to write his name down in my daily notes so now I have forgotten his name. He was very knowledgeable on all the sites we saw under the Wailing Wall. After decades of painstaking excavations, the tunnels were opened to the public in 2002.

It was awesome! Once below the surface, there are narrow passage ways and excavation of many cavernous rooms. We were taken back to the first century, the hey-day of Jerusalem. We were actually seeing Jerusalem 2,000 years ago in the days of the Second Temple. These mysterious tunnels revealed roman roads, shops, and amazing building skills which remained since the days of the Bible. I think the Western Wall Tunnels are the closest one can get to where once stood the “Holy of Holies” on the Temple Mount.

Our wonderful tour guide did an excellent job leading us through this unique world of Underground Jerusalem. He permitted us to step back in time and to experience the utmost secrets of this 2,000- year old city called the “Heart of the World.”

After our tour was over it was time to check into our hotel. We arrived at the Grand Court Hotel at 5:30. I was ready for a hot shower and a good meal. We met at 7:00, our usual time for supper. The buffet was enormous! I had to walk around the buffet twice before I could decide what I wanted to eat. I decided on a salad with a plate of baked vegetables and rice covered with beef in a spicy sauce. My desert—those wonderful little cakes that taste like almond joys.

On day seven, we met in the hotel lobby at 7:50, giving us plenty of time to have breakfast before we boarded our coach. It didn't take very long for us to arrive at our first site. The Church of Saint John the Baptist and Monastery are traditionally known as the birth place of John the Baptist. It is in Ein Karem, now a suburb of Jerusalem, and belongs to the Franciscan Order.

This spectacular Roman Catholic Church was being restored and has an amazing architecture from several different periods of history. I saw beautiful murals and exquisite stained-glass windows and outstanding tiles. What made it even more magnificent is the seamless way it all blended together.

After touring the Church of Saint John the Baptist. We boarded the coach to travel to Bethlehem. Our first stop was a shop where most of our group was able to buy a few souvenirs to take home. Unfortunately, yours truly didn't find the very small crucifixion crosses that I was looking for. I wanted to make the Daughters of the King rosaries to use during their prayer time.

I'll continue my notes from Bethlehem next month with our visit to the Church of the Nativity.

Peace and Love,



\$100 for Good—Rainbow Jacket

Lydia Johnson—When Fr. Rich gave members of the Vestry each a \$100 bill to spend as part of an outreach project, I knew what I wanted to do with it almost immediately. I wanted to help one of the teenagers who visit the *Rainbow Jacket Project*, a free clothing bank for trans and gender non-conforming youth in the Evansville region. In particular, I wanted to buy a 16-year-old who visited recently some pants.

Nick, my 17-year-old son, started the clothing bank as a school project and has helped nearly 50 youth find clothes and accessories that match their identity in the year it's been open. As Nick says, these are kids who don't feel comfortable shopping on the “wrong” side of a store. Sometimes they're bullied for just wanting to express their true selves.

When the 16-year-old visited, he seemed shy at first. “I'm nervous,” he said to an adult volunteer. He joined two other youth who were shopping, and each was paired up with a student volunteer who helped them pick out clothing that matched their identity. He tried on several pairs of pants, but none fit. He needed a size 44, and most of the pants and jeans that are available are smaller than 40.

He did, however, find several shirts and placed them in a bag. He asked for a binder, but Nick didn't have a 5x. The binders are expensive, as much as \$45 depending on the style, but they are so important to trans males and help to alleviate gender dysphoria, the feeling that a person's gender doesn't match the sex assigned at birth. Before the end of the day, however, a request was put on the clothing bank's Facebook page, and someone said they had ordered it.

The youth still needed jeans and khaki pants that followed the guidelines of his school's dress code. I told him not to worry, that we would get them with money donated by the church. When he left that day, he carried out his shirts and other accessories in the bag. As he was leaving, he turned to the adult who brought him and said, “I'm so happy.”

A few days later, Nick went to Kohl's and bought several pairs of pants using the \$100 Fr. Rich gave me. Nick will give the pants to that happy boy the next time the clothing bank is open. Thanks to the generosity of St. Paul's, this young man has pants that he can be proud to wear.





Thankful Youth

Leslie Newman—Thank you to St. Paul’s for sponsoring our youth trip to Christ Church, Bowling Green on February 15 for the diocesan-sponsored program Dismantling Racism. The Parish rented a van from BW Rentals and paid the \$20 registration fee for all four Purdy children, Ms. Monessa, and me to attend. There was a diocesan leadership program at Christ Church at the same time and Mike France joined our caravan so he could attend that.

Everyone was awake enough by the time we reached Owensboro to start the day with breakfast to go from McDonald’s. And at the end of the day, Trae led us on a tour of Christ Church, where he attended when he was a student at WKU.

Our program was attended by a mix of thoughtful and interested youth and adults. It was interesting to hear and see the perspective of the different generations. Mama Doyle led the program by her pastoral and leadership skills and by her personal experiences, and she was successful in engaging all of us in a series of exercises that included education, sharing, storytelling, art and teamwork that will be ongoing. The Sunday before, EYC huddled in Fr. Rich’s study to watch the 2019 biography Harriet, about abolitionist Harriet Tubman. The film was riveting and educational and it was a fitting preparation for the Diocesan program.

Pancake Supper

Leslie Newman—Thanks, too, to our Parish family who turned out to prepare for and serve our Shrove Tuesday pancake supper, and to those who brought their families and friends to enjoy the fruits of our labor, and to those who couldn’t attend but donated regardless.

Thanks to those who stayed after church on February 23 to set up the Parish Hall in preparation and to those who stayed until the bitter end on February 25 to leave the Parish Hall looking as it did when we left last Sunday.

Thanks to Corey and Lydia for promoting the event around town and on social media and to all of you who shared the event on your social media.

Thanks to the youth who came from school, invigorated, and worked together as a team led by Kaleigh to

delegate chores in the Parish Hall, from assigning table numbers, to volunteering to serve as wait staff and bus staff and money takers and greeters, and for those youth who helped in the kitchen before they took their posts: Kaleigh, Miranda, Rad, Sara, Michael, Samuel, Rebecca, Kiya, Brianna, Caroline, Jada, and Ty.

Thanks to Marty, Alexis and Jesse for overseeing the front of house operations.

The key to kitchen operations was all those who were willing to do whatever was needed to help and with good cheer and lots of laughter. Thanks to Marilyn, Ann, Susie, Mike, Monessa, Christy, Susan, Raiko, Jacob and Gisele for chipping in.

We were “competing” with Farm Bureau’s Farm Follies, UK Basketball, the Blue Man Group, and well advertised Mardi Gras specials at local restaurants. Nevertheless, I’m pleased to announce our estimated net proceeds of \$388 were down only *slightly* from 2019.

While the pancake supper is fresh on your mind, if you have suggestions for how we might increase revenues or improve or update this St. Paul’s tradition, please let me know.

Spring Youth Gathering

Leslie Newman—The weekend of March 20-22 brings the long-awaited and much-anticipated Spring Gathering at All Saints, for current 6-12 graders. Youth will explore “Finding our Why” both individually and as a Diocese. Youth will explore newness and embracing newness - even when it’s not what you want or expect it to be. “For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord.” (Jeremiah 29:11)

Kudos to Kaleigh Purdy for serving on the Diocesan Youth Council, which has worked to plan the gathering. Registration forms for Spring Gathering and for Summer Camp at All Saints are available at www.episcopalky.org, as are applications for counselors and counselors-in-training. As always, St. Ann’s Guild and the Discretionary Fund will ensure that all our kids can go to these activities without cost.

Two More Notes

Leslie Newman—Congratulations to Hannah Hendricks on her North Middle School cheer team’s third place in national competition in Orlando!

And thanks one more time to those of you who have brought Christmas cards for EYC to recycle for our River on the Ministry project. We gladly will accept more, if you just haven’t gotten around to it yet.



Vestry Notes

At their annual planning retreat, hosted at Bill Gentry's home on February 8, St. Paul's Vestry:

- Thanked Bill for hosting and Susie for organizing and providing hospitality for the day.
- Received corrected 2019 year-end financial reports taking into account unrealized gains, and January financials showing a slow start in pledged income, but on-budget income from invested funds.
- Reviewed Safe Church training program, the specific modules required for completion by Vestry Members, and individual progress toward that goal.
- Discussed accounting issues delaying completion of the Parochial Report to the Diocese and the national Church.
- Met in Ministry Team breakout sessions to discuss priorities and plans for the coming year, with each Team reporting back to the whole Vestry.

The Vestry will next meet on Tuesday, March 17 in the Rector's study.

Lenten Luncheons Begin

As we begin the first full week of Lent, it is time once again for one of the Lenten traditions in our community, the Lenten Luncheon series sponsored by the Henderson County Ministerial Association. Each week during Lent, another of the area's churches takes a turn providing an ecumenical worship opportunity at noon followed by a light lunch. No ticket is needed, and there is never a cost for the meal, but an offering is collected for the work of the Ministerial Association during the year.

- March 4—First Christian Church
- March 11—Community Baptist Church
- March 18—Presbyterian Church
- March 23—1st United Methodist Church
- April 1—St. Paul's Episcopal Church
- April 9—Zion United Church of Christ
- April 10—Holy Name Catholic Church

Lenten Wednesday Evenings

Each of the Sundays in Lent you will find an insert in our worship bulletin sharing some important information about the scope of the 400-year history of slavery in America. These are excerpts from the book, *40 Days of Prayer for the Liberation of American Descendants of Slavery*. This short book prepared by the Angela Project from Simmons College has been recommended by the Racial Reconciliation Task Force of the

Diocese of Kentucky to promote greater understanding of the racial divide that is still very much a part of American life, and to help find ways that we can be part of dismantling racism and bring healing.

On Wednesday evenings in Lent, as has become our custom, we will share a simple soup supper, and then we will delve more deeply into *40 Days of Prayer*. Whether or not you will be able to be part of the Wednesday evening group discussions, if you would like to follow this deeper path as part of your journey for Lent, we would like you to have a copy of the book. Fr. Rich has several copies still available, and is willing to order more if we need them. Please join us for the study and for the fellowship of our journey together.

Good Friday Holy Land Offering

Since their trip last spring with parishioner Lydia Johnson, Fr. Rich and Dcn. Larry have shared many stories from the Holy Land. On Good Friday, offerings are invited from throughout The Episcopal Church to support the ministry of the dioceses of the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East. Our contributions are used to assist them in promoting peace and mutual understanding through pastoral care, health, and educational programs throughout the region, a "partnership," says Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, "with those who keep the faith of Jesus alive in the region where our Lord walked and began his movement."

St. Paul's will take up *our* offering on Good Friday, April 10 and on Palm Sunday, April 5 to add to the gifts of over 1,600 other parishes around the Church for the continued work of our Anglican sisters and brothers throughout the Province. Please consider how *you* will contribute to what Bp. Curry calls, "an important witness to the love of Jesus across our Church."

The Bishop is Coming

Though he has been here for other purposes, it has been a little while since the Rt. Rev. Terry A. White, Bishop of Kentucky has made a formal visit to St. Paul's. But "our Bishop, Terry" will be joining us for our Eucharistic celebration on Sunday morning, June 14.

That means that we have to get our young people ready to be presented for Confirmation, and Fr. Rich has been making contact with kids and parents about classes starting on Monday evening, March 30 and continuing through a retreat at All Saints June 11-13.

We have several adults who have been waiting to be received into the Episcopal Church as well. For their education, and as a refresher for the rest of us, Fr. Rich will also be offering "Episcopalian 101" classes on the Wednesday evenings of May. More info to come.

Financial Summary as of January 31, 2020

Pledged Income Received to Date	\$5,204
Unbudgeted Income from Investments to Date	\$0
Other Operating Income to Date	\$9,469
Operating Expenses to Date	\$22,513

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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