



St. Paul's Episcopal Church

THE GOOD NEWS

March 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.*

Why I Still Wear My Mask

from the Rector

It has been a long, *long* time since I wrote here about my Cinco de Mayo encounter with a truculent fellow who vociferously thought me a fool for wearing a mask. In these last nine months, a lot has happened that has had lots of impact on all our lives.

I know that in our Parish Family, as in many families and social groups, not to mention all our *online* personas, we have the entire spectrum of opinion, political and otherwise. So without trying to start any *sort* of argument, let me just say that I continue to wear a mask in public, not for *me*, but for *you*.

Simply because of our demographics, I suppose, many of us at St. Paul's have already received their first dose of one of the vaccines, and some have completed their immunization. My doctor's advice was that I take the first vaccine that I was offered, and Jenny and I are scheduled to have our first "jab" by the end of the month. I am confident that that will help protect *me*, but I will still wear not the personal protective equipment (PPE) that doctors and nurses and first responders need to keep them safe, but I wear my mask designed to keep my droplets off of *you*.

I don't think anyone who knows me even reasonably well would accuse me of living in fear of just about anything. Having lived longer than my father, now by decades, and knowing full well what home awaits me when I finish this journey, I certainly do *not* "live in fear of the virus." But I do not want to be the one to give it to anyone else, so I will wear my mask for *you*.

Some of you know that decades ago, when I had other life aspirations, I was a pre-med student at Johns Hopkins University, and *most* of you know that after that, and years before I was a Priest, I was an Army medic. I am not a scientist, but I have studied a good deal of molecular biology, a thing or two about public health, and have even met some of the people we all see on TV these days who were working on immune systems and epidemiology well

before the turn of the century. I am not a scientist, but I have very good reason to believe what those who *are* have to say. So for now, I monitor my temperature and other symptoms any time I am going to be near others, and I know that even when I'm immunized, I could *still* pass the virus along, so I will still wear my mask.

Though I do not trust politicians any further than I could throw them, as a former soldier, and as a good Episcopalian, for that matter, I *do* generally favor good order. So I stand in line at an appropriate distance, and when the authorities say that the way to help those around me is to wear a mask, I don't feel like anyone is trying to control me, I feel like I am making a contribution to the community I love, so I will still wear my mask.

I fervently look forward to the day when we can let down our guard, when we can close our social distance, and when we can take off our masks. I am excited that the drumbeat of daily positive cases in our area have lately been measured in single- rather than double-digits. But you might remember that the Governor is not the one that could shut down churches, and he can't give us the all-clear. Until the Bishop of Kentucky modifies his Pastoral Directive, and until I am convinced that we can safely implement his modifications, we will wear masks when we are gathered here at St. Paul's

As for me, I still wear my mask, not because I am scared, or stupid, or controlled, but because this world, this community, this *Family* is not just about me.

I still wear a mask because Jesus reminded us that all God's commandments are summed up in two: "Love God," he said, and "Love Each Other."

I still wear a mask because, even though most days I am unsure I am doing *nearly* enough to repay all of you for your abiding love for me, I want to love all of you the very best I can, and I want to love a whole *bunch* of folks I don't even know

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 of Lent

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

Holy Week

- Maundy Thursday 6:00 p.m. — Table Liturgy (Zoom)
- Good Friday 6:00 p.m. — Stations of the Cross (In-Person and FB Live)
- Holy Saturday 8:00 p.m. — Great Vigil of Easter (In-Person and FB Live)

All other Parish activities continue to be suspended for now.

Around the Parish



Neil and David shared Shrove Tuesday pancakes from their home across the River.



Fr. Rich got the Shrove Tuesday party started early that morning with a pancake off Jenny's grill. (He ate more than one!)



Not able to be here in person this year, Sophia showed off her fancy pancakes from the Cathedral in FL.

A Lenten Gift

from the Deacon

It has been a year now and the Covid-19 pandemic is still with us. Lenten season has started already, beginning in February on Ash Wednesday. Another opportunity for repenting and strengthening our spiritual lives has been given to us. Hopefully this pandemic won't cause us to miss out on God's offering to receive his free gift.

What is that gift? What gift does God have for me and you? A loving life, spiritual life, and eternal life. That's a very powerful and wonderful gift, isn't it? God wants us to live with the deepest, fullest spiritual lives as possible. To live Christ-like lives each day as we face a world full of chaos!

I strongly believe we get this gift by being open to receiving it, by wanting it with all our hearts. By asking for it over and over again by praying and waiting in the presence of our loving God. In the *Book of Common Prayer*, in the Ash Wednesday service, Fr. Rich says the following prayer before the ashes are imposed; "Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth: Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, that we may remember that it is only by your gracious gift that we are given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior." Amen.

May we learn to reflect Christ in our lives. I should be very clear about one thing. Lent is not a second chance to see if we can keep our New Year's resolution. I believe Lent is not really about giving up this or that, no matter how hard this or that may be. There may be a place for some kind of self-sacrifice, but only if that sacrifice is done with your heart on receiving the gift of a deeper spiritual life from God.

Many of us need to do one very important thing in order to ready ourselves to receive God's gift, we need to empty ourselves. We need to let go of whatever is threatening to take over our lives. For me it's the pandemic! But that is going to be very different for each of you. Many of us have allowed uncontrolled and constant activity to effectively push God out of our lives.

God wants us to pay attention to our very deepest desires-for love, for compassion, forgiveness, peace and silence. God wants to give us all the gifts we really need in order to live loving and God filled lives that all of us want to live.

Lent is a time of renewing, asking God to help us with the important task of inner renewal. Lent is the promise of a new start for all of us, not a time of discouragement or sorrow. Rather it is a time when we rejoice that God is a God of refreshment, of new life and new beginnings! I am confident that God is bringing us with Him into a new life during Lent. His gift is the Son's resurrection!

Peace and Love,

Randy

Columbarium Eagle Project

Rad Mattingly—Our family has been involved in Scouting since all three of us were Cubs. My Dad likes to say that my Mom has already earned two Eagle Scout Awards with Warner and Reade, so with my eighteenth birthday coming up soon, I needed to hurry up to help her earn the third.

There's a lot to do to earn Eagle Scout Rank, the highest award in Scouting. Every merit badge earned along the way means you have to learn new skills. Some of it you can get from the Scout Handbook or other reading, but some of it has to be hands-on. When it comes to Eagle Scout, though, all of that is even *more* intense, and the Eagle Scout Service Project is "final exam" of the whole process.

When it came time to come up with a project, my first thought was to do something for my church, St. Paul's, kind of a thank you for what a big part of my life St. Paul's has been. After a couple meetings with Fr. Rich I decided I could do the work of updating the Columbarium out between the church and the Parish Hall. The tiles that mark where people are buried get out of line and crooked as the sand underneath settles over the years, and Fr. Rich said it would cost a lot to have someone come and make it right again.

I did the planning, solicited and collected the materials we would need, and scheduled some work days to get the project done. With the help of other scouts, and working around some weather delays, I collected the tiles, being careful to follow the graph that showed who was buried there. Some tiles and some of the nameplates were and had to be replaced from extras the church had. While all the tiles were carefully lined up out on the grass, we spread out a new layer of sand, tamped it, and leveled it. Once this was done, we reset the bricks surrounding the columbarium, replacing those that were broken. Then we completed the project by carefully putting each tile back in its marked spot.

Working for my Dad, I'm used to the physical part of the work that we had to do. But doing all the paperwork involved for a project like this was a challenge, and organizing my fellow Scouts to get the job done was more work than I thought it would be. But in the end, I'm proud I could give something back to St. Paul's and make the Columbarium look great for the next twenty years.





Eating Well

Leslie Newman—EYC continues to meet remotely using the Zoom platform, as do so many events we previously would have enjoyed in person.

Deacon Larry was our guest on Super Bowl Sunday. Our youth had expressed they miss seeing him and *voilà*, he joined us. We started early because it was game day but we had so much to talk about, we ran past kickoff time. It gave our youth the opportunity to visit with Dcn. Larry and it gave him the chance to help our youth formulate their answers when their friends at school ask what church they attend and how they can talk about what it means to be an Episcopalian.

We met on Shrove Tuesday and talked about our favorite pancakes or waffles, innards (blueberries were the favorite), toppings, syrups, memories of Shrove Tuesday at St. Paul's, and how our youth are approaching Lent 2021. As it turned out, with the inclement weather, we wouldn't have been able to host the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper this year even if we weren't in a pandemic. So it was a good year for our sabbatical.

We met and talked about the services at the American Cathedral in Paris where the Very Rev. Lucinda Laird, formerly of the Diocese of Kentucky is Dean. That Sunday, the preacher was the Rev. Dr. Helen Jacobi, rector St. Matthew-in-the-City, Auckland, New Zealand. Because of the time zone difference, and because it's recorded, our youth can attend and experience Episcopal services they otherwise could not readily experience. And so can you!

Taking a Breath

Leslie Newman—The youth had also expressed that they miss then-youth pastor Becky Durham and *voilà*, she joined EYC from her new church, Peace Presbyterian, Fayetteville NC to teach our youth about Breath Prayers, a form of contemplative prayer that has been practiced for millennia. Pastor Becky offered examples of the times and circumstances when our youth may find breath prayers helpful to them, gave examples of breath prayers they may use, and challenged our youth to write a breath prayer of their own.

Finding a Way

Leslie Newman—There *are* silver linings of the pandemic, and among them is the opportunity to maintain the connection among our youth and to provide them ways to strengthen their spiritual foundation. I am also grateful that St. Paul's has provided me the continued opportunity to serve as our youth director, because that has been a silver lining for me, *personally*.

I have enjoyed the opportunity to attend either the 8 am or the 10 am St. Paul's service each Sunday, or both, via Zoom. To attend Ash Wednesday remotely was a bonus. The Diocese of Kentucky was an institutional sponsor of *Forma*, a ministry of the Network for Christian Formation for the Episcopal Church. I was given the opportunity to attend digitally, which was wonderful, because I wouldn't have been able to attend in person.

I also was able to attend this year's Diocesan Congregational Leadership Conference via Zoom, and over the past year, have been able to take advantage of several opportunities to join several Saturday afternoon conversations with the Daughters of the King. I would not otherwise have had the chance to have this enriching experience. Through telecommunications, I have attended the Festival of Lessons and Carols from All Saints' Chapel in Sewanee, and a Valentine's concert streamed from the National Cathedral in Washington, laughed with the daily Facebook musings of Diocesan Youth Coordinator Madre Doyle, "the patron saint of hot messes," joined compline with the Rev. Ben Badgett, formerly of the Diocese of Kentucky, from his new church, St. John's Episcopal Church, Waynesboro, VA, and attended a Trustees meeting for the University of the South, where I serve as a trustee from our Diocese. I was able to listen to the Presiding Bishop's *Way of Love* podcast and have enjoyed "attending" services of our VBS partners and other local churches who stream their services.

None of that takes the place of seeing you in person, of course. But it's a pretty amazing phenomenon I didn't fathom as I wrote this column last year this time. I choose to consider these opportunities for remote worship and learning and fellowship, and especially the time with our youth each week, nothing short of a blessing—and very possibly, a miracle.

Counting Blessings

Leslie Newman—All this is to say that there *are* silver linings of this pandemic, and I hope you have found some for yourself. With thanks for our access to digital technology, Zoom and Facebook and YouTube, and other remote platforms, and for the hard work and creativity that so many have employed in the last year, we *all* now have so many more opportunities than we realized we had or *could* have, to experience the fullness of the Episcopal Church and to shorten the span of miles and time that separates us from our Parish family, and from many we might not otherwise have had the chance to meet or see or hear, a large world brought closer by the common faith that connects us.

Vestry Notes

At their regular meeting conducted via Zoom on February 16, St. Paul's Vestry:

- Received the 2020 EOY and January 2021 financial reports, celebrating a better-than-expected 2020, and grateful for a healthy start for this year.
- Confirmed that St. Paul's 2020 Payroll Protection Program (PPP) loan had been forgiven, that the Diocese of Kentucky does not plan to include that grant as operating income for calculation of Diocesan assessment, and that we have filed for the second PPP.
- Selected responsibilities for ministry areas.
- Postponed the annual planning retreat and settled on an online format for Saturday, March 20 that will enable other ministry team members to join area-specific workshops with the Vestry liaisons.

The Vestry is next scheduled to meet for their planning retreat on Saturday, March 20, again by teleconference.

Community Lenten Series Continues

This year's Community Lenten Series sponsored by the Henderson County Ministerial Association cannot include their always much anticipated luncheons, but the services of worship and meditation, one of the Lenten traditions in our community *will* continue online. Each week during Lent, another of the area's churches takes a turn providing the ecumenical worship opportunity at noon, and each has found a way to address the challenge of making it available online. Week by week, just follow the link they have provided.

Because the customary offerings for the Ministerial Association will not be taken this year, as we did last year, St. Paul's will replace what would have been collected at our service to support their work throughout the year. If you would like to *add* to that offering, please send your check to the Parish Office with a memo or note for the Good Samaritan Fund.

- March 3—Community Baptist Church
www.facebook.com/CommunityBaptistChurch/videos
- March 10—Presbyterian Church
www.facebook.com/PreschurchHenderson
- March 17—1st United Methodist Church
www.youtube.com/c/hendersonfirstumc
- March 24—St. Paul's Episcopal Church
www.facebook.com/St.PaulsHenderson
- April 2—Holy Name Catholic Church
www.holynameparish.net/mass-schedule

Wednesday Evenings of Lent

Our Wednesday evening Lenten program this year, *Places of the Passion*, continues on March 3 as we climb the Mount of Olives to look at where Jesus found a place of refuge and refreshment before, and during his time of trial.

Fr. Rich's series continues through March 31, 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 for Christ's ministry, and to Christians the world over. Remaining stops in the series:

- March 3—The Mount of Olives
- March 10—The Temple
- March 17—The Upper Room
- March 24—The Garden of Gethsemane
- March 31—Golgotha

Online login credentials for the Zoom platform are emailed and posted to our Facebook group the morning of each activity, but you can give the Parish Office a call to make sure you get the word.

Holy Week Online and In-Person

It probably comes as no surprise that we are going to try something new this year at St. Paul's for Palm Sunday, March 28. Those that are present in person at either service will experience the same liturgy as every year, though without the procession. But rather than waving palm fronds, each participant will be given a palm Cross to be blessed at the liturgy. Additionally, however, we plan to deliver Crosses blessed that morning to anyone who asks to receive one. Call or message the Parish Office to reserve yours any time.

We will return to the Upper Room on Maundy Thursday, April 1 for our traditional Table Liturgy and Eucharist at 6:00. Because of pandemic considerations and the structure of the Liturgy, and as we did last year, participation will be offered online.

On the other hand, and with thanksgiving, our Good Friday observance of the Stations of the Cross at 6:00 April 2 will be on FB *and* in-person. We will, of course, wear our masks and keep to our social distancing as on Sunday mornings, but this year we are pleased to be able to welcome those who are able and willing to join the journey along the *Via Dolorosa*.

Whether Deacon Larry will be able to lead this blessed portion of his own Lenten discipline, or if Fr. Rich will fill in for him again this year, will depend on our dear Deacon's immunization status by then.

Financial Summary as of January 31, 2021

Pledged Income Received to Date	\$11,250
Non-dividend Income from Investments to Date	\$0
Small Business Funds Available	\$0
Other Operating Income to Date	\$7,045
Total Budgeted Expenses to Date	\$24,371

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

Outreach
Pastoral Care

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

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

5 South Green Street

Henderson, KY 42420

www.stpauls-henderson.org

