



# St. Paul's Episcopal Church

## THE GOOD NEWS November 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.*

### When to Show Up

*from the Rector*

Make no mistake about it, you need to show up for worship. Not for my sake, though after all this time, I really do enjoy seeing you when I get the chance, but for *yours*. My message on that subject has not changed since well before the onset of the Covid pandemic. That is not to say you should always be here at St. Paul's *in-person*.

I hope that by adamant affirmation, by verifiable vocation, and by persistent practice, most people would grant as *given* that I am a person of faith, and as such, well "within my lane" in saying you should show up for worship. But part of my own admittedly convoluted path (Johns Hopkins pre-med '75-'79, Army Medical Department '79-92) has instilled in me an appreciation for the scientific of looking at the world as well.

Those of you somewhere near my age were no doubt exposed to what is known as the scientific method about the time you got to middle school. The scientific method has us look at all the available facts (observation), construct our best interpretation of those observations (hypothesis), test our interpretation against *more* observation or the observations of *others* (experimentation), and then adjust our interpretation to fit the additional information (new hypothesis). Being human, scientists have opinions, but they are trained to treat those opinions as provisionally as their hypotheses (yeah, that's the plural). As new information and observation is encountered, the best scientists treat both with a humility that might better serve those of us who study and expound theology as well.

Nine months ago, as a person of faith, my first response to the first arrival in force of Novel Coronavirus-19 was something like, "The government has no business telling churches when to open or close!" But within a few days, my lifetime of attention to the scientific method had convinced me that we needed to pay attention to what the scientists were saying about the plague that has now contributed to the early death of a quarter-million friends and loved ones in

our own fair country.

Since then, we have used the prevailing hypotheses to care for our little corner of our community, doing what we can to keep our beloved Parish Family as safe and well as possible. Having finally opened up for in-person worship a month-and-a-half ago, we are taking all the measures that the scientists have offered as ways to take care of one another: wearing our masks, watching our distance, and washing our hands and everything else we can reach.

But if you are unwell for any reason, if you are anxious about being around others, or if you simply don't want to put up with the restrictions, please know that you have our fervent blessing, but you should still show up for worship with us virtually, for your spiritual, emotional, and even *physical* health.

Oh, and one other thing: You need to show up to *vote*. Politicians may or may not be genuine people of faith, and they very seldom hold or expound their opinions with a lick of humility, but it is the job of the electorate, all our jobs, to keep them honestly looking at the world around them to make the decisions that effect us all.

We have people in our Parish Family from all over the political spectrum, but other than those times when someone *assumes* I'm talking from *their* side of the aisle, or worse yet, assumes I'm taking those *other* guy's side, we're pretty good at laying that aside in favor of loving one another like we're supposed to do.

But there's one thing on which we all seem to agree, that it is our responsibility to make our voice heard at the ballot box. So if you're registered and you haven't voted yet (Jenny and I did weeks ago) put your absentee ballot in the mail, go to the Courthouse or the Archery Center to vote early, or show up at *any* of the *five* polling places on election day, Tuesday, November 3, and VOTE (If you need a ride, call me).

After all, whether it is our political life or our spiritual health, showing up is at *least* half the battle.

Peace and joy,

## Upcoming Events

We are delighted to welcome you again to join us for in-person worship, but please know that depending on your situation, you are always welcome to continue 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 (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)

**Election Day, Tuesday, November 3—7 a.m. to 8 p.m.—Church Open for Prayer**

**Saturday, November 21—Parish Outdoor Clean-Up Day**

## Around the Parish



Fr. Rich and grandpa Hugh have a good time with Josey at the St. Francis Blessing of the Animals.



Christy unsuccessfully coaxes Estee to take a treat while Rad and Lilly try not to laugh.



Even to get his blessing Max isn't letting new partner Marie out of his sight.



## Giving Thanks During the Pandemic

*from the Deacon*

In our blessed country we celebrate a day of thanksgiving every year since the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock. This year will be different for all of us because of the covid-19 pandemic. Will the virus cause us to change our dinner plans and stop to consider why we are celebrating a day of thanks? How many of us will just stay home and avoid the chaos of family dinners to prevent the spreading of the virus? Does a day of thanksgiving cause us to pause and evaluate what we are truly thankful for during this pandemic?

Few things can dampen our life or put our faith to the test like this chaotic pandemic. Stuck at home and waiting for a vaccine to be developed can be depressing for many of us. While we may question God's slow response, we struggle to accept this new way of life. But God's timing is God's own time not ours.

The Prophet Habakkuk began his conversation with God with a complaint. In his argument, he demanded God's attention. Habakkuk pleaded for justice as he looked at the violence and injustice around him in Judah. We may ask how could God allow such evil? But judgement against Judah would come. More astounding, the agent of God's judgement on Judah would be a people Habakkuk thought of as even more wicked than the people of Judah.

When we question God, we usually do not expect an answer; but Habakkuk did. When Habakkuk questioned God, he did not quite understand God's plan but vowed to wait. The scriptures do not tell us how long the prophet prayed and waited for God's answer. Habakkuk remained steadfast and waited for God's reply. Habakkuk's prayerful devotion confirms his faith and obedience to God: "I will rejoice in the Lord; I will exult in the God of my salvation" (3:18). Habakkuk shows us the value of waiting patiently on the response of God, who works always for our good.

We are living in a time of injustice, systemic racism and a pandemic that's still spreading in our communities. We should be imitating Habakkuk and stand fast in our prayers and thanksgivings waiting patiently for God's intervention.

This Thanksgiving Day let our prayers be to God for granting us patience as we wait for a vaccine and for healing of our broken world. I wonder, as Christians, should we- could we- consider having thanksgiving every day of our life? In 1 Thessalonians (5:18), Paul writes, "In everything give thanks." The apostle is not saying that we are to give thanks for everything, but in everything, despite the circumstances. Is this possible? Yes! God is there with us in the midst of all our struggles, guiding us through always.

I believe an attitude of praise and thanksgiving is a choice, an act of our will. Giving thanks results in a change taking place in us and around us. Therefore, things begin to change for the better. May God help us to learn to give thanks in all situations. Amen

Peace and Love,

*Randy*

## \$100 for Good—New Hope Shelter

**Jesse Gonzales**—Coronavirus has influenced just about every aspect of our lives and while resources for the community exist and have been utilized locally, one that often gets forgotten is our local non-profit no kill shelter in Henderson; New Hope Animal Rescue. So when faced with the where to best suit our outreach donation of \$100 I elected to give to this very caring and useful organization.

Our family has utilized New Hope's resources a few times ourselves. Once when we found a stranded baby squirrel on the sidewalk to our house that was fighting for its life. We made a call to New Hope and they put us in contact with experts in the field to take over care. In another situation we contacted them about a pair of puppies that we found running the streets in Robards. In both situations their staff was knowledgeable and friendly and did everything they could to help us care for animals.

St. Francis of Assisi once said "God requires that we assist the animals, when they need our help. Each being has the same right of protection" and they truly take this statement to heart.

All animals adopted from New Hope require that they are spayed or neutered to decrease the population of unwanted pets. Paula from New Hope was very thankful for this donation and states it will be used to offset medical expenses incurred for their animals.

I encourage anyone who may be looking for a pet whether dog or cat to see what New Hope has to offer the community.





## Blessing of the Animals!

**Leslie Newman**—It was wonderful to see some of our St. Paul's family, and especially our youth and their dogs, at the Blessing of the Animals on the beautiful Sunday afternoon that was October 4. I appreciate that Fr. Rich asked me to assist and photograph the love that was there. October 4 is the day Episcopalians celebrate the life of St. Francis of Assisi. St. Francis is known for being a person of deep peace who supported the poor and protected the natural environment. He is especially beloved as the patron saint of animals. We pay tribute to St. Francis not only on this feast day and when we say his prayer but also when we sing "All Creatures of our God and King", an English hymn first published in 1919 and based on the Italian saint's Cantic of the Sun, written in 1228 and based on Psalm 148.

This annual tradition is a blessing not only of the animals but also of the people whose lives they enrich. It has special meaning to me because I got to St. Paul's when I was twelve years old, through the friendship of Sandra and Bill Smith who, that year, gave me a book of the Prayer of Peace often associated with St. Francis. I have cherished the book, the Smith's friendship and my St. Paul's family for the 50 years since. The endurance of St. Francis' legacy gives hope in these times when and where we seem to need it more than ever.

## Back to School Continues

**Leslie Newman**—"Normally" seems like a tired description about now but I haven't found an apt substitution. Normally, on the Sunday that signifies the end of our youth's fall break from Henderson County Schools, EYC gathers for fellowship and pizza with Fr. Rich.

This year, we gathered with Fr. Rich via Zoom, with pizza in our own homes as an option. It was fun to catch up, and good to have Fr. Rich lead us in Compline.

## Thanksgiving Decoration

**Leslie Newman**—Normally, we would have joined our Presbyterian friends for an outing to Cates Farms for what has become our traditional outing, pumpkin hunt, corn maze, hayride, hot dog roast and s'mores making and more. That we weren't able to maintain that tradition this year means we have that much more need for our parish family to contribute pumpkins, squash and other fall produce for the decoration of the altar for Thanksgiving. Fr. Rich has devised a plan for social distancing by family groups so all can contribute to the decorating experience on Sunday, November 22 to adorn the altar for the first Sunday of Advent. Please drop your offerings by the church the week before and let me know if your family would like to participate so we can schedule times.

## Christmas on the River?

**Leslie Newman**—Normally, EYC would already have been working to decorate boxes and making Christmas cards for the Ministry on the River. Normally, we would have our contributions ready to go on the first Monday in December. We are awaiting word from Fr. Baldrige about what that ministry will look like this year so please stay tuned for a church-wide email about how you can participate. In the meantime, your efforts to use time at home to make Christmas cards for mariners who will spend their Christmas working our waterways will be much appreciated. If you can make cards but can't deliver them to the church, we will arrange to pick them up.

## Now More Than Ever

**Leslie Newman**—Please continue your prayers for our youth and children and for our young adults who are in college and for the families who love and support them. As schools transitioned from one week of in-person instruction to fall break to virtual school and back to hybrid instruction and with Henderson being in the red zone and the uncertainty that brings our community, and as parents juggle to work and teach and support children who want to learn and who yearn to be in their classrooms and with their friends, prayers 45, 46 and 47, for families, for the care of young children and for young persons, found on pages 828-829 of the *Book of Common Prayer* may guide you.

*And, calendars! Did someone say calendars?! Stay tuned!*

## Church Open for Prayer

On Election Day, Tuesday, November 3, the Church will be open as a place of peace and prayer from 7:00 that morning until 8:00 in the evening. Please park in the parking lot and use the back doors and be mindful of the presence of others.



## Vestry Notes

At their meeting on Tuesday, October 20, conducted again by videoconference, St. Paul's Vestry:

- Received September financial reports showing a continuing seasonal slump in pledged giving but a more pronounced lag in the unpledged, plate offering due to the difficulty of in-person attendance, and encouraged Parishioners to give generously, and perhaps electronically, in the remainder of the year.
- Made plans for the 2021 Operating Fund Campaign.
- Confirmed that we will continue our holiday traditions in spite of reduced in-person participation, including Thanksgiving and Christmas decorations.
- Directed the Worship & Music Cmte to design a single traditional Christmas Eve celebration.
- Asked for ideas how to more directly support those whose worship is limited to on-line participation.
- Planned an outdoor clean-up day for Saturday, November 21, while applauding longer-term plans for refreshing and adding to the Columbarium area.
- Continued looking at Parish goals and visioning, including a Parish survey leading to a Parish Profile.
- Appointed the outgoing members of the Vestry as the Nominating Cmte for the election of the 2021 Vestry.
- Set Sunday, January 21 as the date for the Annual Parish Meeting.

The Vestry will next meet on Tuesday, November 17, again via videoconference.

## Clean Up Day November 21

**Lydia Johnson**—Mark your calendars for a few in-person events that we hope you can participate in. On Saturday, November 21, we will get together for an outside workday. We'll pull weeds, trim, and anything else needed to spruce up the exterior of our church in preparations for the holidays. Make sure you check out the November newsletter for more details.

## Vestry Nominations

The "out-going" members of the Vestry, those completing their terms as of our Annual Meeting in January, have been appointed as the Nominating Committee for the election of the new Vestry at that meeting that will take place, in some fashion, on Sunday, January 21.

Becky Carrol, Jesse Gonzales, and Marty White are ready to take your suggestions for members of the Parish in good standing to fill three three-year terms on the Vestry. Forms will be available in the Parish Office and at the Church doors. The Committee will do the work

of contacting suggested nominees and will put together a slate for election by all those members of the Parish who are present at the Annual Meeting.

## All Saints Collection

Even though their programs were dramatically curtailed this year, through the generosity of the Discretionary Fund and St. Ann's Guild, the young people of St. Paul's take wonderful advantage of the ministry of All Saints Camp and Conference Center in Leitchfield, forming a special link between our Parish and the Camp. But All Saints is a place where *all* ages gather to know Christ, and are empowered by Christ to share the Good News of the Gospel. If you ever need to be reminded of the importance of the ministry of All Saints, talk to one of our young people.

By tradition, on All Saints Sunday, this year, the Feast of All Saints *itself*, November 1, an offering is taken for the support of All Saints Center. We won't really have our usual loose plate offering or envelopes that morning, so please send your generous gift to the Parish Office marked for "All Saints."

## Building a Labyrinth at All Saints

**Marty White**—The Daughters of the King has pledged to lead the Diocese of Kentucky in building an outdoor labyrinth at All Saints Conference Center and Camp. To be sited just below the Conference Center Lodge and built in the style of the famous example at Chartres Cathedral, the labyrinth will enhance the prayer and meditation life of faithful followers of all ages who visit All Saints, a wonderful feature for meetings, retreats, and youth camps alike.

In response to the Diocese-wide appeal, St. Paul's own St. Agnes Chapter of the DoK has committed to raising \$500 for this effort, and we are inviting you to consider participating with us in what will be a prayerful addition to the "Heart of the Diocese." See me for more information, or make your check to the Discretionary fund, marked for the "Labyrinth" and send it to St. Paul's.

## CCO Collections Continue

**Lydia Johnson**—Christian Community Outreach, a food bank for Henderson area's families in need, is asking for donations of macaroni and cheese and boxed stuffing. Help families prepare for the holidays by dropping off your contributions at the back door of the church anytime in October or November.

### Financial Summary as of September 30, 2020

<b>Pledged Income Received to Date</b>	<b>\$97,159</b>
<b>Non-dividend Income from Investments to Date</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Small Business Funds Available</b>	<b>\$27,400</b>
<b>Other Operating Income to Date</b>	<b>\$26,387</b>
<b>Operating Expenses to Date</b>	<b>\$176,414</b>

## 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

5 South Green Street  
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[www.stpauls-henderson.org](http://www.stpauls-henderson.org)

