

# St. Paul's Episcopal Church

THE GOOD NEWS October 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.*

## **“What Would Love Do?”**

*from time to time, the Most Rev. Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church shares a “Word to the Church.” We wanted to make sure to share his latest, a potent reminder in these charged and anxious times:*

Throughout the Book of Common Prayer there are rubrics, those small or italicized words that don't always catch our eye, that provide direction and guidance for how a liturgy or service is to be conducted. Rubrics tell us what must be done and what may be done. They limit us and they give us freedom. They require us to exercise our judgment. And when we are at our best, we exercise this judgment under God's rubric of love.

Jesus tells us things like: Love your enemies; Bless those who curse you; Do unto others as you would have them do unto you; As you did to the least of these who are members of my family you have done to me; Father, forgive; Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, all your strength. This is the first and great commandment and the second is like it. You shall love your neighbor as yourself. Jesus makes it abundantly clear that the way of unselfish, sacrificial love – love that seeks the good and the well-being of others as well as the self – that love is the rubric of the Christian life.

This rubric of love is seen no more clearly than in the twenty-first chapter of the Gospel according to John. The death of Jesus had left his followers disoriented, uncertain, and confused, afraid of what they knew and anxious about what they did not know. Thinking that the movement was probably dead, the disciples went back to what they knew. They tried to go back to normal. They went fishing.

They fished all night but didn't catch a thing. Normal would not return. When the morning came, Jesus showed up on the beach, alive, risen from the dead. He asked them, “Children, have you any fish?” They answered, “No.” Then he told them to cast the net on the other side of the boat. They did and caught more fish than they could

handle. And then, Jesus invited them to breakfast.

After having fed his disciples, Jesus turned to Peter and three times asked him, “Do you love me?” Three times Peter said, “Yes.” And Jesus said, “Feed my lambs,” “Tend my sheep,” “Feed my sheep.” In this, Jesus told Peter what love looks like. Love God by loving your neighbors, all of them. Love your enemies. Feed the hungry. Bless folk. Forgive them. And be gentle with yourself. Follow me. You may make mistakes, you may not do it perfectly. But whatever you do, do it with love. The truth is, Jesus gave Peter a rubric for the new normal – God's rubric of love.

Today, like Peter and the disciples, we must discern a new normal. COVID-19 has left us disoriented, uncertain, and confused, afraid of what we know and anxious about what we do not know. Our old normal has been upended, and we hunger for its return.

I do not say this from a lofty perch. I get it. There is a big part of me that wants to go back to January 2020 when I had never heard of COVID-19, and when I only thought of “Contagion” as a movie. Looking back through what I know are glasses darkened by loss, I find myself remembering January 2020 as a “golden age.”

But of course, January 2020 wasn't perfect, not even close. And anyway, I can't go back. None of us can go back. We must move forward. But we don't know for sure what the new normal will be. Fortunately, God's rubric of love shows us the way.

In her book *The Dream of God* the late Verna Dozier, who was a mentor to me, wrote:

“Kingdom of God thinking calls us to risk... The God revealed in Jesus, whom I call the Christ, is a God whose forgiveness goes ahead of me, and whose love sustains me and the whole created world. That God bursts all the definitions of our small minds, all the limitations of our timid efforts, all the boundaries of our institutions.” (*The Dream of God*, Cowley 1991)

*(continued on page 5)*

## 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 (except October 30)

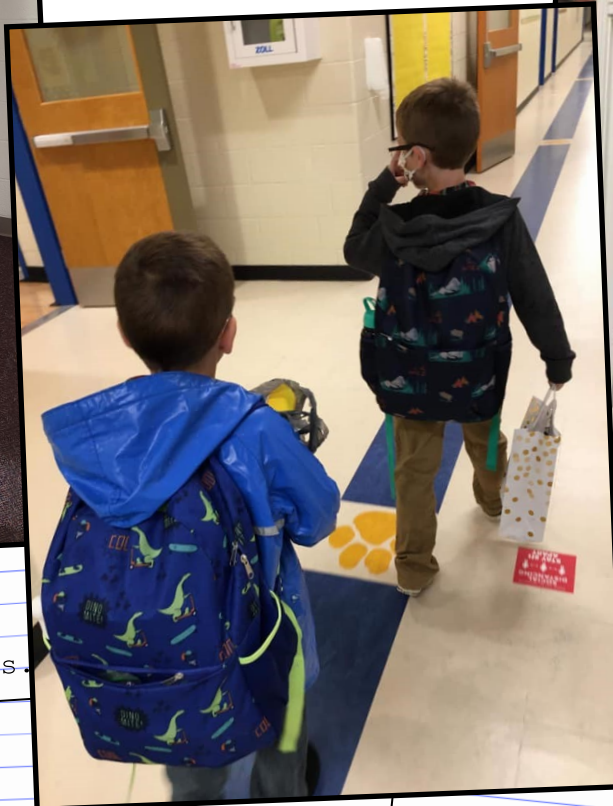
12:10 p.m. — Holy Eucharist, Rite II with prayers for healing (In-Person)

All other Parish activities continue suspended for now.

## Around the Parish



Ministry doesn't take a break, as Lorna drops off her latest Prayer Shawls for St. Anthony's.



KG Isaac and 2d grader Edin are the first to walk the Spottsville Panther halls where mom, Corey is a teacher.



Rad all decked out for first in-person day as an HCHS Senior.

## Paul's Joy

*from the Deacon*

Paul wrote the letter to the Philippians while in a roman prison. Prior to this he had many trials and tribulations before reaching Rome. Paul had been stoned, flogged and even ship wrecked and yet he was able to rejoice in the Lord amidst all his problems.

Paul was never ashamed of anything for Christ and His Gospels sake, even if it would mean jail for him. But however, Paul's desire to live is ever present as there is still the work of the ministry to be done. He realized that his life will not end until his ministry for Jesus Christ is completed.

Paul writes a letter to his beloved Philippian Church. He gives them plenty of love and inspiration. His theme is joy! Paul says each time he thinks of the Christians meeting in Philippi he is joyful and very thankful. The Church in Philippi was mostly non-Jewish. It was one of the first Churches that Paul began with the help of Lydia, the woman who sold purple linens.

Paul right away conveys his love and that he counts it all joy when he remembers them and their goodness. They were very good to Paul while he was in prison. They came to his aid and supported him. Sixteen times in the four chapters of Philippians, Paul expresses his joy for them. Paul tells them every time he thinks of their faith in Christ, he is joyful! He goes on to tell them that he is praying for them. Paul says that he counts it a joy to be able to pray for them.

Paul is in prison for preaching the Gospel of Christ. He is going to make the most of it, he is an evangelist! Paul has been assigned several guards to watch over him. What do you think the guards have to deal with all this-time? They have to listen to Paul preaching to them over and over again how God works in great ways and how they need to come to Christ.

What matters to Paul is that he keeps being a joyful witness of his faith. He is not going to let anything get in the way of his witnessing for Christ. You see, Paul's troubles are for the preaching of Christ salvation. I believe Paul is happiest when he is preaching! Paul addresses the struggles the Philippians were undergoing. Paul's advice to the Philippians and it can apply to us, is to stand fast in their faith.

In chapter four Paul says to rejoice in the Lord always. He goes on to say don't worry about anything, just put everything in prayer and supplication with thanksgiving in your prayers to the Heavenly Father. Paul was unjustly accused. He was innocent. He was not in jail for committing a crime but for preaching the Gospel of Christ.

Today we are trying to live in a world changed by the Covid-19 pandemic. I believe Paul would tell us to fight the good fight and win the race to achieve our joyful heavenly Kingdom!

Peace and Love,



## \$100 for Good—The Gift of Sight

**Connie Spivey**—At the Lions Club International Convention in 1925, Helen Keller challenged Lions to become “Knights of the blind in the crusade against darkness”, Embracing this mantle, sight preservation has become a mission for the Lions Club International.

In this spirit the local Henderson Lions Club has a long history in providing services and visual appliances for those in such need. These services have included eye examinations as well as needed ocular surgeries. Single vision and bifocal eyeglasses are also delivered by partnering with local professionals.

Monies for these services come from Club projects and kind donations. This is in keeping with the Lions Club motto: “We Serve”.

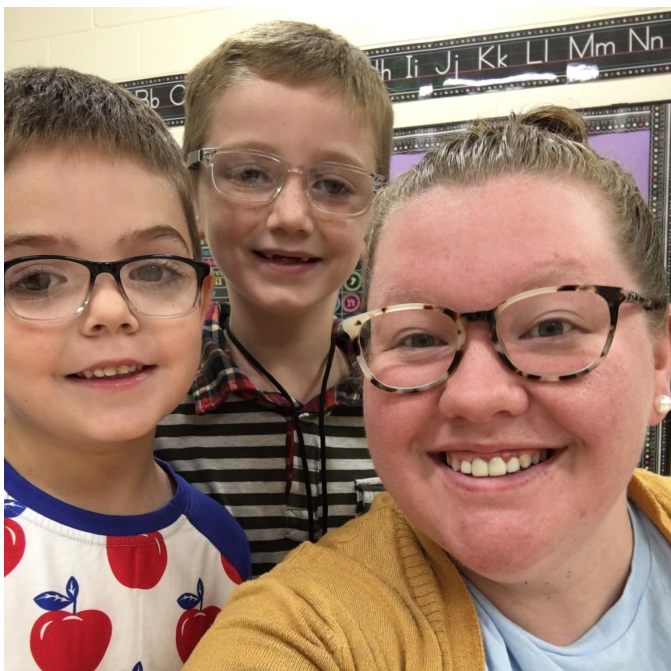
Being a former Henderson Lions Club member, I thought of their good work as being deserving of our donation. I met with Dr. Greg Hagedorn to present the \$100 dollar bill from Fr. Rich's challenge for glasses to a needy person. This amount will make sure that the service and the eyeglasses needed will be provided to give *at least* one person the precious gift of sight.



## Adopt a Family for the Holidays

Henderson's Volunteer & Information Center (VIC) has gotten the word out early for their Christmas Express Adopt a Family program. Especially with increased pressure on households at the margins this year, VIC is looking for people to “provide a magical experience for a child on Christmas morning,” signing up to shop for one child or an entire family. You can participate by emailing [rose@volunteerhenderson.org](mailto:rose@volunteerhenderson.org) or by calling 270-831-2273.

And Dcn. Larry says to look for details soon for the Yuletide Christmas Meals program through Matthew 25. That program has been so well supported by our Parish Family for the last few years, and will rely on your help again this year. Stay tuned.



### **First Day of School—Again...**

**Leslie Newman**—By the time you read this, our Henderson County Schools students will have begun their 2020-2021 school year with nontraditional instruction (NTI) at home, with parents and school-supplied Chromebooks supplementing their teachers' efforts. Our students will have begun their fall by returning to school for two days of in-person instruction. The students who have attended EYC have declared they are ready to be back in their classrooms.

Their lunch tables will have seated four people instead of eight and the cafeteria workers will have served their food instead of them serving themselves. Plexiglass will have been abundant. And then, if you don't get to read this until the weekend, our students will have been released for a week of fall break.

Kiya Hill and Miranda Purdy will have stepped foot for the first time, as freshmen, in their new school. At this writing, the Henderson County Varsity Boys' Soccer team, featuring our own Rad Mattingly, have played three of their scheduled sixteen soccer matches. Rad and Kayleigh Purdy are in the midst of a senior year like no other.

### **Learning In and From 2020**

**Leslie Newman**—The Diocese of Kentucky is sponsoring a special Zoom on October 19 for the 2020 graduates to talk with the classes of 2021 and 2022 about what the recent grads learned about being seniors during a pandemic and how they have moved forward.

They uniquely know. It's history in the making, and history none of the rest of us have lived, so helping and supporting our children and youth through these days requires more than the usual patience and understanding—and at a time when those traits tend to be in shorter supply simply because we adults are living through unprecedented times ourselves. And it's why I write something each month in the newsletter, hoping to emphasize the importance of your empathy and prayers for our St. Paul's children and youth.

### **A Surprise Visit**

**Leslie Newman**—EYC has continued to meet on Sunday nights remotely, using the Zoom platform, for fellowship, meditations, reflection and prayer. The Very Rev. Katherine Doyle, our youth's spiritual leader at All Saints and the rector of St. Thomas in Louisville, was a surprise and delightful and delighted visitor on September 27.

Mama Doyle, as she is affectionately called, engaged and inspired our youth, and me too. If you need similar inspiration and food for thought, visit [thesix-doyles.blogspot.com](http://thesix-doyles.blogspot.com)

And while you are at it, visit [Annevouga.blogspot.com](http://Annevouga.blogspot.com). Many of you will remember Mother Anne as a priest who generously served St. Paul's as a supply priest before Fr. Rich became our rector. Most recently, Mo. Anne has been Associate Priest for Christian Formation and Family Ministry at St. Andrew's in Louisville, where Molly and Kylie Preston are members of the EYC she has led there. Mo. Anne (now Richter) has answered the call to become rector of St. Ambrose in Boulder CO and, as it happens, to live much nearer, in Louisville CO, to her beautiful new grandbaby!

### **Shhh...! It's Another Surprise!**

**Leslie Newman**—Kayleigh will turn 18 on October 16 and it is her birthday wish that EYC can meet in person, with social distancing, to celebrate her special milestone. Our youth ministry matters. I am writing this as if Kayleigh will not read it; I know she would appreciate a birthday card from members of her Parish family. If you don't have her address, call the Parish Office or send your card there for special delivery to Kayleigh.

### **Calendar Fundraiser is Coming**

**Leslie Newman**—It's that time of year to order EYC calendars. I'm not quite sure how our fundraiser will work this year, but I hope you will be able to continue to support us and that getting your calendars to you will be a workable mission for our youth. Stay tuned!

And in the meantime, I sincerely hope the beautiful photos and Bible verses on our calendars have been one bright light through these months, and that when you have been tempted to rue your 2020, you have looked at your calendar and remembered, "this is the day the Lord hath made. We will rejoice and be glad in it!"

### **Back to School Tradition**

The school year has begun by fits and starts this fall, and Fr. Rich's tradition of trading first-day stories for frozen treats has been similarly complicated, but that doesn't mean he is willing to do without either the stories or the treats. The first such one-family-at-a-time visit actually happened the week before the September 28 in-person opening, when Fr. Rich showed up to the Hill household in Sebree with milkshake all around, not from the DQ but from the Dairy Bar. A little early for first-day stories, but the excitement for that day to come was as delicious as the ice cream.

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Kingdom of God thinking is already happening. God's rubric of love is already in action. I've been watching bishops, priests, deacons, and lay people of our church following Jesus in the practices that make up his way of love and doing things we never imagined. The creativity and the risk-taking – done with love – is amazing.

We've been trying, making mistakes, learning, regrouping, trying anew. I've seen it. Holy Week and Easter happened in ways that none of us dreamed possible. I've quietly read Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer, and Compline online with you. I've seen soup kitchens, pantries, and other feeding ministries carefully doing their work in safe and healthy ways. Zoom coffee hours, bible studies, and small discipleship groups. I've seen this church stand for the moral primacy of love. I've seen it, even when public health concerns supersede all other considerations, including in-person worship. That is moral courage. Who knows, but that love may demand more of us. But fear not, just remember what the old slaves use to say, "walk together, children, and don't you get weary, because there is a great camp meeting in the Promised Land." Oh, I've seen us do what we never thought we would or could do, because we dared to do what Jesus tells us all to do.

As our seasons of life in the COVID-19 world continue to turn, we are called to continue to be creative, to risk, to love. We are called to ask, What would unselfish, sacrificial love do?

What would love do? Love is the community praying together, in ways old and new. Love finds a path in this new normal to build church communities around being in relationship with God. Love supports Christians in spiritual practices. Prayer, meditation, study. Turn, Learn, Pray, Worship, Bless, Go, Rest.

What would love do? Love calls us to care for our neighbors, for our enemies. Love calls us to attend to those in prison, to those who are homeless, to those in poverty, to children, to immigrants and refugees. Love calls us to be in relationship with those with whom we disagree.

What would love do? Love calls us to be gentle with ourselves, to forgive our own mistakes, to take seriously the Sabbath. Love calls us to be in love with God, to cultivate a loving relationship with God, to spend time with God, to be still and know that God is God.

Jesus says, Simon, son of John, do you love me? Jesus says, Michael, son of Dorothy and Kenneth, do you love me? Jesus says, Do you love me? Jesus says,

Follow me, and take the risk to live the question, What would love do? This, my friends, is God's rubric of love. This, my friends, is God's very way of life.

God love you. God bless you. And may God hold us all in those almighty hands of love.

## Vestry Notes

At their meeting on Tuesday, September 15, chaired by the Senior Warden and conducted again by videoconference, St. Paul's Vestry:

- Received August financial reports showing a customary summer dip in giving and asked that a report of on-line giving be provided each month.
- Requested that more familiar hymns be used with the worship service since hymnals are not available.
- Suggested that some outdoor worship or activities be planned for the fall.
- Heard a pastoral report from Dcn. Larry and thanks Giselle Purdy for making masks for Redbanks.
- Continued looking at Parish goals and visioning, including a report from the Senior Warden on her conversation with the Canon Amy Coultas, Diocesan Deployment Officer.
- Approved the 2021 Diocesan Assessment of \$26,648.

The Vestry will next meet on Tuesday, October 20, again via videoconference.

## Blessing of the Pets

Since his life and ministry in the 13th century, St. Francis of Assisi, friar and mystic, has been known for his learning, for his piety, and for his care for *all* of God's creation. But most of all, St. Francis has come to be known and beloved for his love of animals.

It has been our custom to gather in the children's playground on the Saturday closest the Feast of St. Francis on October 4 for a time of meditation on the natural world and to bless the pets that have been brought. But 2020 isn't customary in *anyone's* book, so Fr. Rich has decided to set aside the formal part of our celebration and focus on the creatures that beloved Francis insisted were dear to the Heart of God.

From 4:00 to 5:00 Sunday afternoon, October 4, Fr. Rich will be available in the playground for anyone to bring their special friends. There will be no readings or meditations this year; the only prayer will be a blessing for you and the creature God has given into your love and care. So put on your mask and keep proper distance, but come by when you are ready—to say thanks to your special friend, *and* to thank our Lord for filling our lives with such joyful and peaceful companionship.

## Financial Summary as of August 31, 2020

<b>Pledged Income Received to Date</b>	<b>\$90,069</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>\$26,952</b>
<b>Operating Expenses to Date</b>	<b>\$158,620</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  
Henderson, KY 42420

[www.stpauls-henderson.org](http://www.stpauls-henderson.org)

