



St. Paul's Episcopal Church

THE GOOD NEWS September 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.*

Dealing with Chaos

from the Rector

Like most people, I suppose, I don't like chaos, but it's 2020 so while I sat here at my study desk last Saturday morning, not as engaged as I should have been in the Zoom version of a Rotary training Assembly that I probably wouldn't have been expected to attend if it were actually being held in person, I didn't find it at all surprising when my phone buzzed with a text. A storm with straight-line winds of 60 mph had torn through Lamar, Missouri and had caused considerable damage across town, including the home Jenny and I are preparing for our retirement. None of the downed tree limbs had done damage to the house itself, but from the photos, the clean-up looked daunting at best. So, having just returned from there the week before, I was off for another eight-hour trip. Though it was dark by the time I got there, the next morning the real work began.

Our retirement home is blessed with some beautiful well-established trees, but not one of them was spared damage. One by one, I picked up the smaller branches that covered the front lawn like so much highway litter. I freed branches that had been snapped from the pair of forty-foot-tall slash pines that flank the house and piled them at the curb. I drug branches from the fifty-foot-tall red oak around from where they had barely missed my neighbor's eaves. Too heavy to handle in one piece, I used my light chainsaw to cut up and remove a limb that had dropped from the white oak that many of you have seen through our sunroom windows. A trip to the home store procured a more substantial saw to cut away the broken three-quarters of our lone sugar maple so the rest might survive—again, we'll see. And then there were the pine cones that must have fallen like hail, sunk into the grass like woody, forgotten Easter eggs—I stopped counting at three hundred.

What I had, in my naivete, thought would be a single day's work stretched into three before I was able to run my lawn tractor over everything for a final cleanup. My neighbor Steve, ten years my senior

but stronger than me in more ways than one, offered his help repeatedly from day one. I initially declined, wanting to be able to work at my own slow pace without guilt. But by that third day, when my limitations we laid more fully bare, I was happy for his knowledge of the area, for his van and trailer, and for his *much* greater experience with a saw. (And Sharon, thanks again for the stew!)

It's been a half year ago that our lives were all turned upside down by a storm that most of us saw coming from the other side of the globe but which most of us hoped would never reach *our* corner of the world. You know me. You know that I like my life like I like my liturgy—in good and proper order. But I think dealing with the chaos brought about by that other storm may have taught me some lessons in dealing with the bigger one we are all facing:

First, we have to see things for what they truly are. All of the chaos of the present moment seems to be as unique and novel as the virus that has precipitated it, but the truth is that many of us have seen times with challenges if not the same as those today, at least as profound—and we are here on this side of every one of them.

Then, we've got to deal with things one thing at a time. It is all too easy to be overwhelmed by the marathon of change that seems to lay before us. But if we look at each new challenge as a *separate* hurdle, we'd find that the race is win-able.

Finally, we need to remember that we are not alone in any of this. We are, as we have always been, a family who cares for one another. I am not alone. You are not alone. Neither of us needs to do everything on our own. We can be, and we *are* here to help one another.

One more thing. A few weeks back, as a thank-you someone gave me a cup for my tea, decorated in resolute script: "God's got this." Let us pray to the God in whom we put our trust, "...that we who are wearied by the changes and chances of this life, may rest in your eternal changelessness."

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)

Wednesday, September 23

- 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



Hannah basks in the glow of online academic performance, while Landon appears to be in less of a basking mood.

A mask can't hide that Rad is ready for Senior year 2021.

Senior Kaleigh and Freshman Miranda prep for online debut with coaching from alum Alexis while Stella rocks her new Holy Name Pre-school colors.

John Tyler showing little bro' Chandler how getting ready for school is done.

Eden and Kiyah work from their home study stations while Reece and Isaac strike first-day poses.

Last Day of Holy Land Travels

from the Deacon

On Sunday, May 19, 2019, the last day of my visit to the Holy Land, I had gotten up early so I could do some packing to get ready for my flight back home. After finishing packing my luggage, it was time for a shower and to head-down for breakfast with Rich, Kyle and Lydia. I had just fruit, sweet-roll and coffee for breakfast. We decided to arrive early at the Cathedral Church of St. George the Martyr, only a five-minute walk from our hotel. We arrived in plenty of time to walk around and take a few pictures.

St. George Cathedral is an Episcopal cathedral in Jerusalem, established in 1899. It is the seat of the Bishop of Jerusalem of the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the middle East. The narrow nave was very long with seating on each side of the aisle. There was also seating at the Altar on both sides of the Cathedral. I managed to take a picture of the baptismal font which was very large, a rarity in Anglican churches which probably allows baptisms to be done through immersion in the Cathedral. I slipped out to the beautiful gardens by the Cathedral where they host their coffee hour for a couple pictures.

The service started on time; the organ sounded wonderful! The nave was completely full, with resident scholars from St. George's College next door, shorter-term pilgrims like us, and members of the local congregation. I actually knew all the songs we sang at the service, especially the recessional hymn, "Low in the Grave He Lay." I hadn't sung or heard that song in years. I absolutely loved singing in such a large diverse group of people from all over the world. It sent chills down my back and arms singing the refrain, "Up from the grave he arose, with a mighty triumph o'er his foes. He arose a victor from the dark domain, and he lives forever with his saints to reign. He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!" I will never forget as long as I live the moment, we sang that wonderful hymn in that beautiful Cathedral in Jerusalem!

After drinking our coffee in the courtyard, it was time for us to continue on to Old Jerusalem to walk the Stations of the Cross once again. When we arrived, I noticed that there were no crowds of people this time. It wasn't like Saturday at all. Rich led us straight to Station One and then I led us in Liturgy of the Stations as we made our way through those ancient, crooked streets. At the Altar built over the Rock of Calvary where it is believed the cross of Christ stood, Kyle, Lydia and I each knelt down and touched the hole in the stone where the cross stood.

When we arrived at the Fourteenth Station there were again already too many people waiting to enter the Tomb of Christ. Instead, our little band of pilgrims huddled there by the empty Tomb as I read final meditation of the Way of the Cross, and Rich gave us each a wooden Cross from Bethlehem with the Stations around it. What a wonderful ending to my trip!

Peace and Love,

Randy

West Louisville Now Appeal

from the Rt. Rev. Terry A. White, Bishop of Kentucky

Dear Friends in Christ,

The killing of Breonna Taylor by police officers while she slept in her bed, and the subsequent protest movement have the hearts and minds of the people of our Diocese fixed upon West Louisville. Many of us are asking what we can do to show the love of Christ to our Black neighbors who are hurting at this time. This weekend, the Diocese of Kentucky initiated a plan for immediate action. Now is a moment in which we can support the two predominantly Black Episcopal congregations in West Louisville, St. George's and Our Merciful Saviour, as they do the work God has given them to do. These two congregations are already part of the fabric of their neighborhoods. In addition to opening their doors for worship, they are engaged in a wide range of ministries with their neighbors. They provide food, clothing, youth enrichment opportunities, and more. Their ability to live out their calling in their communities is hampered, however, by significant issues with their buildings. If crucial repairs are not made soon, our Diocese runs the risk of losing these vital ministries at a time when they are so sorely needed.

Leaders from Our Merciful Saviour and St. George's have identified a number of high priority repairs that need to be made at their churches. I, along with the Trustees and Council of the Diocese of Kentucky, invite you to join with us in a diocese-wide appeal to raise \$200,000 to finance these critical projects. By providing the resources these congregations need, St. George's and Our Merciful Saviour will be better equipped to lead us in working for Christ's justice and healing among our neighbors in West Louisville.

To make a donation, please click [here](#), or go to episcopalky.org, click on the donate link, and select "West Louisville Now". If you prefer to give by check, make it payable to the Diocese of Kentucky with "West Louisville Now" in the memo line. Checks can be mailed to 425 St. 2nd St., Suite 200, Louisville, KY 40202.

However you choose to give, you will be supporting the long-standing work of these congregations. St. George's and Our Merciful Saviour will continue to live out our shared commitment to strive for justice and peace long after the present protest movement has come to an end. We have an opportunity to come alongside our fellow Episcopalians in this work, but we must take action to support them now.

Yours in Christ,

+ Terry A White

Note: The West Louisville Now campaign, begun in June, recently announced that they have reached the half-way point, having raised more than \$100,000. Please consider your contribution soon.





Back to School—Sort Of

Leslie Newman—How ever did it get to be September already? Being homeschooled, the Hendersons are never really *out* of school for any length of time. But our St. Paul’s youth who attend Henderson County Schools returned to school on August 26, and to the best of my knowledge all our youth have opted for Non-Traditional Instruction (NTI). I spell that as if I know what NTI is, which, really, I can’t exactly fathom, even as I strive to listen to students, teachers and administrators describe it. I imagine that for teachers there are similarities to mine and many jobs these days, where handling the technology end of work is practically a second job in and of itself—I can only imagine Fr. Rich can relate, also!

Right now, the plan is to move to a ‘hybrid’ schedule that allows for some in-person instruction beginning later in the month., but for now, school is completely virtual. The school system provides each students with a Chromebook instead of text books and to do their work. Working parents need day care, and *students* need a well-lit, dedicated, comfortable-but-not-too-comfortable space in their homes, reliable wireless service, and the patience and persistence to sit in front of their computer screens and focus on their studies, without the distraction of their siblings attending their own classes from nearby, and without the scramble of the bell-dinging, changing classes, and the chance to meet their teachers and visit with friends. And then after the school day ends, they still have homework to do. The good news is there is no travel time for most and their school days are shorter and don’t start so early!

It is still too soon to tell how it all will work, but it was notable that our youth’s excitement the Sunday before school started was muted after the first week of classes. It was fitting that our EYC discussion on August 30 taught the meaning of tribulation, identified our youth’s tribulations, and addressed how important it is to have hope and how hope requires patience. We talked about praying consistently and ended our session by studying the organization of the Prayers and Thanksgivings in the *Book of Common Prayer* (page 810) and how our youth can find in their Prayers Books (and at www.bcponline.org) a ready source to support them in their desire to pray.

And the Zoom Goes On...

Leslie Newman—It is heartwarming to see the joy of our youth seeing each other in the Zoom room. And that also means their youth director felt a bit muted about how EYC, which has worked pretty well for us during the pandemic, is presented in a format that may be an extension of their school week rather than a diversion from it. And maybe that represents the realization that life during the pandemic has aspects that are just plain tiring. And gratitude that this is a means for them to remain safe and healthy. Please remember our youth and their hopes and dreams in your prayers and pray for their patience and for guidance in their tribulations.

Much-Needed Time-Out

Leslie Newman—EYC “broke out” on August 9, to help round out the week of Miranda’s birthday celebrations, when we socially distanced at the newly reopened Second Street Treats to sample their sandwiches and for ice cream and visiting at the still new Perch pocket park across from Citi Center Mall. It was good to spend time together outdoors on a nice evening.

Miranda received a cherished birthday gift, a book titled *Three Minute Devotionals for Teen Girls*, and since EYC has been all girls this month, we have studied from her book in addition to saying compline. There is a Bible verse, a penned devotional and a prayer and the studies have lent themselves to good conversation about topics of interest to and relevance to the young women of St. Paul’s.

Dismantling Racism Training

Leslie Newman—EYC was unable to complete our remote study of *Dismantling Racism* because the Absalom Jones Center requires, for the use of their materials, that the group be led by a person trained for the study. If you remember reading in the introduction of the study about how there are safeguards built into the program for the care and safety of the youth that are engaged, this interruption makes sense, but it is disappointing that we couldn’t stay the course.

Diocesan Youth Coordinator, the Rev. Katherine “Mama” Doyle, who has been trained with the curriculum and led the Diocesan study, has offered to make a guest visit to our St. Paul’s youth to get them more fully involved in this important work. We look forward to gathering with her when that can be arranged.

First Day Treats

With his usual first-day-of-school treat time with the kids overtaken by events this year, and with school start-ups still very much a moving target, Fr. Rich has not yet begun making the rounds to collect stories and be-masked smiles from the children and youth of St. Paul’s, but that will begin soon. Especially in these sometimes confusing days, we are proud of all our kids work and resilience and want to celebrate that any time and any way we can.

Vestry Notes

At their meeting on Tuesday, July 21, conducted again by videoconference, St. Paul's Vestry:

- Received July financial reports showing continued consistency with yearly giving patterns, with the exception of a strong drop-off in unpledged giving.
- Were informed that Hugh Hennessey has begun the canonically required review of 2019 financial records, delayed by this year's restructured tax season.
- Applauded Fr. Rich's efforts to livestream worship "from the road" during his vacation.
- Determined that with mandated and careful Covid countermeasures in place, and pending further public health restrictions, St. Paul's should invite Parishioners to participate in Sunday worship in-person beginning August 30.
- Canceled the Parish Picnic.
- Heard a pastoral report from Fr. Rich.
- Elected Susan Sauls and Lydia Johnson as St. Paul's deputies to Diocesan Convention in November, and Leslie Newman as alternate.
- Began a conversation under the Senior Warden's direction to look at Parish goals and visioning.

The Vestry will next meet on Tuesday, September 15, again via videoconference.

Diocesan Nominations Open

Nominations are being accepted for election to the boards and committees of the Diocese of Kentucky to be filled at Diocesan Convention in November. Lay positions will be filled on Trustees and Council, the Standing Committee, the Bishop Dudley Trust, the Board for Ecclesiastical Discipline, and the Cathedral Chapter. Service at the Diocesan level can be greatly satisfying and rewarding.

More information and nomination forms are available in the Parish Office. Or contact Dcn. Larry who is a member of the Diocesan Nominating Committee.

Parish Picnic Canceled for 2020

One of the most beloved events in our community's life is the fun, fellowship, and *food* of the Parish Picnic, for the last several years held on the last Sunday of September at Cardinal Pavilion at Audubon Park.

With social gatherings suspended, particularly those involving sharing of food, the Vestry decided to cancel this year's Parish Picnic. Rather than postpone to a certain future date, plans will consider a similar event when public health conditions have improved.

Continuing the Battle for Wellness

With the Vestry's affirmation, and with Fr. Rich back from his vacation, St. Paul's was once again able to welcome Parishioners to be present for Sunday morning worship beginning on August 30.

After deliberate and care-filled planning, and based on the latest directive from the Bishop of Kentucky, St. Paul's welcomed Parishioners to physically participate in worship for two Sundays in July before receiving the Governor's request that places of worship take a moratorium on gatherings in an attempt to blunt a spike in Covid transmission.

Though transmission and positive testing rates continue to be high, we are delighted that we can once again share the beauty and sanctity of our prayers and praises with those who are able and ready to be with us physically as well as spiritually. We check everyone in before worship, we sit separated by vacant pews, and as modeled by the Hill kids on the first Sunday back, we wear our masks, but those accommodations do not keep us from being a part of the fabric of prayer that has made our space holy for over a century-and-a-half, nor keep us from celebrating the goodness of the One who gives us life and health.

In addition to Sunday mornings, we will also be slowly returning to our mid-week celebration of the Eucharist with prayers for healing, beginning with a single service on September 23 at 12:10. If Sunday morning seems too big a reentry, perhaps this quiet service is your place to come home to St. Paul's.



Financial Summary as of July 31, 2020

Pledged Income Received to Date	\$78,529
Non-dividend Income from Investments to Date	\$0
Small Business Funds Available	\$27,400
Other Operating Income to Date	\$27,263
Operating Expenses to Date	\$144,981

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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www.stpauls-henderson.org

