Spiritual Fruit—Love
from the Rector

The other day, when Jenny and I were enjoying the sights and sounds, and the flavors of Tri-Fest, we sat down at one of the picnic tables down the Main St. yellow line. We asked to join the two men of more advanced years than ourselves that already occupied the northbound side of the table and struck up a casual conversation, mostly about the stream of Tri-Festers that were flowing by.

When we had finished our too large, and way too greasy sandwiches, Jenny thanked our hosts for their hospitality and I shook each man's hand as I made our belated introduction, including, as I usually do, an invitation to “St. Paul’s, the church with the red doors.” The second, and I suspect older of the pair, held onto my hand and looked me in the eye, asking, “Do you preach the Gospel, Pastor?” Returning both his handshake and his gaze, I smiled, “We sure do.” He wasn’t quite finished, “Jesus Christ as the way, the truth and the life?” “Yes,” I replied as he finally released my hand, “but I tend to focus on the love of Christ.”

From his broad smile, my dinner companion seemed to be more than satisfied with my answer, and as Jenny and I continued our evening of overindulgence, I remembered that, of the Fruit of the Spirit that I said we would be looking for a few months in these pages, love is the first in the list, at the very top of the basket.

Love, of course, is not about ourselves at all – it is about the other. Love is about putting our own feelings, our own concerns, our own good in second place, or even setting our own needs aside altogether, for the sake of the beloved. We were created for just that purpose, to love, and live for our Creator, and to love and live for each other. By the third chapter of our story, however, we had distorted love, turned it inward, into the self-controlled, self-centered, selfishness that was first manifested in the Garden, in choosing what we wanted rather than our relationship with God and each other.

It took the supreme act of self-giving love, on the hard wood of the cross, illuminated by the glorious light of the Resurrection, to once again show us that love is meant to be experienced, and to be expressed, in giving everything we have and everything we are, to one another. Yet even now, we still fall into the same trap as our first parents, allowing love to turn inward again, now usually into some sort of romantic, internal, warm personal feeling that we allow to masquerade as the genuine article for which we were always meant.

Though he offered his list of the Fruit of the Spirit to the Church in Galatia, it was in St. Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians that he listed the qualities of the first item on that list. “Love is patient;” he began, linking love to others of the Spirit’s fruit, “love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude.” There’s more to love’s qualities, of course, but Paul concludes, “Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.”

I try to remind you often, though probably not nearly often enough, that I love all of you. That’s partly because you have been so wonderfully generous in your love for Jenny and me. But mostly, my love for you is an outgrowth of the unmerited, unconditional, totally unreasonable love of Christ. Our love for one another, the love that enlivens and empowers us to reach out to share that love with those around us, is kindled, and nurtured, and fanned into flame as the very first fruit of the Holy Spirit alive within us.

Peace,
Upcoming Events

Sundays—8 a.m.—Holy Eucharist, Rite 1, 9 a.m. Choir Practice, Parish Family Breakfast, 10 a.m. Choral Eucharist, Sunday School. Coffee Hour following the service.
Mondays—6 p.m.—Education for Ministry—Rector’s Study
Tuesdays—6 p.m.—Saints, Sinners and Cynics—Rookies Sports Bar
Wednesdays—12:10 p.m.—Holy Eucharist and Healing Service

Sunday, May 4—Youth Sunday Preparation
Sunday, May 11—Youth Sunday—Mother’s Day
Wednesday, May 14—6 p.m. Potluck Supper and Program—What Do You Call It?
Monday, May 19—Noon—St. Ann’s Guild
Tuesday, May 20—5:30 p.m.—Vestry Meeting, Rector’s Study
Wednesday, May 21—Deadline to put a name in the Memorial list for Memorial Sunday
Sunday, May 25—Memorial Day Sunday
Wednesday, May 28—6 p.m. Sloppy Joes Supper and Program—Prayers of the People
Saturday, May 31—10 a.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry
Sunday, June 1—VBS training—Presbyterian Church
Sunday, June 9—Handy Euch-and-’Q—Church lawn
June 9-12—9 a.m. til 12:30 p.m.—Vacation Bible School, Presbyterian Church
Friday, June 13—VBS Volunteers to Holiday World

Parish News and Notes

St. Paul’s Youth take in one of the “games of skill” at Tri-Fest.

With the Presbyterians, and a real donkey, we began Palm Sunday in Central Park.

Hannah and Zoe display their KPREP awards. Reade and Trae also received honors.
Bubble, Bubble...
The bottles glowed with shiny, sparkling, silky, or even iridescent shades of pink, and green, and yellow, and orange, and blue. And with labels touting flavors like Tropical Coconut, Juicy Green Apple, and Sun-Ripened Strawberry, one might be tempted to “taste the rainbow.” But that would be a big mistake with April’s collection for Christian Community Outreach—unless you needed your mouth washed out with soap.

With Easter falling on our usual third Sunday collection day, we delayed our ingathering and brought this month’s offering of shampoo on the Sunday after our biggest Feast. As always, your gifts will go a long way in helping needy families in our community providing the basics for their families.

Next month, we’re back to our regular collection on the third Sunday, May 18. This time our collection is that yummy staple, especially for families with children—peanut butter. Let’s see how high we can pile those medium sized jars of whatever brand of nutritious deliciousness you buy for your own family, and how generous we can be for the folks that care for our community in our name and in the name of our Lord.

Wednesdays Back in the Groove
During Lent, our regular Wednesday schedule went into high gear with Lenten Luncheons and an every-Wednesday evening program of education about outreach opportunities.

This month we’re back on the second Wednesday of this month, May 14, for a potluck supper followed by a program suggested during our planning session that promises to be all kinds of fun. “What Do You Call It?” will talk about some of the features of our worship and our space that have names and uses that puzzle our less liturgical friends—and sometimes us as well.

Then on the last Wednesday, May 28, Jenny will feed us on Sloppy Joes and we’ll continue working on our project to reinvigorate our Sunday morning Prayers of the People. Come see what we’re about.

VBS Weirdness
Michelle Green—Vacation Bible School Volunteers are still needed for this year’s adventure with Weird Animals! Thank you to the adults who have already offered their time for the week of June 9-12. We have a need for a photographer, kitchen support, meal pick-up and other assistants. There will be a training event at the Presbyterian Church at 12:30, Sunday, June 1. Lunch will be provided. This meeting is also for the youth assistant crew leaders and crew leaders.

As he did last year, as a thank you for St. Paul’s youth who help with VBS, Fr. Rich is again offering a trip to Holiday World on Friday, June 13 to round out the week for our volunteers. This offer is open to the first thirteen of our youth who register and volunteer. Friends may also volunteer and go on the trip, but only on a space-available basis. This trip is dependent on another adult attending as well, so if you’d like to share some real fun, contact Fr. Rich.

The sign up sheets for supplies are in the Parish Hall on the table next to the Kitchen pass through. Many things may be items you have around the house. Please take a minute to look over the list. Let Michelle Green know if you have any questions. Registration sheets can also be found there or you can enroll your kindergarten through fifth graders online at: https://www.groupvbspro.com/vbs/ez/hendersonchurches/gpgs/register.aspx?DIR=true.

This Mother’s Day
Sunday, May 11
is
Youth Sunday!
At the 10:00 Service
our YOUTH will take the lead
Come for the fun
and leave with your heart filled!
Youth Happenings
Leslie Newman—EYC met for pizza and wings and to stuff Easter eggs on Palm Sunday, in preparation for the annual egg hunt following the 10 a.m. service on Easter morning. We had lots of fun stuffing the eggs, and I don’t think anyone went home with a belly ache from serving as the King’s taster.

Thanks to those who came early to help hide the eggs on Easter morning. During the 10 a.m. service, I watched with amazement as the youth gathered at the side of the church and I wondered if there was something I should have been aware of that was getting ready to happen.

As it turned out, the youth organized themselves to coordinate the start of the egg hunt, help the children find the eggs in the church yard and in the yard of the “house next door,” and then to empty the candy into bags so we could recycle the plastic eggs. The leadership skills the youth learn and develop in EYC, at Vacation Bible School and at All Saints are for life, and it is a blessing to see their experience in practice.

We had nearly thirty children flower our Easter Cross and then stay to hunt eggs, and a good time was had by all. The children were beautiful and had so much fun! And this summer our youth will serve as group leaders at VBS and as counselors-in-training and counselors at All Saints.

Tri-Fest Madness
Leslie Newman—Fr. Rich, Michelle Green and I met with six of our youth after church on Tri-Fest weekend for one last visit to the annual event sponsored by the Breakfast Lions’ Club to benefit churches, schools and community organizations. You may have noticed some youth eating more at coffee hour that day, so they would not have to spend their time and money on food when there were rides to ride and games to play.

The Parish provided each youth $10, and they figured out how to pool their money to use the volume discount to get more ride tickets. It was, shall we say, an interesting experience to watch how they decided to spend their tickets on different rides. Zoe won a very large stuffed animal, Trae won two very small gold fish, and Brittany won a few extra quarters to spend. Michelle and I held purses and phones for the riders, so we didn’t “have to” ride the rides ourselves, but we did stop by the Riverbend booth for Thai food. We got back to the Church just in the nick of time, as a big thunderstorm hit.

Congratulations Graduates
Leslie Newman—Please take time to write a note of congratulations to our high school seniors, Alexandria Bruce, Jacob Deep, Madeline Hayes, Emerson Jones, and Katie Vickers, and place them in boxes you will find in the Parish Hall, with information about each graduate.

Congratulations also to our college graduates: Hannah Carroll, graduating from Western Kentucky Univ., Haleigh Johnson, from Murray State, and Jorden Stallings, also from WKU, as well as Aaron Noon, who has earned his Masters Degree from Texas State Univ., and Chris Reitz, with his Masters Degree from Columbia Univ. in New York City.

Touching the Larger Church
Leslie Newman—St. Paul’s own Trae Purdy is one of four youth from the Diocese of Kentucky who has been selected to represent the Diocese at the Episcopal Youth Event (EYE) at Villanova University in Philadelphia this summer. Between 1,000 and 1,200 youth, adults, volunteers, bishops and staff plan to attend EYE from seventy-eight dioceses from across the Episcopal Church. Even the Presiding Bishop, the Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, will be part of EYE.

The theme for the 12th triennial EYE is Marked for Mission, and it is designed to raise youth leaders to tell the Good News, teach the baptized, tend the needy, transform injustice and treasure creation. Trae will stay in the dormitories at Villanova, and take his meals in the dining hall. Please remember Trae in your prayers as he prepares to think about how to change the world!

Summer Camp Registration
Registration is open for this year’s summer programs at All Saints Camp, but the dates have changed:

- Senior high camp is June 22-27
- Rising 5-6 graders camp is June 29-July 4
- Primary camp is July 6-10
- Junior high camp is July 13-18
- CIT training is June 29-July 4 or July 6-10

Registration forms and more information about camp is available on the Youth bulletin board or on the Diocese’s website.
Vestry Notes

At their monthly meeting on April 15, St. Paul’s Vestry:

- Received and reviewed Parish financial reports for the end of March showing a continued positive cash flow for the year.
- Moved forward a plan from the Christian Formation group to hire a nursery worker to care for the younger children on Sunday mornings. Several candidates have been advanced.
- Were encouraged by initial bids gathered by the Building & Grounds group for their goal of addressing problems with the church’s roof and removing two trees that threaten the church. They plan to bring a final recommendation to the next meeting.
- Heard expanded Road to Damascus Award criteria from the Outreach group who hopes to find a suitable recipient again this year. The group is also working on a way to outline St. Paul’s current ministries.
- Reviewed insurance coverage on St. Paul’s property which is part of an umbrella plan for the Diocese of Kentucky. Nearer renewal in the fall, the Budget & Stewardship group will review the policy, especially our low deductible.
- Heard from Fr. Rich about the Vestry’s need to participate in the Church’s online safe practices program. Fr. Rich will work with the Diocese to get access codes before the next meeting.

The next meeting of the Vestry is scheduled for 5:30, Tuesday, May 20 in the Rector’s study.

Remembering

Charlie Crabtree—Each year at St. Paul’s we take the opportunity on the Sunday of Memorial Day weekend to especially remember those we love who have served, or are serving in our nation’s Armed Forces. Anyone who desires that a loved one, living or dead, are remembered in our prayers Sunday, May 25, please contact Judy at the Parish Office, or me at 270-826-6238, prior to May 21.

Be sure to spend time visiting the crosses in Central Park and remembering the many who have given their lives for our precious freedom. And then join the whole community that comes to the park for our remembrance together at 10:00 on Memorial Day, Monday, May 26.

Handy Euch-and-'Q

In spite of the rain that drove us inside last year, we had so much fun we’re doing it again! In the middle of the Handy Blues and Barbecue Fest, St. Paul’s is taking our 10:00 worship to the street Sunday, June 9. Actually, we’ll be celebrating Holy Eucharist in the Memorial Courtyard and then having a barbecue lunch on the lawn. There will be special music and an informal homily that morning, and we’ll be inviting friends from the community to share both the service and the ‘Q with us, so mark your calendar to be part of the fun!

Mission Trip Still Open

Leslie Newman—Becky Durham, youth director at the Presbyterian Church, has asked me to announce there are a few open slots for the Western Kentucky Presbytery’s June 21-29 mission trip to Point Pleasant, New Jersey for Hurricane Sandy Relief (with a stop in Hershey, Pennsylvania). Students age 14 and above and adults who enjoy working with youth may apply.

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Financial Summary as of March 31, 2014

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St. Paul's Episcopal Church Staff
The Very Rev. Rich Martindale, Rector
Leslie Newman, EYC Director
Evalyn Champion, Organist/Choir Master
Donna Mulcahy, Bookkeeper
Judy Duncan, Parish Secretary
Phone—270-826-2937

Prayer List
Parish Family
Steve Dan George Marsha Bebe
Billy Rita Terry Donna Seymour Michelle Barb

Our Family & Friends
Don Robin Farley Jerry
Byron Kathy Nancy Jeff Carol Tom Beverly
Peggy Evan Whitney Larry Darrell Mary Catherine
Rich Ethan Herb Barry Jack David Reagan
Patty Gail Joe Steve Chris Karen Camden
Bonnie John Wayne Ron Logan Isaac Ken Alan Keith
(Because our newsletter is published on the internet, Barbara Laurie
only first names are listed here.) Pam Linda Diane

Vestry Members
Wardens Michelle Green, Carolyn Fuller
Clerk Susie Watkins
Budget and Finance Hugh Hennessy
Building and Grounds Becky Stone
Parish Life Marilyn Dixon, Greg Powell
Outreach Carolyn Fuller, Marty White
Worship and Music Mike France
Christian Formation and Youth Michelle Green
Communications Susie Watkins, Michelle Green
Treasurer Becky Carroll

Service Times
Sunday 8:00 Rite I
10:00 Rite II
Wednesday 12:10 Rite II
w/ anointing

St. Paul’s Episcopal Church
5 South Green Street
Henderson, KY 42420
www.stpauls-henderson.org