

April 2024

The Good News

A Newsletter of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Louisville, Kentucky



Wherever we are, this is how we love God and God's People

From the Rector's Study

Fr. Andrew, Rector

Beloved,

Did I not buy a couple of bags of ice melt just the other day? I asked myself this afternoon as I refilled the gas tank of my lawn mower, getting ready for the first-yard work of the year. It has already been a few weeks since

Daylight Saving started. It's Holy Week. We will have Easter Sunday and enter April when you receive this letter. Yes, April is here, even though I can still remember the whiff of champagne from the New Year countdown. Where did the time go!? It is disorienting. Holy Week

always puts me in a funny mood like this. You might chuckle and say, “Andrew, you are always in a funny mood!” While I do not disagree with you, I would say the week makes it especially so, perhaps because too many things are packed into this one week. Holy Week is more than having different church services to stroke our piety; Easter is not about bunnies and egg hunts.

Going through this period, we expose ourselves to our character flaws, as seen on Palm Sunday, which demonstrated how quickly those who devoutly followed Jesus to Jerusalem turned on him – just five days from shouting “Hosanna in the highest” to “Crucify him!” Even after two thousand years, we have not changed. We would take pride in our faith over humility in serving others. We are quick to point the finger at somebody to blame than to look at three fingers pointing directly at us to reflect our flaws. Even if we did, how easy is it to cover them with cheap guilt without repentance? Despite such character flaws, Jesus has not quit on us. He still carried his heavy cross, humiliated and crucified, forgave, and redeemed us to teach us just how much God loved us. More importantly, Jesus teaches us how

much we must love one another as he loved us. We tend to occupy our minds with God’s love for us than ours for the world.

Just as Holy Week is not just a busy week packed with beautiful services, Easter is not about bunnies and egg hunts. The Resurrection of Jesus Christ after Lent and Holy Week teaches us not to dwell on our brokenness with cheap remorse, self-blame, or undeserving piety. Instead, It is about rising above such spiritual darkness so we may carry forth his teachings as his followers because we will not find the risen Lord in the dark, empty tomb. St. Teresa of Avila said it best:

*“Christ has no body but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which He looks
Compassion on this world,
Yours are the feet with which He walks to do
good,
Yours are the hands, with which He blesses all
the world.
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,
Yours are the eyes, you are His body.
Christ has no body now but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks
compassion on this world.
Christ has no body now on earth but yours.”*

May the Risen Lord give us strength to see life beyond our brokenness, surprise us with God's Grace in this troubling world, each other, and our hearts, and grant us hope to carry forth His mission: to love as Jesus has loved us. Happy Easter!

With Love,
Fr. Andrew



From the Deacon

Pete Womack – Deacon

On February 16 of this year, the Alabama Supreme Court issued a ruling that stated that frozen embryos, a result of in-vitro fertilization (IVF), were in fact children when applying the Wrongful Death of a Minor Act to cases in Alabama. This is extraordinary because no other legal precedent has addressed the personhood of fertilized embryos in this way. The court's decision came from an appealed lower court judgement in which three families lost stored embryos due to an accident, and the hospital was sued under the Act for damages. The state supreme court ruled

that the Act did apply because it considered fertilized embryos to be children under the Act. This has advanced the belief that life begins at conception for pro-life supporters, thus showing that all abortions are immoral. I will explore the bioethics of IVF and the implications of the court's decision in this article.

The idea that abortion is murder is based on one of the 10 Commandments, and willfully ending a human life is murder. The claim that life begins at conception is flawed because life exists as a continuous state. Seeds from plants are alive, in the sense that they will begin to produce plant structures when conditions are right (i.e., water, soil, and sunlight). But, if you buy mustard seeds from a store, they will not sprout because they have been killed by the process of preparing them as a food item. Eggs and sperm cells are similarly alive, and sperm cannot fertilize an egg if one of them is dead or severely compromised. There is never a time when something is not alive prior to successful conception. So, the real issue is when does personhood, or individuality start.

Judaism defines personhood starting at the time a baby takes its first breath, following Genesis 2:7, where God breathed into the nostrils of a human, formed from the dust of the earth. Fetuses are not considered viable medically until their lungs can function, which is usually around 24 weeks. Another evidence of life has been a fetal heartbeat, however a heart isolated from the nervous system that controls it will continue to function at 120 beats per minute. This is the same rate seen in fetuses whose nervous systems are not yet developed. The heart of a brain-dead person will continue to beat as long as their blood is oxygenated and nutrients are pumped in and this is the same condition for a fetus during pregnancy. What makes us living persons is our personalities, our memories, our ability to interact with the world, our ability to think, our ability to pray to and worship God. When those are all gone because of brain death, that person is no longer present, even if their body continues to live. Thus, it can be difficult to accept that a fetus with no memory, no apparent personality, and no ability to interact with the world is alive the same way a child or an adult is alive.

The Alabama Supreme Court's decision to classify frozen embryos as children raises several questions that point to serious legal and ethical concerns. Frozen embryos are stored as a ball of around 8 cells that have not begun to separate into organs and tissues. They are not like children who run, jump, play, and love us. There is the question of responsibility: embryos do live long outside of the human body. Frozen embryos are stored in extremely low temperatures in liquid nitrogen but will eventually die, or they can be discarded if no more children are desired. Who, then, is responsible for their death and should be punished under the Wrongful Death of a Minor Act? Would their death result in charges of capital murder or manslaughter?

IVF is a painful and very expensive process that harvests many eggs from a woman and fertilizes them with sperm cells. In a single treatment cycle, perhaps half of the eggs are fertilized, a quarter survive long enough to be implanted, and maybe one or two survive implantation to establish a pregnancy. Who should be held responsible for the death of so many children, and should IVF be outlawed because it causes so many deaths? If IVF

is too expensive or unsuccessful for them, how do childless couples fit into the conservative Christian ideal of a family of a married man and woman with children? Is it reasonable to expect them to be open to adoption as a second choice?

The most troubling aspect of the state supreme court's decision is in the opinion written by Chief Justice Tom Parker, a dominionist Christian. He wrote that "Human life cannot be wrongfully destroyed without incurring the wrath of a holy God... Even before birth, all human beings have the image of God, and their lives cannot be destroyed without effacing his glory." These are clearly theological arguments offered as legal opinion and precedent in a secular justice system. This moves us that much closer to a theocracy, where laws are built on scriptural interpretations of individuals with influence. In effect, Justice Parker is using the weight and power of his court to advance his religious beliefs to the detriment of other beliefs. This goes against the Anglican tradition of a private accountability to God held sacred, and a church that does not require certain beliefs. In the end, Justice Parker's opinions and the court's decisions are

about accumulating and consolidating power to remake the world in their own image. If supporters of the court's decision were truly concerned with preserving the sanctity of life to God's glory, Jesus' call to serve to poor, hungry, homeless, and unloved children would be the law of the land.



From the Vestry

Suzie Aebersold – Vestry Secretary

The task of writing articles is not one of my favorite activities. Yes, I taught writing when teaching elementary aged children, but this type of writing requires more details than getting simple sentences on paper with first graders.

I was baptized at Church of the Advent, where my parents met, Sam and Alberta Distler. I have two sisters, Kathy and Penne. Our dad played the piano, but couldn't read music. Daddy would play songs from the hymnal and we were his choir. I suppose that is why I still enjoy being in the choir today. Sometimes a

song will trigger a memory from my childhood, recalling wonderful memories of the best parents in the world.

I attended my previous church, St. Alban's Episcopal, for about 50 years. I met Linda Snyder there, when we were nine years old. Little did I know that we would have a bond that would last for many years, and continues today. We were roommates for four years at Eastern Kentucky University. What fun we had! At St. Alban's, I was involved in Choir, Sunday School, Youth Group, Altar Guild, Vestry, St. Alban's Child Care Board and Vacation Bible School.

The time at St. Alban's shaped my belief and relationship with God. My parents were buried there, my husband, Ron, and I were married there and our sons, Tommy and Patrick were baptized there. When the church closed, I had the feeling like I had lost another parent.

However, God really does work in mysterious ways. Coming to St. Paul's has been so wonderful. There was a feeling of home the first time I visited. Being here has helped relieve the sorrow I felt when St. Alban's closed. A new chapter in my spiritual life has begun. There are many

opportunities for fellowship, service and studying scripture, and of course, singing. I thought joining Altar Guild would hold off the nomination for Vestry. I guess the Lord had other plans!

I've told you a little about my family, but there is some more I would like to share. Ron and I have been married for 37 years. I am proud of our sons, and we have been blessed with five grandchildren. Marlee, Charlotte, Gavin, Parker and Theo, in order of appearance. They range in age from 13 to 4, and have allowed us to experience a love that we have never experienced before. There is a saying, "the best things in life aren't things". I didn't really understand until our sons had children. They truly are blessings to me.



From the Preschool

Erin Dykes – Preschool Director

Happy April, St. Paul's Family! Spring continues to be a very busy time downstairs in the Preschool. Early March brought with it our much-anticipated visit from a rater

April 2024

SPREAD THE GOOD NEWS

with the Kentucky AllSTARS program. We're anxiously awaiting the results of that visit! The rater spent a full school day in our largest classroom, the 5 Day Pre-K, and our teachers and administrators feel confident that we did our best to demonstrate the high quality we offer every day at St. Paul's Preschool.

Just as we took a deep breath from planning for that evaluation, we did a big pivot from such serious subject matter and turned to prepping for our fun annual "Morning with Mom" event. This year we turned the Preschool into a Candyland-themed experience on March 14th and 15th. It was our goal to show all the children's moms (or other special grown up) "How Sweet It Is to Have a Mom Like You!" Every mom received a special crown hand-painted by her child(ren) and a bracelet that her child(ren) had hand-strung. We enjoyed mini muffin loaves and fresh fruit, and then all of the children and their moms decorated their hats for our Derby festivities yet to come in May.

We just released this year's order form for our annual Flower and Plant Sale Fundraiser in cooperation with Goodwin's Greenhouse of LaGrange. The plants from Goodwin's are always top quality

and will perform in your flower or vegetable garden better than anything you'll get from one of the large box stores. You'll also be supporting two small, local businesses when you make your purchase! This is our largest fundraiser every year, and we appreciate your participation to continue supporting our Preschool. Order forms are available in the Narthex or Parish Office. I can also provide you with a copy via email; please request this by emailing Preschool@SPPLouisville.com.

Everyone at the Preschool is looking forward to taking a bit of a deep breath during Spring Break (April 1st through 5th) so we can recharge and come back ready to close out 2023-2024. It's hard to believe this current year is almost a wrap! On our agenda for May: Derby Parades & Races, Family Field Days, and Pre-K Graduation! We also continue our annual, methodical preparations for the 2024-2025 school year. If you know someone looking for a preschool home, please encourage them to visit us and see why "Everyone Loves St. Paul's!"





Pray, Learn, Serve, and Rejoice at St. Paul's

All newsletter articles are due on the 15th of every month to be placed in the monthly newsletter. Bulletin announcements are due every Monday at noon. Please provide an event title, and a description of 75 words or less.

We Pray

Pray for All

During this challenging time, please be intentional about setting a time to pray. Pray for those on the prayer list. (pg. 11)



We Learn

Zoom Wednesday Bible Study

Bible Study is on a short break.

Ecclesiastical Bits & Bytes Technology and Theology with Fr. Andrew

Are you feeling intimidated with your computer, tablet, and smartphones? Are you frustrated with virtual meetings? Greetings, favored one. Do not be afraid for the Lord is with us. Contact the office to set up an appointment.



We Serve

Calvary Episcopal Church Food Pantry

Please join us at St. Paul's Episcopal Church each Sunday from 9 am – 12 pm for the Sunday Service food collection.

All food is counted and delivered to Calvary on Thursday morning after collection. If you would like to volunteer to help with driving and delivery, contact Ray Brown or David Dawkins.

Total to date: 125,704 items donated.

Please be a part of this amazing ministry by bringing these items to the Sunday "SERVICE" at St. Paul's or sending in your monetary donation!

+

We Rejoice

Website

Communication is the key to a successful ministry. Be sure to check out the website to keep up to date on church activities. www.stpaulslouisville.com

+

Prayers and Thanksgivings

Please contact the office to include names on the prayer list by the 15th of each month. Names will be listed for 30 days (short term prayers) or if requested 3 months (long term prayers). Fr. Andrew and the weekday prayer group prays each person by name every day.

Healing, Comfort, Relief, Protection, and Hope

Beverlie Hauss (Family of Don & Joy Hauss), Greg Bailey & Wes Ruble (Friends of Peggy Pryse), Dale & Wilma Radford (Friends of Jim & Carolyn Latimer), Sue Brotherton, David & Peg Scott (Friends of Kathy Robbins), Family of Jay Skidmore (Son of Nancy Skidmore), Don & Joy Hauss, Ruby & Lucille (Aunts of Fr. Roger), Phil M. (Friend of Fr. Roger), Jim Coliz, Alexander & Tanya Vasyi (Friends of Janet Cull), Donald Hamilton (Nephew of Don & Joy Hauss), Donna McGee, Brody Stinson, Rose Manella, Bernadette Fox (Friends of Linda Snyder), Rick (Friend of Fr. Andrew & Fr. Roger), Lillian Conklin, Anna Miner (Daughter-in-Law of Cindy Miner), Lynn Green, Brad Beard (Friends of Cindy Miner), Melanie Rivera & Jennifer Amaker (Friends of David & Kathy Dawkins), Bob Brown (Brother of Ray Brown), Patricia Weaver (Sister of Dale Miner), Brendan Bell (Son of Monica Bell), Bill Smith (Friend of Sandi Pierie)

Serving in Military

2nd Lt. Kyle Sears (Grandson of Arlene Buckner), Christopher Neal (Son-in-law of Monica Bell), Anthony Polio (Grandson of John and Wanda Wiegand), John Phipps (Nephew of Ray Keller), Matt Hartmann, Joe Grabianowski, John Lancaster, Luke Hartlage (Son of Linda Hartlage, preschool teacher), Jennifer & Joe Venghaus, Lt. Erin Jones (Niece of Rex Jones)

Homebound

Betty Reed, Mary Ellen Pinto, Mary Langseth, Dennis Ingham, Jo Stuebe
Lorna Larson, Jim & Donna Coliz, Jane Delgado-Shadid

Anniversaries

Birthdays

Jill Berg (4/7), Mary Ellen Pinto (4/7), Mae Fleming (4/9), Linda Snyder (4/9), Rick Robbins (4/10), James Fleming (4/12), Emilie Doades (4/13), Connie Albrecht (4/15), Andy Graves (4/20), Cile Brooks (4/23), Barbara Johnson (4/26)

General Announcements

Weekday Holy Eucharist and Healing Service

The next service will be held on Thursday, April 11 at 12:15. It will resemble the typical 8:00 a.m. Sunday Eucharist.

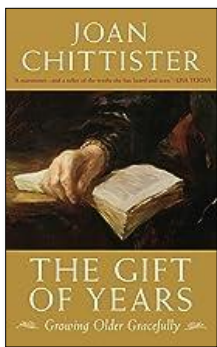
St. Paul's Breakfast Confraternity (designed for men)

Hey guys, ready for a chinwag while enjoying a hot breakfast? We have a proposed date for our first opportunity to congregate. Mark your calendar for Saturday, April 13, 9:00 A.M., at TBD (there is a local diner in mind, but we need to confirm space, so more later). The confraternity is open to St. Pauler's and guests. If you need a ride, please don't sit at home, call the parish office, and let us know—we'll try to make an arrangement for you. Hope to see you on the 13th!

Spring Council

Join us on Sunday, April 21st for the annual Spring Council Luncheon after the 10:30 a.m. service. More information will be in the upcoming bulletins and Friday emails.

The Gift of Years . . . Growing Older Gracefully



Most of us, like you and me, inch our way through life, sure on the one hand that it will never end, certain on the other that it will surely be ending for us soon. . . . It is at moments of such quiet consciousness that it is important to come face-to-face with what it means to age, to be older, to be old, to become an elder in society. It is important that age be no impediment to the magnet for life in us. But life is not about breathing only. Life is about becoming more than we are, about being all that we can be. Whatever we are doing, however old we are, wherever we fall on the social-economic scale.

--Sr. Joan Chittister

Each Sunday from 9:00—10:00 AM, various mentors will lead a series of faith formation sessions using Joan Chittister's *The Gift of Years*. Each week the group will read one of the brief essays from the book, then journal their responses to the reading. Time will be set aside

for the opportunity to share thoughts with the group. It is not necessary to purchase the book or to read the book beforehand, though please do bring a notebook or journal for writing your thoughts and responses. These essays are rich in spiritual wisdom and encouragement. If you are aware you will get old, if you are getting old and, of course, if you are old already...this is for you. No pre-registration or sign-up; just show up at 9:00 AM each Sunday.





Because it takes a village to raise a child, we support them together, one family at a time.



**GIVE TODAY,
AND RAISE THEM TOGETHER.**

The Spiritual Journey of Faith Scholarship is an outreach of St. Paul's parish to cover one year tuition of a child to support a young family.

Leadership

Senior Class ('25)

Kitty Riney
Cindy Miner

Senior Warden
Outreach
Fellowship

Middler Class ('26)

Kathy Dawkins
George Busch
Jason Solan

Junior Warden
Buildings and Grounds
Formation

Junior Class ('27)

Suzie Aebersold
Pam Dickmann
Tom Yurt

Secretary
Worship
Stewardship

DMLO Firm

Treasurer/Accountant

Robyn Fischer
Todd Ihrig
Erin Dykes

Parish Administrator
Minister of Music
Director of Preschool

The Rev. Pete Womack
The Rev. Roger Walker
The Rev. Andrew Shirota
The Rt. Rev. Terry White

Deacon
Priest Associate
Rector
Bishop of Kentucky

Email
Web
Facebook
QR Code to Church Website

Fr.Shirota@gmail.com
www.stpaulslouisville.com
St. Paul's Episcopal, Louisville, KY





4700 Lowe Road
Louisville, KY 40220

Return Service Requested