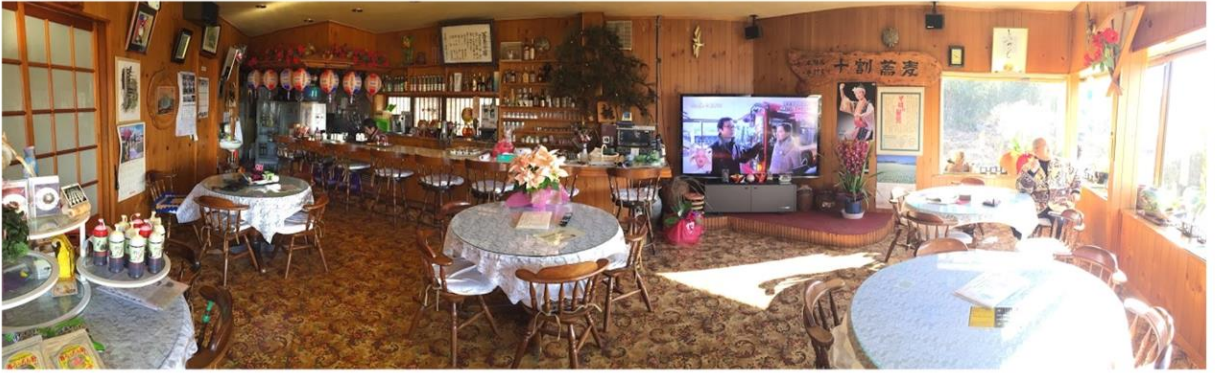


July 2024

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,

Tavernacle! *That's what I am going to do!* In my seminary days, I often enjoyed playing fantasy church over drinks with my classmates about future ministry. Each of us had some unique vision about our future ministry, such as various chaplaincy, parish ministry, academia, or even purple fever (those who aspire to be a bishop). *Tavernacle* (a play on the word *Tabernacle*) was a vision for my future ministry. The

concept of *Tavernacle* is much like the ones commonly known today as *Theology-on-Tap* or *Pub Theology*, where pastors go out to a local bar with a group of people and have down-to-earth conversations about God, faith, and life; however, mine is much more like my parents' soba noodle and karaoke restaurant/tavern, annex to my teenage home. I watched my dad getting up before sunrise every day to make soba noodles from scratch, my mom consoling staff and customers on all the

drama, listening to their confessions, and occasionally giving wise advice like an oracle in her deep, raspy voice with a lit skinny menthol cigarette hanging out the side of her mouth. I've watched them mediating many barfights and teaching customers to make up and shake hands.

When a customer had a terrible day, they let him stay overnight, like a bed and breakfast. People who were lonely during holidays came and hung out with us. When neighbors showed up at the back door reluctantly asking for food assistance, they fed them and offered some groceries without making a big deal. Oh, and the state-of-the-art karaoke machine certainly entertained the crowd. Many poured their hearts and souls into their songs. Some were so into themselves and did not want to let go of their mic. Some were shy, and we could barely hear them, so we cheered them up to boost confidence. And there were those cluelessly tone-deaf but drunk and merry. I remember a line from an old movie, "There is nothing sadder than an old drunk Japanese businessman singing solo at a karaoke bar without a captive audience!!" That sentiment is true! The karaoke music filled the nights with

happy, sad, new, and old songs—one after another. Although neighbors used to complain about all the noise, they eventually got tired of whining and became our regular karaoke fanatics. They brought fresh vegetables from their garden so that they could enjoy karaoke as an exchange. As crazy as all these things may sound, my parents' tavern certainly left me with a profound lesson—everyone needs a place to belong where they feel safe, brave, heard, and appreciated for their authentic selves. My idea of the church—Tavernacle—was heavily influenced (no pun intended) by how my parents served their people. Comparing my vision to other classmates' makes me wonder what shaped their ideas of priesthood, faith, and God. Realizing how our surroundings shape our faith, love, and hope is incredible. Who was instrumental in shaping your belief systems, learning how to love, not to mention being loved by God?

Speaking of being instrumental, I am excited to share the launching of the Journey of Blessings (J.O.B) Preschool Scholarship. The JOB scholarship helps a family with our love, prayers, and one-year full tuition. The scholarship is a two-fold

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covenant to God between the recipient and us to strengthen our mutual understanding of stewardship. It asks all the applicants to prayerfully consider and **Accept** their purpose in the world and propose goals about their time, talent, and treasure, to **Believe** in their ability to achieve the goals, and to **Commit** to their promises made to God in good faith. We, in turn, **Accept** their promises with love, **Believe** in them without judgment, and **Commit** to supporting them through love, prayers, and tuition without hidden motives. The recipient family is asked to write Ember Day letters to the church quarterly about their progress and challenges so that we can learn more about the family and lift them in our prayers. The Ember Day letter traditionally refers to the quarterly correspondence between an aspirant to holy orders and their bishop. Fr. Roger, Dcns. Pete, Barbara, Jan, and I all did it during the ordination process.

Thanks to your generous participation, we started collecting donations last Christmas. Jason Solan, our professional JCPS videographer and a middler vestry member, created an excellent promotional video that went live to reach parents

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through the preschool social network. Our Preschool Director, Erin Dykes, and her right arm, Pam Harp, and I worked on developing the application form following our philosophy. We are now waiting for the application submissions. The preschool board, Vestry, and I will diligently review every application and decide to extend a call to the recipient's family on July 15.

The JOB scholarship allows us to self-examine our attitude toward Christian stewardship and develop faithful—not transactional—relationships that follow Jesus's teaching of love and charity. Our learning and demonstration of **acceptance, belief, and commitment** will leave a footprint that will shape the children of our future. It is said that it takes a village to raise a child. Our dedicated teachers already offer a sound, safe, brave, and fun learning environment. We are joining them to create an anchoring village of faithful love in Jesus' name. Faith is about such an act of love and charity. We grow together in good faith like this, and young families learn about God's love through us.

With God's help, walking the spiritual journey of faith, we will be and lead others to be committed followers of Jesus Christ.

Love in Christ,
Fr. Andrew



From the Deacon

Pete Womack – Deacon

Shortly after the guilty verdict was handed down at Donald Trump's hush-money trial, I saw a post on social media saying that both he and Jesus had been convicted at sham trials. This sentiment disturbed me deeply for a few reasons. First, it elevated Mr. Trump to a level at or near where we hold Jesus as our Lord and savior. Second, it called into question the validity and reason for the trial because Mr. Trump's supporters did not like the verdict, evidence notwithstanding. Third, when we talk about Jesus' trial, it is most often followed closely by his death on the cross and what it means for our sins and salvation. I do not want to see Mr. Trump die as a martyr, or as anything else. I cannot accept that

his death would be for a noble cause that brings us to a better place, and I cannot abide by profaning the sacred Passion of Christ by comparing it to Mr. Trump's trial. What I do accept is that there are people experiencing anger, despair, and frustration who look to him to lead us out of our current situation. What that situation actually is depends on who you talk to.

Apart from social media comments, there has been an increase in the polarization of feelings and opinions regarding Mr. Trump and his trial. Any comment or question, even constructive ones, are seen as a personal attack, and the perceived consequences of the trial are being expressed in apocalyptic terms. People are afraid, anxious, and threatened by recent events, but in reality, those events have nothing to do with Mr. Trump. They are reactions to changes we have all experienced, changes that have made us feel uncomfortable and out of place even as we live in familiar surroundings. This means that the conversations we have about Mr. Trump, Congress, the Presidency, and other related subjects need to go beyond our words and the rhetoric we hear. The Anglican tradition

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of wrestling with scripture to find the word of God beyond the pages of the Bible shows us how to find the truth beyond Mr. Trump and his trial.

One of the lines of the prayer attributed to St. Francis is “let me not seek... to be understood as to understand,” and is a way to start difficult conversations. It implies a position of just listening, rather than listening to present our own views. Another line in the prayer asks that we be made “an instrument of your peace... where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon...” These are the positions we need to take as part of fulfilling our baptismal vows of loving our neighbor as ourselves and ensuring the dignity of every person. Listening, loving, and pardoning lessens our distress from someone else’s opinions and attitudes, but it does something else: by asking about and listening, we begin to understand their fears and concerns beyond Mr. Trump and his trial. These fears and concerns are common among different scenarios, even death.

Dr. Atul Gawande, in his book Being Mortal: Medicine And What Matters In The End, developed three questions that

he asks people who are living in fear of their medical condition and possible death: What are your fears and hopes? What do you want to hold onto and what are you willing to give up to keep it? What is the best thing to do in this situation? These questions dig into the deeper reasons for our fearful reactions and are ones to ask someone who believes differently than you do. They are how we can move beyond polarizing emotions and words and discover their source. We do not have to live with the division and antagonism that has come from politics and social change. We can choose to be faithful to our vows of living the life Jesus showed us and have different perspectives and beliefs. There is room at the table for everyone, but it means putting away the either/or view of life in the US and being curious about why people believe what they do.

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From the Vestry

Pam Dickmann - Worship

I want to thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve our church through the Vestry. The experience so far is both humbling and horizon broadening. I am not what one would call techno-savvy. My computer skills are elementary at best, and I do not own a working printer. From the first moment when computer skills, printer ownership, and the reading & understanding of financial statements became a necessity my facial expressions and body language have been screaming WHAT THA?!?! But my fellow Vestryites have stepped up to hold my hand, guide my steps and assure me that in three years I'll have a handle on things, and what is Greek to me now will be enlightenment by then.

As a technological dinosaur I am at the mercy of my fellow Vestry members (and Robyn) to provide me with magically airborne information in paper form. I can't tell you how grateful I am with how patient everyone has been and how miraculously hard-copies show up in my mailbox.

My experience with St Paul's goes back to 1981 when I moved to Louisville from Missouri with my children, Ward & Nicole – then 11 and 14 years of age. From the moment we came in the front door we were treated as family. Singing in the choir was a fast way to meet, greet, belong, and be loved. Our travel to Washington DC to sing in the National Cathedral on Kentucky Day was a fabulous and mind blowing experience (and what best sellers are written about) Until then, I didn't even know there was a National Cathedral. Also, the Naive family took me in at holiday times when the kids went back to Missouri and they fed me food, friendship, & the love of farming.

Leaving St Paul's to move to our family's farm in Henry County in the early '90s, found me in a country Methodist church as no Episcopal churches were close by; but it didn't cut me off from St. Paul's. Fr Michaud allowed me to keep my membership here and also join the Port Royal United Methodist Church because he said the Methodists were started by an Episcopal priest so I could belong to both places. So, St Paul's was a natural place to return to when I sold the farm after 25 years and back I came to so many old(er)

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faces and many new friends which made it practically a seamless re-entry.

Our church has wonderful leaders at the helm guiding our way in this *Age of Adjustments* and I hope to do my part of a good job through the Vestry in continuing the family feel of our church. I ask your prayers to follow me each and every day, as I work to do us proud.

So dear reader, if you've ever thought about MAYBE serving on the Vestry but fear, anxiety, &/or trepidation holds you back --- I am living proof that God works in mysterious and wonderous ways (and although it is not for the faint of heart, the experience IS rewarding in many ways and you get a neat little round Vestry pin to wear). Please keep us in your prayers and I thank you for this spirit growing opportunity.

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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. 12)

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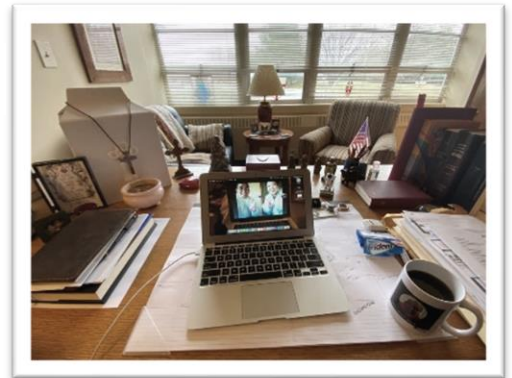
We Learn

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.



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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: 132,558 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!

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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

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We are ST. PAUL'S family

Pray

Learn

Serve

Rejoice

Preschool



STPAULSLOUISVILLE.COM

For Christ's sake, we

Pray + Learn + Serve + Rejoice

to Love God, and the World.

**WHAT
IS YOUR
STORY?**

Every life that encountered St. Paul's faith community has incredible stories to share. Our church has witnessed countless journeys of faith through wars, civil rights movements, fire, storms, floods, and pandemics for the past 190 years since 1834. Our faith journey continues more powerfully in new ways with new possibilities to love God and the World. Visit our new website, stay connected, and be part of God's neverending love story!

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

Brian Riesenber (Friend of Luke Miner), James & Mae Fleming, Bill Smith & Family (Friend of Sandi Pierie), Alan Johnson, David Self (Friend of Carol Schusterman), Judith Dannemiller, Pam Lower (Sister of James Fleming), Sue Brotherton

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, James & Mae Fleming

Anniversaries

James & Mae Fleming (7/2), Pat & Meg Mrozowski (7/10),
Don & Joy Hauss (7/15), Bill & Cile Brooks (7/30)

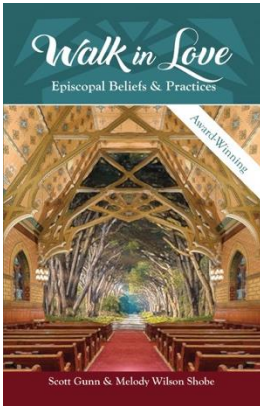
Birthdays

Becky Meyer (7/1), Meg Mrozowski (7/1), Debby Brown (7/7), Avery Miner (7/7), Alice Auxier (7/9), Sydney Solan (7/10), Isaac Moulton (7/13), Nancy Skidmore (7/14), Nancy Fred (7/16), Rex Jones (7/16), Drew Bradley (7/18), Dave Elks (7/18), Mary Greenlee (7/24), Joy Hauss (7/26), Craig Moulton (7/26)

General Announcements

Third Saturday Men's Breakfast Club: The July 20th gathering of the Men's Breakfast Club will meet once again at Golden Corral on Taylorsville Road at 9:00 AM. We will try to meet on the second or third Saturday. Let us know if you want or need transportation—it's really not a problem!

Walk in Love: Episcopal Beliefs & Practices -- A *Reprise*



Take a journey through *The Book of Common Prayer*, the Christian life, and basic beliefs of our faith, guided by two Episcopal priests--Scott Gunn and Melody Wilson Shobe. Walk through the liturgical year, the sacraments of the church, habits of daily prayer, and the teachings of Anglican Christianity. See how our prayer shapes our belief and our lives and how our beliefs lead us into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ.

In 2021, there were about 20+ St. Paulers who participated in this study of our beliefs and practices. It is a more in-depth learning and formation experience than the shorter ones that we have done since.

We have many new people who are not familiar with the Anglican Church and its theology. Many are reporting hearing this famous question: “Why do we do that?” or “How come . . .” If you have not been to an adult “confirmation class”, this is your opportunity to join in. Even if you know most of the reasons why, you should participate as an experienced Episcopalian to assist others with the answers to their questions.

Our current adult formation group on Sundays ended June 30 and, following a short break, we will begin a journey of learning about our history, our beliefs, and how we express our faith journey. Previous participants have enjoyed this experience and were in awe at times.

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

Parish Administrator
Minister of Music
Director of Preschool

Erin Dykes

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

Deacon
Priest Associate
Rector
Bishop of Kentucky

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Return Service Requested