

August 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,

I don't know about you, but I have tried many things to overcome bad habits to meet a new and better "me." By trying, I mean an eternal quest to find "the right" self-help organizing products, inspirational quotes, and revolutionary so-called life hacks to stay motivated and successfully change. Despite

countless efforts, I almost always arrive at the illusion of competence that "feels like" a new and exciting me for a while, but it can't be further from the truth. It's still the same old stubborn me that seeks changes in everything else but "myself." I deny my deep thirst for external validation of the effort, mistaking such denial for humble self-denial. Then I cry to God, "Why am I not getting the desired result after

everything I've done!?" I try rationalizing my feelings and actions—or lack thereof—to validate my pitiful self-righteousness and blame the world.

We all resent admitting such inner neediness. However, we will never get to the truth unless we first own our self-pitied neediness for God's validation, to which we feel entitled. Anytime we ignore, avoid, hide, or deny it to project self-confidence, we successfully falsify shallow peace with exaggerated toxic positivity covered in a cringe-worthy, painfully curated camera-ready smile, as seen in many influencers on social media. Jesus never taught his disciples to pretend to love one another this way to solicit more views, likes, and followers.

I began writing this letter shortly after the assassination attempt of former President Trump. It has been a little over a week since the attempt. Being only a few months away from the November election, we all are experiencing suppressed tension, wearing feelings on our sleeve, spewing outrage, and finger-pointing regardless of our political leanings—to blame the government and politics, if not then the media, big corporations, and churches, if not then criminals, strangers or even loved ones! We become quick to point out one thing after another to nitpick around us,

lecturing what they ought to do, but rarely think of what we can or must do to change ourselves. We do anything to defend and protect our unexamined self-righteousness, foolishly assuming we are defending something bigger. We rationalize our fear and try to validate ourselves so that changes won't involve us but whomever else. While we may want to separate ourselves and scapegoat the shooter, the firearm, the Secret Service, or anything else, in reality, we all have hostility just waiting to snap at the right moment. Unfortunately, denying it will not make it go away.

As we've all read many times, Jesus commands us to love God and our neighbor as he has loved us. The Apostle Paul describes love in his first letter to the Corinthians like this.

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Such love starts with listening with humility to our inner voice that is raw, uncomfortable, emotional, often illogical, and even hurtful – our true self with all kinds of flaws. Even then, Jesus forgave us to show God's love in ways most

unimaginable. We might learn to be more compassionate toward others when we come to terms with our vulnerable selves and realize God's Grace and Mercy to love us in spite of our brokenness. In other words, we all are a stinky bunch so full of ourselves, no different than anyone else to whom we point fingers. We can always try to love harder.

Brave and non-defensive confession of our flaws is the beginning of practicing Christ-like love because it forces us to listen, acknowledge, and repent our sins, through which God shows us how to love better. Love transforms us and leads us to the truth. After all, the word religion [*religare* in Latin] means re-binding. Through countless confessions and repentance, we re-bind ourselves to mend relationships with our inner shame, with others, and ultimately with God; Love must be the re-binding agent to glue us together, not hatred.

Disagreement and disrespect are not the same. Furthermore, one's disrespect is not permission for retribution. We must always choose to walk in love as Christ loved us. Love must be the root of our deliberate act as we pledge to follow Jesus Christ. We can do better. We should do better. I am excited to begin another

round of the Walk in Love series on Sunday Mornings starting in August.

I look forward to spending time with you. Lastly, I will end my letter with an excerpt from a famous Kentucky writer, Wendell Berry.

We have lived our lives by the assumption that what was good for us would be good for the world. We have been wrong. We must change our lives so that it will be possible to live by the contrary assumption, that what is good for the world will be good for us. And that requires that we make the effort to know the world and learn what is good for it.

With Love,
Fr. Andrew



From the Deacon

Pete Womack – Deacon

Late Saturday night on July 13, I began to see headlines telling of an assassination attempt on former President Trump at an election rally. My heart sank at the thought that someone felt that this was necessary, and that they felt that it would solve the problem they thought was justified by murder. As I was preparing for the first worship service the

next morning, I looked over the Gospel reading, which was the story of Herod having John the baptizer beheaded because his wife hated John ([Mark 6:14-29](#)). I immediately saw parallels in that story and the drama of the attempted assassination and thought back to the article I wrote in last month's newsletter about civil political discussion.

In both cases of murder and attempted murder, someone justified their call for death by a morality built on self-righteousness and loathing, a seething hatred of someone amplified by power. In the case of Herodias, she hated John because he called out her immoral marriage with her brother-in-law, Herod, and used Herod's power and a rash promise to have John killed. In the case of Thomas Crooks, he used the power of a commonly available assault weapon who's only purpose is what he attempted to use it for. When we assume that we are right because we have to be right, that we can justify being right, or everything depends on us being right, it is easier to contemplate an action that by itself wipes out the claim to rightness.

This decision to exert power to demonstrate our rightness, or higher morality does not usually involve weapons. While that is a logical end to the means of protecting and showing our rightness, it does not happen nearly as often as the more quietly corrosive daily dislike and hatred we feel toward someone we don't

agree or get along with. We try to justify the dislike and hate when challenged with our professed faith in God's unconditional love for all. We side-step examining the contradiction with accusations that the challenge to our faith is not fair or it is mean-spirited. That pervasive practice of speaking out of both sides of our mouths creates an unspoken permission to hate, and when enough insults, real or perceived, are experienced, the justification toward decisive action becomes easier. Rather than swallow our pride and admit that our words and actions are not constructive, we continue to avoid, isolate, and marginalize the people we come into conflict with. Rather than do the hard work of loving our enemies as Jesus mentions in [Matthew 5:43-48](#), we protect our rightness and righteousness before God by using excuses to justify our attitude.

I cannot draw a straight line between Thomas Crooks and us, between his justification for assassination and our unwillingness to let go of our hate, because that does not reflect reality. However, Thomas' attitude and ours exist on the same sheet of paper, whether it is a political grievance or a grievance with someone else. The attitude is the same: you are wrong because I say you are wrong, and something must be done to protect and preserve my rightness. But, somewhere on that paper the line drawn from grievance to immoral action passes by us or even over

us and we either can't see it or we ignore it. When you come across someone in the days to come that you have a conflict with, or don't agree with, where will you draw your line? Will it be a boundary that lets you love them from some distance, or will it be a boundary that isolates them from God's love?



From the Vestry

Suzie Aebersold - Secretary

As I try to decide what to write about for this month's message from the Vestry, I'm thinking I should have not volunteered! While I can have a long conversation, it is different when the conversation is one-sided. My focus will be my observations of the workings of the Vestry for the past eight months.

The Vestry at St. Paul's is like a well-oiled machine. Having been on the Vestry at St. Alban's, I thought I knew what to expect being part of this Vestry. I was pleasantly surprised after the first month, as I saw how the members came together to welcome the newbies and support us as we began our tenure on the Vestry.

The setup of the Vestry is the brainchild of Fr. Andrew, Bud Dannemiller and Andy Graves, then Sr. Warden. In the framework, each area of the church is covered. There are broad topics, with specific committees' part of the topic. For example, Worship is a broad topic, and included under Worship is Altar Guild, Ushers, Flowers, Music and Lectors/Readers.

Each Vestry member is responsible for one broad topic. They are the communicators from the congregation to the Vestry. Each month the Vestry member asks for a report from the committee/group assigned to them. This is a great way to keep communication happening in a group of our size.

Outreach and Buildings and Grounds always have something happening. Outreach includes the service to Calvary Food Pantry, and includes the Preschool, Prayer Blankets and the WaterStep program. By donating your used shoes, the program cleans them and resells them to raise money to provide clean water to those who need it. What could be easier? Clear out old or hardly worn shoes and provide clean water! Buildings and grounds have the hardest working members. Our grounds are always

manicured, and if there is something that breaks, “Call George!” George Busch is the Vestry member, but I know he has helpers to get the job done.

So, the next time you hear that the Vestry needs new members, please prayerfully consider becoming part of the group. It really is a fun, productive time to continue the mission of St. Paul’s.





We are ST. PAUL'S family

Pray Learn Serve Rejoice Preschool

Rejoice
in our Good News

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!

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. 10)



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: 135,824 items donated.

Please be a part of this amazing ministry by bringing items to the Sunday "SERVICE" at St. Paul's or sending in your monetary donation! St. Paul's parish has generously donated over \$12,034.00 to the Calvary Food pantry since June 2020.



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

Lawrence Hardy (Friend of Don & Joy Hauss), Brody Stunson (Friend of Linda Snyder), Family of Lucille Nunz (Aunt of Fr. Roger), Diane Hart (Sister of Dale Miner), Cynthia Smith, Dena Rogers, Rebecca Rubb and Donna Weiber (Friends of Peggy Pryse), Ward Dickmann (Son of Pam Dickmann), Arlene Buckner, Col. Ron Jones (Brother of Rex Jones), Brad Beard (Friend of Cindy Miner), Carmen Williams and Family (Friends of Kathy Robbins), Brian Riesenber (Friend of Luke Miner), 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, 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

Ray & Debby Brown (8/18), Don & Liz Babcock (8/25), Rich & Pam Baker (8/28)

Birthdays

Patsy Catlett (8/1), Jason Solan (8/1), Donna Coliz (8/2), Tom Yurt (8/2), Benny Snyder (8/6), Adam Lingenfelter (8/7), Jerry Powell (8/9), Jennifer Derossett (8/10), Pam Dickmann (8/16), Don Hauss (8/18), Alan Johnson (8/18), George Busch (8/22), Arlene Buckner (8/26)

General Announcements

Mulch Day: The preschool is looking for volunteers to help spread mulch on the playground on Saturday, August 3rd starting at 7:00 a.m. With many hands on the ground, the time needed will be about 1.5 hours. Bring a wheelbarrow, heavy duty garden rake and garden gloves if you have them!

Linda Bader Recital: Local students of Linda Bader will have their recital on Saturday, August 3 at 2:00 p.m. at St. Paul's. Drop by if you would like to support them.

Third Saturday Men's Breakfast Club: The August 17th 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!

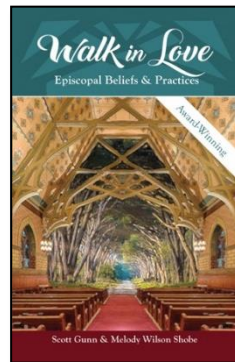
Adult Formation

Walk in Love: Episcopal Beliefs & Practices*

Sunday, August 4, 9:00 – 10:15 A.M.

We will begin our journey through *The Book of Common Prayer* on the first Sunday in August, beginning at 9:00 A.M. with an overview of the book and the schedule.

Even if you participated in confirmation classes at some point in your life, you may be surprised at the depth of learning you will experience by entering the discussion that takes place in these sessions. As with other small groups, there will be an assigned facilitator for each chapter that we cover. Participants should begin by reviewing the *Introduction* (xi) and *Beliefs & Practices* (Chapter 1). The group discussion is designed to assist us in seeing how our prayer shapes our belief and our lives—and how our beliefs lead us into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ.



If you are new to the Episcopal Church or a “cradle Episcopalian”, it will be a definite plus to join in the discussion. This is the place where you can come away with many of your questions answered and contribute what your experiences have taught you. This adult forum is especially important if you desire baptism, confirmation, or being received in the Church.

Mark your calendar today: Sunday, August 4, 9:00—10:15 A.M. in the small conference room.

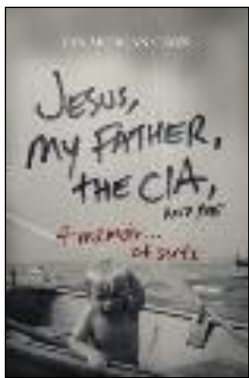
*The book may be purchased at new and used booksellers such as Amazon, half-price books, etc... or a limited amount is available for \$15 in the parish office payable by check/cash.

Wednesday Book Group

11:00 AM – Conference Room

A touching memoir of life with an alcoholic father who secretly works with the CIA, a dark pilgrimage through the valley of depression and addiction and finding a faith to redeem and a strength to forgive.

"This is a record of my life as I remember it—but more importantly, as I felt it."



Episcopal priest Ian Morgan Cron has authored several books that have been best-sellers, and this is another of his works. The Wednesday book group, after having read **Chasing Francis—a Pilgrim's Tale**, quickly decided to take on this title. Amazon provides this overview—

At the age of sixteen, Ian Morgan Cron was told by his mother that his father, a motion picture executive, worked with the CIA in Europe. This astonishing revelation, coupled with his father's dark struggle with alcoholism, upended the world of a teenager struggling to become a man.

Born into a family of privilege and power, Ian's life is populated with colorful people and stories as his father takes the family on a wild roller-coaster ride through wealth and poverty and back again.

Decades later, as he faced his own personal demons, Ian realized that the only way to find peace was to voyage back through a painful childhood marked by extremes—privilege and poverty, violence and tenderness, truth and deceit—that he'd spent years trying to escape.

- A fast-paced, unique memoir about the power of forgiveness from the bestselling author of *The Road Back to You*
- Details his father's struggle with alcohol and Cron's own journey from addiction to twenty-three years of sobriety
- Encouragement to see God's redemptive power through life's struggles

In this surprisingly funny and forgiving memoir, Ian reminds us that no matter how different the pieces may be, in the end we are all cut from the same cloth, stitched by faith into an exquisite quilt of grace.



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

IT'S GAME TIME!

SPIRITUAL JOURNEY OF FAITH PRESCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP

**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

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

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