

September 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 you know that there are 1.97 million Christians in Japan? This number, though small in comparison to the national population, represents a significant community with a rich history. Since the arrival of Francis Xavier, the first Jesuit missionary from Spain, in 1549, six years after the first

Portuguese traders came to Japan, Christianity has been a part of Japan's cultural and spiritual landscape. The relay of faith through people, observed in culture, religion, and spirituality, illustrates how our forefathers passed their magnifying glasses of hope to help us see the world better. We learn to love and hate through the glasses, to preserve or dispose

of our past, and to live in the present. Then comes our turn to pass our magnifying glasses to the next generation.

Ironically, Guns and Christianity changed Japan dramatically during the second half of the sixteenth century. If you are familiar with Japanese cuisine, you know *Tempura*. Surprisingly, the word originated from Latin, meaning “time” or “a period,” sharing the root with another English word, “temporary.” The good old deep-fried fish and vegetables Jesuit missionaries ate during the Lenten seasons in Japan became Japanese *Tempura* today. This is just one example of the profound impact of Christianity on Japanese culture and traditions, a heritage that we can all be proud of and feel connected to.

Another fascinating factoid during this period is the intersection of the Buddhist Zen tea ceremony and the Christian Holy Eucharist. The greatest tea master, *Sen no Rikyu*, introduced a new style of tea ceremony called *Wabi-cha*, which many scholars suspect is influenced by Jesuits celebrating mass. *Wabi-cha*, a style that emphasizes simplicity and quiet refinement, shares some undeniable ceremonial similarities in rituals and symbolism with the Christian Holy Eucharist. This cultural exchange led to the development of the Japanese Philosophy of

Wabi-sabi (The rustic simplicity in the serene beauty of aging) alongside *Wabi-cha*.

Unfortunately, Japan became increasingly concerned by these rapid cultural shifts from international relations, so the country initiated national isolation for the next 250 years, from 1603 to 1867. Christianity was banned; Christians hid their faith from the public eye for fear of humiliation, torture, and persecution, much like the disciples in the locked-up house after the crucifixion. Despite the turmoil, these closeted/hidden Christians showed remarkable resilience, keeping their faith alive in the face of adversity. The record of approximately 30,000 closeted/hidden Christian converts during the isolation period was found through research once the country reopened, a testament to their unwavering faith and determination.

The journey of faith relays from one person to another, like this to the future, creating a continuous thread that connects us to our past and gives us hope for the future. It’s a never-ending, incredible God’s love story of salvation, of which we are very much part. As the beautiful Spiritual Pathway's current phase is complete, we will dedicate this new feature to thank the anonymous, generous donor family at the parish picnic on September 29th after 10:30 am worship.

We will also bless the upgrades to the Memorial Garden and the playground, followed by a potluck fellowship with St. Paul's family from the parish, the preschool, and their friends. So be sure to mark your calendar and spread the word! The relay of our spiritual journey of faith continues! As our Deacon Pete proclaims every Sunday, "The mass is ended, but our service to the world continues. Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord!"

With Love,
Fr. Andrew



From the Deacon

Pete Womack – Deacon

Many years ago, when I worked in hospital labs, we would receive blood and body fluid specimens with a priority indicator. "Stat" samples were to be run and reported as soon as possible, "ASAP" specimens were to be run soon, and "Routine" priority samples were to be run as we had time. The stat samples came from the expected critical care places: the ER, the OR, the critical care units, and patients in a health crisis wherever they were. A few times a year, doctors wanted to leave the hospital as soon as they could, and would order

otherwise routine samples as stat. When that happened, everything reverted to routine priority because we couldn't prioritize and run all of the "run it now!" samples. We would end up prioritizing samples from the critical care areas and deal with phone calls coming in, looking for results.

I was impressed by the diversity of the gathering of Episcopalians at the General Convention in June, particularly among the bishops. Arabic, Latino, Haitian, African, LGBT+, and Native American members, along with Asian and African American members were present, bringing their voices and culture to the meetings and services. But there were also calls to recognize and address the plights and injustices experienced by these minorities and calling for prioritization of their needs in our Church governance. It reminded me of my lab experience of everything coming in as top priority, and I realized that our Church leadership has the unenviable task of setting priorities. Regardless of their decisions, people will be upset that their cause was not placed at the top of the list.

This is not to say that we should pass up prioritizing the needs of our minority members because we can't make everyone a top priority, or appear to favor one group over another. For a long time,

our Church has been white and English, with a history of colonialism (bringing exploitative cultural and economic “salvation” to third world countries) that is creating problems for all of us now. I am also not suggesting that white members should feel guilt over this past history. Rather, we need to acknowledge the past experience of minority groups and then ensure that there is room for everyone at the church table. The problem that I saw at the convention is that we are arguing over where the table should be located and getting hung up on what true fairness looks like instead of acknowledging who should be present. No matter the table’s location, the focus needs to be on making sure that everyone can get to it, not just a select few. We have to beware of the tyranny of the minority that seeks to pull the church in its direction to the detriment or exclusion of other groups.

We already have a model of what inclusion should look like in our baptismal and ordination vows. We also need a long-term plan in church governance to incorporate the languages, cultures, and perspectives that minority groups bring to worship. Prayers and hymns should be relevant to the culture of the parish or diocese, and such changes to liturgy language and music are being discussed.

Change will be difficult because it feels like the church is fragmenting and forsaking its 500-year-old English tradition. However, there are traditions that rise above what has been familiar, that open the church beyond what now confines it. The reality of hearing different languages spoken at the General Convention and seeing different cultural displays runs against the desired sameness across all dioceses and parishes, a sameness that may weaken the Church rather than preserve it. God works in ways that are distressing to us because we want to protect what is familiar, yet it is also God who brings a diverse church together at the altar to participate in one holy meal. Our call is to get out of our own way and let the Church respond to God’s invitation to all people by making room for them so that we don’t need to have eight or more top priorities to simply acknowledge their presence.



From the Prayer Quilt Ministry

Arlene Buckner – Chair

Do you want to know a secret? I have been getting together with more than 8 other people once a month to enjoy fellowship, laughter, and lunch for the past 15 years. We have

enjoyed the company of a mother-in-law, a mother who attended another church down the street, young and old ladies, and even a few men. Yes, we are a diverse group of people with one goal in mind, we are the Prayer Blanket Ministry of St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

Blankets are made from donated cotton fabric which is cut into squares (we like 6 1/2" squares), someone will sew these squares into a quilt pattern for the top. Then another person will put this top with batting and backing to complete the main body of the blanket. But one reason we gather together is to tie (finish the quilt) and make a nice package for donating to someone who needs extra healing from their own life's challenges.

It takes many hands to complete each blanket. People have given us material they have bought or found at lawn sales. Donations from special Sunday offerings help us purchase batting, ribbon for tying each blanket, and iron on label material. Our Prayer Blankets are delivered to Norton's Hospital Chaplin that they give to patients. Our own Pre-School is given a blanket for each child graduating from Preschool going to Kindergarten. Over 150 Blankets are made each year.

But another place one can find one of the handmade quilts is in the

Conference Room right down the hall here at St. Paul's. Several blankets are in the cabinet for you to help yourself to take to someone you know that needs extra comfort and healing. Look at the variety available for you. Pass on the outreach that our church members so graciously give and let God's love through blankets help comfort, support, and heal friends, neighbors, and family members.

We are always excited to have new people join us the second Monday of each month. Our gathering is at my house since the dining room table is big enough for all. Now that the secret is out...please come and enjoy the camaraderie. Need directions or information email Arlene at: abuckner4901@gmail.com.



From the Preschool

Erin Dykes - Director

St. Paul's Preschool is back to school! The 2024-2025 school year officially began for us on Monday, August 12th. Prior to opening our doors to our students and families our teachers worked diligently to create their beautiful classroom spaces and materials and readied

themselves to welcome in their new students for the year.

Prior to the first day of school, we hosted our traditional “Welcome Days” during which a parent/guardian joined their child(ren) for the opportunity to meet their teachers and classmates, familiarize themselves with their classrooms, and create some art. Welcome Day is a wonderful opportunity for families and teachers alike to get to know each other and get comfortable before the official first day. The experience helps to ease some of the anxiety and fears that sometimes come with the start of the new school year. I’m happy to report that separation anxiety was minimal; almost all of the children are coming in without apprehension and 100% of the children are enjoying their days with us!

I hope that by now all of you have seen the work done on our playground. We are beyond excited to have the new installations and updates to our existing structure. The children love the updates, especially the musical components. If you haven’t been to visit the playground yet, go explore and make some beautiful music! The blue sunshade is also a teacher favorite; it can be blisteringly hot out there and the 10°-15° difference in temperature provides welcome relief. We are still

awaiting our new sand table. We hope that by mid- to late September that will be installed. I would be remiss if I didn’t mention the following people who came to haul and spread mulch this year: Pam Dickman, Pam Harp, Danny Blaser (former Preschool parent) and his crew of 7 St. Xavier National Honor Society students, Leah Zettwoch and her crew of 2 Male High School ROTC students, and Jeremy and Caleb Dykes. Despite rain not being in the forecast, the rain started promptly in time for Mulch Day to begin at 7:00 AM and continued for the entire morning. No one was willing to give up, though, so we trudged through, and our fresh layer of mulch was spread.

If you have family, friends, or neighbors looking for a Preschool home, we have a few openings for 3 year-old-children in our program. I would love to give them a tour and show them why Everyone Loves St. Paul’s! Please feel free to have them contact me at Preschool@SPPLouisville.com or 502.491.7418.





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. 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: 138,635 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 \$13,034.00 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

Matthew Lynch & Family (Friends of Joanne & Harvey Kutz), Jennifer Amaker (Friend of Kathy & Dave Dawkins), Andy Benner (Son of Sue Benner), Brody Stunson (Friend of Linda Snyder), Dena Rogers, (Friends of Peggy Pryse), Arlene Buckner, Col. Ron Jones (Brother of Rex Jones), Brad Beard (Friend of Cindy Miner), Carmen Williams and Family (Friends of Kathy Robbins), Brian Riesenberg (Friend of Luke Miner)

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

John & Wanda Wiegand (9/12)

Birthdays

Sue Brotherton (9/6), Donna Smith (9/8), Pat Lightfoot (9/12), Marilu Derossett (9/21), Pam Phillips (9/26), David Miner (9/27), Autumn Moore (9/28), Jennifer Moore (9/29), Anna Miner (9/30)

General Announcements

Parish Picnic: Sunday, September 29th will be the date for our annual parish picnic. There will be only one church service on this day at 10:30 a.m. The picnic will begin afterwards. A special dedication will be held for the completion of the Spiritual Pathway and the updated Preschool playground. Preschool families will be invited too.

Sign-ups for side dishes and desserts will be in the Narthex of the church. Church will provide the main course and drinks. Volunteers will be needed to help. Please contact Kathy Dawkins for more information. 352-223-4734 / kathydawkins123@gmail.com

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!



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.

SPIRITUAL JOURNEY OF FAITH PRESCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP

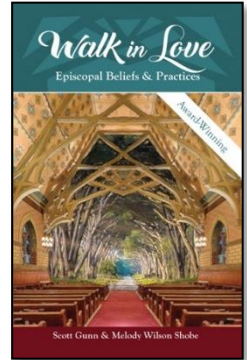
Adult Formation

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.

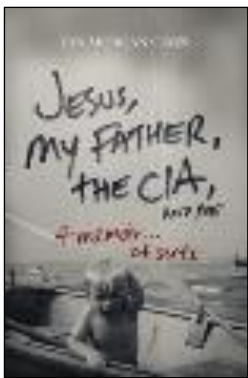
*The book may be purchased at new and used booksellers such as Amazon, half-price books, etc... or a limited amount is available for \$15 in the parish office payable by check/cash.

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.

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

Erin Dykes

Director of Preschool

The Rev. Pete Womack

Deacon

The Rev. Roger Walker

Priest Associate

The Rev. Andrew Shirota

Rector

The Rt. Rev. Terry White

Bishop of Kentucky

Email

Fr.Shirota@gmail.com

Web

www.stpaulslouisville.com

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QR Code to Church Website





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