

November 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,

It's November. This month, we have many critical milestones to accomplish. Please keep your eyes, ears, mind, and heart open. Take a bulletin home, check our weekly e-communication, listen carefully to the announcements during the service, and please read this monthly newsletter.

All the milestones point to the

theme of gratitude. We thank God for all the blessings in our lives, each other, the legacy of the faithful departed, the living community in this borrowed time, and the opportunities we share to follow Jesus. We lose ourselves in prayers as we converse with God. We learn of God's abundant love, seen and unseen, from the Spirit of living God around us. We share God's generous love with the world through services, just like Jesus did.

Close your eyes, take a few deep breaths, and pause to consider the following questions. What are you thankful for this year, season, month, week, or today? If you have trouble finding gratitude, ask yourself what goes through your mind. Do you need help with everything you must do to get by each day? Are you frustrated and angry about your job, health, finances, relationships with friends and family, or even the presidential election? Are you sad and grieving over the loss of someone you love? Are you feeling lonely and isolated? Would you rather say to God, “Why me, Lord!” instead of expressing gratitude? If any of these sounds familiar, don't try to ignore, deny, or run away from them. It is ok to sit with these feelings because your honesty leads us to the truth. I wish I had known that sooner. As long as we live, we are bound to spend some time in the spiritual wilderness at one time or another. So if you happen to be feeling down, I pray you know you won't have to go through the spiritual wilderness alone as we walk beside you. Know that, in Jesus, we are never alone.

As many of you have heard me say, passing peace was my least favorite part of the liturgy when I first started attending church; it felt disingenuous and superficial. I even snuck out to the bathroom

occasionally to avoid it. I could not bear forcing myself to smile while screaming inside, “Does anybody care?” I listened to a pastor preaching love and saw everyone proud of their loving community on Sundays. Yet, I noticed some suddenly stopped attending and later learned why they were no longer with us: some over petty arguments, disagreements, likes and dislikes, relocation, or even death. Why did nobody say anything? It made me sarcastically wonder whatever happened to all their big talk about love. Instead, I heard more justification for their hatred and judgmentalness. Either that or cheap guilt and apathy. Critically observing the church, I told myself, “The church is the last place I want to be when barely making it!” It was like the church stood between my desperate self and God. I was not about to be dragged into the world of *The Stepford Wives*, where highly curated, pitch-perfect superficial happiness sucked the air right out of my lungs.

After a long period of spiritual wilderness, I eventually got tired of being miserable and ran out of worms to eat. It was that moment when I was struck with a revelation that pulled me out of the darkness. There was a lady who always sat next to me at church. I learned one Sunday that she was dying. She always had

excellent posture, standing and kneeling, and a beautiful angelic singing voice. She kindly guided me with a smile whenever I was lost as to which page to turn in the prayer book. She was also an incredible cook; she could cook anything. Her homemade potluck dish alone made me return to the church. I was clueless about her limited time because of how she carried herself. As her time approached the end, she told me how much she enjoyed getting to know me and watching my faith grow, so much so that she looked forward to seeing me every Sunday. When I missed Sundays, she was worried and prayed for me. I will never forget her telling me I was a friend God blessed and sent to her. Her words blew me away! How could a guy, poor, bitter, and full of glitters, possibly be blessed? If anybody, she was the blessed one God sent to bring me out of the spiritual wilderness.

If you have trouble finding gratitude today and struggle with anxiety, depression, frustration, anger, loneliness, loss, or grief, please do not try to ignore, deny, or run away. You do not need to disappear. I pray you feel safe sitting in the pew with your honest feelings. I hope you know the church becomes a brave space because you are in it. You might be a blessing to someone somewhere, though you may

know nothing about it. I, for one, know that you are a blessing to me. This is how the church should be always. That's how St. Paul's family always strives to be. To achieve this, we need you and each other. Let us continue dedicating our lives to praying, learning, and serving to be the hands of Christ, much like our old friends extended their hands to us. Let us commit to be a better servant. Mark your calendar on All Saints Sunday on November the 3rd, Commitment Sunday on the 24th, and Thanksgiving Eve Service on 11/7 at 6 p.m. Make Jesus proud with the ministry of your presence.

With Gratitude,
Fr. Andrew



From the Deacon

Pete Womack – Deacon

In my time volunteering with the Society of St. Joseph of Arimathea (SSJOA), I have come across many sad stories about the people we bury in the Metro Louisville cemetery Meadow View. Some of them couldn't afford a burial in a commercial cemetery, some had outlived their family, and still others were estranged from family due to addiction, abuse, abuser, or mental illness. My role in the funeral

ceremony is to provide a reflection on the deceased and their death, and that is hard to do for someone I don't know, who may have led a traumatic life. A handful of times I have spoken to families gathered for someone who died from alcohol or drug abuse, or who was mentally ill, and saying something to them that wasn't insultingly patronizing was difficult. The challenge was how to recognize and mourn the death of someone who was difficult or impossible to live with. I have leaned on Anglican theology that does not focus on getting into heaven or staying out of hell, but rather focuses on God's redemptive love in the person of Jesus, who loved all unconditionally.

St. Paul's is now faced with a similar situation of conflicting emotions and reactions. Those who knew Diane Post knew her to be a bewildering mix of generous donations to St. Paul's outreach ministries and bullying behavior over things she was angry about. She tested our patience and warmed our hearts, leaving us with contradictory emotions while she lived, emotions that we still experience at her death. There is no easy or straightforward way to resolve these feelings, but we cannot walk away from them, waving them off and leaving Diane behind in a past we want to forget. If there is anything that I

have learned in my time with the SSJOA, it is that God's perfect, unconditional love is hard for us to give to the hard-to-love and the unlovable. That's why it is mentioned so much in scripture. I have come closest to being able to express that unconditional love for the people I help bury, who I didn't know. They led troubled lives and hurt themselves or others, sometimes maliciously.

Diane, for all of her strengths and faults was a child of God, loved as easily by God as we find it difficult. The people I help bury don't need to do anything to earn God's love, and they cannot do anything to lose that love. They are cherished as part of God's Creation. So it is with Diane, who did nothing to earn God's love and did much to make it hard for us to love her. Thus, our love for her can come from her being part of St. Paul's community, being a faithful Christian, and being part of Creation. She lived a life a lot like ours in many ways, but that does not mean that we have to hide the hurt that we felt from her harsh words. Instead, we hold it close to the love we are called by God to extend to everyone. It is an uncomfortable tension, but it is also an Anglican thing to do: to love without condemnation, and to name hurt without judgment. There is a practical boundary we have to draw when we are

hurt by someone, but that means that we are still free to love and be guided by that love in our reaction to them. Such a resolution was not always possible with Diane as she lived, but it is possible as our lives continue by naming the hurt and letting it go. Diane has finally found the peace that eluded her in life. Let us find our peace with her in our lives as well.



From the Vestry

Cindy Miner – Outreach

Wow – I just wrote an article for the spring newsletter and now it is November! I find time flying by. My 99-year-old dad always reminds me that the older you get the faster time goes by, and that is absolutely the truth.

The food pantry continues to astound – we have collected a grand total of 141,685 and \$13,034.00! We have made friends with many in the community who have joined us on this project. Don't forget as you are changing out your closets this fall to donate any shoes to our WaterStep project. The bins are in the

narthex and down next to the choir room. Spring and summer are in our rear-view mirror and so soon will be my 3 year term on the vestry. I feel myself needing to repeat some of my message from the spring about how grateful I am to have been called to serve on the vestry, how grateful I am to have gotten to know the inner workings of our budget process and the thought behind all of the decisions that I have been a part of, how grateful I am to have made friendships that feel like family relationships, and how grateful I am to be a part of this loving community at St. Paul's. Thank you for entrusting me with three years on the vestry.

Happy fall and Happy Thanksgiving to you all.



From the Choirmaster

David Paul Gibson – Choirmaster

Father Andrew suggested that I use this opportunity to introduce myself to the congregation, which I will do momentarily. First though, please let me take a moment to thank you for your gracious welcome. I have been so impressed with how kind you have been to

November 2024

me and my partner, Frank. The reception was a real surprise and was a lovely way to meet many of you. It may take me awhile, but I hope to become acquainted with the congregation's members quickly and by name.

As to my background, I was born and raised here in Louisville. I hold bachelor's and master's degrees in music from Western Kentucky University, where I also taught music history, vocal coaching, and an annual sacred music practicum for more than a decade. I have served the Church for some fifty years, serving as Director of Worship and Music, organist, and choirmaster. After retiring from full-time work in 2018, I have continued to serve the church in a part-time capacity. Frank, an accomplished organist, is retired from the state of Kentucky. My son, Michael, and his wife, Patti, reside in Pewee Valley with their children, Jacklyn and Nathan (the world's best grandchildren!).

Looking ahead, I firmly believe that the future holds great opportunities for the music ministry of St. Paul's. With our dedicated choir members, the fine young people of the Schola Cantorum, our Chimers, and Frank and I providing support organizationally and at the organ, we are well set to provide appropriate music that celebrates the great musical

SPREAD THE GOOD NEWS

traditions of the Episcopal Church.

Speaking of our Schola Cantorum, if you have not yet met Jenny, Jovanna, Miles and Anthony, please take some time to get to know them. They are lovely and talented young people who make an important contribution to our worship together. Also, your year-round designated monetary gifts to the Schola and your contributions at Christmas make this important program possible. Please consider the Schola when contributing to the work of the church.

Again, I thank you for your kind welcome and pray continued blessings on each of you.



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From the Preschool

Erin Dykes - Director

Happy Fall, St. Paul's Family!

We've had a lovely October full of fun events in the Preschool. We happily welcomed the Jeffersontown Fire Department for a visit on Wednesday, October 16th. They talked to the children about fire safety, demonstrated what a fully "suited up" firefighter looks and sounds like, and brought their largest fire truck to our parking lot for the children to explore. We appreciate them taking time away from their busy schedule to allow the children to be acquainted with community helpers and what best practices are for fire safety.

We are about one week away from Halloween and "All About the Boo!" at the time of this writing. We've had many parents donate treats and trinkets for our trick-or-treating costume parade. We have approximately 25-30 parents coming in costume to help hand out items for that event. Additionally, we've secured our pie pumpkins for our annual pumpkin patch experience. We're already saying prayers and crossing fingers that the weather cooperates for us to build the patch

outside. Cleaning up an indoor pumpkin patch is never fun!

We are excited to begin welcoming some new readers into the Preschool perhaps once a week or so starting late October. Ms. Glenda Blair and Ms. Nancy Skidmore have stepped up as two brave souls to visit our children during their snack time to read to them. We are looking forward to them getting to know our students and staff, and the children will be excited to have new people with whom to share all their words and questions. I've told them both that they will be acting as ambassadors from the Preschool to the Church, and I'm sure they'll have much to report to you once they get their feet wet down here!

Our annual poinsettia sale fundraiser with plants from Goodwin's Greenhouse of LaGrange will be taking place in November. Robyn has order forms available to share with you in the church, and we will be taking delivery of our group order in very early December. Plant pickup information is contained on the order form. We would love for you to support our program via this fundraiser. The poinsettias are simply beautiful each and every year—you won't be disappointed!





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. 12)

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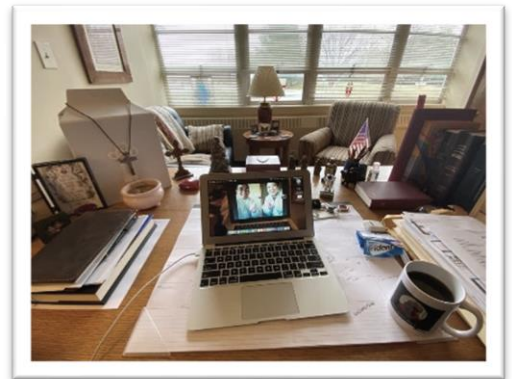
We Learn

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: 144,194 items donated.

The upcoming holiday season puts an extra strain on local food ministries. 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. Make checks payable to St. Paul's.



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

Bill & Diana Motsch, Betty Pringle (Friend of Ann Ford & Theresa Myers), Family of Bill Smith (Friend of Sandi Pierie), Chuck B. & Sandra P. (Friends of Cheryl Young), John Jackson (Friend of Glenda Blair), Kathy Dawkins, (Wife of David Dawkins), Penelope (Furmily of Lisa Allen & Sharon Crow), Ethan & Marsha Reed (Friends of The Miner Family), Merle Gipe (Friend of Sue Benner), Family of Diane Post, Larry Bates, Donald & Dee Ribble (Family of Sandi Pierie), Sue Brotherton, Minnie Naive, Maureen & Joe Solan (Parents of Jason Solan), Dena Rogers, Rebecca Rupp (Friends of Peggy Pryse), Sandi Pierie, Wanda Wiegand, Emily (Daughter of Ruthe & Jim Holmberg), Jennifer Amaker (Friend of Kathy & Dave Dawkins)

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

Lori & Kyle Smith (11/15), Jill & Dan Berg (11/26),
Lance & Sharon Nelson (11/26)

Birthdays

Sue Benner (11/2), Madelyn Allen (11/4), Fr. Andrew Shirota (11/12), Lee Anderson (11/14), Bill Brooks (11/14), Andy Phillips (11/14), Wanda Wiegand (11/15), Roger Davis (11/20), Jeanne Powell (11/33), Janet Cull (11/25), Bridget McMichael (11/27)

General Announcements

Commitment Sunday

Mark your calendar on Sunday, November 24th, for the luncheon after the 10:30 Commitment Sunday worship.

We'd like you to bring the following items.

Last name A-C dessert

Last name D-U sides

Last Name V-Z dinner rolls

The church will provide the main course. We hope you can join us. More information will be coming soon via mail. Be on the lookout.

Adult Formation

Walk in Love: Episcopal Beliefs & Practices*

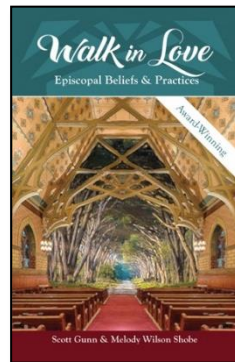
Sundays 9:00 – 10:15 A.M.

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.

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.

*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.



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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