

January 2025

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 have been tidying up my office since December. Thanks to George, my ordination certificates and the seminary diploma were finally on the wall after sitting on the floor at home for ten years. A new collection of social work-related books must find its home on my bookshelves, meaning I am parting with some old books I no longer need. I hope Patricia will be proud of me. I miss her

reminding me from time to time that I must always try to keep the office nice and tidy to be more inviting so that whoever visits me and I can focus better without distraction from all the clutter.

Going through my old textbooks, I picked up one on Christian Ethics. The book had my scratch notes on pages, some of which brought back memories, some confusing, and others making me shake my head, thinking, "Did I really say that?!" The almost twenty-year-younger self that

greeted me through these scratch notes was much more naively black and white, fearfully loud, visibly pious, emotionally unstable, yet carelessly adventurous. I noticed one thing in common about all these books: I only marked the first few pages religiously with highlights and notes, but the rest were almost untouched. It describes my life before Adderall perfectly. How did I get through my schools? Then I remember. I survived by checking out Fr. Roger's textbooks, which diligently highlighted all the important parts!

Now that I am adequately medicated and do not have to deal with all the consequential rigorous deadlines, I enjoy reading my old textbook, even on Christian Ethics! While absorbing the contents like a sponge, I can't turn off my remorse in the back of my mind, thinking, what if I had finished all the assigned readings on time and been able to join in discussions with my classmates more thoroughly instead of constantly blaming my language barrier? Of course, there is no way of telling now. All I can do is embrace my new joy of reading, moving forward.

Life brings many surprises like this. The same book that was once torturous can become such enlightening wisdom that I can't keep my eyes off it. I literally judged books by their covers, thinking I knew

them all in the black-and-white ways. Putting so much weight on my thirty-some-year-old knowledge, I missed many opportunities that could have brought me "ah-ha" moments. Now that I have realized it, I must part with them to create a space and welcome a new collection of books on my shelves. The scripture says best: "Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding" (Proverb 3:5-6). This sentiment continues today, and I am convinced that God will teach me lessons like this until my last day. We are to welcome, cherish, and let go of the present each day and moment of our lives; we let go and let God enter our lives. Well, I think I better stop jabbering and return to tidying up my office. It's a Japanese custom to do *Ob-so-ji* every December, a deep cleaning of the entire house to thank God for providing a roof over our heads during the passing year (*Kansha*), reflect on our lives (*Hansei*), cleanse our hearts (*Kaishin*), and brainstorm what we can do better moving forward (*Kaizen*). *Ob-so-ji* is much like our confession, repentance, and the Great Thanksgiving we do during Sunday mass.

It's 2025. Whatever the year brings, may we always try to *act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God* (Micah 6:5). May

we remember to stay in the present with awareness, prayerfully, one breath at a time. Wishing you a Happy New Year and many blessings.

Faithfully,
Andrew+



From the Deacon

Pete Womack – Deacon

I was about to throw in the towel for this month's article when a series of health-related events stared straight at me, saying "You're next!" As some you are aware, I had a kidney stone make its presence known the day after Thanksgiving, which led me on a 2+ week odyssey of treatments. At the same time, my wife, Kim, has had abdominal surgery scheduled and rescheduled until today, December 17. As I write this, I am sitting in the waiting room at Baptist Hospital East. Earlier this morning, I went to my urologist to have a kidney stent removed in the office, now that my crisis has passed. All of this has fit into a neatly laid out schedule where people are where they need to be, and when they need to be, meanwhile all of the details of daily life are still taken care of.

As I was driving back to Baptist, I

realized how convenient all of this has been, fitting our healthcare into our scheduled lives. I realized how unusual it is that I get to say what happens and when, in light of the rude interruption of my life by a kidney stone. And I took that attitude further by mentioning my desire to treat a second stone in a few weeks, after the holidays and after Kim has had some time to heal. We call this attitude of scheduling activities "being proactive," by addressing a looming issue before it becomes a problem. In the business world, this is a good thing, but in life, it is most often an unrealistic expectation that crises and events happen at our convenience.

Sitting in the waiting room at Baptist, I recall my months spent here in pastoral care training, working with people and their families who didn't have the luxury of planning their healthcare crises. I recall my mother's quick descent from walking 3-5 miles a day, to debilitating pain from a liver tumor, to her death, all in the space of 3 months. I recall my irritation at having yet another kidney stone at the beginning of 4 days off from work. I know that I am very, very lucky that everything has fallen into place and life right now, while not routine, is very manageable. It is something that I dare not take for granted, even as I may be praised for handling my

life with grace and an impressive level of organization.

It is this moment in my life that I am aware that I am not part of the Body of Christ that Paul talks about in his first letter to the Corinthians. It is not that I have purposefully left the Body, but that I am not relying on it for support. This is not to say that I have not had offers of help; I have, and I am grateful for those offers. But my life without that sense of connection raises some interesting questions: is my self-reliance and organization to be celebrated? How does it fit into the perspective that the various parts of the Body need each other? Where does that line between self-reliance and abusing the support of others lie? Balancing self-reliance and the humility needed to ask for help is difficult.

We never hear of someone helping Jesus stand up. It would be demeaning and a negation of his power if he needed help getting up. We never hear Jesus talk about receiving his healing power with grace. We only hear him say, "Get up and take your mat with you. Your faith has made you well." We understand how and when to help others, but we are not so good at asking for, and receiving help. This puts us in a position where self-reliance, exceptional life organizational skills, and

just pure dumb luck gives us the false impression that we are fine without ensuring that we are connected to the Body. We worship in community as the Body, we do God's work in community, and we live in community. It is so important for us to maintain a sense of community and to feel connected to the Body so that being proactive and organized is not our default. We should not feel hesitant to ask for and receive help when events in our lives break the social customs we are expected to live by.



From the Vestry

Kitty Riney – Sr. Warden

I told you that my focus in 2024 would be on helping to make a successful 81st General Convention and taking care of the health of our beautiful parish. I was truly looking forward to serving as your Senior Warden.

So how did I do?

The convention was definitely successful. Bishop White said people were impressed by Louisville's friendly, welcoming attitude. Actually, he said they were very glad they did not see what was expected (what do

you suppose they expected in Kentucky). We had several volunteers from St. Paul's and they proudly represented our parish. I totally agree with Deacon Pete, the diversity of the people attending the convention warmed my heart.

I think Saint Paul's is very healthy! This year has seen 6 new families join us. I can definitely feel the enthusiasm. We are known for our outreach, when I meet people from other parishes I am told "Oh you are the ones that take up food on Sundays." What a great reputation we have! The spiritual pathway and revamped Memorial Garden are so exciting. Our Buildings and Ground volunteers keep our campus and buildings ship-shape. Our Staff, Father Andrew, Father Roger, Deacon Pete, Parrish Administrator Robyn Fischer, and Musical Director David Paul Gibson are our most valuable assets. Our new Musical Director and choir are an inspiration! The preschool is thriving, definitely something of which we should all be proud. A big thanks to the Preschool Director Erin Dykes and all of her dedicated teachers.

We remember the lives recently lost Larry Benner, Betty Jane Davey and Diane Post, they are now in the loving arms of our heavenly Father.

I declare my year as your Senior Warden a success, sure hope you agree! We are

looking toward the future with eagerness. We are a healthy, caring parish ready to face the future taking loving care of ourselves and our neighbors.

As I bid farewell to my Vestry term I want to express my deep gratitude for the fellowship, support and love you have shown me over the last three years. It's been a privilege. I assure you that with Father Andrew's leadership you have a great Vestry looking out for the future, keeping God first in everything they do.



From the Choirmaster

David Paul Gibson – Organist / Choirmaster

American Author Sarah Ban Breathnach writes, "New Year's Day. A fresh start. A new chapter in life waiting to be written. New questions to be asked, embraced, and loved. Answers to be discovered and then lived in this transformative year of delight and self-discovery. Today carve out a quiet interlude for yourself in which to dream. Only dreams give birth to change."

Carving out a quiet interlude can be a challenge in this day and age. Divisive politics, civil unrest, war, poverty, illness, all mean that we are constantly bombarded

with the negative. It is so easy to be distracted from the good and beautiful in life. When I become overwhelmed by it all, I turn to beauty, be it the music of Bach or Puccini, the art of the Middle Ages or the Renaissance, or exploring a scientific concept new to me. All remind me of what we are capable of achieving as a people and of the grace God has gifted us. I see that same grace in the eyes of our loyal choir members, in the voices of my friends, and in the embraces of my grandchildren. There are so many things in our lives for which to thank our loving God.

Jeremiah 29:11 states: “For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” As we look ahead to this new year, let us take comfort in that verse and in the knowledge that we can find that quiet interlude and dream in the sure understanding that God has a plan for each of us as God’s children, for our society, and for the good work of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church.

Wishing you every blessing,
David Paul Gibson



From the Vestry

George Busch – Buildings & Grounds

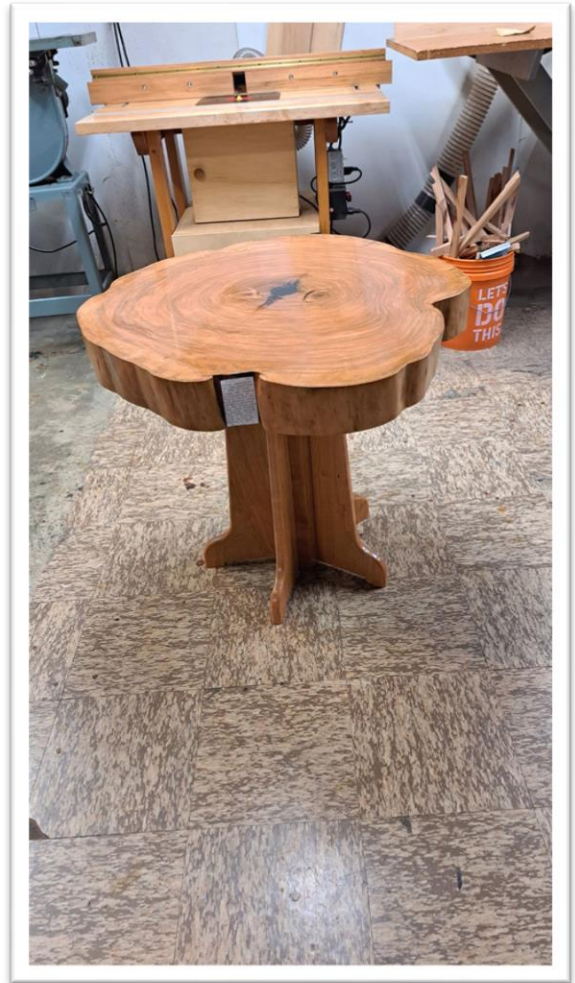
You may have noticed there is a new table in the Narthex under the big wooden cross.

This table was made in memory of William Johnstone and a beautification committee from 1966. Mr. Johnstone was instrumental in forming a committee to landscape the campus around the church. After a lot of research, there was quite a long list of trees and shrubs decided upon to be planted around the property. Each one had a special meaning attached to it, a biblical affiliation like the dogwood tree which supposedly the cross used to crucify Jesus was made of or an oak tree to stand for strength and resilience. There were also a lot of shrubs, azaleas which the flowers symbolize taking care of yourself and others around you, Barberries which are associated with protection and resilience, and many more.

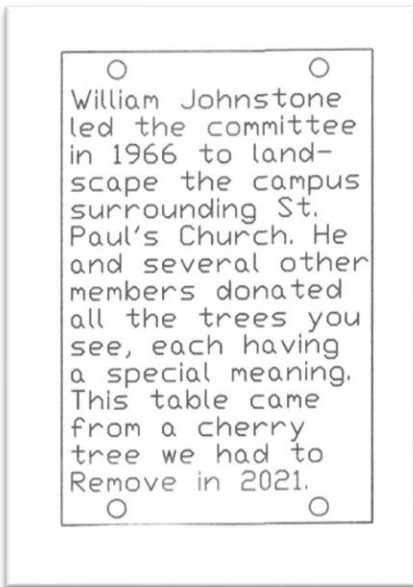
Mr. Johnstone and several others donated all this flora for St. Paul's campus. Therefore, any time a tree or shrub must be removed it is somewhat of a sad event. In 2021, a large cherry tree had to be removed

from the back of the property by the ball field. The tree was beginning to rot and one whole side split off. A 4-inch-thick cookie or slab was cut from the base of the trunk and left to dry for 3 years. Finally, it was ready to be made into a table so we can remember an important part of St Paul's history. There are so many stories' bits of information about the history of St Paul's to be found if we only take the time to find them.

The table will have a plaque on the side which reads as the picture depicts.



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From the Preschool

Erin Dykes - Director

Happy 2025 to you, St. Paul's Families!

As I write this article, the Preschool is in the middle of enjoying a three-week break for the Christmas holiday. Our entire staff voted at the end of the 2023-2024 school year to “go rogue” from the Jefferson County Public School’s calendar for our current school year. A two-week break for Christmas puts JCPS and any aligning program in session until just a day or two before the Christmas holiday, and this can create a real time crunch for our staff and families. We love making Christmas magic at the Preschool, but also love having a little more time to make the magic at our own homes as well. We ensured that we kept our traditional 35 weeks of instruction by backing up our starting week in August. I anticipate that we will repeat this schedule again for 2025-2026.

Prior to our break we hosted two of our annual Christmas Concerts on Thursday, December 12th and Friday, December 13th. Our students performed holiday favorites in costume in front of their families and friends. In addition to all age groups singing and playing traditional

jingle bells, our Pre-K classes performed “Away in a Manger” using eight note sets of handbells. We had wonderful attendance for both events. After each Concert all guests were invited to join us in the Parish Hall for cookies and milk, making reindeer food, and visiting with Santa and Mrs. Claus.

We would like to thank all Preschool and Parish families that participated in our annual Poinsettia Sale. We sold a total of 191 plants! The Preschool made a profit of over \$1250 from this fundraiser, and we will be sure those funds are reinvested into improving and maintaining our high-quality program. We appreciate the partnership we have with Goodwin’s Greenhouse of LaGrange. They provide us with the absolute best quality flowers, and we look forward to seeing what they’ll offer for our Plant & Vegetable Sale in the spring.

During our last week in December, Registration Applications were sent home to our currently enrolled families. It is hard to believe that it is already time to start planning for the 2025-2026 school year! Priority registration is open to our current and returning families until Friday, January 17th, 2025. At that time we’ll open registration to the community at large. My tour calendar is already filling up and we

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look forward to welcoming new students, parents, and guardians into the St Paul's family. If you or anyone you know is looking for a Preschool home, please feel free to contact me at Preschool@SPPLouisville.com or 502.491.7418. Information on our program offerings, 2025-2026 tuition rates, and more can be found on our website www.stpaulslouisville.com.



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)



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.

Current Total: 149,870 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 \$13,634.00 to the Calvary Food pantry since June 2020. Make checks payable to St. Paul’s.

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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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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

Merle Gipe, Bunny Parnell (Friends of Sue Benner), Paul Given (Brother in law of Nancy Northrop), Ellie & Aubree Ratliff (Great Nieces of Suzie Aebersold), Alan & Barbara Johnson, Diane Poffenberger (Friend of Sandi Pierie), Sally Wheatley (Ellie Stump's Cousin), Diane Hart (Sister of Dale Miner), Brad Beard, Rick & Donna Hartsoe, Jerry Nazarro, Susan Henderson (Friends of Cindy Miner), Brian Riesonberg (Friend of Luke Miner), Ron Jones (Brother of Rex Jones), Donna Wieber, Bill & Diana Motsch, Dena Rogers, Rebecca Rupp (Friends of Peggy Pryse), Chuck B. & Sandra P. (Friends of Cheryl Young), John Jackson (Friend of Glenda Blair), Ethan & Marsha Reed (Friends of The Miner Family), Merle Gipe (Friend of Sue Benner), Larry Bates, Sue Brotherton, Minnie Naive, Maureen & Joe Solan (Parents of Jason Solan), Wanda Wiegand, Emily (Daughter of Ruthe & Jim Holmberg)

Serving in the 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

Birthdays

Lucus Miner (1/12), Abbie Derossett (1/14), Kenny Waddell (1/14), Barbara Adams (1/19), Steve Cull (1/19), Pam Baker (1/21), Jennie Fahey (1/22), Lorna Larson (1/22), Scott Carter (1/23), Kathy Dawkins (1/23), Jo Ann Kutz (1/25)

General Announcements

Adult Formation

Walk in Love: Episcopal Beliefs & Practices

Sundays 9:00 – 10:15 A.M. (Conference Room)

St. Paul's Annual Meeting

Mark your calendar for the annual meeting for Sunday, January 19th in the sanctuary after the 10:30 service. The 8:00 am service ***will not held*** this day. It is important to gather and celebrate the inner workings of the church and vote to approve the new budget and Vestry nominations.

Follow us on social media

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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
David Paul Gibson
Erin Dykes

Parish Administrator
Choir Master
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

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St. Paul's Episcopal, Louisville, KY



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Louisville, KY 40220

Return Service Requested