

April 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,

Faith is personal but not private. Bishop Greg Rickel of then Olympia empathized with this teaching many years ago. The statement triggered my knee-jerk reaction whenever I heard it, as I used to keep everything to myself. My faith was definitely kept private, if not more than anything else, because, one, I did not think my belief was

anybody's business. Two, I did not want my friends to think of me as an over-the-top, zealous televangelist type or to show my ignorance. The biggest reason I held my belief close to myself was not wanting to be judged.

During the Wednesday night Lenten soup suppers, we explored a topic of prayer one evening as part of the Going Back to the Basics series. What is prayer? We often casually say we pray, but do we

really know what it is? Why and how do we pray? What exactly does prayer do? During the discussion, a person shared, “My prayer is deeply personal.” All agreed, including myself. However, at that moment, Bishop Rickel’s teaching resurfaced in my mind.

“Faith is personal, but not private.”

How do we live our faith and share our stories? A theologian, Paul Tillich, teaches us that listening is the first duty of love. When we truly love someone, we try to understand them by listening. When loving someone is difficult, the least we can try is to start listening to the person. However, I am also not so naive as to ignore how listening can quickly become a disingenuous, convenient tool not to open our big mouths. We listen sometimes just to let others do all the talking so that we can keep our thoughts to ourselves. In this case, listening no longer serves as an act of love but becomes a shield to insulate ourselves from harm, threats, or conflicts. For example, I sat with people one day, looked straight in the eyes, and tried very hard to listen to them. Despite my efforts, my poor ADHD brain ejected out of my head and flew off to space travel in Lala land. Oh, how embarrassing it was when I got caught!

Prayer draws us closer to God, so

we say. When we pray, we offer God our hearts, thoughts, and hopes. If we all pray to One God, then I wonder why our prayers sometimes take us further away from each other. When we pray in Jesus’ name and bring us closer to One God, shouldn’t we be closer to one another? Yet, lately, my experience tells me otherwise. Somebody’s prayer means a threat to others, though both pray to the same God. The distancing of our hearts is especially true and prevalent today among Christians, between conservatism and liberalism, as if it is a matter of win or lose, though we all pray to One God in Jesus’ name. Any faith tradition experiences similar divisiveness; one common denominator in all of these is us—humans. However, let us not lose hope. Prayer, when practiced with the right intention, has the power to unite us and bring us closer to God and each other. Let us hold on to this hope and continue to pray for unity and understanding.

Faith is deeply personal but not meant to be private. By making it personal, we often end up insulating our true selves from others quietly. However, hold your knee-jerk reaction to indulge me for a moment; making our faith public might not exactly be like what you have in mind—making our faith public means living our faith to the fullest as we share our lives

with strangers, friends, and even foes. Your life is filled with amazing stories of God's grace that nobody has experienced but only you. We all have encountered undeserving God's grace through someone's kindness that helped us hold on to faith, hope, and love in times of joy, anger, fear, and loss. Our job is to generously share the undeserving God's grace we received at some time or another with fellow humans—publicly. Christian prayer gives us the courage to open our eyes, ears, and hearts to learn how to follow Jesus' new commandments: To love God and His people. Our prayerful intention, therefore, must always be to let the old self die and renew our hearts to be aligned with Christ so that we may see each other in a different light on a new day, with new joys and new possibilities. Christian prayers should bring us closer to one another this way and not tear us apart.

Faith is personal but not private. Easter is right around the corner. Let us live our faith to the fullest and share our lives as Jesus did. As our former Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry, said, *If it's not about Love, it's not about God. With God, it's all about Love.* Your love, your faith, your stories, they all matter. They are what make our community strong and vibrant. Let us continue to share, to listen, and to love, for

in doing so, we honor God and strengthen our bond with each other.

Love in Christ,
Fr. Andrew



From the Deacon

Pete Womack – Deacon

Just last Sunday as I write this, and a few weeks ago as you read this, we stumbled through the Rite 1 Eucharist. I say stumbled because there were hitches in the service from the language it was written in. We don't usually use this rite, but for those of us who are of a certain age, it was familiar because we grew up with a similar sounding rite in the 1928 prayer book. The language used in both the current and previous prayer books comes from Elizabethan English, spoken and written in the mid-1500s to the mid-1600s. It is the same language used by Shakespeare, and what the King James Version of the Bible was written in. The language further evolved into the more modern form that our Declaration of Independence was written about 200 years later. Because we pray in a modernized version of very early Modern English, it can be a challenge to understand what exactly we are saying. The

tone of the early Eucharistic services has also been preserved and it is more somber than in Rite 2.

Because late Middle English and early Modern English in the 1500s sounds so different from 21st century English, we tend to think of it as very formal. That formality was also present in the 1549 Book of Common Prayer written by Thomas Cranmer, in the 1662 book as the official prayer book of the Church of England, and in the 1789 book as the first American prayer book. Words we don't use today throw us off, such as "thy" (informal "your") and "thee" (informal "you") as do words such as "travail" (from the French verb travailler, to work), vouchsafe (to grant or make happen), beseech (to implore), and meet (suitable). But these words from Middle English indicated a formality in 1549 that was appropriate for a worship service. The same goes for verbs, such as didst, hath, spake (past tense of to speak), and art ("are/is", as in "Our Father, who art in Heaven...") that came directly from Middle English into the 1549 prayer book. By now, you have noticed that Rite 1 places more emphasis on our sinfulness and imperfection even as we worship God who loves us. Phrases like "And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to

offer unto thee any sacrifice..." and "We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table" can create a feeling of humility and timidity on our part. These were important themes in the early Anglican Church of the 1500s that were replaced with a theme of celebration and fulfilling an obligation present in prayer book revisions in the later 20th Century. The Book of Common Prayer contains what we believe, as prayers and services, leading to the defining phrase "We pray what we believe." That makes it not only a book that explains what we believe, but also a record of how Anglican theology has changed as the world has changed. So, when we use Rite 1, we experience the tradition of the Church. Regardless of the language used, we worship using nearly the exact same words in 2025 that Anglicans used almost 500 years ago.

I hope that by now you have become familiar and comfortable with the language and lyrical rhythm of Rite 1. I encourage you to visit the website http://justus.anglican.org/resources/bcp/1549/Communion_1549.htm to see what the Eucharistic prayers looked like 500 years ago. It will be surprisingly familiar. A word of warning: spelling rules were virtually non-existent in 1549, so read the text with modern pronunciations in mind

to make sense of it.



From the Vestry

Connie Sublett – Secretary

When I was first asked about serving on the vestry, I was excited and pleased, then I was elected and still pleased and excited but now I also had a feeling of the fear of the unknown! For me I was going to have to come out of my “comfort zone”. Well, I prayed a lot and sought guidance from some very patient and helpful church members. I became aware that while I was busy living my life, I didn’t see what was happening.

Growing up my family attended St. James Episcopal Church in Prospect Park, Pennsylvania. We were all very active my dad was on the vestry; my mom was president of the women’s group I sang in the choir and my sister, and I attended Sunday school. As a teenager I was very active in our youth group, which is where most of my most of my social activities were centered around. Those friendships are still relevant and treasured today. When my dad suddenly passed away, our rector spent time with us trying to make sense of what had happened. In 1978 we made a big life change and moved to

Louisville. We became members of St. Alban’s where my uncle was the rector. I taught Sunday school, Bible school did altar guild and served a term as secretary to the vestry. Since I had graduated with my early childhood degree and had worked in early childhood, I was asked to be on the committee to look into opening a Child Care Center at St. Alban’s. As a vestry member, I was asked to be a delegate to the diocesan convention where I met my future husband who was the warden at Church of the Ascension in Bardstown. We were married in 1985. After our daughter was born, we lived in Elizabethtown and attended Christ Church. I taught Sunday school and Bible School and Kent was on the vestry. We moved to Jeffersontown in 1991 and returned to St. Alban’s. Since our daughter was in Sunday school, I again taught Sunday school.

My husband’s health began to deteriorate, and he was homebound. St. Alban’s did not have a full-time priest, we decided to visit St. Paul’s and got to know Father Andrew. He was so good to Kent, bringing him communion and just coming to visit with him. He went to a nursing home in 2016 and passed away in the hospital in June of 2018. Father Andrew was there with us when he passed away. I knew at that moment that we were right where we should be at St. Paul’s. Again, the many friends and church members were there to support and guide me with

decisions I never dreamed I'd have to make at that time. What I have now realized, that while I was busy living my life, I didn't notice just how the church was at the center of my life and has made me into the person I am today, feeling much better about coming out of my "comfort zone" and ready to do my best to serve as secretary to the vestry with help and guidance from Father Andrew, Kathy and Suzie.

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From the Vestry

George Busch – Buildings & Grounds

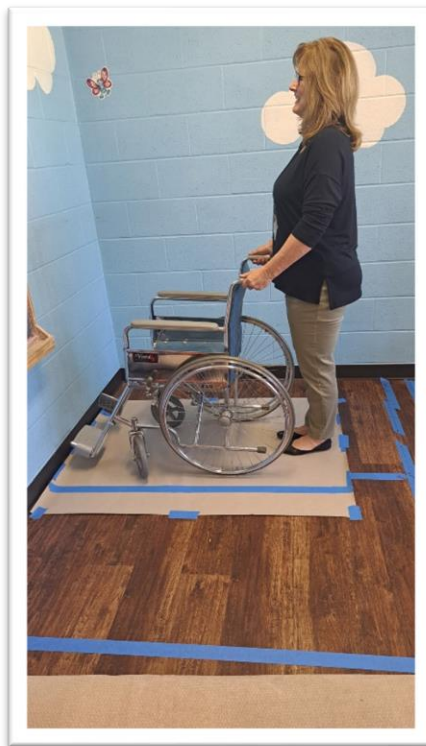
LIFT UP YOUR HEART'S UPDATE

The wheelchair lift project is moving right along. This is the latest update as of March 26th. We are going to have the lift in the location announced at the parish meeting, going from the nursery room to the classroom below. The total footprint is six feet by six feet for the outside perimeter of the enclosure.

Concrete block walls will be used due to fire code regulations. Both upstairs and down will enter from the hallway, which has automatic doors. Travel time between floors will be approximately 30 seconds. The inside car space will be 42 inches wide and 54 inches deep, with room for 2

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people or 1 person and a person in a wheelchair with a 750 lb. load limit. There is a layout on the floor in the nursery room if anyone wants to see it. The concrete floors in both locations have been x-rayed to show electrical conduits and rebar at a cost of \$750.



An architect was hired, completed drawings for the raceway, and applied for permits to build the structure, which cost \$5,000.00. We have a contractor, JC Mohr, and an electrician for the construction, which will start on or around May 21. The

lift unit was ordered from Executive Elevator, and the first down payment of 30%, \$15,800.00, was made to order the unit. They have also applied for permits to install the lift at Paul's. When the lift is ready for delivery, we will have to pay 50% more for the unit, leaving a 20% payment when we accept and approve the lift at completion, a total cost of \$51,800.00 for the lift and installation. Before construction begins, we will be required to make a down payment to JC Mohr for the shaft construction. I don't know what that will be yet. The total cost for the project is still going to be about \$140,000.00. To date, we have about \$97,000.00 in the account for the lift project. Two applications are being drawn up for grants from two different organizations. We still have a way to go to pay for this project, and the completion target is early August, prior to the preschool reopening. I will give you more updates on this journey so you will know where we are on the project. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to give me a call at 502-649-1088. Thank you.

From the Choirmaster

David Paul Gibson – Organist /Choirmaster

As I sit to write this brief note it is March 20th, the first day of spring. Celebrating the end of this long winter and looking ahead, two quotes come quickly to mind. The first, often heard in our neck of the woods: "Spring is sprung, the grass is riz, I wonder where the birdies is?", may be tongue in cheek but is certainly memorable! The second, more profound but less often heard, is by the Kurdish scholar Said Nursi: "In the spring, the dead trees, roots and animals come to life again exactly as they were, thus providing hundreds of thousands of examples, specimens, and proofs of the supreme resurrection."

Soon we will experience Easter Sunday, the proof of the "supreme resurrection," once again. On that joyous occasion we will celebrate the renewal and promise of hope for all that is and all that is to be. For as Basil Hume told us, "The great gift of Easter is hope." Certainly, I know of no way to say it better.

I would be remiss if I didn't take this opportunity to thank the members of our Music Ministry for their gift of music to our Lenten masses, our Choral Evensong, and as they prepare for Easter Sunday and

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the Easter season. What a gift they provide to our worship together and, certainly, they deserve many thanks.

As we move through this month of April, I wish each of you the hope and blessings of the season

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From the Preschool

Erin Dykes - Director

Happy April, St. Paul's Family!

As I write this article, we have just completed our annual "Morning with Mom" event. This year we turned the Preschool into a beautiful



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"Garden Party" complete with cascading wisteria and vibrant blooms on March 20th and 21st. Every mom received a specially-made bouquet, corsage, or flower crown as designed by their teachers. We enjoyed muffins and fresh fruit, and then the children and their moms decorated their hats for our Derby festivities yet to come in May.



We just released this year's order form for our annual Flower and Plant Sale Fundraiser in cooperation with Goodwin's Greenhouse of LaGrange. The plants from Goodwin's are always top quality and will perform in your flower or vegetable garden better than anything you'll get from one of the big box stores. You'll also be

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supporting two small, local businesses when you make your purchase! This is our largest fundraiser every year, and we appreciate your participation to continue supporting our Preschool. Order forms are available in the Narthex or Parish Office. I can also provide you with a copy via email; please request this by emailing Preschool@SPPLouisville.com.

Everyone at the Preschool is looking forward to taking a bit of a deep breath during Spring Break (March 31st through April 4th) so we can recharge and come back ready to close out 2024-2025. It's hard to believe this current year is almost a wrap! On our agenda for May: Derby Parades & Races, Family Field Days, and Pre-K Graduation! We also continue our annual, methodical preparations for the 2025-2026 school year. If you know someone looking for a preschool home, please encourage them to visit us and see why "Everyone Loves St. Paul's!"

I'd like to once again thank Glenda Blair and Nancy Skidmore for dedicating their time to visit with and read to our Pre-K and Three-Year-Old children every week. Glenda and Nancy come full of energy and enthusiasm, and the children LOVE their visits. Our teachers in those classes have come to me specifically praising Glenda and Nancy for the efforts

they are putting forth, and speaking to how much the children enjoy seeing them each week. I hear students saying, "Hello, Ms. Glenda!" in the hallway, and we have started addressing Nancy with her new student-given nickname, "Miss Fancy!" It means a great deal to the Preschool staff for these lovely ladies to be taking such an interest in our program and experiencing how wonderful it is to have a role in early childhood education. "Thank you!" to Glenda and Nancy!

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. 14)



We Learn

Sunday Adult Forum

Our Sunday adult forum began a new reading and discussion of *Misquoting Jesus—The Story Behind Who Changed the Bible and Why*. Join us from 9:00 A.M. -10:15 A.M. in the conference room.

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: 157,085 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 \$15,251.35 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.

2025 Spiritual Opportunities for Lent

Stations of the Cross each Friday at 6 PM at church through 4/18/2025. Personal stations on Good Friday.

The Labyrinth is available 24/7/365.

Wednesday, 4/2/2025 **5:30 PM** **Soup Supper** **Kathy Dawkins**
Program: Almsgiving

Almsgiving may seem as simple as giving money away, but what are the deeper roots of this Christian practice? In Scripture, we hear about the benefits of giving away our money and possessions. But what does it look like for us in the 21st century? In this episode, we'll explore how almsgiving helps us to trust God more and increases our love of our neighbor. What better time to start giving than in Lent, a season of renewal and repentance?

Wednesday, 4/9/2025 **5:30 PM** **Soup Supper** **Connie Sublett**
Program: Triduum: A Spiritual Pilgrimage

Triduum: A Spiritual Pilgrimage is a beautiful, 30-minute contemplative documentary. This film cinematically walks through the locations of the Holy Week story, re-presenting the most important days of human history. Immersed in the real and sacred places of the Holy Land, the pilgrim faithful is brought tangibly nearer to the story, the landscape, and the reality of the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Triduum draws Catholics and those with open hearts and minds to experience a deeper understanding of these events and places, and offers rich meditations for the pilgrimage of daily life. Now more than ever, as many of us are confined to our homes, journey along this spiritual pilgrimage and be drawn more deeply into the life and love of God.

HOLY WEEK

Monday in Holy Week	9:00 AM	Morning Prayer (Zoom link forthcoming)
Tuesday in Holy Week	6:00 PM	Compline (Zoom link forthcoming)
Wednesday in Holy Week	7:00 PM	TBD

The Paschal Triduum

Maundy Thursday, 4/17	5:30 PM	Agapé Supper (congregate in Parish Hall downstairs) Holy Eucharist, Foot Washing, Stripping of Altar, Garden of Repose
Good Friday, 4/18	12 Noon - 3 PM	“Death on a Friday Afternoon,” Holy Communion
Holy Saturday, 4/19	5:00 PM	Holy Eucharist
Easter Day, 4/20	8:00 AM 9:00 AM 10:30 AM	Holy Eucharist Adult Formation Choral Eucharist Flowering of the Cross

Please contact Kathy Dawkins (352-223-4734 or kathydawkins123@gmail.com) if you need transportation to any of these events. Let her know if you would like to help on one of the teams.

Please visit the church website for more information.

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 for each person by name every day.

Healing, Comfort, Relief, Protection, and Hope

Rona Bruce, Bill & Diana Motsch, Dena Rogers (Friends of Peggy Pryse), Carolyn (Grandmother to Angelina Duncan and Mother of Stephanie), Chola Davis, Jane Boles (Friends of Ann Ford), Family of Ethan & Marsha Reed (Friends of The Miner Family), Penne Wright (Sister of Suzie Aebersold), Carol Fitzpatrick, Ginny Hutchens (Friends of Becky Meyer), Jill Nief (Sister-in-law of Linda Snyder), Brody (Friend of Linda Snyder), Fr. Roger Walker, Bunny & Allen Parnell (Friends of Sue Benner, Donna & Al Smith), Chuck B. & Sandra P. (Friends of Cheryl Young), Sue Brotherton, 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, Jo Stuebe
Lorna Larson, Donna Coliz, Jane Delgado-Shadid, James & Mae Fleming

Anniversaries

Birthdays

Jill Berg (4/7), Mary Ellen Pinto (4/7), Mae Fleming (4/9), Linda Snyder (4/9), Rick Robbins (4/10), James Fleming (4/12), Emilie Doades (4/13), Connie Albrecht (4/15), Andy Graves (4/20), Cile Brooks (4/23), Barbara Johnson (4/26), Ruthe Holmberg (4/27)

Leadership

Senior Class ('26)

Kathy Dawkins
George Busch
Jason Solan

Senior Warden
Buildings and Grounds
Formation

Middler Class ('27)

Suzie Aebersold
Pam Dickmann
Tom Yurt

Junior Warden
Worship
Stewardship

Junior Class ('28)

Connie Sublett
Ruth Ellen Flint
Cheryl Young
DMLO Firm

Secretary
Outreach
Fellowship
Treasurer/Accountant

Robyn Fischer
David Paul Gibson
Erin Dykes

Parish Administrator
Organist - Choir Master
Director of Preschool

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

Deacon
Associate
Rector
Bishop of Kentucky

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Return Service Requested