

August 2025

# The Good News

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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

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*Fr. Andrew, Rector*

**B**eloved,  
It's a special month for you and me because August 2025 marks the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II. I have said it many times that there is no way you and I could have come together to break bread, like we enjoy it today, 80 years ago when we were once enemies, whom we had judged, distrusted, mocked, despised, and harmed. The fact that the church called me to serve as your pastor eleven years

ago, and we grew deeper together through various services in Jesus' name, is a testament to Christian love and reconciliation. Such a realization makes me greatly appreciate the history and the closer relationship that is made possible by the people who courageously chose love over perpetuating prejudice, hatred, and bigotry, striving towards healing the wounds between the two nations to bring peace on which we stand today.

Naturally, I grew up watching movies and documentary films on WWII during my first twenty years in Japan; there were popular comic books about a resilient lost boy who survived the aftermath of the atomic bombs. I even saw the shadows of humans burned onto many concrete surfaces all over the city when I visited Peace Memorial Park in Hiroshima on a school trip. However, I must admit that World War II was still an event from a distant past in the history textbook, rather than in my lived experience. I was not mature enough to fully grasp its actual relevance to my life. Pearl Harbor only appeared in a tiny paragraph that could have been easily missed if not paying close attention.

It was only after I came to the United States that I started connecting the dots. Not only did I learn about the significance of Pearl Harbor and the subsequent Japanese internment camps, but also how history continues to live in us. Until I met you at St. Paul's, peace was assumed, and war happened somewhere far, far away from me. I took for granted the peace, which was hard-earned by many people before me. The more I learned about you and your family's war history, the more profoundly I realized how much of a chance you took as Christians in calling me

to be your pastor. Equally, I feel a deep debt of gratitude to my parents and their courage in allowing me to leave Japan for the United States thirty years ago. I don't think I could do it if I had a child. As Beau can testify, I am way too clingy to accept such a separation; I'd make a top-notch helicopter parent.

With that said, we are the products of somebody's courageous acts of faith, hope, and love. While the Peace of God is with us always, it is up to us to foster and share it by being the hands of Christ. Thus, we must make a deliberate choice each day to live into the Peace of God. Choosing love over justifying hatred takes effort, but it is not impossible, as history reminds us. Loving God and one another as Christ loved us is far more challenging than we imagine, but it is possible. Dorothy Day said it best: "I really only love God as much as I love the person I love the least." True Christian love for God is expressed through acts of service, hospitality, and compassion towards others, especially those we love the least. We must carry forth God's love story and not end it with us. We will pay it forward by keeping the light of faith, hope, and love lit in this troubling world we live in. You take a crucial role in achieving this.

May we always remember the cost of hard-earned peace and the responsibility that comes with the freedom we enjoy today, and be courageous to challenge prejudice, hatred, and bigotry we each hold within. As the full beneficiaries of God's Peace, let us share it freely and generously with one another without allowing malice to turn us into another bitter fruit. It's August, a time for a fresh start, a time to renew our commitment to peace, reconciliation, and love. We have lots to do, but with God's grace, we can do it.

With Love and Gratitude,

Fr. Andrew



## From the Deacon

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**Pete Womack – Deacon**

I have started to read the book [The Bible Says So](#) by Dan McClellan in preparation for this fall's book study starting in September. McClellan holds degrees in Near Eastern and in Biblical studies, and he has a notable presence on social media. He answers questions and rebuts false claims about religion and scripture from his and other's research. His tagline is "Data over dogma." He's my kind of guy.

The book is a really interesting read with the author's speaking and writing styles definitely from the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. He sprinkles references to songs, movies, and television shows from the past 20 years or so, expecting you to know exactly what he's referring to. McClellan is what I would call an anti-academic, someone who knows his subject deeply and well, but presents it in a common language that is accessible to everyone. Each chapter of his book explains a widely believed truth or myth and why it is or isn't supported by scripture.

As I have read the book, it occurred to me that there are two experiences of Christianity that we have. The first is denominational, where we learn and live what the Episcopal Church understands is true about God, Jesus, and us, based on our tradition of interpreting scripture. The second is cultural, where our theology forms the basis of our lives, values, and relationships. For instance, [1 Timothy 5:23](#) mentions that drinking a little wine is acceptable, which our denomination interprets as drinking alcohol in moderation is ok. However, the Southern Baptist churches, as an example, think drinking is sinful, emphasizing [Luke 21:34](#). Southern Baptist and other evangelical churches expect a part of personal

salvation to come when someone responds to an altar call and publicly confesses that Jesus is their personal savior. In the modern Anglican tradition in the US church, baptism has been the sign of salvation won for us on the cross, once and for all.

We have often seen these differences as theological distinctions between denominations, but they are also important to us in our daily lives. We may give the response "...And also with you" automatically to a greeting. We all are familiar with the image of St. Peter at the gates of Heaven, letting in the "good" people, even though that appears nowhere in scripture. God has been depicted as an old man with long, white flowing hair in cartoons (Gary Larson's *The Far Side* comes to mind). These are examples of faith influencing culture, and they are a shorthand means of referring to our deeper faith in daily life.

I have found it helpful to view other Christians and their faith-based moral and political views as a part of their culture, in addition to their theology, to help me understand their priorities and desires. Reading McClellan's book has also reminded me of the distinction between my own faith and my Christian culture. It is

important for us to understand that distinction and not confuse popular culture with our deeply held beliefs and morals. If we don't, it becomes easy to be personally offended by an otherwise innocent cultural reference to Christian themes.



## From the Vestry

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### Tom Yurt – Stewardship

I once heard someone say, "Do what makes your heart sing!" This has stuck with me throughout my years, especially as it applies to my spiritual life. My spiritual life has not been an easy road but has strengthened over the years. It now involves a commitment driven by an act of serving, giving, and reflection, which helps to enhance my relationship with Christ. *Commitment* means something different for all of us. Personal obligations, in this busy world, can tend to steer us in every direction, amongst daily routines of taking care of our family, time with friends, employment, and service work. With this, we can feel deprived of our time to focus on our spiritual life. I have found the tranquil time spent in the early morning hours while sipping coffee and reading devotionals, help jump start the day.

Setting aside time to pray and reflect, sounds simple but can be hard in this remarkably strenuous world. It is important for me to keep in mind that as I become more reflective on my spiritual life, my relationship with Christ becomes more dependent.

Most of my years have been in the field of healthcare-serving seniors through leadership roles, mentoring, and project management. I believe the multitude of my experiences have helped pave a road to a life of service and compassion for others, way beyond my day to day. Remembering the time during COVID represented one of the most challenging periods, when social isolation and a sense of loneliness consumed us in many ways. My spiritual life was certainly re-directed and re-defined. Each week, through this trying time, I witnessed a commitment of generosity and loving attitudes shared by so many. The community of St. Paul's exemplified a dedication to service through the upkeep of the physical structure of the church, tender loving care of the grounds, providing food to the needy, and building a bridge with the community. It was amazing to witness God's hands at work through so many individuals.

Presently, as my own faith journey strengthens, my heart *sings* even louder. My

faith continues to evolve and is shared by my wife and children. Keeping Christ-centered is my goal. No matter how you connect or how you serve Christ, the church, or the community, please be sure to always "Do what makes your heart sing!"

## **From the Organist - Choirmaster**

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**David Paul Gibson – Organist - Choirmaster**

**T**his brief note is being written on the afternoon of Sunday, July 20<sup>th</sup>. This morning at mass our choir sang - beautifully - the stunning arrangement of JESUS LOVES ME by Bradley Phillips. We dedicated this piece to the memory of the children lost in the Texas flooding. I believe we were all moved, not by its musical complexities, but by the simplicities of the text.

Such simple words: "Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so." Words that most all of us have known since childhood, and words that have stood the test of time. That being said, however, I wonder how many of us can truly accept the words, "we are loved." After all, we live in a world of words, words, words. We cannot escape them. Words that are so often mean spirited, maudlin, or downright

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lies. Words that hurt, words that malign, or words that discourage. Perhaps we need to shut it all off and take a break from the words.

If I had to summarize my personal Christian beliefs, it would be with that very phrase – “Jesus loves me.” Sixty-plus years of listening to the Bible being explained and interpreted in sermons, Bible studies, and theological critiques, and I still return to “Jesus loves me,” I am loved. We are all

## SPREAD THE GOOD NEWS

loved, by our God, by our family and friends, and by the members of our church community. I am loved. Such a child-like thought, but one we can all understand and cling to.

So when you are exhausted by the rhetoric, practice silence and remember the truly important words: “Jesus loves me,” I am loved.

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## Pray, Learn, Serve, and Rejoice at St. Paul's

### *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. (pgs. 9-10)



### *We Learn*

#### **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.



## THE BIBLE SAYS SO!

The Bible Says There Is Only One God.

What are your thoughts? Join with fellow searchers who are walking similar faith journeys.

Read on:

### SUNDAY ADULT FORMATION GROUP -- beginning September 7 – 9:00 – 10:15

We have concluded our reading and discussion of “How We Learn to be Brave” by Bishop Budde. Beginning July 1, the group will be on “vacation” *until the first Sunday after Labor Day, September 7, 9:00 AM.* We have chosen a newly released book by Dan McClellan, Ph.D. (4/25) titled: **The Bible Says So: What We Get Right (and Wrong) About Scripture’s Most Controversial Issues.**

The Bible is the world’s most influential book, but do we really know what it says? Every day across social media and in homes, businesses, and public spaces, people try to cut debate short by claiming that “the Bible says so!” However, they commonly disagree about what it actually does and doesn’t say, particularly when it comes to socially significant issues. For instance, does the Bible say we should be on the lookout for an antichrist associated with the number 666? Does it say women shouldn’t wear revealing clothing? Does it say it’s okay to hit your kids?

**Dan McClellan** is an award-winning public scholar of the Bible. He has over one million followers on social media, and tens of thousands more tune in to his online classes and his **Data Over Dogma** Podcast. Dan received his PhD from the University of Exeter. He worked previously as a scripture translation supervisor for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and is currently an honorary fellow at Birmingham University's Cadbury Centre for the Public Understanding of Religion. (Amazon)

No registration is required; we will meet at 9:00 AM – 10:15 AM in the first-floor conference room each Sunday beginning September 7, 2025. Participants are encouraged to read the introduction and Chapter 1 prior to group. Your favorite bookstore or Amazon is the place to find this book.





## ***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: 166,339 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 \$16,013.35 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.



## Prayers and Thanksgivings

*Please contact the office to include names on the prayer list by the 15<sup>th</sup> 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**

John & Wanda Wiegand, Caleb Dykes (Son of Erin Dykes), Eleyesse Mattingly (Friend of David & Kathy Dawkins), Josh Parker (Family of Mae Fleming), Jane Ecker (Friend of Donna Smith), Andy Lowe (Friend of Donna & Al Smith), Paige Pryse (Daughter of Peggy Pryse), Dana Scriber (Daughter of Theresa Myers), Becky (Cousin of Andy Phillips), Jane Delgado-Shadid, Becky Hurst (Friend of Ellie Stump), Family of Bill Dibble (Daughter-in-law's family of Ellie Stump), Philip & Cheryl (Brother of Fr. Roger), Carolyn Johnson (Mother of Stephanie, Grandmother of Angelina), Maureen & Joe Solan (Parents of Jason Solan), Judy (Friend of Kitty Riney), Andy & Pam Phillips, Carol Schusterman, David Dawkins, Beth Beckham (Neighbor of Fr. Andrew & Fr. Roger), Jeanne & Jerry Powell, Matthew (Friend of Fr. Andrew), Will Bearden (Friend of Robyn Fischer), Evan Hayen (Friend of Ann Ford), Andy & Ann Norman (Friends of Mae & James Fleming), Paul Given (Brother-in-Law of Nancy Northrop), Family of Emily Edelen, Family of Jerry Nazarro, Marsha Reed (Friends of Cindy Miner), Dena Rogers, Bill & Diana Motch, Rebecca Rupp (Friends of Peggy Pryse)

### **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, Jeanne Powell

### 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), 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)



The flyer features a green background on the left and a white background on the right. At the top center is the St. Paul's Preschool logo, which includes a tree with letters A, B, C and numbers 1, 2, 3, and the text "Come grow with us!". Below the logo, the text "2025-2026 PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION" is prominently displayed. To the right, a circular photo shows a young child with curly hair and glasses. In the top right corner, three red plus signs are arranged vertically. A red speech bubble with the text "Now Enrolling!" is positioned near the child's photo. At the bottom left, contact information is provided: a phone icon followed by the number 502.491.7418, and an email icon followed by the address PRESCHOOL@SPPLouisville.com. A stylized rainbow is visible in the bottom right corner.

Come grow with us!

St. Paul's Preschool

2025-2026  
**PRESCHOOL  
REGISTRATION**

Call or e-mail today to  
schedule a tour of our  
private, play-based program.

Classes for twos, threes, and  
fours!

**Now  
Enrolling!**

502.491.7418

PRESCHOOL@SPPLouisville.com

## **Capital Campaign: LIFT**

Crews from several companies have merged upon the church building this summer to install the new LIFT. They have been cutting holes in floors, ceilings, laying cement blocks, drywalling, painting, laying new flooring and installing the LIFT components. It has been dirty, dusty, noisy and busy!

We are hitting the homestretch as the last bits of work is completed to make the LIFT functional.

We have hit our fundraising goal of \$150,000 + and pledges are still expected to arrive in the coming weeks.

Look for future information regarding the “First Inaugural Lift Run” coming from Fr. Andrew!





## Leadership

### **Senior Class ('26)**

Kathy Dawkins  
George Busch  
Jason Solan

Senior Warden  
Buildings and Grounds  
Formation

### **Middler Class ('27)**

Suzie Aebersold  
Meg Mrozowski  
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  
The Rev. Andrew Shiota  
The Rt. Rev. Terry White

Deacon  
Priest Associate  
Rector  
Bishop of Kentucky

Email  
Web  
Facebook  
QR Code to Church Website

Fr.Shiota@gmail.com  
www.stpaulslouisville.com  
St. Paul's Episcopal, Louisville, KY





4700 Lowe Road  
Louisville, KY 40220

***Return Service Requested***