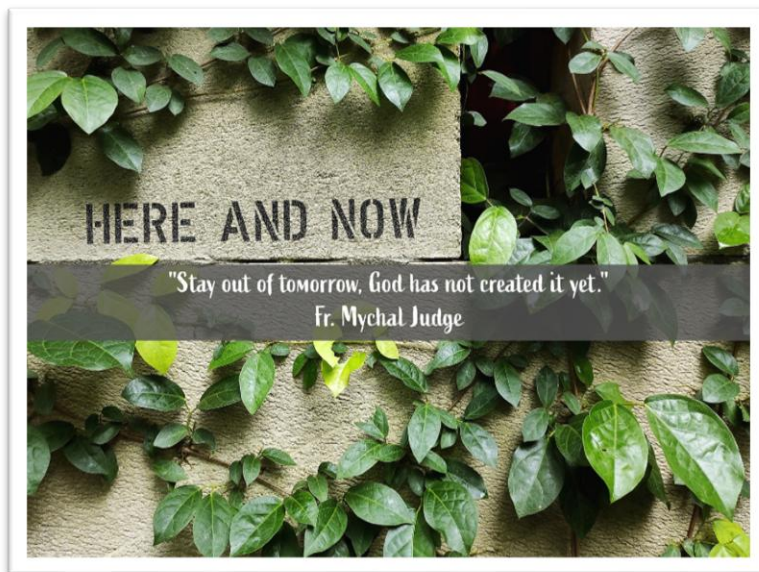


November 2025

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,

November is a month full of holy disorientation. As the air cools and the trees shed their leaves, the church too approaches the end of its liturgical year – a season when endings and beginnings overlap. I invite you to take a couple of deep breaths and pause for a moment to sit in the presence of God.

What has been different about your life today from the same time last year? What is heavy on your mind today about the future? As you find yourself in the present moment, how are you holding a tension between the past and the future?

We yearn for the melancholic past, while stressing out about what lies ahead – the unknown future. Being stuck between *what was* and *what will be*, we rarely pay close attention to *what is* – the present, which is

in our possession and familiar to us.

We often take the present from God for granted because we are too busy juggling too many things to get by. We let the noise of life bulldoze us, sometimes using it as a scapegoat so that we won't have to confront what matters in that present moment. I, too, often found myself in that moment back when I was your interim pastor. I yearned for the good old times and felt anxious about what lay ahead. I kept asking, 'Where is God calling me next?' I must have tired Fr. Don's ears because he eventually told me, "Well, Fr. Andrew, I wish I could give you an answer, but I know one thing: God has called you to be here right now. So why don't we focus on now and pray about what He would have us do, NOW?" Even though I quietly listened to his wise advice, boy, did I feel like a spoiled brat, squatting on the floor, throwing a temper tantrum, screaming "Mmmmm NO!" in front of him. The denial in me kept blaming all the wrongs in the world, and I rarely paid attention to what I could do to sit still and listen to what God had to tell me.

Why is it so difficult to live in the moment? Let me rephrase it: why do we fill our minds with trivial worries? Or, why do we pretend everything is fine when we know it is not fine at all? Perhaps the real

question is this: why is it so hard to allow God to see what is truly in our hearts? Are we that ashamed of our vulnerability?

Vulnerability is a window through which God enters into our souls. When we stop pretending to be tough and let God see our vulnerable selves, He meets us there—in the cracks of our spiritual barriers—washing away the past and grounding us in the present. That is what repentance truly is. And from that repentance grows genuine Thanksgiving—not a holiday sentiment, but a way of living in the sacred in-between. Best of all, we don't have to go through it alone.

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."
Matthew 11:28-30

I wish you a prayerful
Thanksgiving.
With Love,
Fr. Andrew



From the Deacon

Pete Womack – Deacon

Following up on the Parish Council meeting on October 19, 2025, I wanted to share some thoughts on a sacramental view of caregiving I have developed. Taking care of someone else is a huge responsibility and likely the center of a caregiver's life, whether it is a parent raising a disabled child, an adult child taking care of a parent, or an adult caring for another person of any age. The caregiver does what the other person cannot do because of their disability, becoming the hands, feet, voice, and sometimes the ability to reason and make decisions. This role is reflected in the New Testament, where Paul writes in 1Corinthians 12:14-31 that Christians become the body of Christ in their spiritual life. To become the body of Christ is sacred, solemn, joyous, fulfilling, and petrifying. The caregiving experience is also sacred, solemn, and joyous as caregivers use their mind and body to do what the care recipient cannot do. This does not detract, however, from the difficulty and burden of the caregiver, and it is to caregivers that we need to focus on as much as the care receiver.

As any caregiver will admit, providing care, whether it is pastoral, physical, or medical can be draining. It is a sacred trust placed, where the faith in which ministry is carried out is the same faith that a caregiver acts on when taking care of someone else. Because so much time and attention are given to the care recipient, it is easy to overlook or put off the needs of the caregiver that can eventually lead to burnout. The caregiver has needs that, while different, are just as important as the needs of those being cared for. Respite, renewal and community support are vitally important to maintaining the emotional, spiritual and physical health of the caregiver. The caregiver cannot allow the burden of caregiving to eclipse the motivation for caregiving, or the way in which it needs to be performed.

Caregiving relationships can have symbols that may be in the form of a daily or weekly routine, verbal exchanges, such as greetings, or objects used to perform certain activities. These symbols reflect the loving, committed human relationship between caregiver and recipient. Caregiving can also become similar to worship in the way it is performed. Unconditional love is expressed during the activities of caregiving. Words spoken during caregiving processes take on the role of

prayer: giving thanks, expressing love and joy, admitting mistakes and asking for forgiveness, renewal of dedication, recognizing the needs of the recipient and others, and asking for help.

Long- or short-term caregiving can be supported by viewing the act of caregiving like a worship service that uses objects and words as sacraments to carry out particular forms of activities in a prayer-like way. It is a ministry of the real and the present moment, one that recognizes the truth of the recipient's condition and preserves their dignity through compassion. It is an affirmation of the grace and humanity of both caregiver and recipient and protects their relationship from being disturbed by destructive thoughts and actions. It is a continuation of Christ's ministry on Earth.



From the Vestry

Jason Solan – Formation

Since becoming a member of St. Paul's in 2006 I had been approached a few times about joining the vestry. As my insides recoiled in fear I would quickly try to think of the best two or three reasons why I would not be a good choice - a job with a crazy

unpredictable schedule and two very young children seemed like pretty good reasons and they worked just fine to buy me a few more years.

In January 2023 Father Andrew approached me about joining the vestry. A then current member, or, Warden needed to resign for health reasons, and it would only be a two-year term to fill this outgoing commission. After almost twenty years it finally felt like the right time. So, after some thought, I accepted Father's nomination and was sworn in to a two-year term. A year later another warden needed to resign, and my two-year term turned into three. There I was, a full-fledged three year vestry warden - what a title!

Three years later I learned an awful lot about the operation of this wonderful place. I privately and, mostly jokingly, call myself The World's Worst Vestry Member Ever. I've never been the most organized individual, I still struggle with the time commitments and keeping my meeting notes straight, and my eyes glaze over when I pore over seemingly endless lines of budget data. But you know what? There are nine of us in total plus Father Andrew and we all bring an amazing set of skills to the table. What seems like a herculean task seems almost effortless when we all put our heads and our hearts together for the

good of this parish and I am so proud and honored to have shared the last three years with all of our past and current vestry wardens.

There are two other members in this year's Senior Warden "class." George Bush oversees Buildings and Grounds. George knows every loose nail in the building. He knows every leaky or creaky pipe and seems to have an almost supernatural intuition about things that need to be checked before they stop working. In two years, he has gotten our boiler replaced and had an elevator installed in addition to about three-hundred other things that you would never notice because he just does them.

We are also blessed to have Kathy Dawkins as our Senior Warden. Kathy is one of the most organized people I have ever worked with. She is also incredibly smart and intuitive. She takes on everything and anything that comes her way; she gets it done the right way and she never complains. She makes us all look good, and we are all blessed to have her.

But there are six other wardens on our vestry, and we are blessed to have them as well.

We all received a call to join this vestry and, most likely, we all had some trepidation about accepting that call. We all

answered that call and work very hard to keep this parish running alive and well. Each with our own unique talents and gifts, we all work hard when things need to get done not for ourselves, but for a much higher calling.

If you are reading this there is a good chance that you have been called to serve on the vestry in the past, but, declined for whatever reasons. There is also a very good chance that you will be asked again and maybe, one day you will answer that call. It may seem daunting at first but know this - you will not be alone. The Lord works in mysterious ways, right? He also has a purpose for each of us, and it is my belief that when you serve on the vestry you do so, ultimately, because He has called on you just as He has called on your other fellow wardens.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve on the St. Paul's Vestry, and I want you to know that if and when YOU are called to serve, you will not be alone and you...no, we, will be in good hands.



From the Organist - Choirmaster

David Paul Gibson – Organist - Choirmaster

As November's crisp, rustling leaves surrender to cool autumn breezes and whirl away in all directions, we are reminded that 'for everything there is a season.' — Peggy Toney Horton, *Unseen Angels*. The "season" of November brings not only cool breezes but also a sense of thankfulness. It is a time of reflection before the busyness of the holidays arrives.

As I contemplate my own thankfulness, I must include the good people of St. Paul's. It has been a wonderful year of sharing music with you, and I have valued each Sunday we have gathered for worship. I cannot thank enough the members of our choir and schola, and Frank at the organ, for their contributions. With the support of Fr. Andrew and Robyn, my work is a pleasure, and I look forward to what our next year together will bring.

Please let me take this opportunity to invite each of you to a special service of Advent Lessons and Carols on Sunday afternoon, November 30th at 3:00pm in the church. November 30th is the first Sunday of Advent, and the service will focus on moving from darkness to light. Our choir

and schola, and special guest organist Theresa Bauer from St. Paul's Episcopal in New Albany, will join forces to lead us through the service. I hope that each of you will plan to attend this sixty-minute service of music, scripture, and prayer.

As we gather for worship this month, let us approach mass with thanksgiving, and take a moment to consider the many blessings of our St. Paul's community.



From the Preschool

Erin Dykes - Director

Happy November, St. Paul's Families, **A**s I write this article we are experiencing our first day that actually feels like "Fall" at the Preschool. The air conditioner is off, the boiler is on, and we're preparing for all of our fun activities and events to wrap up 2025.

We are about one week away from Halloween and "All About the Boo!" at the time of this writing. As always, our students' parents and guardians have stepped up big to donate treats and trinkets to hand out during our trick-or-treat parade. We also have 20+ parents/guardians and other family

members signed up to come in costume and hand out those goodies on Thursday, 10/30 and Friday, 10/31/. Our Pumpkin Patch will take place outside during the last week of October (weather-permitting). With the change to our building footprint after the installation of the lift, we had to get a little creative this year storing those 65+ pie pumpkins until we create our patch.

We are excited that Fancy Nancy will be joining us again as a Wednesday snack-time reader to our Threes classes. Her enthusiasm last school year quickly won over our students, and I can't wait to see this year's fresh crop of Threes enjoy their time with her in the same way. If any other church members are interested in coming to read to our students, please reach out to Fr. Andrew to start that process. We would love to welcome you.

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, and we will be taking delivery of our order on Monday, December 1st. 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!

Feel free to mark your calendars for our annual Christmas Concerts. If you'd like to attend, we have two shows to choose from: Thursday, December 18th and Friday, December 19th. Our goal is to start each concert at 9:20 AM. We'd love to share the Preschoolers' "Christmas Spirit" with you!





Join Us for

BIBLE STUDY

Discover the Gospel of Matthew: A 5-Week Journey

As the Church prepares to enter Lectionary Year A—the year of Matthew’s Gospel—we’ll spend five weeks exploring this rich, inspiring story of Jesus’ life and teaching. Matthew invites us to see how God’s Kingdom takes root among us through faith, mercy, and discipleship.

Join us for a Thursday evening Bible study beginning October 30 at 6 PM. Each one-hour session includes time for reading, reflection, and open conversation. Come as you are—no prior experience needed!

Weekly Themes:

Week 1, Oct. 30th: God With Us – The Beginning of the Good News

Week 2, Nov. 6th: The Kingdom Manifested – Teachings on the Mount

Week 3, Nov. 13th: The Kingdom in Action – Miracles and Mission

Week 4, Nov. 20th: The Kingdom in Parables – Hearing and Understanding

Week 5, Dec. 4th: The Kingdom Fulfilled – The Cross and the Great Commission

Bring your Bible, your curiosity, and maybe a friend or two as we prepare our hearts for a new year centered on the words and witness of Jesus in Matthew’s Gospel.



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. (pg. 14)



We Learn

Ecclesiastical Bits & Bytes

Technology and Theology with Fr. Andrew

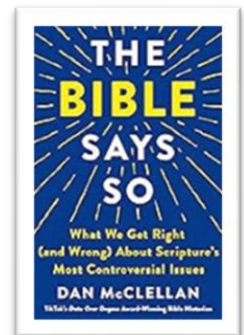
Are you feeling intimidated with your computer, tablet, and smartphones? Are you frustrated with virtual meetings? Greetings, favored one. Do not be afraid for the Lord is with us. Contact the office to set up an appointment.



Adult Formation

The Bible Says So!

No registration is required; we will meet at 9:00 AM – 10:15 AM each Sunday morning in the first-floor conference room each Sunday. Your favorite bookstore or Amazon is the place to find this book.



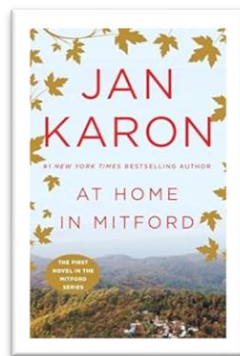
Wednesday Book Club

At Home in Mitford, by Jan Karon

11:00 AM - 12:30 PM Conference Room

Enter the world of Mitford, and you won't want to leave.

It's easy to feel at home in Mitford. In these high, green hills, the air is pure, the village is charming, and the people are generally lovable.



Yet, Father Tim, the bachelor rector, wants something more. Enter a dog the size of a sofa who moves in and won't go away. Add an attractive neighbor who begins wearing a path through the hedge. Now, stir in a lovable but unloved boy, a mystifying jewel theft, and a secret that's sixty years old.

Suddenly, Father Tim gets more than he bargained for. And readers get a rich, provincial comedy in which mysteries and miracles abound.

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: 174,200 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 \$17,103.35 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.



COMMITMENT

Sunday

NOVEMBER 16, 2025

A Thanksgiving luncheon will be held in the Parish Hall after the 10:30 AM liturgy. The 8:00 AM service will not be held on this day.

WE'D LIKE YOU TO BRING THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

LAST NAMES A - D - DESSERTS

LAST NAMES E - K - SALADS

LAST NAMES L - Z - SIDES

THE CHURCH WILL PROVIDE THE MAIN COURSE / DRINKS.



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

Donna Pigram, Mark Fischer (Husband of Robyn Fischer), Lance Nelson, Dale Miner, Pat Weaver (Sister of Dale Miner), Angelina & Stephanie, Vicki & Gary Kurk, Barlow Brooks (Brother of Bill Brooks), Barbara & Alan Johnson, Susan Johnson, Lisa Johnson, Milton (Friends & Family of Barbara & Alan Johnson), Pam Dickmann, Jim Latimer, Nancy Northrop, Family of John & Wanda Wiegand, Sheri Hamilton & Megan Pazarro (Friends of Betty Waddell), Rick Robbins, Lauren Marshall & Linda Milholen (Friends & family of Pam Dickmann), Shelby (Granddaughter of Margaret Dickinson), Yoshi & Matthew (Friends of Fr. Andrew), Ken, Mary Jane & Alan (Friends of Nancy Skidmore), Steve & Mary Combs, (Friends of Cindy Miner), Jeannie & Tony Guffy (Parents of Cheryl Young), Caleb Dykes (Son of Erin Dykes), Andy Lowe (Friend of Donna & Al Smith), Philip & Cheryl (Brother of Fr. Roger), Maureen & Joe Solan (Parents of Jason Solan)

Serving in the Military

2nd Lt. Kyle Sears (Grandson of Arlene Buckner), Christopher Neal (Son-in-law of Monica Bell), Anthony Polio (Grandson 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), Jack Holzknecht (Grandson of Joan Holzknecht)

Homebound

Betty Reed, Mary Ellen Pinto, Mary Langseth, Jo Stuebe, Lorna Larson, 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), 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), Janet Cull (11/25)

Leadership

Senior Class ('26)

Kathy Dawkins	Senior Warden
George Busch	Buildings and Grounds
Jason Solan	Formation

Middler Class ('27)

Suzie Aebersold	Junior Warden
Meg Mrozowski	Worship
Tom Yurt	Stewardship

Junior Class ('28)

Connie Sublett	Secretary
Ruth Ellen Flint	Outreach
Cheryl Young	Fellowship
DMLO Firm	Treasurer/Accountant

Robyn Fischer	Parish Administrator
David Paul Gibson	Organist - Choir Master
Erin Dykes	Director of Preschool

The Rev. Pete Womack	Deacon
The Rev. Roger Walker	Priest Associate
The Rev. Andrew Shiota	Rector
The Rt. Rev. Terry White	Bishop of Kentucky

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Facebook	St. Paul's Episcopal, Louisville, KY
QR Code to Church Website	



November 2025

SPREAD THE GOOD NEWS



4700 Lowe Road
Louisville, KY 40220

Return Service Requested