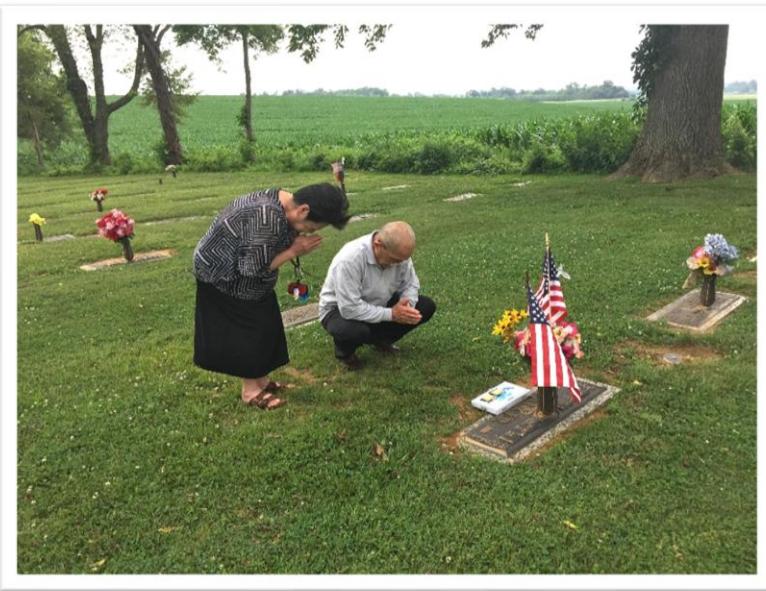


February 2026

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,

Do you see an empty spot next to mine?" (Pause) "You can take that spot, if you want."

It was the most touching way anyone has ever proposed to me.

Six years before I started serving at St. Paul's, I took a long drive to

Henderson, Kentucky, with then-seminarian Fr. Roger. It took about six long hours in a tiny Honda Civic. I was ready to get out of the car and be comfortable, but Fr. Roger had another plan. He narrated his life story as we slowly passed his childhood home, elementary school, favorite burger joint, church, and, eventually, his family

cemetery. Let's just say we got to know each other very well on that trip.

His proposal—of shared roots, shared rest, and shared belonging—filled a long-standing void in my life, like finding a missing puzzle piece after years of searching. As the second immigrant in my family, I had often wondered about my future away from my family of origin. Would I stay in this country or go back? Would I have a family of my own? Who would be around when I die? Comparing my life with Uncle George's—the first immigrant who left everything behind to make it in the United States—these questions lingered quietly in my heart.

“So, this is where my body will rest when I die,” I said to myself. Fr. Roger's invitation was a reassuring, visual confirmation of my final resting place—next to his. The pappus—the tiny seed carried by the wind—no longer drifts aimlessly; it can finally land, grow roots, and build a strong foundation. Foundations and roots both speak to what holds us steady and allows faith to grow.

That moment helped me understand, in my bones, what Jesus means when he speaks of good soil. In the Parable of the Sower (Matthew 13), Jesus teaches that faith grows best when it is rooted in good soil. As we welcome

February, we have many opportunities to reflect on the foundation of our faith. On February 15, Bishop White will be with us to confirm, receive, or affirm the belief of Teresa, Ann, Marilyn, Marsha, Collin, Joe, Mary Dele, and David. Their decision to commit to Christ is a fruit of your gentle and loving invitation here at St. Paul's, and a testimony to your faithful work in nurturing spiritual roots. If you feel called to commit to Christ that day as well, please let me know. I request all of you to be present to witness their public commitment of faith.

What follows the bishop's visitation is Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday—the beginning of Lent. During these forty days, we are invited to return to the foundation of our faith: earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust. Lent reminds us that we are dust, and to dust we shall return. In humility, we dedicate our lives anew to following Jesus, becoming faithful stewards of a foundation grounded in God's love.

As for me, I will travel to Seattle from February 4 to 11 to visit old friends who helped me not give up hope during a spiritual wilderness in my younger years. They offered me a firm foundation and planted seeds of hope that eventually led me to faith in Jesus Christ. I am grateful

to Deacon Pete for officiating Morning Prayer on Sunday during my absence.

As you enter February, I leave you with a few questions: Who helped cultivate your spiritual foundation? What have you done—or what can you do—to keep enriching that foundation, so that you may be a good steward of God's love? Faithfully,
Fr. Andrew



From the Deacon

Pete Womack – Deacon

There is a part of the history of the Episcopal Church that is not often mentioned, and that is that there were no clergy in the Church from July, 1776 to August, 1785. The reason was because the ordination rites of the Church of England at the time required that clergy swear allegiance to the English monarch as head of the Church in England and in the American colonies. When the U.S. declared its independence from England, all clergy left, either for Canada or England. In 1785, Bishop Samuel Seabury returned to America to begin consecrating deacons, priests, and eventually, bishops. But in those 9 years, the Episcopal Church remained alive and services were

held without clergy.

The primary service in the Episcopal Church during those years was Morning Prayer, which had been intended to be led by lay people or clergy since the 1600s as part of private or public daily prayer. Morning Prayer is the first of the 4 Daily Offices (or liturgy), the other 3 being noon prayer, Evening Prayer, and Compline, and they were written to be lay-led services as well. Once the American Church had Clergy, this practice of Morning Prayer being the principal Sunday worship continued until the end of the 1970s. Since then, the Eucharist has been the primary service, moving Morning Prayer to a personal or supplementary devotion on other days of the week. This may change as there are fewer priests coming out of seminaries than priests retiring, resulting in fewer priests available to celebrate the Eucharist. More importantly, reciting Morning Prayer has been a means of gathering the congregation when a parish has no prospects of hiring a priest. Former members of St. Alban's can tell you about how lay-lead Morning Prayer kept them together until they decided to merge with St. Paul's.

Morning Prayer has all the same elements as ante-Communion (i.e., everything up to

the Offertory in the Eucharist), but in a different order. There are also additional prayers not found in ante-Communion. The Morning Prayer service starts with an opening quote from scripture and moves immediately into the Confession and Absolution. After that there is a Psalm, and 2-3 scriptural readings, one of them being the Gospel. Between readings are canticles, also taken from scripture as a form of response to the readings. A sermon may follow the Gospel reading, and then the Apostle's Creed is recited as our reaffirmation of faith. A series of prayers follows, with time for intercessory prayers, too. Finally, the Great Thanksgiving is said, followed by closing the service with a final prayer that assures us of our prayers being heard by God, and then dismissal. Music can also be part of the service much like it is for ante-Communion, and sometimes the canticles are sung.

Despite being a shorter service than the Eucharist, there is still an encounter with the Holy Spirit through song, scripture, and prayer. Rather than receiving the sacraments as the height of worship, the gathering of the body of the faithful is the height of Morning Prayer worship. The rhythm of the service is different, but it is fulfilling in its own way.

In the future when Fr. Andrew is not present to preside over the Eucharist, Morning Prayer will likely be held instead. This is a tradition worth reviving as the Church experiences changes in how it brings the word of God and fellowship in Jesus into the world.



From the Vestry

Suzie Aebersold – Sr. Warden

Two years go by so quickly. Those of us over sixty-five know what I mean. When I joined the Vestry, I thought it would be a long time before my turn as Senior Warden. It has been like a blink of an eye.

Thinking about starting this my last year on the Vestry, I am reminded of things I do when starting a new project. Whether it is a new sewing project, a new cross-stitch pattern or a project for our home, there are things that need to happen before you begin. Planning, measuring and gathering supplies are some of the steps needed for completing a successful project.

Taking over as Senior Warden is like starting a new project. There aren't supplies to gather or plans to review, however. The Vestry will have everything we need to lead the congregation. Our

personal and professional experiences along with our spiritual lives will guide us to make the best decisions for the coming year.

My hope is that the coming year will bring the opportunities to make St Paul's better than we are today. I know of some buildings and grounds projects that the Vestry hopes to accomplish this year. I also hope that we will have more opportunities for fellowship and spiritual learning. I feel that these two areas strengthen the bonds of our parish family. I am somewhat nervous for this new year because of the unknown that comes with being Senior Warden, but I am excited to get started!

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From the Organist - Choirmaster

David Paul Gibson – Organist - Choirmaster

“Without Valentine’s Day, February would be well, January.” — Jim Gaffigan

For most of us Valentine’s Day is a special day of remembrance and celebration of love. That said, just who was this St. Valentine? Quoting a quick Wikipedia search: **Saint Valentine** (Italian: *Valentino*; Latin: *Valentinus*) was a 3rd-century Roman saint, commemorated in Western Christianity on

February 14 and in Eastern Orthodoxy on July 6. From the High Middle Ages, his feast day has been associated with a tradition of logistics. He is also a patron saint of Terni (Italy), epilepsy, and beekeepers. Saint Valentine was a clergyman – either a priest or a bishop – in the Roman Empire who ministered to persecuted Christians. He was martyred and his body buried on the Via Flaminia on February 14, which has been observed as the Feast of Saint Valentine (Saint Valentine's Day) since at least the eighth century. Now we know. Valentine’s Day also falls very near the season of Lent, which somehow doesn’t feel quite appropriate to me. Lent is an austere time of self-study and reflection. No flowers and chocolates there. I do suppose that it is good to have one day to celebrate the saint and the love we feel for others before we turn to ashes (Ash Wednesday – February 18) and Lenten liturgy (Lent One – February 22).

On the first Sunday afternoon of Lent, February 22, I hope that you will join me in the church as I present a program called The Quiet Journey. I will be playing music that we associate with Lent arranged for piano by Thomas Keesecker. It is my hope that you find these beautiful selections moving and appropriate for the occasion. The 45-

minute program will begin at 3:00pm and is free and open to all.

Looking ahead to the cold month ahead of us, I am reminded of a quote by Linda Ellerbee: “In the coldest February, as in every other month in every other year, the best thing to hold on to in this world is each other.”

Wishing you many blessings,
David Paul Gibson

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From the Preschool

Erin Dykes - Director

Happy February, St. Paul’s Family!

I don’t know about you, but myself and the rest of the Preschool staff and students are 100% ready for spring weather. This is the second year in a row that we’ve experienced weather-related closures due to significant snowfall. Even before the snow, the below-freezing temperatures kept the students from going out to the playground. We ensure the kids get at least their mandatory 30 minutes of gross motor play by building obstacle courses in the Parish Hall and incorporating lots of movement into our Music classes.

The Preschool owes Mr. George Busch a HUGE “Thank you!” for preemptively removing the fabric from our sunshade in advance of late January’s snowfall. If you recall last year, the snow & ice event we experienced caused the shade structure itself to uproot out of the ground and come crashing down into the playground’s interior. To avoid a similar situation, George took the time to remove the fabric before it bore the weight of the snow and ice, and the shade structure is still standing! This prevented what was sure to be a headache on our end—whether it would have been purchasing a new fabric shade due to a tear or having the whole structure uprooting again. When I notified the Preschool staff George’s actions, their comments were the best: “He is amazing! So thankful for him!”, “George is the MAN! For sure!”, “What a wonderful idea! Thank you, George!”, “He’s the best!”, and “George for President!”.

We are beginning to prepare for our annual “Doughnuts with Dad” event. We look forward to welcoming all of the dads (or other special guest) with their children for a morning of delicious doughnut holes and beverages. The kids and their guests will decorate their cardboard stick horses to be used later at

our Derby Parade and Races in May. The children are always so excited to bring their Dads to school and create something special with them.

We will be having volunteers from the Kentucky Lions Club joining us in late February to conduct optional KidSight eye health screenings on our children. The Kentucky Lions Club has been coming to our program for years to offer these free screenings to our students and we appreciate their outreach. KidSight screenings are 85%-90% effective in detecting problems that can cause a decrease in a child's vision. We are thankful for this program and the ability to offer it to our families. To learn more about the KidSight program, you can visit

<https://www.kylionseye.org/kidsight> for more information.

We are already a more than a month into planning for the upcoming 2026-2027 school year. Individual family tours for new families have been ongoing since fall 2025, and we are looking forward to 2026-2027 even as we are enjoying the second half of the 2025-2026 school year. If you know a family looking for a preschool home, please feel free to have them contact me for more information or to schedule a tour (Preschool@SPPLouisville.com, 502.491.7418). Your recommendations are our greatest advertisement!

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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. (pg. 12)

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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 (Sunday)

“The Lectionary - based bible study” to study the section of the Bible appointed to be read today.

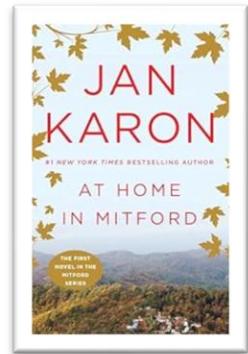
No registration is required; we will meet at 9:00 AM – 10:15 AM in the first-floor conference room.

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: 185,762 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 \$19,223.35 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 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

Frank Kirk, Ann Ford, Beverly & Janet (Friends of Donna Coliz), Fr. Edward Weiss (Friend of David & Kathy Dawkins), Family of Judith Dannemiller, Sally Gunther (Friend of Theresa Myers & Ann Ford), Bunny Parnell (Friend of Sue Benner, Donna & Al Smith), Don & Joy Hauss, Zoeller Family (Friends of Linda Snyder), Donald & Mary Greenlee, Lance & Sharon Nelson, Debrah Self (Sister of Carol Schusterman), Sharon Williams, Sandra Simms, Diana Motsch, Dena Rogers, Rebecca Rupp (Friends of Peggy Pryse), Donna Pigram, Diane Hart (Sister of Dale Miner), Megan Pazarro (Friend of Betty Waddell), Yoshi, Haruki, Hamu, Yuichi, & Matthew (Friends of Fr. Andrew), Anne & Glenn Pyle, Caleb Dykes (Son of Erin Dykes), 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, Lorna Larson, Donna Coliz, Jane Delgado-Shadid, James & Mae Fleming, Andy & Pam Phillips, Vincent & Verbal Angelico, Sue Brotherton

Anniversaries

Suzie & Ron Aebersold (2/14)

Birthdays

Cindy Miner, (2/2), Jim Holmberg (2/15), Penny Southwick, (2/15), Cheryl Young, (2/19), Lizzie Fahey (2/28)

**LET'S WELCOME
THE RT. REV. TERRY ALLEN WHITE**

Join us for one service on Sunday,
February 15th at 10:30 AM

We will celebrate a few confirmations and
receptions of our members.

If you are interested in being received in the
church, please contact Fr. Andrew.

Reception to follow the service
in Fellowship Hall

THE QUIET JOURNEY

Sunday, February 22, 2026

3:00 PM - 3:45 PM

Free and Open to all

David Paul Gibson will be playing music that we associate with Lent arranged for piano by Thomas Keeseker. The program will be introspective and meditative and will feature such familiar music as Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley, Go to Dark Gethsemane, What Wondrous Love Is This, among many others.



Leadership

Senior Class ('27)

Suzie Aebersold	Senior Warden
Meg Mrozowski	Worship
Tom Yurt	Stewardship

Middler Class ('28)

Connie Sublett	Junior Warden
Ruth Ellen Flint	Outreach
Cheryl Young	Fellowship

Junior Class ('29)

Jerry Powell	Secretary
Carol Schusterman	Formation
Penny Southwick	Buildings & Grounds

DMLO Firm	Treasurer/Accountant
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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 Shirota	Rector
The Rt. Rev. Terry White	Bishop of Kentucky

Email	Fr.Shirota@gmail.com
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Facebook	St. Paul's Episcopal, Louisville, KY
QR Code to Church Website	



February 2026

SPREAD THE GOOD NEWS



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Return Service Requested