

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

THE GOOD NEWS January 2024

Love God. Love Each Other.

It's just that simple.

—Jesus

A Look Back!

from the Senior Warden

The decorations, the presents and all the excitement of the holidays are past. We are looking forward with hope for what is to come in the New Year of 2024. (Remember all the hoopla of the new millennium and here we are beginning 2024! Hard to believe) However, if you missed the Christmas Eve mass, you really missed something special. Jenny and Ally Donnelly again showed us their musical talents on the organ, piano and flute. Paul Rigdon played the guitar and sang some of my favorite Christmas songs. Our young people along with Miss Monessa sang for us as well. My heart was filled with joy and I must admit my eyes were a little misty at times. As always, Dcn Larry gave a powerful sermon and performed a Deacon's mass.

We have weathered the storms of over a year without a priest, and we are still standing strong. Our faithful are still here as well as several new members who are waiting to be confirmed by the Bishop. Deacon Larry is back with us and guiding us as our spiritual leader. Judy, Leslie, Michael, and your Vestry have seen to the needs of our Church and our Church family. Marty, your Junior Warden, has overseen the repairs and needs of the building with a tenacity that is unlike anyone else I have ever seen. She gets it done. We have even survived the year without a permanent musician. Margaret, Neal, Stacey and Jenny and Ally have filled our Church with beautiful music most Sundays. Kristen has kept the Church clean. You stepped up when the long neglected organ finally got some of the needed repairs. Neal volunteered his

time and efforts to help us prioritize and get things fixed. The organ is not fully repaired and new issues such as leaks filling some of the pipes with water continue to arise. We are working on them. Of course this means more expense. Numerous issues with the HVAC, roof and gutters have plagued us. We finally rented the dentist's office.

This is my last article as your Senior Warden. My term ends this month with the Annual Meeting on January 21. Please attend this most important meeting when we close out 2023 and begin 2024 with new officers and vestry members. What a year this has been! I have been honored to serve as your Senior Warden. There have been some ups and downs this past year. As always in life, there have been losses and illnesses and rocky roads. We have had some great times, too. Lots of fellowship, food and outreach. WE ARE STILL HERE! WE HAVE SURVIVED! We are here because of each of you. Your prayers, your faithfulness and even your financial support have seen to that. I love my Church family and this Church. God is with us everyday. Thanks for your continued support and all you do for St. Paul's. And as always, I hope to see you in Church. God bless you all.

Susie Watkins



Upcoming Events

We are delighted to continue to welcome you to join us for in-person worship.
You are also welcome to experience services livestreamed on St. Paul's Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/St.PaulsHenderson>

Sunday, January 7 — **Annual Epiphany Pageant**, Margaret Kimberling on Organ
Sundays, January 14 and 28 — Deacon Larry celebrates Morning Prayer, Neal Biggers on Organ
Sunday, January 21— 10 a.m., Canon Jason here, Margaret Kimberling on Organ
Annual Parish Meeting immediately following the service.
Tuesday, January 16, 5:45 p.m. — Vestry Meeting, Rector's Study
Tuesdays — Saints, Sinners, and Cynics, 6 p.m. at Rookies
Saturday, January 27, 10 a.m. — Prayer Shawl Meeting

Christmas at St. Paul's



AML, Not an Easy Journey

from the Deacon

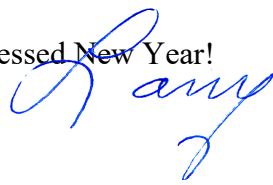
It's day three, I woke up at 4:30 a.m. feeling nausea really bad. I went into the kitchen to get my pills for nausea so I could take one. I had taken a bottle of water out of the refrigerator so I could take the pill but I couldn't get the top off. I thought to myself, am I really that weak? I picked up the bottle and switched hands trying one more time to get the top off and it finally broke loose! I took my pill, I stood there a minute or two wondering how long it would take before I could feel some relief. I decided to sit on the couch instead of going back to bed. I walked slowly into the room because everything started to spin around. When I reached the couch, I immediately laid down and shut my eyes, praying this feeling would pass!

Thirty minutes later I was feeling better, I sat up to begin my Morning Prayers and readings. I had just finished when I heard the alarm going off in the bedroom. It was 6:00 am, Michael walked into the room and asked if I was ok? I told him about the nausea and having to lay down because the room was spinning around! He asked me what I wanted for breakfast? I replied just fix some oats. I like hot oats with butter and when the butter is melted, I put a small cup of the six pack Kroger peaches into my bowl of oats. I took my pills with the last bit of coffee I had left to drink.

We started getting ready, I showered first and as I was showering, I turned losing my balance and nearly fell! I broke the towel bar on the wall which was plastic. That's when we decided to have some grab bars installed for the elderly. I was totally exhausted after showering and getting dressed. I sat on the couch resting while Michael was getting ready. It was starting to rain outside, I thought to myself, thank you Lord, we will be taking the car. The car was parked under the building so we didn't get wet going to the car. I had to use my walker again today.

When we arrived at the clinic the parking attendees were eagerly waiting to help us. Before I could get out of the car, the volunteer had my walker there ready for me. We entered through the doors and stopped to get our visitors' tag before taking one of the elevators to the second floor. As we got on the elevator a young man stepped in behind us. Michael asked him what floor. He remarked the same floor you're going to! He turned to me and said I have AML too! If you make it through the first six months, you'll make it through the next year. I have been cancer free for two and half years. I come every six months for labs. When we reached the second floor as he walked out, he turned and wished me good luck.

May everyone have a blessed New Year!



Youth News

Leslie Newman

December was a special month of blessings and miracles for EYC and St. Paul's. **Please plan to join us as we begin another year of blessings and miracles, on Sunday, January 7 at 10 a.m. for Epiphany, which will be a youth-led service. If you are youth or have youth, children or babies who would like to participate, please let me know. All are welcome!**

Thank you to the parishioners who supported EYC calendar sales as part of your gift-giving. The proceeds from sales go to support EYC activities. We hope you enjoy the beauty and inspiration each month and think of and ask that you pray for our youth and children as you do. Prayers for Family Life on page 811 of the Book of Common Prayer and found through the link to Prayers and Thanksgiving at www.bcponline.org will make it easy for you!

We are blessed throughout the year with our youth, children and young adults, who provide such wonderful faith, spirit and sharing of their time and talents with our parish family. December is a particularly busy month which places demands on our young people and their families and they show up and hang in there, smiling all the way. We are so blessed to have them. When you have the chance, please let them know you appreciate them.

Leading up to the Dec. 10 service, our former choir and music director and current supply organist, Neal Biggers, volunteered to teach hand bells to anyone who wanted to learn, and lo and behold, we had an all age handbell choir to ring "Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord" in that service. Not everyone who practiced was able to be there on Dec. 10 but all who practiced learned a new skill and a new song, and were able to participate in and add to the life of our parish. Many thanks to Neal's initiative to incorporate this gift into our Advent season and to those who came to practice and perform.

Roof and Gutters get needed repairs

Marty White

Even with all the hustle and bustle of the holidays, the roof and gutters got some much needed attention and repair work during December.



CCO Donation for December:

Ready to Eat

Soups, Stews, Chili, Crackers

Bring your items to church with you, or drop them by the Parish Office by the third week of the month.

Youth News

Leslie Newman—

This month we had others among us who added to the spirit our youth bring each week.

The City of Henderson delivered Ms. Ella's little church from its storage space, Mark Sellars came and shored it up, Bill Gentry provided the trailer to haul it, Josh Emerson provided the gator to haul it, and Zander to help, and Ms. Ella, Aaron and Wendell showed up to decorate it and the trailer for the Henderson Merchants'

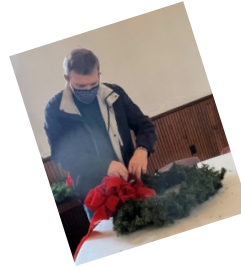


Christmas parade which was early on a cool Saturday morning, the first Saturday in December each year. Parishioners

donated beaucoup pieces of individually wrapped candies for Marty and I to fill in buckets and for the youth to hand out. We lined up at Seventh and Main early for staging. We enjoyed hot chocolate and donut holes from the Kelseys, our friends who donate pumpkins and more for the Thanksgiving altar. KaLeyah and I walked some of the parade route while we waited to start and it was fun to see the floats we don't see because we are in the parade. The Purdy girls did double duty as ambassadors for St. Paul's and their pageant. Trae brought his fiance's brothers, Calvin and Dillon. Hailee Fruit recently moved to the block where we lined up and had never been in a parade, so she joined us too. At the end of the parade, Josh hauled us and the church to Central Park, and where after it was situated, children ran into it and I heard parents exclaim it was the best display in Central Park. It was fun to receive photos of our St. Paul's family visiting the parade throughout the month. And after the parade we located the St. Paul's banners we would have carried in the parade but oh well, we will carry them next year! And after the parade, we went to First United Methodist Church for their community Christmas luncheon of chili, hot dogs, cookies and drinks, and to shop among their selection of Christmas gifts.



EYC planned to deck the nave and parish hall for Christmas during Advent, on December 10, in anticipation of Canon Jason's visit on December 17. This was after Deacon Larry, Michael and Kaleigh had given of their time to fluff and hang the wreaths. Tasks for our youth included hauling out and putting up the nativity sets, hauling down and putting up and decorating the



Christmas trees and hauling down and putting up and decorating the standards, placing the candles and hanging garland. That morning, Dec. 10, right after the 10 a.m. service, Abby came



running up to me to tell me she had friends from school who were in the park, cold. She asked if she could invite them to coffee hour. It made this heart so happy that she thought to extend this kindness. After scrounging in the cupboards, we managed to feed the youth with popcorn and hot chocolate and give them a chance to get warm. Abby had the opportunity to let the youth know

that all our welcome in our church, and some of them found that amazing. They helped carry everything down, put up the standards and then, they left and Abby had to go to work at her new job at the library, J had to leave, and that left the Purdy girls and me, none of whom are very tall. Alexis and Miranda put up the tree at



the Center St. entrance on their own but then there was the tree in the parish hall. And voila', one of Abby's friends returned, with four of their other friends, and they were taller than us gals. And those guys helped us put up the tree and decorate it, and they ser-

enaded us with Christmas carols and songs sung in harmony. Two of the young men had visited St. Paul's to perform in the Alice P. Taylor Candlelight Service the week before, where, by the way, the Purdy girls graciously volunteered to serve as ushers and ambassadors for St. Paul's. The boys wanted to sing in the nave again and they did, and it was beautiful to hear. We extended the offer for them to come and sing any Sunday and hope we may see them again.

St. Paul's Calendar January 2024

SUNDAY	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7—1 Epiphany 10—Annual Epiphany Pageant Margaret Kimberling- Organ	8	9 6 p.m. — Saints, Sinners, and Cynics	10	11	12	13
14—2 Epiphany 10—Morning Prayer with Deacon Larry Neal Biggers - Organ	15	16 5:45p.m. — Vestry Meeting	17	18	19	20
21—3 Epiphany 10—Holy Eucharist Rite II with Canon Jason Lewis Margaret Kimberling - Organ Annual Parish Meeting following service CCO—Ready to Eat	22	23 6 p.m. — Saints, Sinners, and Cynics	24	25	26	27 10 a.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry
28—4 Advent 10—Morning Prayer with Deacon Larry Neal Biggers - Organ	29	30	31			

Services in person and livestreamed
on St. Paul's Facebook page.
[facebook.com/St.PaulsHenderson](https://www.facebook.com/St.PaulsHenderson)

Lay Ministry January 2024

Date & Lessons	Altar Guild <i>Altar Flow-</i>	Ushers	Acolytes	Lay Readers	Coffee Hour	Atrium
7-1 Epiphany Genesis 1:1-5 Psalm 29 Acts 19:1-7 Mark 1:4-11	Gisele Purdy		Epiphany Pageant	Epiphany Pageant		
	<i>Decorated for Christmas</i>					
14-2 Epiphany 1 Samuel 3:1-10 Psalm 139:1-5, 12-17 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 John 1:43-51	Susan Sauls Ella Thomas			Cooper Lilly, Leslie Newman		
	<i>Mrs. Frank Williams, Jr.</i>					
21-3 Epiphany Jonah 3:1-5, 10 Psalm 62:6-14 1 Corinthians 7:29-31 Mark 1:14-20	Alexis Purdy		The Purdys Caroline White	Susie Watkins, Marty White		
	<i>Mr. Mike France</i>					
28-4 Epiphany Deuteronomy 18:15-20 Psalm 111 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 Mark 1:21-28	Marilyn Dixon Ellen Redding			Susan Sauls, Mike France		
	<i>Mrs. William Polk</i>					

January Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 4 Kent Preston
- 7 Mitchell Deep
- 12 Jacob Deep
- 19 Mischelle Stocum Williams
- 27 Martha Polk
- 31 Hannah Caudill

Youth News

Leslie Newman—

I will leave it to you to ask Gisele the story of why they are called her “Mormon boyfriends”, but over time and with thanks to the Purdys, many of you have had the chance to meet some of the Mormon missionaries who serve in our community and who have been of service to St. Paul’s. The elders, as these young



men are called, joined us on Christmas Eve to carol to some of our St. Paul’s family and to one of their church family. They brought smiles and good cheers and hearty voices to add to our small choir, led by Miranda, and we think we brought smiles and cheer and even some tears to those we visited. Kaleigh asked us to carol at the home of a friend whose beloved grandmother’s funeral had been the day before. My heart swelled for her thinking of her friend and of Alexis for telling the family about St. Paul’s and inviting them to join us. It was a wonderful way to spend Christmas Eve.



Kaleigh’s fiance’, Jequarius Patrick, sings in the men’s choir at First Missionary Baptist Church where he is a member. Their service times overlap with ours and you may see Jequarius at St. Paul’s for part of a service and then wonder why he and sometimes Kaleigh leave – it’s to go to “his” church. “J” or “JQ” as he is affectionately known, did not have a conflict between the FMBC service on Christmas Eve and ours and volunteered to sing at St. Paul’s. Not only that he brought family members including his grandmother, Denise, who volunteered to help with the reception following the service. St. Paul’s is blessed that this young couple figures out how to make it work between both churches, lucky both churches are in the same block, and we are fortunate Kaleigh continues with her regular and faithful service to St. Paul’s.

If you have ideas for ways our youth may be of service to St. Paul’s in the new year, please let me know.

Thank you to the parents and adults who work with our youth to be sure they are present and provide transportation and encouragement that helps keep them engaged.



Financial Summary as of November 30, 2023

Pledged Income Received to Date	\$108, 820
Non-dividend Investment Income Transferred	\$30,000
Other Operating Income to Date	\$59,396
Total Budgeted Expenses to Date	\$194,996

St. Paul's Episcopal Church Staff

The Rev. Larry Courtney, Deacon
Leslie Newman, EYC Director
Judy Duncan, Parish Secretary
Phone—270-826-2937

Service Times

Morning Prayer - Sundays 10 a.m.

Vestry Ministry Teams *(*denotes chair of the committee)*

Sr. Warden
Jr. Warden
Secretary
Treasurer

Susie Watkins
Marty White
Christie Johnson
Mike France

Budget and Finance
Worship and Music
Communications
Christian Formation and Youth
Building and Grounds
Fellowship/Outreach
Pastoral Care
Search Committee

Marilyn Dixon, *Mike France, Bill Gentry, Joe Mattingly
*Marilyn Dixon, Mike France, Bill Gentry
*Christie Johnson, Bill Gentry, Susan Sauls, Susie Watkins
Alexis Purdy, Leslie Newman, *Marty White, Monessa Curry
*Marty White, Bill Brodsky, Joe Mattingly
Marilyn Dixon, Diane McMIndes, *Susie Watkins, Marty White
*Dcn. Larry, Marilyn Dixon, Susie Watkins, Marty White
Mike France, Bill Gentry, Corey Hill, Christy Mattingly,
Ellen Redding, *Susan Sauls

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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Henderson, KY 42420

www.stpauls-henderson.org

