

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

THE GOOD NEWS September 2025

Love God. Love Each Other.

It's just that simple.

—Jesus

Ambient Conditions

The Rev'd Benjamin J. Newland

For 30 minutes, do as many rounds as possible of:

- 12 burpees
- 24 pull ups
- 36 lunges
- 400 meters running

The above is a recipe for a workout I was assigned shortly after arriving in Henderson, Kentucky. It is not dissimilar to another workout recipe I might have been assigned shortly before that in El Paso, Texas. Similar effort, similar challenge, similar workload. Nothing all that different, or surprising, or out of the ordinary.

So how come I felt like I was dying in Henderson when I would have felt just fine in El Paso?

The answer is simple, though it took me a couple weeks to work it out because I just wasn't expecting it to have such a huge impact. The answer was the weather. In El Paso, I would have been doing that workout in an air conditioned gym with a relative humidity of maybe 20% max. In Henderson the gym I've joined doesn't have an air conditioner, so the temperature was over 80° and the humidity over 90% even with the giant overhead door rolled up and all four industrial sized fans at full speed.

The difference wasn't in me, it wasn't in the work, and it wasn't in any of the other extraneous details that I had any control over. The difference was entirely in the ambient conditions, and the impact was huge.

I've recently started reading *Life Worth Living: A Guide to What Matters Most* by Miroslav Wolf, Matthew Crossman, and Ryan McAnnally-Linz. It's a fairly recent publication, though the eponymous class upon which the book is based on has been running at Yale University for over ten years. I've read an-

other book that was based on that same class which had a lasting ripple effect on my thoughts so this was an easy choice.

The work of the authors, both in the class and in the book, is to guide us towards answering one of the biggest questions of this human life: what is a life worth living? What matters most? Our religious traditions have answers to these questions, or at least the makings of an answer to these questions, so the work of these authors is interesting to me, and I imagine it might be to you as well.

However, I haven't got to the part of the book where they do this yet. So far they're still just setting conditions, which is what made me think of working out at a gym in Henderson, Kentucky without any AC. They point out, quite rightly I think, that the ambient conditions profoundly affect one's ability to answer these kinds of big questions. The social-media-sphere and its influencer-clergy, the advertising-industrial-complex and its multinational corporate overlords, and just the stories that we tell ourselves constantly about who we are and what matters most in our music, our TV and movies, and all the other forms of entertainment that we use to wile away our hours.

Any answer we might have about what matters most that cuts against the grain of popular culture is going to be harder to hold onto than it otherwise would be. The ambient conditions just make it more difficult, even if we are otherwise committed to it. And Jesus' answer to what matters most definitely cuts against the grain of popular culture. Cuts against it so directly that there are entire denominations of American Christianity that seem to be solely an effort to reconcile Jesus to a more comfortable and popular culturally appropriate format.

That's why we train, though, isn't it? So that when ambient conditions are adverse, we can still persevere, even if it does feel harder. So I'll say again that it's an honor to be training with you here in Henderson. See you in the gym church!

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>

Tuesday, September 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, 5:15 p.m. — Evening Prayer

**Friday, September 5, 7 p.m. — Free Concert at First Presbyterian Church, Evansville,
Featuring Jieun Newland**

Sunday, September 7, 14, 21 — Holy Eucharist Rite II

Sunday, September 7, 14 — Lay Ministry training following church service

Wednesday, September 3 — Choir Rehearsal

Tuesday, September 16, 5:45 p.m. — Vestry Meeting

Saturday, September 27, 9 a.m. — Prayer Shawl Ministry

**Sunday, September 28 — Annual Parish Picnic,
Audubon Park Sycamore Shelter**

August Happenings at St. Paul's



First Fridays at First Pres

September 5
7:00 p.m.
Jieun Newland



Free Concert

609 South East Second Street Evansville, Indiana fpcev.com

August Vestry Minutes Summary

Marty White

- Financials were discussed. The treasurer's report included a handout concerning pledges and the trust highlights. There was a discussion that there needs to be a push for pledges for next year, and it was discussed when to start and also the timing of stewardship. It was suggested that a letter of enthusiasm be sent out before the stewardship campaign.
- The Bishop's visit and confirmation will be Sunday, November 9. There will be a weekday visit by the bishop in 2026 prior to lent for the celebration of new ministry and a Deanery event.
- Fr. Ben gave the Vestry dates when he would be out of town.
- Fr. Ben shared upcoming plans to work on the communication systems, continue to refine the bulletin and liturgy systems, a plan for a ministry training and possibly a plan for fall adult formation.
- An estimate was submitted for repair of the HVAC system. Also a list was shared of all that has been done to the building and grounds in the last month.
- Miranda reported that the All Saints alumni weekend will be August 29 - 31. There are approximately 12 people from St. Paul's attending. Also, it was noted that All Saints is looking for additional board members, and it is hoped that someone from our church will be on the board. There was a lot of discussion about All Saints camp.
- The church picnic will be September 28 at Audubon Park's Sycamore Shelter
- A quote was submitted from Carey Hazelwood for various computer necessities.
- A potential plan for the organ was discussed. Two quotes have been received to fix the organ and both are very high. Jieun suggested that we possibly hire an independent organ consultant that looks at what we have and what we need. It was recommended that we contact this person and check rates.
- Also presented was different vendors that concern enhancing our emails and also social media and music license.
- The next meeting will be September 16, 2025.

First Friday Concert

Join us on the First Friday of the month for a free concert in the historic First Pres Sanctuary!

On September 5, we welcome Jieun Newland, organist and harpsichordist who recently joined the staff at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Henderson, Kentucky.

Lay Ministry Training

Fr. Ben.

Sundays, September 7 and 14th

11:30 - 12:30, or following the 10 a.m service

Calling All: ushers, lay readers, chalice bearers, home communion carriers, choir members, lay preachers, and acolytes.

If you've been serving in one of these roles for decades now, **or** if you've never done anything like it but are interested in learning more and possibly volunteering to participate in the liturgy from time to time, **you are invited.**

For the first two Sundays in September, Fr. Ben. will be providing a training session following Sunday morning church for all forms of Lay Ministers. Refresh your skills, learn new techniques, and get your license updated (as applicable, not all of these need a license.)

Farewell Chris House

Marty White

We are sad to say farewell to our Deacon Intern Chris House. He has been with us in training for the last six months. Deacon Larry was his mentor and then when Fr. Ben. arrived he also trained with him. Chris will now be awaiting his education and after that his assignment. Thank you again and hopefully we will see him again soon.



Christian Community Outreach Items for September:

Condiments and Spices
Salt, Pepper, Mustard, Ketchup,
Mayonnaise, Vegetable Oil, Spices

Youth News

Leslie Newman—

On August 3, Fr. Ben. carried on the St. Paul's tradition of blessing our students and their backpacks to kick off the new school year. It is so much fun to hear and see joy and excitement about backpacks and all they symbolize.

Brandy started a new tradition when she kindly purchased, prepared and provided backpack blessing cards for all the students. From all reports, they are settling in and doing well.

We pray the youth will carry the lessons they learn from Godly Play and Ms. Monessa and from their time at St. Paul's along with the love of their St. Paul's family as they embark on the new school year.

We also ask for prayers for the teachers among us, and especially for Ms. Monessa, Leann Cardwell, Hannah Caudill, Kelly Deep, Elizabeth O'Nan, Alexis Purdy and Miranda Purdy. We also give thanks for the retired teachers among us, and especially Christy Mattingly, Shelly Reitz, Louis Smith, Bobbie Soaper, Connie Spivey, Susie Watkins and Leigh Ann Wehr. And if you are a current or retired teacher or a substitute teacher or a bus driver or classified staff, and I have inadvertently omitted you, please tell me and please forgive me!

After church on August 3, we enjoyed a pool party compliments of our friend Jim Gibson and a cookout complete with homemade ice cream compliments of his partner Sally Finley. There was a birthday celebration for Miranda, a card game, sun, shade, a water slide and much conversation and laughter. A good time was had by all!

EYC found relief from the sweltering heat under the roof of Bosse Stadium as we enjoyed an Evansville Otters game on Sunday August 17. It was our first baseball game in a couple years. The ambiance was as grand as we remembered, our seats were good



and as it turned out, free, and the ballpark food filled the bill. From snagging game balls to running the bases (well, some of us!), meeting the players and getting autographs after the game, a good time was had by all.

EYC took advantage of the respite from the summer heat and enjoyed a picnic in Sunset Park on August 24. The sun shone bright, the sky was blue and the breeze almost felt cool. From making new friends and swinging on the playground to climbing on the boatramp, sitting on park benches to watch the shimmering river and the boats to savoring Martina's banana pudding, and enjoying each other's company, a good time was had by all.



Kudos to Mike France for giving our youngsters a chance to ring the bell to signify the call to worship. That chance to experience the action and the sound and to participate in the life of St. Paul's matters.

EYC alumni and first-timers, including Fr. Ben., will be heading to All Saints on Friday of Labor Day weekend for Family Camp, thanks to St. Ann's

Guild and Alexis' dedication to planning, where some of us will tent camp and others will rough it in the Hilltop Lodge. Activities will include swimming, hiking, s'mores (sponsored by St. Paul's), and a Friday night talent show. We will celebrate Eucharist at All Saints before we head to the Leitchfield Dairy Queen for our traditional homegoing lunch, so if church seems a little emptier on Sunday, you will know why. Stories to follow! I suspect a good time will be had by all. We ask for prayers for safe travels for all who journey on the holiday weekend and for all who labor.



St. Paul's Calendar September 2025

SUNDAY	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	1	2 5:15 p.m. - Evening Prayer	3	4	5 7 p.m. Free Concert at First Presbyterian Church, Evansville Featuring Jieun Newland	6
7—13 Pentecost 10—Holy Eucharist Rite II Lay Ministry training following church	8	9 5:15 p.m. - Evening Prayer	10	11	12	13
14—14 Pentecost 10—Holy Eucharist Rite II Lay Ministry training following church	15	16 5:15 p.m. - Evening Prayer 5:45 p.m. Vestry Meeting	17	18	19	20
21—15 Pentecost 10—Holy Eucharist Rite II	22	23 5:15 p.m. - Evening Prayer	24	25	26	27 9 a.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry (Volunteers needed)
28—16 Pentecost 10—Parish Picnic— Audubon Park Sycamore Shelter	29	30 5:15 p.m. - Evening Prayer	Services in person and livestreamed on St. Paul's Facebook page. facebook.com/St.PaulsHenderson			

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 Condiments and Spices
 Salt, Pepper, Mustard, Ketchup,
 Mayonnaise, Vegetable Oil, Spices**

Lay Ministry September 2025

Date & Lessons	Altar Guild Altar Flowers	Ushers	Acolytes	Lay Readers	Coffee Hour
7-13 Pentecost Jeremiah 18:1-11 Psalm 139:1-5, 12-17 Philemon 1-21 Luke 14:25-33	Gisele Purdy <i>Dr. Kurt Wilson</i>		The Purdy's, Caroline White	Susan Sauls, Marty White	Brandi and Joe
14-14 Pentecost Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28 Psalm 14 1 Timothy 1:12-17 Luke 15:1-10	Susan Sauls Ella Thomas <i>Mrs. Marie Huber</i>			Mike France, Susie Watkins	Susan and Mischelle
21-15 Pentecost Jeremiah 8:18-9:1 Psalm 79:1-9 1 Timothy 2:1-7 Luke 16:1-13	Alexis Purdy <i>Mr. Bill Gentry</i>		The Purdys,	Susie Watkins, Cooper Lilly	Susie
28-16 Pentecost Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15 Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16 1 Timothy 6:6-19 Luke 16:19-31	Marilyn Dixon Ellen Redding			Kathy Gubernot, Susan Sauls	Parish Picnic

September Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 1 Leslie Newman
- 2 Gary Johnson
- 3 Bill Smith
- 12 Shelly Reitz
- 13 Ellen Redding
- 17 Jeanne Pruitt
- 22 Nora Emerson
- 26 Leann Cardwell
- 29 Caroline White

If you are having a birthday or anniversary this month. and you are not on the list, please let Judy in the church office know.

Building and Grounds Improvements

Marty White

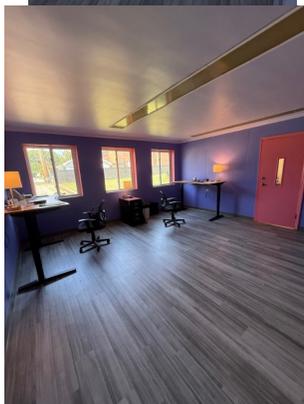
A lot of activity and work has been going on around the church this last month. Some are visible and some are not. There have been new shop lights installed in the basement as well as separate outlets have been installed for each sump pump. There have been new dust to dawn lights replaced on the outside door. A security light was replaced in the hallway. Both lights in the men's and women's bathroom have been replaced (thank you Deacon Larry and Michael for two of the new lights) as well as there are new curtains in the women's bathroom. (thank you Susie for the new curtains!)

Two trees were removed, one from in front of the Randolph Foundation, the other in the playground area.

Lots of work was done in all three rooms on the first floor in preparation for the new flooring and new paint.

Our yard barn was repaired and a new door was installed, the building was painted and has been cleaned out in preparation for a storage area for all of our folding chairs.

Keep an eye out for more work. We are not done yet!



Copper Installed on Sign out Front

Marty White

Thanks to Deacon Larry and Michael for installing copper on top of the large sign in front of the church to enhance and better preserve the sign.



The zinnias outside of our church always look beautiful because of the love and care that Deacon Larry and Michael take of them and our grounds. Take a walk around and see how beautiful our church really is. You may even see some feathered friends.



Financial Summary as of July 31, 2025

Pledged Income Received to Date	\$41,371
Total Pledges for 2025	\$116,567
Percentage Collected	35%
Outstanding Pledges	\$75,196
Percentage collected last year same month	32%

St. Paul's Episcopal Church Staff

The Rev'd Benjamin J. Newland, Rector
The Rev'd Larry Courtney, Deacon Emeritus
Jieun Newland, Organist and Choirmaster
Leslie Newman, EYC Director
Judy Duncan, Parish Secretary
Phone—270-826-2937

Service Times

Holy Eucharist Rite II - Sundays 10 a.m.

Vestry Ministry Teams

Sr. Warden
Jr. Warden
Secretary
Treasurer
Clerk

Susie Watkins
Mitch Deep
Bill Gentry
Mike France
Marty White

Budget and Finance
Worship and Music
Communications
Christian Formation and Youth

Marilyn Dixon, Mike France, Bill Gentry
Marilyn Dixon, Mike France, Marty White, Connie Spivey
Bill Brodsky, Marty White
Alexis Purdy, Miranda Purdy, Leslie Newman, Marty White,
Monessa Curry
Marty White, Mitch Deep, Russ and Kathy Gubernot, Joe Mattingly
Becky Carroll, Susie Watkins, Susan Sauls
Dcn. Larry, Marilyn Dixon, Susie Watkins, Marty White

Building and Grounds
Fellowship/Outreach
Pastoral Care

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

5 South Green Street
Henderson, KY 42420

www.stpauls-henderson.org

