



St. Paul's Episcopal Church

THE GOOD NEWS April 2025

Love God. Love Each Other.

It's just that simple.

—Jesus

Spring is Here!

Susie Watkins

No doubt about it! This spring came in like a lion. We have had very warm days, cold days, stormy days, hail and severe weather watches and warnings. We have “weathered” the storms and thanks be to God we are still here!

During this season of Lent we are reminded of Jesus’ time in the desert to help us also to resist temptation. Our Lenten book study is *Dust Bunnies in the Basket-Finding God in Lent and Easter*. We meet each Wednesday at 6. We have had some great discussions and are learning some different ideas about what Lent means so that we may find the joy of Easter. All are welcome.



March has been a busy month. We had our annual Pancake Supper on Fat Tuesday. This was followed by our Ash Wednesday services. Our shut-ins, nursing home and assisted living residents were visited by Deacon Larry and/or Pastoral Care members.

As always please remember to continue your support of Christian Community Outreach with your monthly donations. What we spend on one trip to a fast food restaurant will more than cover the cost of your donation. We have a monthly list. They always need cereal, too.

Leslie continues to provide opportunities for our young people to be involved in our community. Several of our young people attended Matthew 25’s annual fundraiser, Runway Red. They also attended a leadership conference in Bowling Green among other activities.

Cookies and soft drinks were provided for a St. Patrick’s Day party for the residents of Henderson Manor.

Plans are being made to visit there again for the Fourth of July celebrations.

Volunteers are needed to sign up for Coffee Hour. We usually have donuts and coffee before Church services. Come early and enjoy the fellowship and the goodies.



Patrick Hauke, a very talented young musician, has been providing our music this past month. He is both an accomplished organist and pianist. It is a wonderful treat to hear him play.

During Holy week, we will have services on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday Stations of the Cross, the Great Vigil on Saturday night and our Easter Service. Canon Jason will be here for Palm Sunday and Fr. Ben Newland will be here for Good Friday, Saturday and Sunday services. Deacon Larry will officiate the Maundy Thursday service. In addition, each Friday at 5pm Deacon Larry officiates the Stations of the Cross.

On April 9th, the community Lenten service and luncheon will be held here at St. Paul’s. Volunteers are needed to help with preparing food, kitchen helpers, greeters, set up and clean up. There are sign up sheets in the Parish Hall. Contact Susan Sauls, Judy or a Vestry member with questions.

You may have noticed a new face the last few Sundays. Chris House is a deacon in training, and is completing an internship here under the guidance of Deacon Larry. A group from St. Paul’s will also act as his Discernment Committee.

There are numerous opportunities to be involved here at St. Paul’s on days other than on Sunday. We look forward to seeing each of you. As always, if you have questions or concerns don’t hesitate to call me or any other Vestry member.

I pray for God’s blessings for all of you. *Susie*

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>

Sundays, April 6 and 27 — Morning Prayer with Deacon Larry

Wednesdays, April 2, 9, — 6 p.m. — Soup Supper and Book Study

Fridays, April 4, 11, — 5 p.m. — Stations of the Cross with Deacon Larry

Wednesday, April 9 — Community Lenten Luncheon here

Palm Sunday, April 13, 10 a.m. — Holy Eucharist Rite II with Baptism with Canon Jason Lewis

Tuesday, April 15 — Vestry Meeting

Community Lenten Luncheons — See Schedule page 4

Good Friday, April 18, 6 p.m. — Good Friday Liturgy with Fr. Ben Newland

Saturday, April 19, 7:30 p.m. — Great Vigil of Easter with Fr. Ben Newland

Easter Sunday, April 20, 10 a.m. — Holy Eucharist Rite II with Baptism with Fr. Ben Newland

Festive Reception and Easter Egg Hunt to follow.

Saturday, April 26 — Prayer Shawl Ministry

March Happenings



Lenten Season

from the Deacon

As Holy Week unfolds, events start to spin out of control. The authorities of the Sanhedrin thirst for blood. Jesus followers don't seem to understand who he is or what they are to do. And even his friends betray him.

This day is sometimes called Spy Wednesday because it is the day when Judas sneakily betrays Jesus. It would be convenient for us to cast Judas as the story's villain and move on. But it's really a little more complicated than that. For one thing, it was Judas's betrayal that led to Jesus' arrest, trial, crucifixion, death, and resurrection. Some theologians have suggested that Judas is an instrumental part of our salvation.

There's an even more compelling and personal realization though. You see, Judas isn't the only one who betrayed Jesus. I have betrayed him and so have you. Jesus said the way we treat the "least of these" is how we treat him. I know I have ignored Jesus in the person of those who needed my help. I have turned my back on Jesus! The events around our betrayals are probably less dramatic, but they are just as real as Peter's.

On Maundy Thursday, it is traditional to celebrate the first Eucharist Jesus shared with his disciples in the upper room. It is of course, also a tradition to celebrate the new commandment, we should love one another. That new commandment is enacted in the washing of feet, a gesture that was as tender and intimate then as today. Peter didn't want any part of this, and plenty of today's people don't want any part of it either. We are commanded to do this thing that we don't want to do. Our very resistance is exactly why we should be vulnerable and love others and accept their love.

The whole world stops as we remember the sacred mystery of Good Friday. The Stations of the Cross reflect when the whole creation wept when Jesus died. Good Friday does not, as some say, expose a cruel, distant God. Rather, in Jesus' free choice and willingness to die, we have proof that God could not love us more, for God is willing to do anything for our sake, for our souls. To receive this gift, we must gaze at the awful reality of the cross.

When I visited Jerusalem, our stations of the cross ended at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, the first pilgrimage site is just inside the entrance. It is a marble slab, fragrant from the smell of myrrh rubbed into the stone. But there, in the middle of this marble slab, is one of the most tender pilgrimage sites in the world. It is the spot of stone where Jesus' body was prepared for burial. Even today, the senses are overwhelmed with the scent of myrrh, the sound of weeping, and the sight of people kneeling.

When I knelt down to feel the stone, it was warm. Holy Saturday is a tender day for me. We prepare ourselves for joy, even as we grieve.

I believe Easter is sometimes lost amidst all the flowers, new clothes, the beloved hymns, the family rituals, and the thrill of a full church. If we aren't overwhelmed by Easter, we aren't taking it seriously. If we take Easter seriously, it will rattle our very understanding of Christ' resurrection. Easter celebrates the astounding claim that God's love is stronger than Satan's power, stronger than heavy stones, and stronger even than death. May God bless us with a holy and joyful Easter!

Love and Peace

Randy

March Vestry Minutes Summary

Marty White

- The piano will be tuned in March
- Canon Jason will be here Palm Sunday.
- Fr. Ben will be here Good Friday, Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday.
- Good Friday time moved to 6 p.m.
- Baptisms on Palm Sunday and Easter.
- Meal train for Jorden Knight will be emailed to the parish.
- Lenten Luncheon here on April 9.
- Refreshments for Henderson Manor's St. Patrick's Day party provided by the church. Becky will coordinate other times for us to provide for them.
- Ashes were given by Deacon Larry, Marty and Susie.
- We are still working on the Parochial Report.
- The youth participated in several projects including the river clean-up.
- A report was given by Kaleigh and Alexis at church about the Diocesan Leadership Meeting.



As many of you know, Jorden Knight broke her leg in December and has had major complications since then, including infection and several follow-up surgeries. A meal train has been set up to help Jorden and Daniel. Please follow the link below to donate.
<https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/gvw121>

Youth News

Leslie Newman—

Thanks to all our St. Paul's family who turned out to help with and attend the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper on March 4! From setting up the parish hall the Sunday before, to showing up early day of and staying until the last dish was washed and all that was in between, and for buying leftovers and especially for serving as mentors to our youth and children and ambassadors for our parish to the community, we couldn't, and wouldn't have wanted to, have done it without each and every one of you. Thank you!!



It is a delight to see our young people at work and endearing to see how they remember details from last year and innovate each year. And it is a treat to see visitors we see only on Shrove Tuesday. Our attendance seemed to be down; it was a rainy night and we competed with UK basketball but those who attended seemed to thoroughly enjoy themselves. What do you hear about what we might do different or better and what ideas do you have about how to draw a larger crowd? If you have suggestions for next year, please share them.



At our EYC planning meeting for the year, we talked about having a spaghetti supper along the same lines, as a fundraiser, a funraiser and a fundraiser. What do you think?

On March 8, Kaleigh and Alexis had an early morning traveling to Bowling Green and a really good Saturday attending the Diocesan Leadership Conference. On Sunday, March 16, Alexis spoke to the congregation about her and Kaleigh's takeaways from the Conference. Thanks to Marty for providing transportation for these young leaders to attend. Marty presented to the vestry on March 18 about the crew's takeaways from Leadership Conference. It's a good opportunity to learn best practices and hear what other parishes are doing. Please ask when you see them and thank them for giving of their Saturday on behalf of our parish.



We sprang forward on March 9 and met after service for lunch and to talk about our plans for Lent and Easter.

Early on Saturday morning, March 15 and after a Friday night full of sirens and storm warnings, EYC met at Audubon Mill Park for the Ohio River Sweep. The sun shone bright until 9:30 a.m. when the skies opened again and called a stop to the efforts of a good sized group of community volunteers to clean trash along the riverfront. The crew had covered the area from Audubon Mill to the railroad bridge and from the river's edge to Water Street, filling bags of trash. The County provided trash grabbers, bags, gloves, t-shirts, donuts and had ordered pizza for lunch. It was a good morning to be outside and feel like we made a dent and a difference. Thanks to Alexis, Kaleigh and Gisele for chipping in! Our plan had been to split our time between the River Sweep and volunteering for the Riverview School burgoo. The burgoo was postponed a week due to weather predictions and, unfortunately, we were unable to rally a crew for March 22 when the burgoo happened.



COMMUNITY *Lenten Luncheons*

The Henderson County Ministerial Association has announced the Lenten Services and Luncheons for 2025 as follows:

Wednesday, April 2 at Noon - Bennett Memorial United Methodist Church

Wednesday, April 9 at Noon - St. Paul's

Maundy Thursday, April 17 at Noon - Community Baptist Church

Good Friday, April 18 at Noon - Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church

Easter Sunrise Service, April 20, at 6:30 a.m. - Greater Norris Chapel Baptist Church

All the services and luncheons are free of charge. An offering will be taken for the Good Samaritan Fund.

St. Paul's Calendar April 2025

SUNDAY	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		1	2 Noon - Bennett Memorial	3	4 5 p.m. Stations of the Cross	5
6—5 Lent 10—Morning Prayer with Deacon Larry - Patrick Hauke - Organ	7	8	9 Noon - St. Paul's	10	11 5 p.m. Stations of the Cross	12
			6 p.m. Soup Supper & Book Study			
13—Palm Sunday 10— Holy Eucharist Rite II and Baptism with Canon Jason Lewis Patrick Hauke - Organ	14	15 5:45 p.m. Vestry Meeting - Rector's Study	16	17 6 p.m. Maundy Thursday Liturgy	18 6 p.m. Good Friday Liturgy with Fr. Ben Newland	19 7:30 p.m. Great Vigil of Easter with Fr. Ben Newland
20—Easter Day 10—Holy Eucharist Rite II and Baptism with Fr. Ben Newland Festive reception and egg hunt to follow Patrick Hauke - Organ	21	22	23	24	25	26 Prayer Shawl Ministry
27—2 Easter 10—Morning Prayer with Deacon Larry Patrick Hauke - Organ	28	29	30			

Christian Community Outreach for April - Dental Care

Mouthwash, Toothpaste, Toothbrushes, Floss

Services in person and livestreamed
on St. Paul's Facebook page.
facebook.com/St.PaulsHenderson

Lay Ministry April 2025

Date & Lessons	Altar Guild <i>Altar Flowers</i>	Ushers	Acolytes	Lay Readers	Coffee Hour
6 -5 Lent Isaiah 43:16-21 Psalm 126 Philippians 3:4b-14 John 12:1-8	Gisele Purdy <i>No flowers during Lent</i>			Mike France, Susan Sauls	Please sign up for Coffee Hour
13-Palm Sunday Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 31:9-16 Philippians 2:5-11 Luke 22:14 - 23:56	Susan Sauls Ella Thomas <i>Palms furnished by the Church</i>		The Purdys Caroline White	Cooper Lilly, Marty White	Susie Watkins and Marty White
20-Easter Sunday Acts 10:34-43 Psalm 18:1-2, 14-24 1 Corinthians 15:19-26 John 20:1-18	Alexis Purdy <i>See Easter Insert</i>		All Acolytes	Kathy Gubernot, Alfonso Aldana	Meet new people, host Coffee Hour.
27 - 2 Easter Acts 5:27-32 Psalm 118:14-29 Revelation 1:4-8 John 20:19-31	Marilyn Dixon Ellen Redding <i>Susie Watkins</i>			Susie Watkins, Leslie Newman	Try out a new recipe, host Coffee Hour.

April Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 1 Gary and Christie Johnson
Haleigh Emerson
- 3 Mitch Deep, III
- 4 Kathy Ranes
- 7 Lary Wehr
- 13 Taylor Johnson
- 14 Kurt Wilson
Addyson Deep
- 15 Zach Walker
Caitlyn Walker
- 20 Tom and Diane Windberg
- 21 Holly Vickers
- 24 Brandon and Carla Capps
- 25 Bill Gentry
- 29 Warner and Alyssa Mattingly

Youth News

Also on March 16, Henderson County High AP research student Emma Messer visited St. Paul's to talk about Christian response to bullying and for our children, youth and young adults to complete surveys as part of her project. The timing was good as we had watched Ruby Bridges last month and talked about bullying in relation to Ruby's experience. And we had adults contribute the lifelong impact of bullying they experienced in their youth. Discussing bullying and how we as Christians handle it is a big step toward coping with long term ill effects of this unsavory behavior.

I invited Emma to come back to visit and to join our choir at any time as I sat next to her and heard her beautiful voice singing a joyful noise to the Lord!

Our attempts to attend Dismantling Racism have been for naught and Lenten devotions have been hit and miss this year. No youth were able to attend on March 7. I completely forgot March 14 following a microwave incident at work that afternoon that involved our fireman neighbors. Friday, March 21, Kaleigh was our only youth for Stations of the Cross. She served as acolyte to assist our celebrants Deacon Larry and Marty. And then we had supper at Tacoholics, where they serve a Lenten menu on Fridays. Actually, they offer it at lunch but they accommodated us at dinner! We will keep trying, and trying as well to attend the book study on Wednesday nights. We hope to see you there!

As it turned out, a gray, chilly, rainy Sunday afternoon (March 23) was the perfect weather for EYC to enjoy an outing to watch Marc Platt's 2025 production of Snow White at Showplace Cinemas Henderson. While EYC ended up being Caroline (who also served as head and only acolyte at 10 a.m. service), Marty and me, a good time was had by all! We drove through McDonald's and Marty let us lunch in her rental car. We saved room for popcorn, even!



EYC will meet after church on Sunday April 6 to help set up the parish Hall for the April 9 Ministerial Association's Community Lenten Luncheon at St. Paul's. We will have lunch, too. Please join us!

EYC is gathering individually wrapped candy and gently used plastic Easter eggs for the hunt on Easter morning after the 10 a.m. service. We will meet in the parish hall after Maundy Thursday service to stuff eggs and to serve as samplers. Please plan to stay with us! If you are an early bird on Easter morning, we welcome you to help us hide the eggs. And if you have children in your life, we invite you to bring them to hunt. We do have baskets to share, or they may bring their own baskets. Carla Capps has thoughtfully ordered small items to supplement the candy and, in keeping with the season, she found Jesus figurines and crosses that will fit in the eggs. If you have similar finds or inspiration, we welcome your contributions! You may leave yours in the kitchen or we will pick up and as always, we will shop for you.



Many daffodils and jonquils have already bloomed this spring, but we still want to flower the cross on Easter. Please take a look around your yard and see what you can cut to contribute to the cause. Please bring your flowers and greenery in water and we will use them on Easter morning.



TriFest 2025 is delayed a week by Easter. EYC will do our best to support the annual Breakfast Lions Club event after church on Sunday April 27. Please bring clothes and shoes to dress accordingly.

Please mark your calendars now for our next youth Sunday service, on May 9, Mother's Day.



We are blessed by the children, youth and young adults in our parish. Please let them know we appreciate their efforts to be present and attend our services and events. And please let them serve as examples for those of you debating whether to get out and come to church. Our parish family is better and stronger with all of us!



Financial Summary as of February 28, 2025

Pledged Income Received to Date	\$7,810.00
Non-dividend Investment Income Transferred	.00
Other Operating Income to Date	\$17,618.00
Total Budgeted Expenses to Date	\$15,025.00

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

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

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www.stpauls-henderson.org

