

# St. Paul's Episcopal Church

## THE GOOD NEWS January 2026

*Love God. Love Each Other.*

*It's just that simple.*

—Jesus

### A Celebration of (OUR!) New Ministry

*The Rev'd Benjamin J. Newland*

On Tuesday, January 27th, at 5:15 in the evening, our usual Evening Prayer service will be preempted by Celebration of New Ministry service to which all are invited!

It's been some time since St. Paul's would have hosted one of these, as they happen generally when new clergy arrive. It isn't about the new clergy though, or not entirely, rather the celebration is of the new ministry undertaken by the congregation when they call a new clergy leader. It'll have been nearly seven full months since Jieun and I arrived in Henderson and it feel like a good time to pause and celebrate where we are now as a worshipping community.

Bishop White will join us and celebrate the Eucharist. Other churches in the Deanery of Western Kentucky will also be invited, as well as members of the Henderson Ministerial Alliance.

More plans are in the works, but I hope you'll mark your calendar now and plan to attend the celebration of all of our new ministry.



## 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>

**Friday, January 2, 9, 16, 23, 30—Noon, Eucharist, followed by light lunch and book study**

**Sunday, January 4, 11, 18, 25—8 a.m. Morning Prayer with Eucharist, 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II**

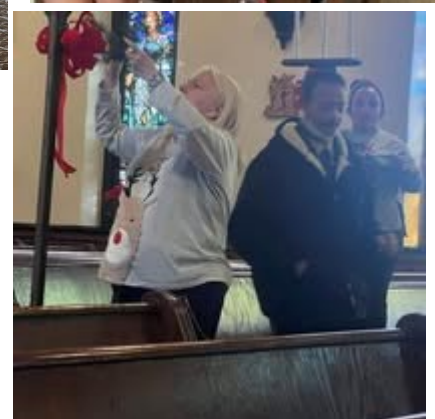
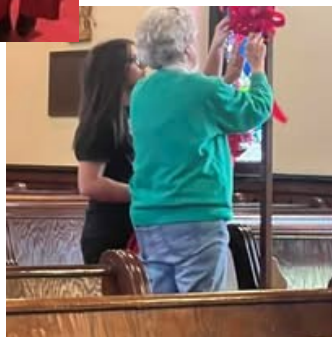
**Tuesday, January 6, 13, 20, 5:15 p.m.— Evening Prayer**

**Wednesday, January 7, 14, 21, 28, 5:15 p.m.— Evening Prayer, 5:45 p.m. Choir Rehearsal**

**Tuesday, January 20 — Vestry Meeting, Parish Hall**

**Tuesday, January 27, 5:15 p.m. — Celebration of New Ministry, with Bishop Terry White**

## Christmas at St. Paul's





## Christmas Caroling

Leslie Newman—



On December 21, our youth, young adults, Gisele, Marty, Jieun and Fr. Ben. visited some of our St. Paul's family who are unable to attend church in person. I find that day is my favorite



day of Christmas and it speaks volumes that more than a few tears are shed. We take cards, calendars and candy canes to folks at Henderson Nursing and Rehab, Redbanks Nursing Home, Homeplace of Henderson and to some parishioner's homes. This year, Fr. Ben. and Marty gave communion and prayers of healing as well. We ended our day after dark, and just when they had almost given up on us, at Ms. Ella's where we delight in the Christmas wonderland and enjoy refreshments, warmth and friendship, her spiral staircase and the take home treats Aaron has gotten for the visitors. Did someone say cotton candy?!



As 2025 has come to a close, we thank Ms. Monessa for her dedication to our children, and to all who assist Ms. Monessa and EYC. We thank our acolytes and our



young adults who remain involved in the church and with the children and youth who call St. Paul's home. We welcome and are glad Jieun and

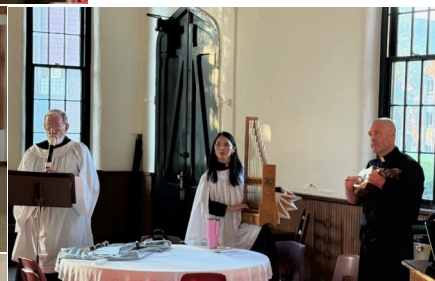


Fr. Ben. are here, in our midst, offering their perspective, guidance and senses of humor. We are thankful for Judy and for those in our parish who acknowledge the relevance of the younger lives to the life and health of the parish. It is a

privilege to serve our parish in the capacity of youth director and I am grateful.

As we plan for 2026, if you have ideas for activities, community service, church service or other ideas for EYC, please let Fr. Ben., Susie or me know. If you are wondering why we do or why we don't do something, maybe you see it clearly and we don't but would be happy to hear and try to implement your thoughts. If you would like to host a gathering with a meal and afternoon of games, talking or treating, let's talk! Or if you would like to accompany us on our journeys, we welcome you. Our youth love being part of their St. Paul's family, a small family with a big heart and we love that they are all heart!

## A look back on 2025 in pictures





## **A Busy Christmas Season**

**Leslie Newman—**

It's not too late to start your New Year with a beautiful EYC calendar – we still have a few left, and your purchase helps support our youth activities. Thanks to those of you who have supported us with calendar sales over the years and you who have already gotten the 2026 version.

Parade day, December 6, seems so long ago now, but the memories shine bright as today's sun! The days leading up to the Downtown Henderson Merchant's parade, where Ms. Ella, Aaron and Wendell worked on decorating the "little church" after the City delivered to our parking lot and Brad Alexander, Eleanor's dad, delivered his trailer and vehicle to pull it, were bitterly cold. Parade day dawned cold, but warmer, and there was bright sunshine and big blue sky that day too!

We had a blast, as usual, waving and smiling and handing out candy to the crowds of onlookers. However it happened, we ended up either with enough candy or finally devised a



method to how we distributed the candy that the last watchers at Fifth and Elm got candy this year. In prior years, we have run out before then. Many thanks to all who contributed candy and money to buy candy. I dare say some kids ended up with more candy than they got at Halloween! Brandy drove her Mom,

Kay, and Ms. Ella, and Marty and I rode on the trailer filling buckets with candy, and handing them to our walkers – Fr. Ben. and Jieun, Wendell, Big Joe (in his surprise Christmas suit!), Susan Sauls, Alexis, Kaleigh, Miranda, Caroline, Eleanor, Wren, Trae, Lavelle, Calvin and Dylan. I sure hope I'm not leaving anyone out. Aaron was the official photographer, staying ahead of us all the way.

Our float was assigned space 44, near Sixth and Main. Santa brought up the rear at space 139, so when our float finished the route, the parade was ongoing. When we caught a break, we scurried across Main to Merritt and some of us then rode the trailer to Washington and Main, had access to the HCPL restrooms, and got to watch the rest of the parade as we waited to cross Main to enter Central Park. At the end of the parade, we trailered the little church into the park and unloaded it next to the castle, off the northwest sidewalk, with the help of strong men eager to help. The little church is heavy and unwieldy but they got 'er done!

Once again, the little church was hardly set in place before we saw and heard children squealing with excitement to enter the church. "It's a church, let's go!" It is heartwarming, delightful and so wonderful that our St. Paul's family can provide this outreach to our community. Thank you to the Thomas family for starting this tradition and maintaining it!

Ms. Ella is concerned about the condition of the church and that it needs some rehabbing. If you have carpentry skills and are looking for a project between now and next December, we will gladly connect you with access to see what it needs to be safe, sturdy and welcoming.

Some of us didn't make it to Central Park after the parade, as the Walaskays opened their home with the warmth of their fire and hospitality, with cheeseburgers, hot chocolate, veggies and cookies and a good time for all! Thank you, Walaskays!

But wait, that's not all - we had gathered the night before the parade to celebrate St. Nicholas Day with the reading of his story, a children's sermon from Fr. Ben., and with pizza before the lighting of the Christmas Tree in Central Park. That was a fun time too!



Strong men, women and children helped haul the storage boxes from upstairs on December 7 to unpack the Christmas decorations so EYC and friends could unpack nativity sets, fluff bows, hang wreaths, put up and decorate Christmas trees, and

hang greenery in the nave. Thanks to Bob Hodgson for repairing the standards for Christmas Eve and to those who helped install them and to Aaron and Gisele for helping fill the candles on December 21. It was a beautiful sight and still is. If you didn't make it to church during Christmas, please come by to look before we dismantle. The evening prayer on Tuesday at 5:15 p.m. is an especially good weekday time to savor the feel of



Christmas and the warmth and still of St. Paul's. When you come, you will see on the altar that the wise men have arrived to find Baby Jesus in his manger. It was a treat to watch the wise men traverse the eastern windows of the nave until the second

Sunday of Christmas when we celebrated Epiphany with a deviation from the traditional St. Paul's pageant.

# St. Paul's Calendar January 2026

SUNDAY	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				1 New Year's Day Church Office closed	2 Noon Eucharist, & Book Study	3 DAR-Parish Hall 9-12 Purdys - Parish Hall 12-6
<b><u>4—2 Christmas</u></b> <b>8 Morning Prayer and Eucharist</b> <b>10—Holy Eucharist Rite II</b>	5	6 5:15 p.m. - Evening Prayer	7 5:15 p.m. - Evening Prayer  5:45 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	8	9 Noon Eucharist, & Book Study	10
<b><u>11—1 Epiphany</u></b> <b>8 Morning Prayer and Eucharist</b>  <b>10—Holy Eucharist Rite II</b>  Purdys - Parish Hall 1-5	12	13 5:15 p.m. - Evening Prayer	14 5:15 p.m. Evening Prayer 5:45 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	15	16 Noon Eucharist, & Book Study	17
<b><u>18—2 Epiphany</u></b> <b>8 Morning Prayer and Eucharist</b> <b>10—Holy Eucharist Rite II</b>	19	20 5:15 p.m. - Evening Prayer  5:45 p.m. Vestry Meeting	21 5:15 p.m. Evening Prayer 5:45 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	22	23 Noon Eucharist, & Book Study	24
<b><u>25—3 Epiphany</u></b> <b>8 Morning Prayer and Eucharist</b> <b>10—Holy Eucharist Rite II</b>	26	27 5:15 p.m. Bishop White- here for Celebration of New Ministry	28	29	30 Noon Eucharist, & Book Study	31

# Lay Ministry January 2026

Date & Lessons	Altar Guild Altar Flowers	Ushers	Acolytes	Lay Readers	Coffee Hour
<b>4-2 Christmas</b> Jeremiah 31:7-14 Psalm 84 Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23	Gisele Purdy  <i>Mrs. Frank Williams</i>			8 George Relyea 10 Leslie Newman, Mike France	
<b>11-1 Epiphany</b> Isaiah 42:1-9 Psalm 29 Acts 10: 34-43 Matthew 3:13-17	Susan Sauls Ella Thomas  <i>Mr. Mike France</i>		The Purdys,	8 Cooper Lilly 10 Leslie Newman, Susie Watkins	
<b>18-2 Epiphany</b> Isaiah 49:1-7 Psalm 40:1-12 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 John 1:29-42	Alexis Purdy  <i>Mrs. William Polk</i>			8 Ellen Redding 10 Susan Sauls, Mike France	
<b>25-3 Epiphany</b> Isaiah 9:1-4 Psalm 27:1, 5-13 1 Corinthians 1:10-18 Matthew 4:12-23	Marilyn Dixon Ellen Redding  <i>Leslie Newman</i>		Caroline White, The Purdys	8 Ellen Redding 10 Susan Sauls, Marty White	

**Christian Community  
Outreach Items for January  
Ready-to-Eat Items  
Soup, Stew, Chili, Crackers**

## January Birthdays and Anniversaries

4 Kent Preston  
7 Mitchell Deep  
17 Fr. Ben. Newland  
19 Mischelle Williams  
27 Martha Polk  
28 Keith Carroll  
31 Hannah Caudill

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.

## Youth News - Continued

Leslie Newman—



This year, we celebrated Epiphany as a youth Sunday with Fr. Ben. including children of all ages in his sermon. If you are on Facebook and haven't watched the service yet, I think all of us who delighted

in looking from the eyes of the children highly recommend it! Thanks to our 'tweens and teens, Caroline, Eleanor, KK, Will and Addyson for reading and leading and to Alexis and Kaleigh for offering the prayers of the people and for assisting all, to Jieun for the beautiful music and to Fr. Ben. for his efforts to make for such a special day. We were especially glad Deacon Larry, staunch supporter of EYC, could join us for this service. Thank you to Sarah Littrell for bringing treats and to Mike France for helping with coffee hour.

On December 7, we gathered at First United Methodist Church for the Alice P. Taylor Candlelight Service, where Jieun played beautifully. Then the EYC who could went to supper at Arby's.



But wait, there is more! On Saturday, December 20, we gathered at St. Paul's to walk to First Missionary Baptist Church to attend a community play titled "From Xmas to Christmas" written by their Scott Terry, and featuring Kayleigh in three different roles. Fr. Ben. joined us.

And then, speaking of heartwarming, Alexis, Kaleigh and Miranda gave of their days off from work to host Parents' Day Out on December 22, with crafts, movies, games, stories, snacks, lunch, and time for our children to be together for fun and fellowship at St.



Paul's. Thank you, Purdys, for the thoughtfulness of this gift to our families and friends. It provided the parents a welcome and needed break and gave the kids time



to safely expend some of that energy that abounds so close to Christmas!



## December Vestry Minutes Summary

Marty White

- Financial report was distributed and discussed. It was decided to have the total pledge amount be announced.

- The Rector's report was reviewed. A motion was made to accept the Rector's housing for 2026 as well as the Rector's health reimbursement which was previously agreed upon.



- Marty reported that a new organizer has been placed in the sacristy. Three new garment racks have been placed in the choir room. New LED bulbs have been ordered for the altar area. New recycle containers have been placed in the kitchen as well as the office.

- We have been encouraged to contact and think about nominations for the vestry. There will be four openings next year.

- The Vestry then enjoyed its annual Christmas party. Thanks to Bill Gentry for the hospitality and for opening his home.

The next Vestry meeting will be January 20, at 5:45 p.m.

## Financial Summary as of November 30, 2025

<b>Pledged Income Received to Date</b>	<b>\$91, 072</b>
<b>Total Pledges for 2025</b>	<b>\$116,567</b>
<b>Percentage Collected</b>	<b>78%</b>
<b>Outstanding Pledges</b>	<b>\$25,495</b>
<b>Percentage collected last year same month</b>	<b>74%</b>



## 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

Morning Prayer with Eucharist - Sundays 8 a.m.  
Holy Eucharist Rite II - Sundays 10 a.m.  
Evening Prayer - Tuesdays 5:15 p.m.

## Vestry Ministry Teams

Sr. Warden  
Jr. Warden  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Clerk

Susie Watkins  
Mitch Deep  
Bill Gentry  
Mike France  
Marty White

Budget and Finance  
Communications  
Christian Formation and Youth

Marilyn Dixon, Mike France, Bill Gentry  
Bill Brodsky, Marty White, Ellen Redding  
Alexis Purdy, Miranda Purdy, Leslie Newman, Marty White,  
Monessa Curry

Building and Grounds  
Fellowship/Outreach  
Pastoral Care

Marty White, Mitch Deep, Joe Mattingly  
Becky Carroll, Susie Watkins, Susan Sauls  
Dcn. Larry, Marilyn Dixon, Susie Watkins, Marty White

## St. Paul's Episcopal Church

5 South Green Street

Henderson, KY 42420

[www.stpauls-henderson.org](http://www.stpauls-henderson.org)

