

# St. Paul's Episcopal Church

## THE GOOD NEWS December 2024

Love God. Love Each Other.

It's just that simple.

—Jesus

### Happy New Year!

Susie Watkins

Most of us remember celebrating the new millennium and wondered if the world would end! Most of us have made our resolutions to be "better" this year. Hopefully, we can all keep those promises to ourself.

God fulfilled his promise to us to send His Son to save us all. Throughout the month of December we awaited and then celebrated the birth of the Christ child. We began Advent with the lighting of the candles.

We continued the tradition of the annual Christmas party at Henderson Manor. We took snacks and gifts and sang carols, but I believe that those of us who went from St. Paul's were blessed way beyond the residents.

We were equally blessed with the beautiful music provided by Ally and Jenny while they were on Christmas break. As Jenny heads back to school this week, we will still be able to enjoy the music by Ally next Sunday. We will miss them both.

The Church was decorated with greenery and the poinsettia donations. As always, the Church looks beautiful. The candle lit Church and the singing of *Silent Night* during the Christmas Eve services was exceptionally moving.



Fr. Ben Newland was here on the 22nd to celebrate the Eucharist, and we were treated by Molly Preston's singing of *O Holy Night*.

This year we again had an early service and a midnight Mass on Christmas Eve. Thirty minutes of special music by Ally and Jenny preceded the mass. Trae, Miranda and Javon also sang *O Holy Night* before the early service. Paul Rigdon played his guitar and sang *Silent Night* at both services. The services were both well attended. After each service we had a festive reception.



On January 5th, we will have the Epiphany pageant. This is always a great service. Our kids make it special.



You won't want to miss our annual meeting on January 19th after the service. This is an important meeting in part because we will have the election of our new Vestry. If you would like to serve please let Judy or one of the current Vestry members know. This will be an important year for us with some positive changes. Please make plans to attend.

Please make it a part of your New Year's plans to come to church on Sundays and to be involved. We are always in need of volunteers in many areas. If you have a special interest, let Judy or a Vestry member know, and we will have a place for you.

Also, don't forget to thank the people who keep our church going—Judy, Larry, Leslie, Marty and others who keep the lights on. The search committee has worked diligently this last year to find the right priest for us. The Vestry has continued to take care of business—as always.

God Bless You and wishing you the best year ever! Happy New Year.

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>

**Sunday, January 5 — Youth Sunday/Epiphany Pageant**

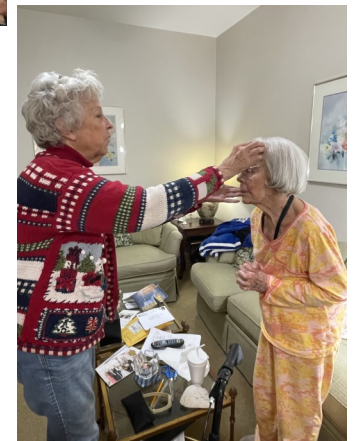
**Sunday, January 12 — Holy Eucharist with Fr. Larry Minter**

**Sunday, January 19 — Annual Parish Meeting after the service**

**Sundays, January 19 and 26 — Morning Prayer with Deacon Larry**

**Tuesday, January 21, 5:45 p.m. — Vestry Meeting**

## December Happenings



## My New Year's Resolution

*from the Deacon*

Have you made your New year's resolution yet? The year 2024 is over and now we are moving into 2025 with lots of hope for this year. There were a lot of good and bad memories last year, but it's time for us to move on and focus on another year here at Saint Paul's.

Every New Year I hear about someone making a New Year's resolution and I just smile knowing that they will probably fail at keeping their promise just as miserably as I do. I try to make a New Year's resolution every year because I want to correct the mistakes I have committed the past year. So, I try to do something in a more positive way to make a change in my life.

People make New Year's resolutions all the time and are not always able or capable of keeping their promise to themselves. Whether it be to lose weight, exercise more, stop smoking or just to be a better person.

I am one such person, who finds myself weak, therefore I will try making a resolution to make more time in my life for prayer. As a Deacon in the Church, I spend a lot of my time wrestling with many of the scriptures, just trying to find God's direction in my life. While all these efforts are important, many times I really miss the true answer: prayer.

Often, I worry about our broken government and the world, grieving internally for all the chaos. I wonder why so many of us choose to stay home, rather than coming to church on Sundays. I feel so helpless not knowing what to do. However, God calls me to action, to drop all my worries and pray.

Jesus, while in the Garden of Gethsemane, prayed many times. Often, He would go somewhere to pray by Himself. The very act of Jesus teaching His disciples to pray indicates the importance of having a prayer life.

The apostle Paul commands us to pray without ceasing. He instructs us to always give thanks and praise to God in our prayers continually. I truly believe when we persevere in prayer and never give up but continue to ask in prayer in faith, God will eventually answer.

This New Year is uncertain and will be painful at times for us. But even if it is full of bad stuff or we have lost everything important to us, we can choose to pray. I am not saying prayer alone will work, often we must make an effort to do our part. We cannot expect God to do everything for us! I am going to cut back on my internet time. I too, spend time wasting my time unnecessarily on the web.

This New Year I will stick to my resolution like glue and spend more quality time with God in prayer. I believe God will put the words in my mouth and the will in my heart if I faithfully open my heart to prayer. That's my resolution! What's yours?

*Randy*



Join us at 10 a.m. this Sunday, January 5 for Youth Sunday as the St. Paul's Youth present the Epiphany Pageant.

## January Vestry Minutes Summary

Susie Watkins

- Discussed expenses for supply priest
- Bill and Mike are meeting with financial advisor to find out what we need to do to be able to afford the financial package for a priest.
- Approved payment of \$1,708 to pay for tuning and organ repair.
- **Building and Grounds**
- Heating and A/C getting repair
- **Worship and Music**
- Fr. Ben Newland will be here Dec. 22, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day
- Two services for Christmas Eve at 4:30 and 10:30
- Service on Christmas day at 10 a.m.
- **New Business**
- Annual meeting is set for January 19th after the service.
- Nominees to serve on the Vestry
- Agreed to give staff Christmas gifts and a gift certificate to Sandy Freebureger for housing the Priest in her guest house
- Recognition of members rotating off the Vestry - Marty, Mike, and Christina.

### **Old Business**

- Henderson Manor annual Christmas party will be December 17 at 2 p.m.
  - Motion for adjournment for the Vestry Christmas party.
- The next meeting will be after the Annual Meeting on January 19, 2025.

**2025 calendars are still available on the table outside the church and the parish office for \$10. Money goes to support youth activities during the year.**

## Youth News

Leslie Newman—

It all came together again! Even as we appreciated Deacon Larry's Advent series, the busyness of all we did and needed to do pervaded the quiet anticipation we wish we could be better at observing.

With Thanksgiving falling late this year, it seemed Advent was quickly upon us to the extent we dismantled the Thanksgiving altar on the first Sunday of Advent. Thanks to all who contributed pumpkins and other bounty for the altar and kudos to our youth for their time, creativity and work to have continued this parish tradition.

Our St. Paul's float was part of the Henderson Merchant's Christmas parade on December 7. Thanks to Ms. Ella, Aaron and Wendell Thomas and to Ann Street and Michael Minton for helping refresh and decorate the little church and for their love of the children to whom the church is intended to bring joy, both in the parade and in the Christmas in the Park display. Thanks to Brandy McMichen and Eleanor for recruiting Eleanor's dad, Brad Alexander, to provide the side-by-side and trailer to haul our float this year, Thanks to the City of Henderson for storing and delivering the church to our parking lot. Thanks to Brad for providing his employees to help load the church, repair the steeple and connect the electricity, to Brandy for safely driving us and for our crew who helped unload and place the church in Central Park after the parade. Thanks to the parishioners who donated candy and money to buy candy for our youth and children to hand out to the children along the route. Thanks to our photographer Aaron who fills multiple roles, including gathering and maintaining the buckets and to Marty White for filling them as we go. We are lucky to have Ms. Ella ride shotgun and Aaron and Wendell to provide their steady hands and guidance from start to finish on parade day. Thanks to our youth and children who represent St. Paul's along the parade route with their smiles and hospitality.



We were honored to receive a heartwarming acknowledgement of this parish outreach via a note from the parent of a young child, which you can read on the bulletin board at church. The young man referenced was Javon Boyd or Trae Purdy or his fiancée's brothers, Calvin or Dylan Daugherty but know it could have been any of our young people because this is who they are.



After the parade we went to First United Methodist Church for their lunch of hot dogs, chips and cookies and for our young people to shop their Christmas community giveaway for ornaments, books, a wooden toy and other items contributed by their church members. By a glitch, we didn't all end up at the Children's Nutcracker at the PAC after that but next year we will endeavor to attend that performance together.

Please make yourself a note now to keep your eyes open throughout the year for sales on individually wrapped candy and gum that will stay fresh until the first Saturday of December 2025 and mark your calendar to join us on parade day! Some of us like the idea of having vests made similar to those worn by volunteers at General Convention for our parade participants to wear over our outerwear to identify us as members of St. Paul's. Perhaps such vests also could be worn for other events where we represent the community, such as at the Lenten luncheon or to visits at Henderson Manor or when we Christmas carol. What do you think of that idea?

Speaking of visits at Henderson Manor, our youth were in school at the time of this year's Christmas party on December 17, but we were able to assist coordinator Becky Carroll fill gift bags with toothbrushes and toothpaste donated by our parish dentists Dr. William Smith and Dr. Kurt Wilson, along with scarves, caps, socks, hand lotion, coloring and puzzle books and crayons, cheese curls and soft drinks donated by parishioners for the 51 residents. We were lucky to catch the Mighty Dollar's going out of business sale and blessed by the generosity of those who gave items or money to provide Christmas and by those of our parish family who gave of their December 17 to visit. We believe the majority of the residents are limited to allotments of \$40/month for their personal spending, and we were glad to help provide them some extras. Would you like to join the St. Paul's group for the next visit? Do you have ideas about what might be a good activity or treat for the residents?

Avery Walker invited EYC to his fifth birthday party at the parish hall on December 8. How can it be that he is 5 already? Afterwards, EYC gathered at the Presbyterian Church of Henderson for the 99th Alice P. Taylor Candlelight service. Our youth became familiar with this community gathering from volunteering when St. Paul's has hosted it, and it is significant they appreciate it so much they choose to make it part of their Christmas traditions. Afterwards, we gathered at Rockhouse on the River for supper.

# St. Paul's Calendar January 2025

SUNDAY	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			1 Happy New Year	2	3	4
<b><u>5—2 Christmas</u></b> 10—Morning Prayer with Deacon Larry - Youth Sunday/Epiphany Pageant  Ally Donnelly - Musician	6	7	8	9	10	11
<b><u>12—1 Epiphany</u></b> 10—Holy Eucharist with Fr. Larry Minter  Margaret Kimberling - Organ	13	14	15	16	17	18
<b><u>19—2 Epiphany</u></b> 10—Morning Prayer with Deacon Larry Annual Parish Meeting after the service  Neal Biggers - Organ	20	21 5:45 p.m. Vestry Meeting - Rector's Study	22	23	24	25
<b><u>26—3 Christmas</u></b> 10—Morning Prayer with Deacon Larry  Margaret Kimberling - Organ	27	28	29	30	31	

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

# Lay Ministry January 2025

Date & Lessons	Altar Guild Altar Flowers	Ushers	Acolytes	Lay Readers	Coffee Hour
<b>5-2 Christmas</b> Isaiah 60:1-6 Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 Ephesians 3:1-12 Matthew 2:1-12	Gisele Purdy      <i>Mrs. Frank Williams</i>				Youth Sunday
<b>12-1 Epiphany</b> Isaiah 43:1-7 Psalm 29 Acts 8:14-17 Luke 3:15-17, 21-22	Susan Sauls Ella Thomas     <i>Mr. Mike France</i>		The Purdys	Susie Watkins, Mike France	
<b>19-2 Epiphany</b> Isaiah 62:1-5 Psalm 36:5-10 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 John 2:1-11	Alexis Purdy     <i>Mrs. William Polk</i>			Marty White, Leslie Newman	
<b>26-3 Epiphany</b> Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 Psalm 19:1-7 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a Luke 4:14-21	Marilyn Dixon Ellen Redding    <i>Mr. and Mrs. Tyler Caudill</i>		The Purdys, Caroline White	Susan Sauls, Mike France	

## January Birthdays and Anniversaries

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

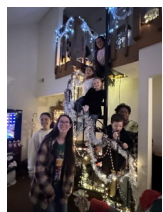
## Youth News (Continued)

EYC gathered on Saturday December 14 for a spontaneous lunch at the Brown Bag and decided, admittedly a bit early in Advent, to start the task of carrying the Christmas decorations – the nativities, standards, wreaths, garland, trees and ornaments from the storage room upstairs and to begin putting them up so that we might be free the next day to attend the musical *A Christmas Carol*, presented by the Henderson Area Arts Alliance at the Preston Arts Center. Our Saturday work day was a success and we even managed to have lunch at Tacoholics before we went to the play on Sunday.

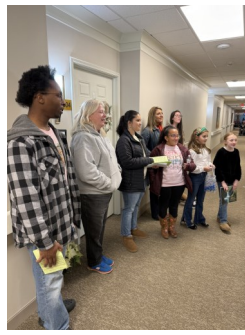


EYC and our St. Paul's family welcomed the return of Molly Preston to sing the offertory on December 22. Molly, a student at the University of Louisville, chose to sing *O Holy Night* and she and Jenny Donnelly provided beautiful music, as have Jenny and Ally during their Christmas vacations from college. Molly and her sister Kylie are dear friends of our youth whose hearts remain with their memories of time spent together at summer camps and gatherings at All Saints, the diocesan camp. The Preston sisters are the cousins of David Walaskay and the niece of Connie and Dave. We already have extended the invitation for Molly to return as a guest soloist when she is able to return to Henderson.

EYC gathered after our service on December 22 to write Christmas cards, make gift bags, choose hymns, eat pizza and set out to carol and give EYC calendars to some of our parish family and friends who are unable to attend church. Many



hearts were warmed and more than a few tears were shed that beautiful day, both our youth's and those we visited. Our last stop was at Ms. Ella's, where the youth marveled at her Christmas



decorations, enjoyed treats and seriously contemplated whether they could have a sleepover in the warmth and wonderland that is Ms. Ella's home. We ended the day with supper at Tacoholics and photos and a visit at the Santa stop at Second and Water.



Thanks to our acolytes Alexis, Kaleigh, Miranda, Caroline and Trae for their service



always, but especially throughout Advent and our Christmas services, and thanks to Miranda, Javon and Trae for contributing to the musical offering prior to the 5 p.m. Christmas Eve service with their performance of *O Holy Night*. They and our other young adults, youth and children will participate in youth Sunday on January 5, the day before Epiphany. We hope you can join us.

You also are welcome to join us on Sunday, January 12 after 10 a.m. service to welcome Fr. Larry Minter, graciously returning to serve as supply priest, for lunch, dismantling Christmas and planning for the year ahead. If you can't join us, please let us know your ideas and suggestions. At 3 p.m. that day, we will adjourn to First Missionary Baptist Church for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Celebration, sponsored by the Henderson Henderson County Human Rights Commission. The 2025 event theme focuses on "Equality, Empowerment and Excellence". The special guest speaker for the event will be Evansville Mayor Stephanie Terry. Music will be provided by the Henderson County High School Choir and Rev, E.J. Simmons, senior pastor of Bennett Memorial United Methodist Church.

Please look for announcements and invitations to other youth activities in the parish weekly email and let Leslie know if you would like to be added to (or removed from) the EYC text thread.

In the meantime, do mark your calendars now for Shrove Tuesday pancake supper on March 4.

### **Financial Summary as of November 30, 2024**

<b>Pledged Income Received to Date</b>	<b>\$96,409.00</b>
<b>Non-dividend Investment Income Transferred</b>	<b>\$10,000.00</b>
<b>Other Operating Income to Date</b>	<b>\$68,754.00</b>
<b>Total Budgeted Expenses to Date</b>	<b>\$165,585.00</b>

## 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

Bill Gentry  
Marty White  
Susie Watkins  
Mike France

Budget and Finance  
Worship and Music  
Communications  
Christian Formation and Youth

Marilyn Dixon, \*Mike France, Bill Gentry, Joe Mattingly  
\*Marilyn Dixon, Mike France, Bill Gentry, Miranda Purdy  
\*Christie Johnson, Bill Gentry, Susan Sauls, Susie Watkins  
Alexis Purdy, \*Miranda Purdy, Leslie Newman, Marty White,  
Monessa Curry

Building and Grounds  
Fellowship/Outreach  
Pastoral Care  
Search Committee

\*Marty White, Bill Brodsky, Joe Mattingly  
Marilyn Dixon, \*Susie Watkins, Marty White  
\*Dcn. Larry, Marilyn Dixon, Susie Watkins, Marty White  
Mike France, Bill Gentry, Cooper Lilly, Christy Mattingly,  
Ellen Redding, \*Susan Sauls, Connie Spivey

## St. Paul's Episcopal Church

5 South Green Street  
Henderson, KY 42420

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

