

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

THE GOOD NEWS February 2025

Love God. Love Each Other.

It's just that simple.

—Jesus

Happy New Year!

Susie Watkins

Are you there, God? It's me Margaret. I have been thinking of the title of this popular Judy Blume book. How often do we think "God are you listening to me?" I have all these problems, and concerns and I haven't received answers to my prayers. We wonder if God is listening to us, but the real question is are we listening for God speaking to us. Maybe we are expecting a burning bush or an angel to give us a message. That's probably not going to happen. I believe God speaks to us in a whisper. We are all so busy that we don't take the time to really listen.

God's plan for us won't be an angel coming to us and telling us of some great plan like he did Moses or Mary. Things we may think are insignificant may be the right thing for us to do. We can volunteer on a cleanup day, donate to CCO or say a kind word to a stranger. A smile might brighten someone's day. Whenever Sandy saw a friend as he was leaving, he always said, "I love you man!" When was the last time you told someone that you loved them or just picked up the phone and CALLED someone? Supporting your church by simply attending may be God's plan for you. Food for thought.

Meanwhile, this is a pivotal year in the life of our Church. Hopefully, in the near future we will be finalizing the hiring of our next Rector. Many major decisions will be made. Keep your eyes and ears open.

As you know, on January 19th we had our annual meeting. The reports given were positive and we expect nothing less. We elected three new Vestry members: Marilyn Dixon, Russ Gubernot and me—Susie Watkins. We

appreciate the service of those rotating off the Vestry: Mike France, Christina Johnson and Marty White. Mike and Marty will continue working with the Vestry as treasurer and secretary respectively. Our new members join Bill Gentry, Bill Brodsky, Joe Mattingly, Becky Carroll, Mitch Deep and Miranda Purdy.

After the Annual Meeting we had a brief Vestry meeting to elect and appoint officers of the Vestry. Mitch Deep agreed to serve as Jr. Warden, Marty will serve as secretary and on the building and grounds committee, Mike France will continue as treasurer and I was given the honor and responsibility to serve as Sr. Warden. I look forward to serving with these members.

Sadly, for us, Deacon Larry announced that he is retiring as our Deacon at the end of the July. We are happy for him, but he will be greatly missed. He has been a fantastic spiritual advisor and leader of our church during this time without a priest. He has taken on many more responsibilities than normally would be expected of a Deacon while he has been fighting a battle himself with cancer. However, he assured us that he and Michael will continue their work with keeping our grounds so well groomed. We plan on holding him to that.

So, in closing, there are going to be some exciting things going on this year, and I hope all of you will be a part of that. Take a minute and listen for God's messages for you. Who knows what He has planned for you! Thank you for the trust you have in me by electing me to the Vestry and allowing me to serve as your Sr. Warden. Never hesitate to contact me with concerns, questions and advice. I will do my best to serve you and the Church according to His will. I am looking forward to seeing you soon. God bless and keep 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, February 2, 9, and 23 — Morning Prayer with Deacon Larry

Sunday, February 16 — Holy Eucharist with Fr. Larry Minter

Tuesday, February 18 — Vestry Meeting

January Happenings



Birthdays blessings from
Dcn. for Kathy Gubernot

St. Pauls Epiphany Pageant



Father Have Mercy On Us

from the Deacon

I often wonder do we really love Christ and His Church? I ask this question because so many of us choose to stay home or be somewhere else on Sunday mornings. When I missed Church during my months of illness dealing with Acute Myeloid Leukemia, missing Church was the worse part of my whole journey. I realized how much I loved my St. Paul's family and Jesus.

On Sunday the Nineteenth of January, we had our annual business meeting at St. Paul's. I was surprised that we only had twenty seven to attend Sunday Service and not everyone stayed for our annual business meeting. It is every member of the Parish's responsibility to attend and participate in the life of our beloved Church. We are at a time when we need everyone's support and commitment for our Church's survival. Is it really to much to ask of you to a least attend one Sunday a month. Think about it that's only one hour of worship for the whole month are you that busy to attend one worship service. I know we have parishioners who are unable to attend, especially our older folks. Thanks be to God, they at least watch us on Facebook when they are able.

The truth is nowhere in the Bible does it tell us we need to go to Church. However what the word of God does say is we are to gather with like minded people. It's not that we need a Church building, but we need to associate with other believers. By gathering with other believers, we not only follow the biblical call to be part of the body of Christ, but we also open ourselves to the blessings and healing of our Lord Jesus Christ.

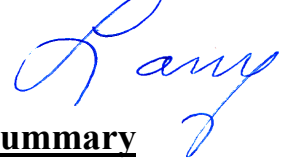
The most important reason for Christians to attend Church is that the church is God's idea, "I will build my Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." First Thessalonians 2:8, describes Paul's mentality of be involved in a local Church. He wrote, "We were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become dear to us." Christians are motivated to spend time together because of our love for each other.

On February 16th, Father Larry Minter will be celebrating the Eucharist and baptizing two of our adult attendees. Carla and Brandon Capps have been attending since last fall. They have been very faithful attending Church here at St. Paul's. They bring with them also their two children whom they are adopting. They already have four older children, who have already left home. I am begging you, please attend this very important service welcoming this husband and wife to our Lord's Table together with their family of Christ.

Now, if your offended by my words, please call me, and curse me if it makes you feel better. Or, call your Bishop and state your complaint about me. But do not complain to any Vestry members because this article is by my own choice, I take full responsibility for my actions as your Deacon. I believe it to be dangerous to not take God's word seriously. We should all put God first in our lives and attend Church on Sundays. Our culture has gradually diminished the importance of rest and religious activity to the point that it is now rare to find people who try to be at Church consistently throughout the year. I, Deacon Larry, say all this with love in my heart for my St. Paul's family.

Finally, I want to inform those who didn't attend the annual meeting, I will be retiring this year. I have already spoken with the Bishop expressing my wish to retire the last Sunday in July. I have already exceeded the regular retirement age of seventy two, this year I will be seventy four. I feel it is time for me to retire and enjoy the time I have left on God's good earth. May God's mercy and blessing be with us all.

Love and Peace



January Vestry Minutes Summary

Susie Watkins

- Welcomed new Vestry members: Marilyn Dixon, Russ Gubernot, and Susie Watkins
- Approved the minutes of the December meeting
- Received the year-end financial reports
- Elected/Appointed officers for 2025
- Sr. Warden-Susie Watkins
- Jr. Warden- Mitch Deep
- Secretary-Marty White
- Treasurer-Mike France
- Building and grounds report-we are purchasing a diagnostic tool for the heating unit in the education building. This is necessary because it is a Mitsubishi unit and no one works on them around here. This will enable our service man to determine problems.
- We had an application for organist.
- The Vestry will meet with the search committee in regard to the hiring of a new rector.

Calendars still available

There are a few of our beautiful EYC calendars left. Proceeds support our youth.

And a reminder to mark your calendars for Shrove Tuesday, March 4. It seems late but it will be here as soon as you receive next month's newsletter. We welcome your help, not only in the kitchen, but by inviting your family and friends to enjoy St. Paul's hospitality as we shaven the cabinets to prepare for Lent.

Youth News

Leslie Newman—

EYC's best laid January plans were put asunder by Mother Nature's plan for winter weather. And once again, as His plans are wont to do, the pieces came together!

Epiphany fell on Monday this year, and we planned to celebrate a day early, on January 5. As groceries were busy selling bread and milk and the weather forecasters prognosticating, we met on Saturday morning January 4 to practice and prepare for youth Sunday and the Epiphany pageant. Here is the story of this year's pageant. I didn't take notes at the time so if there is a story I haven't included, please remind me so we can include it next month.

Many thanks to Alexis, Kaleigh and Miranda for hauling down the tubs of timeless, vintage costumes



and related accessories on December 29 so we could start sorting through the treasures in anticipation of Epiphany. And thanks for helping pack them back. Special thanks to Alexis for volunteering to lead the service, to each of these young ladies for volunteering to read the lessons appointed for Epiphany, for helping, coaching and cajoling the younger children, and for their flexibility and willingness to fill in whatever role was needed, including Kaleigh and Miranda as shepherd and wise man. Thanks to Alexis for inviting her special friends and the Hillyard family to join us. Kaleb jumped right in and volunteered for speaking and non-speaking parts but his sister Marlee was having no part of it – until on pageant day, she did!

Thanks to the parents and grandparents who brought their children and grandchildren to practice and early to church on the big day, from Little Dixie to Leitchfield, in between and beyond, and to they who encouraged their young people and set them free to participate. Special acknowledgement to Carla and Marty for bringing their charges from Union County, and to Brandy for coming from Evansville to practice, practically from her deathbed, and for allowing Eleanor to stay not just for lunch after practice but for giving the children time to play with their friends in the sanctuary after lunch. The young people so enjoy their chances to be together in this sacred space.



Ally Donnelly diligently prepared for the special hymns and Christmas carols for the Epiphany pageant and youth Sunday. Those best laid plans were supplanted by the cancellation of the January 5 service due to the inclement weather and Ally's planned return to college. Then, Margaret Kimberling stepped right in and even brought her sidekick Clark and his recorder on "Epiphany observed", January 12. And then, with a five minute warning, our choir stepped up as if they had practiced for two weeks themselves, so that not only did our youth have the chance to sing the first verse of each hymn they had practiced, but they also had the chance to hear the stories told by the choir's singing every verse and the congregation's enjoyment and accompaniment with the beloved carols and hymns familiar to them.



The most popular role of the pageant is to portray Mary, Mother of Jesus. Caroline volunteered first and had understudies in the wings, whom you might have seen as angels. Eleanor was Archangel Gabriel(la), K'leyah and Zara were angels, too, and both had speaking parts. KK, like Kaleb, volunteered for any available role, and when the need for a pinch hitter arose, she stepped right up and read her part without practice. Caroline, Eleanor and K'Leyah also read collects in the service. Zara worked hard to learn to read her part as well as to say it from memory. Kudos to Zara. Kudos too to her brother, Zayden, who practiced hard and did a great job. He had butterflies in his stomach on January 12, as did Charlotte, and we hope both will be ready for prime time next year. Sylvia did not have a reading part or practice but she showed up on Sunday morning and joined in the choir of angels as if she had been playing one for years, and she had a great and joyful time! One of my favorite of Gisele's photos of the pageant is Sylvia flying through the air – look at the photo page to find it! Thanks to Gisele for faithfully capturing so many moments of our parish life and for sharing her good eye for beauty with us all.



Our manger is in need of minor repairs. I have a photo of the broken slat that needs to be repaired or replaced and we can afford the right volunteer eleven months to complete this chore. Please let me know if you can help.

St. Paul's Calendar February 2025

SUNDAY	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
						1 Parish Hall - Duncan
<u>2—The Presentation</u> 10—Morning Prayer with Deacon Larry - Margaret Kimberling Organ	3	4	5	6	7	8 Parish Hall - DAR
<u>9—5 Epiphany</u> Morning Prayer with Deacon Larry - Margaret Kimberling Organ	10	11	12	13	14	15
<u>16—6 Epiphany</u> 10—Holy Eucharist Rite II with Fr. Larry Minter Margaret Kimberling - Organ	17	18 5:45 p.m. Vestry Meeting - Rector's Study	19	20	21	22
<u>23—7 Epiphany</u> 10—Morning Prayer with Deacon Larry	24	25	26	27	28	

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

Lay Ministry February 2025

Date & Lessons	Altar Guild <i>Altar Flowers</i>	Ushers	Acolytes	Lay Readers	Coffee Hour
2 -The Presentation Malachi 3:1-4 Psalm 84 Hebrews 2:14-18 Luke 2:22-40	Gisele Purdy <i>Mr. and Mrs. Kent Preston</i>		The Purdys Caroline White	Mike France, Marty White	
9-5 Epiphany Isaiah 6:1-8 Psalm 138 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 Luke 5:1-11	Susan Sauls Ella Thomas <i>Michele Deep and her children</i>			Susie Watkins, Leslie Newman	
16-6 Epiphany Jeremiah 17:5-10 Psalm 1 1 Corinthians 15:12-20 Luke 6:17-26	Alexis Purdy <i>Leslie Newman</i>		The Purdys Caroline White	Cooper Lilly, Kathy Gubernot	
23 - 7 Epiphany Genesis 45:3-11, 15 Psalm 37:1-12, 41-42 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50 Luke 6:27-38	Marilyn Dixon Ellen Redding <i>Gisele Purdy</i>			Cooper Lilly, Alfonso Aldana	

February Birthdays and Anniversaries

2 Debra Smith	21 Reade Mattingly
Joe Mattingly	26 David Walaskay
4 Cooper Lilly	Sylvia Shelton
5 Gisele Purdy	27 Alyssa Mattingly
Jody Payne Wilson	28 Kim Crabtree
9 Scott Russelburg	29 Tom Windberg
14 Scott & Shelly Reitz	Lorna Littrell
16 Trae Purdy	
18 John Tyler Caudill	

Youth News (Continued)

Our youngest child in this year's pageant was Mallie. The manger was not sturdy enough for her, and it was just as well, because Eleanor has a just-like-real baby doll she volunteered to safely play the role of Baby Jesus. If you didn't get to see Eleanor's doll, I bet if you ask she will bring the baby again another day. And it was just as well for Mallie because she dressed as an animal and busied herself with arranging the camels in the "stable". If you watched on Facebook Live or were sitting further in the back, wondering why some of the folks sitting up front with little bellies shaking when they laughed, like bowls full of jelly, it is because Mallie plaintively pled "Help me, help me, he's heavy!" as she hauled the large plush camel that has miraculously joined our menagerie. It will be fun to anticipate next year to see if our youngest child may fit in the (hopefully) refurbished manger! Perhaps this will be the soon-to-be new sibling of this year's little cow (reminiscent of Chik Fil A's Eat Mor Chiken character?), Shipley, Mallie's cousin. Shipley brought an abundance of energy to church and it's doubtful anyone had more fun than he did, exploring all the nooks and crannies of the areas surrounding the "stable".

You may recall that at our previous youth Sunday Mallie's older brothers debuted with the reading of the suffrages and the help of their mother, Hannah. Well, this youth Sunday, following their role as shepherds and without practice or the security of their Mom, John Tyler and Chandler took the podium by themselves, without a run through and as if they read every Sunday. We are so fortunate to afford our young people the opportunity to learn and gain confidence by reading aloud as part of our service.

It takes a village and we are blessed to have Ms. Monessa as our Queen of Godly Play. Among other blessings, we are blessed she brings her great granddaughter K'Leyah (KK) whenever she can, to be an enthusiastic part of whatever we are doing whenever she comes. And this year Ms. Monessa led KK's mother and grandmother to youth Sunday, too. On practice day, as Ms. Monessa observed the youth getting a bit restless amidst the chaos of practice, learning lines, finding costumes

singing the hymns and carols, and exerting the energy that comes with Saturday morning with a winter storm warning, she rallied with the most wonderful spontaneity. She used the nativities on display in our church, five of them, to show and teach our children and youth the story of the pageant they were learning to enact. It was a very special time for us all and I hope it will become a tradition.

Thank you to Deacon Larry for going along with our plans and our revised plans and to Judy for her guidance and help with the bulletin and revising it.

There are several children, young adults and families who were unable to participate in this year's Epiphany pageant and youth Sunday for a variety of reasons, all excused absences and abstentions. We sincerely hope all the children of St. Paul's will be able to join us next time, and that you, our parish family, will remember the treasure each of these young people are as you pray, from the Prayers of the People, especially prayers 45, For Families, 46 For the Care of Children, 47 For Young Children, 31 For Schools and Colleges, 7 For the Church, 8 For the Mission of the Church and 9 For Clergy and People, all from the Book of Common Prayer. And may we ask you to add your own special prayer that the children's desire to return to All Saints Camp and diocesan gatherings may become a reality and for the younger members of our parish to have the chance to learn why camp has such a special place in the hearts of those who love and miss being able to go there.

EYC hosted coffee hour after the youth service. Thanks to the Purdys and to Javon for staying after to dismantle the trees, wreaths, standards, garland, nativities and other Christmas decorations and to prepare them with care to be stored for next year and also for hauling the boxes back upstairs. We had planned to follow that act of service by attending the Martin Luther King, Jr. community service at First Missionary Baptist Church but it was cancelled due to the lingering impact of the winter storm. You may listen to the featured speaker, Evansville Mayor Stephanie Terry, give the message she would have presented live that day on the podcast section of the WSON website or app. Mayor Terry's father, the Rev. Robert Esters, Sr. served as pastor to that congregation for many years until his death this past year. As we pray for our rector search, please remember our neighbors and pray for their search as well.

Financial Summary as of December 31, 2024

Pledged Income Received to Date	\$128,409.00
Non-dividend Investment Income Transferred	\$.00
Other Operating Income to Date	\$72,377.00
Total Budgeted Expenses to Date	\$187,681.00

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 *(*denotes chair of the committee)*

Sr. Warden
Jr. Warden
Secretary
Treasurer

Susie Watkins
Mitch Deep
Marty White
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
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

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