



# St. Paul's Episcopal Church

## THE GOOD NEWS December 2024

*Love God. Love Each Other.*

*It's just that simple.*

—Jesus

### A Note from the Secretary of the Vestry

*Susie Watkins*

We've eaten all the leftovers from Thanksgiving and are getting ready for Christmas. Shopping and decorating, planning get togethers, going to parties—all the things we do during the holidays. We began this holiday season with a beautiful and uplifting Thanksgiving Day Eucharist. Fr. Ben Newland officiated and his wife Jieun played the organ. Fr. Ben's sermon was meaningful and kept my rapt attention. (For those of you who know me well I am easily distracted so this was a big deal!) The music was beautiful. Hopefully, this service was the beginning of a new tradition for us.

The Advent season began with the Purdy family lighting the first candle. Jenny, Ally and Matthew provided us with the most beautiful music. As usual, Jenny played the organ beautifully. We also had a special treat. Ally and Matthew played two wonderful duets on the flute and clarinet. The music on Sunday made my heart sing. As usual, Deacon Larry's sermon was awesome. It was also World AIDS Day. Members of Matthew 25 joined us and read the names of those we have lost to AIDS. It is always a touching ceremony.

Fr. Newland will be back on Sunday, December 22 and for our Christmas services. Again, this year, we will have two Christmas Eve services—5 and 11 p.m. Ally and Jenny will provide the music. There will also be a reception after the late service.

On December 17 at 2:00pm, we will have our annual party at Henderson Manor. Becky Carroll has organized this event. We made gift bags on Sunday for the residents. Prissy the Clown will be there and Stacey Howell will provide music for a Christmas carol sing-along. Please join us. You will be glad you did.

Our little Church and crew will again be in the Christmas parade. Please bring candy for our group to pass out.

Deacon Larry and Bill Gentry can attest to the power of all your prayers. Dcn. Larry announced that he is cancer free and Bill is almost back to his old self. Thanks be to God.

Marty White, Christina Johnson and Mike France will rotate off the Vestry this month. They have all served the Church faithfully. We appreciate their service. If you would like to serve on the Vestry please let a member know.

I will leave you with these words from Bishop White's homily at the Diocesan Convention: "When we ask God for hope, do we wait for God to give us a big serving of hope, or does God send us into hopelessness in order to bind up the wounded, give voice to the voiceless, feed the hungry in body and spirit, and use our gifts and privilege to encourage the hopeless and lift them on our shoulders?" Food for thought in this holiday season.

Merry Christmas to you all and I am looking forward to seeing you soon.

*Susie*

### Christmas at St. Paul's

Christmas Eve—Tuesday  
December 24

5:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist Rite II with Fr. Ben Newland  
Music begins at 4:30 p.m.

11 p.m. – Holy Eucharist Rite II with Fr. Ben Newland  
Music begins at 10:30 p.m.

Festive Reception to follow

## 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, December 1, 8, 15, 29 — Morning Prayer with Deacon Larry**

**Sunday, December 8 — 4 p.m. Alice P. Taylor Candlelight Service, Presbyterian Church**

**Wednesday, December 11, 2 p.m. Christmas Party at Henderson Manor**

**5:45 p.m. — Vestry Meeting, Bill Gentry's home**

**Sunday, December 22 — Holy Eucharist, Rite II with Fr. Ben Newland**

**EYC Christmas Caroling after service**

**Christmas Eve — 5 p.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II with Fr. Ben Newland,**

**11 p.m. — Midnight Mass with festive reception to follow.**

## November Happenings





## Christmas Spirit

*from the Deacon*

What is the Christmas Spirit? And do we really have it? I want to share a story entitled the "Christmas Spirit."

"Pardon me, Sir, I'm a stranger in town. I thought you might be able to tell me what's going on." Well, stranger, this is what we call the Christmas season. All those decorations you see are there to help us get the Christmas Spirit. And all the people that you see are doing their Christmas shopping.

The stranger asked, "And what is this Christmas Spirit?" And is this Christmas Spirit a good thing, all the people I see look in a hurry and worn out, and some even look angry. "Oh, yes, stranger, people shop too much at Christmas. You see, we buy gifts for each other and on Christmas Eve we have parties and family gatherings and exchange gifts."

The stranger said, "Now over there I see a lot of poor people. Do you exchange gifts with them, too?"

"Oh, no, that's not the idea. And we don't get gifts from the poor people. But most of us give a little money to help them have a Merry Christmas."

"Who's the person dressed in red and has a white beard?" The stranger inquired.

"Oh, that's Santa Claus. Santa Claus is the symbol of Christmas."

I think I hear a song that sounds like, Joy to the World, the Lord is come. What does that mean?

Well, stranger, I can't explain that, but someone in the Church around the corner could tell you something.

"Oh I hope so. I think I'll go there. Thank you for telling me about Christmas. Glad to oblige. Anything to pass on the Christmas Spirit! By the way, what did you say your name was?"

"Oh, I'm sorry, didn't I tell you? I go by several names, But those who know me best just call me JESUS."

This story goes in many different directions, but for Christians our story should lead in one direction arriving at one end point and his name is Jesus. So as Christians where should the Christmas Spirit take us and how should it affect us. First, the Christmas Spirit is about praise and worship. The three wise men, when they found Jesus, fell down and worshiped him. One day we all will worship God because we choose or after death because God chooses.

The Christmas Spirit is about sharing Jesus' love. Those early shepherds spread the word about the baby Jesus. The early Christians spread the good news about Jesus wherever they went: In the market places, from house to house, in their daily living, everywhere. And we need to do the same thing.

The Christmas Spirit is about serving and giving. The Christmases that I remember were at Matthew 25, where I chose to serve the sick and to give to those who had nothing left. Giving and serving is all about the Christmas Spirit. Giving Jesus my all by serving the sick and the poor.

Chose this Christmas to commit through your personal worship and service to connect with the true meaning of Christmas and in doing so connect to the true Christmas Spirit. May everyone have a blessed Christmas.



The Thanksgiving dinner was a success again this year. Thanks to everyone who brought a dish and enjoyed the meal with their church family

## November Vestry Minutes Summary

Susie Watkins

- Mac Neel presented and summarized the audit
- **Building and Grounds**
- Dcn Larry and Michael painted the rails
- A new sign was hung at the corner of Washington and Green Streets
- A relay had to be replaced to fix the heating
- On December 2, the organ will be tuned
- **Budget and Finance**
- Approved travel expenses for Fr. Newland to come for the Thanksgiving service
- **Worship and Music**
- Fr. Minter will come as a supply priest after the first of the year
- We are having a Thanksgiving service on Thanksgiving Day. Fr. Newland will officiate and Jieun Newland will play the organ
- Jenny and Ally Donnelly will be guest musicians during December
- We placed some ads on WSON to promote our Thanksgiving and Christmas Services
- **Outreach**
- Annual outing to Henderson Manor will be December 11 at 2 p.m. - Becky has bought items for us to make gift bags for the residents. Stacey Howell will play the piano and Prissy the Clown will attend
- The December meeting will be December 11th at Bill Gentry's house

## Youth News

Leslie Newman—

EYC gathered at Central Park for the Dia de los Muertos celebration on November 2, well except we didn't manage to connect with the Caudill family but we all were there! Last year's celebration was cancelled due to rain so the beautiful weather and revisiting this festival this year was welcome.

We visited community vendors and friends we saw, tried different foods and drinks, watched the costumes and the dancers, listened to the music and walked in the parade.

EYC and friends joined our friends at the First United Methodist Church on November 3 for their annual soup and sandwich fundraiser for their Nellie Brown Circle (similar to St. Ann's Guild), then we took a break and returned at 4 p.m. for the FUMC Community Hymn Sing.

EYC met new friends and saw old friends at Bennett Memorial Methodist Church on Thursday, November 7 for their Thursday evening service and Abundant Life feeding ministry. Abundant Life has asked St. Paul's to join them once a month to help set up, prepare, serve and clean up after a chili supper, a commitment that would require about two hours on the fourth Thursday, from 4 until 6. Other churches help on the other Thursdays. All are welcome for the weekly 5 p.m. service, and they typically feed about 120 folks of all ages, primarily from the East End. EJ Simmons is the new pastor there and he has recruited EYC help for singing and craft activities for children as well. If you would like to be part of this ministry but cannot physically help, please feel free to come for the service and to visit during dinner; also monetary donations are welcome. Please let me know if you are interested.

Their St. Paul's family celebrated with Caitlin and Avery Walker at the dedication of their Habitat Home on November 15. Susie Watkins presented a Bible as a gift from our parish and Alexis Purdy presented a flag on behalf of the Daughters of the American Revolution (who meet monthly at St. Paul's). We are so happy for the Walker family, and that Zach will be living there too!



EYC met on November 16 to decorate the altar for Thanksgiving. We have been able to enjoy the bounty for three Sundays plus our Thanksgiving service. Thanks to those of you who contributed pumpkins and to our youth for their dedication to honoring this tradition.

Ms. Monessa and Alexis led the youth in singing the improvised All Saints' version of the Lord's Prayer as the offertory on November 24 and then they led the congregation in the call and response, too. It was a joyful noise! That night, we gathered again, at First Christian Church, for the Community Thanksgiving service sponsored by the Henderson County Ministerial Association and for the pie fellowship following.



Thank you to our parishioners who contributed pies for this event.



EYC welcomed Fr. Ben Newland and his wife Jieun for the Thanksgiving service. The youth sure were pleased to meet and talk with them and to vest and serve as acolytes.

EYC met after 10 a.m. service on December 2 to dismantle the altar in preparation for Advent and to assist in preparation for the Christmas party St. Paul's will provide to the residents at Henderson Manor. There is considerable need at Henderson Manor – for cheer, for prayer and for personal items most of us are fortunate to take for granted. If you would like to help meet this need, please contact Becky Carroll.



# St. Paul's Calendar December 2024

SUNDAY	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
<b><u>1—1 Advent</u></b> 10—Morning Prayer with Deacon Larry  Jenny and Ally Donnelly - Musicians	2	3	4	5	6	7 Christmas Parade  DAR - Parish Hall
<b><u>8—2 Advent</u></b> 10—Morning Prayer with Deacon Larry 11 - EYC Jordan Busboom-Organ 4 p.m. - Alice P. Taylor Candlelight Service, Presbyterian Church	9	10	11 2 p.m. - Christmas Party at Henderson Manor  5:45 Vestry Christmas Dinner	12	13	14
<b><u>15—3 Advent</u></b> 10—Morning Prayer with Deacon Larry 11 - EYC  Jenny Donnelly - Organ	16	17	18	19	20	21
<b><u>22—4 Advent</u></b> 10—Holy Eucharist Rite II with Fr. Ben Newland Jenny and Ally Donnelly - Musicians 11 - EYC Christmas Caroling	23	24 5 & 11 p.m. Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist Rite II with Fr. Ben Newland	25 10 a.m. Christmas Day Holy Eucharist Rite II with Fr. Ben Newland	26	27	28
<b><u>29—1 Christmas</u></b> 10—Morning Prayer with Deacon Larry  Jenny and Ally Donnelly - Organ	30	31				

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

# Lay Ministry December 2024

Date & Lessons	Altar Guild Altar Flowers	Ushers	Acolytes	Lay Readers	Coffee Hour
<b>1-1 Advent</b> Jeremiah 33:14-16 Psalm 25:1-9 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 Luke 21:25-36	Gisele Purdy          <i>Mr. Roger Walker</i>			Susie Watkins, Susan Sauls	
<b>8-2 Advent</b> Baruch 5:1-9 Canticle 4 Philippians 1:3-11 Luke 3:1-6	Susan Sauls Ella Thomas          <i>Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Caddick</i>		The Purdys, Caroline White	Marty White, Mike France	
<b>15-3 Advent</b> Zephaniah 3:14-20 Canticle 9 Philippians 4:4-7 Luke 3:7-18	Alexis Purdy          <i>Mr. and Mrs. Joe Mattingly</i>			Mike France, Leslie Newman	Martina Russelburg and Leann Cardwell
<b>22-4 Advent</b> Micah 5:2-5a Psalm 80:1-7 Hebrews 10:5-10 Luke 1:39-45	Marilyn Dixon Ellen Redding          <i>Decorated for Christmas</i>		The Purdys, Caroline White	Cooper Lilly, Marty White	The Purdys
<b>29-1 Christmas</b> Isaiah 61:10 - 62:3 Psalm 147 Galatians 3:23-25, 4:4-7 John 1:1-18	Gisele Purdy          <i>Decorated for Christmas</i>			Susan Sauls, Susie Watkins	
<b><u>December Birthdays and Anniversaries</u></b>					
		2	Kelly Deep		16
		3	Edward Anderson		Brooks O’Nan Josh Emerson
		5	Avery Estes		19
		6	Carolyn Fuller		Becky Carroll Marsha Royster
			Jeanie Hendricks		23
			Reese O’Nan		Bobbie Soaper
		9	Elizabeth Johnson		25
		13	Randall Redding		Liam Knight 26 Joe and Christy Mattingly
					28 Bo White



## Upcoming Youth Opportunities

### SHORT NOTICE! CANDY FOR CHRISTMAS PARADE NEEDED

The Henderson Merchants' Christmas Parade is Saturday December 7. Can you provide individually wrapped candy for our parade participants to hand out to parade goers? If yes, please bring it to the church by 7:30 a.m. Saturday morning! We go through A LOT of candy and try every year to figure out how to make it last so the watchers on Elm Street get candy, too. If you haven't ridden or walked in a parade lately or ever, and have always wanted to, please join us! Thanks to Brandy and Eleanor McMichen for securing the trailer and side-by-side to haul the little church donated and decorated by Ms. Ella, Aaron and Wendell Thomas. Our spot will be assigned on Friday and that is where we will meet on Saturday. Please layer from top to bottom for the weather and wear comfortable shoes.



### ADOPT A CHILD

If you would like to contribute clothing or money to the Volunteer and Information Center's Adopt A Child, please contact Marty White. By combining our treasure, we hope to adopt two children. EYC will meet after the 10 a.m. service on Sunday December 8 to wrap gifts that have been donated. Please stay to help us!

### ALICE P. TAYLOR CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

EYC will gather at the Presbyterian Church on Sunday, December 8 at 4 p.m. for the annual Alice P. Taylor Candlelight Service, followed by supper. Please join us.

### A CHRISTMAS CAROL

EYC will gather after the 10 a.m. service on Sunday, December 15 to put up the Christmas tree in the parish hall and then adjourn to the Preston Arts Center for the 2 p.m. production of A Christmas Carol. Please let me know if you plan to at-

## CHRISTMAS CAROLING

EYC will gather after the 10 a.m. service on Sunday, December 22 to Christmas carol to our St. Paul's family who aren't able to attend church. We welcome all to join us, with smiles and good cheer, and with transportation.

Stay tuned to Judy's weekly emails for updates on Advent and Christmas happenings around our children, youth and parish family.

### 2025 EYC Calendars are Coming!

Calendars are coming! We hope you will choose to track your 2025 with the beautiful Youth Group Promotions calendars that have become an EYC tradition. Calendars are \$8 again this year.

Please put our calendars on your Christmas gift-giving list – it's a gift guaranteed to bring joy throughout the year! Checks are payable to St. Paul's. Please denote in the memo line that your check is for EYC calendars.

### It's Our Sign, It's Your Sign

Marty White, Junior Warden

Recently, we have replaced two of our signs thanks to Sign Design! They were able to duplicate



our sign that hangs at the corner of Green St and Washington St letting everyone that comes by know who we are and where we are.



The second sign is letting everyone know that they are welcome in our church home. All are welcome and all are part of our family! A special thanks to Deacon Larry and Michael, for painting the signpost and hanging the

sign, as well as painting all of the handrails in the front and back of the church.

## **Financial Summary as of October 31, 2024**

<b>Pledged Income Received to Date</b>	<b>\$74,728.00</b>
<b>Non-dividend Investment Income Transferred</b>	<b>\$10,000.00</b>
<b>Other Operating Income to Date</b>	<b>\$68,056.00</b>
<b>Total Budgeted Expenses to Date</b>	<b>\$143,914.00</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)

