

From our Priest

Recently I watched the documentary *Unknown: Cave of Bones*, which is an extinct hominid known as homo naledi that lived during the Middle Pleistocene period that dates back 335,000 – 236,000 years ago. The Cave that these bones were discovered is named rising star where homo naledi there are dead some 250,000 years before Homo sapiens. What is interesting is that they buried their dead with hand-crafted tools for the afterlife.

Anthropologists are asking why did these ancient predecessors bury their dead and the answer should not be surprising ports. The same reason why we bury our dead, which is a complex answer, as we do not want to see the decomposition of our loved ones

as we want to remember them as they were because we love them.

Love is an essential part of human evolution and morality. Love is a powerful emotion, and according to Saint Paul, our patron love is the greatest gift that God grace is humanity through the Holy Spirit. Jesuit geologist Pierre Teilhard de Chardin wrote “the most telling him profound way of describing the evolution of the universe with undoubtedly be to trace the evolution of love.” Love cannot be contained within the Trinity as it exploded to create the universe and love is the most transformative power in the universe as it creates, redeems, and renews the human experience. Our presiding, Bishop, Michael Curry is absolutely correct when he says, “If it’s not about love, it’s not about God,” because God is the author of love and perfecter of love, and we through Christ can partner with God in that transformative power called love.

The power of love lies in its ability to inspire, heal, and connect people on a profound emotional level, fostering empathy and understanding. It has the capacity to bring joy, strength, and a sense of purpose to individuals and communities alike. Brothers and sisters choose love!

In loving service bound, Ælred+

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Parish Life

Discover and Dine

On Friday, January 19th a group of about 20 parishioners braved the cold and snow to tour the local Hindu Temple. Our guide provided background about the shrines we saw, what their worship experience is like, and the story of how the local temple was built. It was a fascinating time! Afterwards the group met up at Flavors of India for a sampling dinner of traditional Indian foods. The offerings gave us a variety of foods (and spice levels!) and everyone enjoyed tasting the delicious cuisine.



Shrove Tuesday Pancakes Supper

Our traditional Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper is on February 13th from 5—7pm. Admission at the door is \$5 for an individual or \$10 for a family. We will serve all-you-can-eat pancakes, sausage, and applesauce. Any proceeds will be donated to the Waycross Youth Camp Scholarship fund. As always, volunteers are needed to make this event a success, so check the sign-up sheet in the parish hall to see how you can help! For more information, contact Shelly Bell (812-371-9231 or shelly.m.bell@cummins.com)

Worship

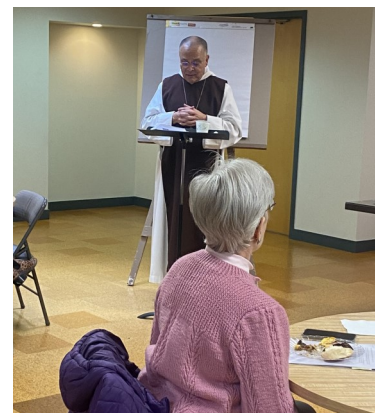
Ash Wednesday Service

This year's Ash Wednesday service will be held February 14th at 5:30pm. Br. Ælred will also be out in the community that day providing Ashes to Go, so keep your eyes peeled you just might see him!



Annual Meeting

The parish gathered for the Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 21st after our worship service, including a pair of snow birds who joined in on Zoom. We enjoyed a yummy pot-luck and got to business! Most commissions had submitted reports and didn't add anything, a few needed to elaborate or give details on upcoming plans. Most importantly, we affirmed our three new Vestry members: Jill Clotfelter, John DeLap, and Kirk Parsons. Out-going Sr. Warden, Barb Parker, wasn't able to attend but showed her appreciation to the Vestry members with some gifts which gave a wink and a nod to the work they had put in this year! It was an enjoyable time and moved quickly, with the adjournment at 12:05pm! If you would like a hard copy of the Annual Report from the meeting, extras are available outside the parish administrator's office.



Outreach

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Matthew 6:21

Empty Bowls Event

Over 2023, inflation has continued to impact families in need.

Last month, Love Chapel's food pantry provided groceries for 97 families who came to the pantry on one day, hungry and looking for help. Over the month, a total of 1204 households and over 4400 individuals received groceries from Love Chapel.

To meet the increased need, Love Chapel purchased 54,107 pounds of food in one month to supplement food donated by the community. And these numbers don't reflect the number of people served at the Salvation Army, the Hope Food Bank, local shelters, and the hot meal sites.

This year, Empty Bowls will take place on Saturday March 23, 2024 at Central Middle School. As always, 100% of the money raised during the event goes directly to local food pantries and shelters in Bartholomew County.



Episcopal Relief and Development

The first Sunday in Lent is typically when we observe **Episcopal Relief and Development Sunday, this year that is February 18th**. At the 2009 General Convention, Lent was officially designated as a time to encourage dioceses, congregations and individuals to remember and support the life-saving work of Episcopal Relief & Development. We invite all Episcopalians to join together on Episcopal Relief & Development Sunday, and throughout the Lenten season, to pray for those living in need. Envelopes will be in the pews for those who wish to contribute financially to this important ministry. More information can be found on the EFD website: episcopalrelief.org.



Outreach Commission Organizational Meeting—February 18

Outreach is kicking off another busy year and plans a brief organizational meeting after church on Sunday, February 18th. This is a vibrant ministry at St. Paul's and if you would like become a part of it, just plan to stay after worship for the meeting. Outreach coordinates hot meals for Love Chapel, collects items for school nurses, plans a party for Schmitt's Book Buddies, volunteers in the garden and yard at Turning Point, and so much more! There is always room for new people, new ideas, and new projects — so please, lend your heart and hands to this important work. If you would like more information please speak with Barb Parker (812-343-5379 or parker3208@comcast.net) or Andrew Goldsmid (912-390-9588 andrewgoldsmid@yahoo.com).

Outreach

Love Songs for Love Chapel

On Valentine's Day, the local radio station, QMIX 107.3, is throwing out the playlist so you can throw out the love to a special someone in your life – may it be your significant other, your mom, your bestie, or that special group of co-workers that get you through the day – Say “thanks for being you and I love you so much XOXO” with a song dedication during the Valentine's Day Live Show from 6 am – 6pm.



For a \$10 donation to Love Chapel we will play a song of your choice dedicated to your loved one especially from you. **For a \$25 donation to Love Chapel** we will play a song of your choice dedicated to your loved one especially from you PLUS share a photo of your choice and share your love story on-air, at qmix.com, and on our QMIX socials.

Your donation will go to Love Chapel Food Pantry helping those in need in Bartholomew County and surrounding areas.

Community Connections

Nurse-Family Partnership

The Nurse-Family Partnership team was busy assembling desks, chairs, and shelves in their rooms this week. They don't plan to keep set office hours here at the church, but will have nurses in and out of the building throughout the week. Let's do our best to make them feel welcome!



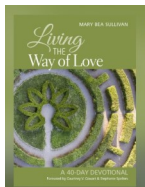
Formation

Theological Tuesdays

St. Paul's is going to rename Taco Tuesday to Theological Tuesday - which is a Bible study and it will begin on Tuesday, February 20 from 2—3pm in the parish hall. All that is required is yourself and your Bible. We will dive into the text to learn its historical context, and discuss its application in our daily lives. If you have questions or need more information, please contact Br. Ælred (812-657-4011).



Lent Devotional



Looking for something to add to your Lenten experience? This 40-day devotional would be a great one! It follows the practices of The Way of Love — Turn, Learn, Pray, Worship, Bless, Go, Rest. Each page will include a passage of scripture, a story, and some questions for reflecting. It can be ordered from a variety of sources online and if you hurry, it will be here just in time for Ash Wednesday!

Vestry Minutes—January 9, 2024

January Vestry meeting was held on Zoom.

Present: Br. Æred Dean, Don Wools (Jr Warden), Nancy McKinney, Steve Talbert, Kelli Thompson, Frank Guthrie, Andrew Goldsmid, Cindy Overmyer (Treasurer).

Excused or not present: Barb Parker, Julie Abedian, Nancy Ardizone,

Meeting convened at 5:30 PM with prayer led by Br. Ælred.

A quorum was present. December minutes were approved (Frank moved, Kelli seconded, 6-0 approved).

Finance Report - Treasurer Cindy Overmyer presented the year-end 2023 Finance Report

More than \$42,000 in the bank as of December 31, 2023, covering about 2-1/2 months of operating expenses, and a CD that will mature for \$26,500 in early April. There is \$390,000 in the diocese investment account as of December 31, 2021.

Financial support from the congregation has continued to be very strong. We have no debt, and we are in a good financial position, even after replacing most of our heating and cooling systems in 2023 (the major Sanctuary HVAC project, plus two of the three systems in the office/classroom areas).

2023 receipts and offerings for the operating budget, including pledges, were favorable to budget. Operating expenses were also favorable to budget.

The non-operating Building Fund expenses of \$63,700 (\$45,500 for Sanctuary HVAC replacement, \$10,100 for two other HVAC replacements, and \$8,100 for limestone repairs) were about 87% funded, from donations and fund transfers. Some HVAC donations are anticipated in 2024; the remaining unfunded amount can be taken from the Undesignated (Operating) Fund balance.

The 2024 Budget will go to the January 21 Annual Meeting. Cindy's summary:

35 pledges so far for 2024 and anticipate active financial support from several non-pledging parishioners. Rental income of \$6,300 will come from Hoosier Action and Nurse Family Partnership. CD interest is budgeted for \$1,250.

The budget includes revisions for clergy and staff increases after Finance Committee and Vestry were pleased to recognize their excellent work.

We are presenting a budget with \$189,650 in revenue and \$200,962 in expenses, for a net deficit of \$11,312. The 2024 budget deficit is an improvement compared with 2023's budget deficit, and also compared with plans made during the rector search process. The deficit will be funded from St. Paul's cash and investment assets.

Cindy thanked Barb Parker for her work as Assistant Treasurer and thanked Finance Committee for their work.

Vestry approved submitting the 2024 proposed budget to the Annual Meeting for approval (Frank moved, Andrew seconded, passed 6-0).

Vestry Minutes, continued

Office Internet - Steve said GigabitNow called back and corrected their previous quote. \$50 per month was the residential rate. St. Paul's would have to be on the commercial rate and that would be \$99 per month. The new contract with Comcast will be less and the parish will keep Comcast Business. GigabitNow can be installed later when the optical fiber gets closer or if needs change.

Phones – The Comcast landline number has not yet ported to the new Comcast mobile phone that will sit on Kathi's desk. Steve has support tickets open with Comcast and is pushing to get the number to activate soon. After the number is activated then the order will be submitted for the lower internet rate.

Candidates for Vestry Class 2024 – Three vestry members are rotating-out in 2024. Ælred said that the Nominating Committee received confirmation from John DeLap that he would serve. They also have candidates for the other two positions. After they accept they will be announced at the annual meeting.

Other Discussion Items

Nurse Family Partnership (NFP) moves in Friday Jan 12, Æred announced. Don and Andrew discussed the thermostat schedule for the rooms. The women's restroom needed more heat so Don turned on the supplemental electric heater.

Building and Grounds Committee will use one of the two Samsung tablets to control thermostats. They will assign the tablet to rotate with whomever is on-call.

Br Ælred is starting a new catechism class.

Annual meeting will be January 21. Send in reports. Delegates do not need to be elected at this annual meeting because delegates are in their third/final year in 2024. Plan to elect delegates next year.

Adjourned – Frank moved, Don seconded, approved 6-0

Br Ælred closed with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Stephen Talbert



Employee Schedules

Priest-in-Charge, The Rev. Bro. Ælred Dean, will be available in the church office Tuesday through Saturday each week. He can be reached by email (stpaulscolumbuspriest@gmail.com) or phone /text (812-657-4011). Ælred plans to be out of the office on pastoral visits twice a week. Bro. Ælred will keep a sabbath on Mondays – taking the day off and stepping away from email/phone.

Kathi Whipker, Parish Administrator, is participating in her Practicum (like student-teaching, but student-interpreting) this semester. She will be in the office on Fridays from 8am to 3pm and will have a second day in the office each week but it is fluid, depending on the practicum opportunities. She can be reached in the office on Fridays (812-372-7869 or email: stpaulscolumbusin@gmail.com), or on her cell any other time (812-603-5028).

Michelle Farnsworth, Interim Music Director, welcomes voices to the choir. Rehearsals will be every Wednesday from 5:30—6:30pm and the choir will sing on one Sunday each month. She can be contacted on her cell: 248-921-5314 if you have questions or need more information.

Financial Summary

December: YTD Actual Revenue is \$171,417 as compared to the budget of \$166,100 for a favorable budget difference of \$5,317. However, a better measure for the year is Pledge Receipts, with YTD Actual of \$171,417, as compared to the budget of \$150,600, for a favorable budget difference of \$20,817. (The revenue budget included \$15,500 of investment income, which was unused.) YTD Actual Revenue is \$171,417 as compared to the previous year of \$157,002 for a favorable year-over-year difference of \$14,415. YTD Actual Expenditures are \$186,506 as compared to the budget of \$196,844 for a favorable budget difference of (\$10,338).

- 1 Kathi Whipker
- 3 Stephen Abedian
Hadley Swope
- 4 Jill Clotfelter
- 10 Randy Swonder
- 13 Noah Elliott
- 15 Shannon Stuart
- 16 Lalith Parnavitana
- 21 Bob Manley
- 24 Alex Abedian
- 25 Nancy Morris



Birthdays & Anniversaries

February 7 Matt & Kim Swope

February 9 Deanna & Shannon Stuart

February 2024 Service Schedule

If you are unable to serve as assigned, please find a substitute & let Kathi know.

Date & Time	Acolyte	Lector	Greeter/ Usher	Teller	LEV	Live Stream
Feb. 4 10:15 am	Sarah DeLap Chalice: David Thompson	Nick Firestone David Thompson	Bill Garber Nick Firestone	Nick Firestone Bill Garber	Roxie Garber	Steve Talbert
Feb. 11 10:15 am	David Thompson	Melis zur Loye Nancy Morris	Chuck & Tina Boddie	Barb Parker Nancy Morris	Cindy Overmyer	Andrew Goldsmid
Feb. 18 10:15 am	Nancy Morris	Ken Erickson Chuck Boddie	Nick Firestone Ken Erickson	Nick Firestone Ken Erickson	Nancy Morris	Steve Talbert
Feb. 25 10:15 am	Chuck Boddie	Cheryl Paranavitana Dorcas Miller	Lalith Paranavitana Bill Garber	Andrew Goldsmid Bill Garber	Roxie Garber	Lalith Paranavitana
Mar. 3 10:15 am	David Thompson	Andrew Goldsmid Nancy McKinney	Andrew Goldsmid Ken Erickson	Barb Parker Ken Erickson	Cindy Overmyer	Andrew Goldsmid



ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

FEBRUARY 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Jan. 28 Holy Eucharist 10:15 Rite II In Person & Livestream	29	30 9am — AA	31 5pm—Celtic Eucharist 6 pm — Choir	Feb. 1 10am Bible Study 1pm—Bridge Group	2 9 am — AA Noon — Ladies' lunch at Sophea's	3
4 Holy Eucharist 10:15 Rite II In Person & Livestream	5	6 9 am — AA	7 5pm — Celtic Eucharist 5:30 pm Finance 6pm Choir	8 10am Bible Study 1pm Bridge Group 6pm IN Action	9 9am — AA	10
11 Holy Eucharist 10:15 Rite II 11:30 Coffee Hr. In Person & Livestream	12	13 9am — AA 5-7pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper Vestry - TBA	14 5:30 pm Ash Wednesday Service	15 10am Bible Study 1pm—Bridge Group	16 9am — AA	17
18 Holy Eucharist 10:15 Rite II In Person & Livestream	19 	20 9am — AA 2pm—Theological Tuesdays	21 5pm—Celtic Eucharist 6 pm Choir	22 10am Bible Study Noon—Men's lunch @ El Nopal 1pm—Bridge Group	23 9am — AA	24
25 Holy Eucharist 10:15 Rite II In Person & Livestream	26	27 9am — AA 2pm—Theological Tuesdays	28 5pm—Celtic Eucharist 6 pm Choir	29 10am Bible Study 1pm—Bridge Group	Mar. 1 9am — AA	2

Sunday services can be accessed on our website (stpaulscolumbus.org)

Zoom meetings use Meeting ID 291 212 0372 Password: church

OUR MISSION:

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH IS A CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY.

WE BELIEVE IN GOD'S LOVE FOR ALL THE WORLD.

THAT BELIEF IMPELS US TO MIRROR GOD'S LOVE WITH GENEROSITY AND KINDNESS, ALWAYS RESPECTING THE DIGNITY OF EVERY HUMAN BEING, AND TO STRIVE FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE AMONG ALL PEOPLE.

Meetings

Finance Committee
Wednesday, Feb. 7 at 5:30 pm

Vestry
TBA

Vestry Officers

Senior Warden	Andrew Goldsmid
Junior Warden	Don Wools
Treasurer	Cindy Overmyer

Vestry Members

Commission Liaison

Nancy Ardizone '25

Jill Clotfelter '26 *To be announced after first Vestry meeting*

John DeLap '26

Andrew Goldsmid '24

Frank Guthrie '24

Nancy McKinney '24

Kirk Parsons '26

Steve Talbert '25

Don Wools '25

"Let the love you give come back and find a place in you."

HARPREET M. DAYAL



Office Notes: The deadline for Venite information and articles is the 15th of the month. If you wish, you may leave a message concerning schedules to serve, etc. in the gray book outside the office, call the office (812-372-7869), or send an email to: stpaulscolumbusin@gmail.com. Thank you!

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
2651 CALIFORNIA ST.
COLUMBUS, IN 47201



The Rt. Rev. Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows, Bishop

The Rev. Bro. Ælred Dean, Priest

Senior Warden Andrew Goldsmid

Junior Warden Don Wools

Kathi Whipker, Parish Administrator
Michelle Farnsworth, Interim Music Director

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Email: stpaulscolumbuspriest@gmail.com