

From our Priest

Dear St. Paul's,

Happy Liturgical New Year. Advent is a time of looking back over the events leading up to the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem and looking towards his second coming. Being between the past and the future, we find ourselves squarely in the present moment, which is the only moment where you can "do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, so long as ever you can" (John Wesley). Being fully present for today means recognizing that God is here with you right now, moving through our everyday activities, no matter how trivial they might seem - regardless of how you experience the presence of God.



When we live in the past, which is gone with the wind, it is easy to hold on to regrets. It's too easy to ruminate over things that have already happened, trying to explain them in terms of our own or someone else's actions. Often, this kind of thinking can lead to guilt or blame.

However, when we live in the future, it is easy to worry about what has yet to happen (or will never happen), and we can become attached to our ruminations, which is controlling. These obsessions can lead to disappointment when situations don't work out as imagined. The gift we have is today, for today is the day that the Lord is making. Between the past and the future, we are alive today with all its challenges and opportunities. Irenaeus wrote that the glory of God is humanity being fully alive, but what does that mean? I think Irenaeus meant that God desires us to live fully in service to God and one another, which links our humanity with God's vision for all creation. Even when it's challenging to know what to do because of what is happening in the world, advent calls us to see and watch for God. In paying attention, God will come and meet you as a person waiting with you in a grocery line, perhaps from a rude shopper who reminds us to practice loving them as we love ourselves, or from a phone from anyone just to say "hi" to you!

Advents is a time to watch for the coming of Jesus. How - where - and why do you watch and see Jesus daily?

In Love & Service, Ælred+

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Parish Life

Christmas Concert

This year's Christmas Concert fund-raiser for Love Chapel will be on Sunday, December 10th at 3pm. The concert is free and donations of non-perishable food or money will be accepted for Love Chapel. The holidays always increase the need for help and Love Chapel is very appreciative of our annual effort. Mark your calendar and plan to be there. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Michelle Farnsworth (248-921-53140)

Christmas Basket Assembling

Mark your calendar for Saturday, December 16th and come to the church at 10:30am to help assemble the goodie baskets for our shut-ins. After assembling, we will join the parish Thank You lunch, and then head out to deliver these baskets of holiday cheer. If you would like to contribute items for the baskets or be a part of this fun ministry, let Shelly Bell know (shelly.m.bell@cummins.com).



Parish Thank You Lunch

St. Paul's works hard all year serving our community and our parishioners put in many hours. As a thank you, we will host a pizza lunch on Saturday, December 16th at noon for everyone. Please make time in your busy December schedule to come enjoy lunch and the heartfelt appreciation that goes with it. Questions? Contact Br. Ælred (stpaulscolumbuspriest@gmail.com). Hope to see you there!!

Anyway you
SLICE IT
we are very
GRATEFUL
FOR YOU!

Thank You Lunch

When: Saturday, Dec. 16th
at noon

Where: St. Paul's Parish Hall

Bring? Just yourself! We will
serve the pizzas and drinks!

RSVP: 812-372-7869 or
stpaulscolumbusin@gmail.com

Holiday Happenings

'Tis the Season to be Jolly

You're invited to a
Christmas Party

Tuesday, December 12th
6:30pm - 9pm
At the Goldsmid's home
5240 Bramblerwood Court, 47201
Please bring an appetizer or dessert
to share

Christmas Eve Services

Sunday, December 24th

4pm "Children's Service"

7:30 pm Traditional Service

both services will have a prelude of carols

No services on Christmas Day

Outreach

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

Love Chapel's Christmas Feast Give-away (formerly known as the Christmas Pantry)

The Love Chapel Christmas Feast Give-away will continue with the month-long give-away which was started last year. Pantry guests will pick up their Christmas basket at the pantry over a 4-week period (November 27 – December 22). St. Paul's will once again provided money to purchase the cans of green beans for the baskets.

Love Chapel November Update

The Ecumenical Assembly (*aka Love Chapel*) met at St. Paul's this month with Brother Aelred leading the devotion. Many thanks to Kathi Whipker for assisting with refreshments. Here are three takeaways from that meeting:

Increase in need – The food for the regular pantry and the Christmas pantry is filling the entire pantry building—storage limitations may make it impossible to distribute Christmas baskets from the pantry again next year. So far the need has been high and could exceed the 1500 families we anticipate will need a Christmas basket. 1488 families received groceries last month from the regular pantry. November 21st was the beginning of the winter contingency at Brighter Days (this lasts 4 months).

Reaching out – Director, Kelly Daugherty, has a list of other churches he is hopeful might attend a breakfast at The Hangar that he is planning for January to meet with churches who want to learn more about the organization (he will use Cliff's video and an overview of metrics along with other information). If you know of churches that might be interested in participating, please let Kelly know.

The 2024 slate of officers, committee chairs, and at large members was unanimously approved by the Board:

Officers

President Cliff Putterill At Large
Vice President Steve Zeller At Large
Vice President Building and Grounds Mike Brinker At Large
Secretary Sarah Sanders
Treasurer Dave McKinney

Committee Chairs

Finance Dave McKinney
Membership Ed Boone
Personnel Sean McKinney At Large
Marketing Carol Lavengood At Large
Worship Kristi Jones At Large
Resource Development Steve Zeller At Large
Building and Grounds Mike Brinker At Large
Foundation representative Jeff Crump At Large



Did you know? During the winter contingency, the restrictions to staying at the Brighter Days homeless shelter are reduced and many people who have been ineligible to stay there are able to return. For the most part these are people who used their "90 days" earlier in the year.

Outreach

United Thank Offering

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this year's United Thank Offering. The ingathering on November 26th brought our total for this year to \$629 — we've had a lot of blessings! Don't forget to grab a new blue box from the back of the church and start counting your blessings again. The UTO is such a great way to be more mindful of all that we have, and to give thanks for it in a meaningful way.



Love Chapel's Blue Christmas



Have you experienced loss of any kind this year or in years past? Join us for a time and space to hold our grief and experience Tidings of comfort in the season of Joy.

Love Chapel has a service for anyone who has experienced loss of any kind: a loved one, health, ability, career, financial stability, or job. Mark your calendars now to join us on Friday evening, December 1 at 7pm upstairs at Columbus Commons for the community event.

Formation

Advent Film Series

Your formation team has been at work and is offering a Sunday Forum Discussion for the Advent Season (December 3, 10, and 17). A short film will be shown each week by Peter Traben Haas to open a conversation. Please save the dates and plan to attend at 9:15 am in the Parish Hall.



Instructional Services on November 19th & 26th

Have you ever wondered why some things are done the way they are during our worship service? Or why Br. Ælred wears the garments he does when he presides? Do these cations and things have meaning?? Why, yes . . . yes they do! On November 19th Br. Ælred took time to explain the garments he wears, and what each one signifies. The next Sunday, November 26th he went into detail about different parts of the service. If you missed these services, they are available on our website under the "Past Services" tab. Take some time and check them out, you'll be glad you did!

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

I am excited to celebrate my first Christmas with St. Paul's. Advent 4 and Christmas Day happen to fall on Sunday, December 24. That Sunday morning will be a spoken Eucharist with no music. Then at 4:00 p.m. is the 1st Christmas Eve service with music that caters to those who have commitments for family gatherings.



Then, at 7:00 p.m., a solemn Eucharist is celebrated, the Feast of the Nativity, which is also our Christmas Day celebration of the Eucharist. The church follows the Jewish tradition that after sunset a new day begins. There will be no Eucharist celebrated on Monday morning, December 25, as it was celebrated on Christmas Day, Sunday evening at 7:00 p.m.

Vestry

Committee Reports from November

Your Vestry met on Tuesday, November 14 at 5:30. Members present were Nancy Ardizone, Steve Talbert, Frank Guthrie, Nancy McKinney, Barb Parker, Kelli Thompson, Don Wools. Members absent were Julia Abedian and Andrew Goldsmid. Senior Warden Barb Parker led the meeting as Brother Ælred was enjoying a cruise.

Committee Reports were submitted prior to the meeting, and they are attached below. Most of the meeting was spent discussing the 2024 Budget.

We are excited about some of the recent changes and plans for the building. Most notably: the conference room has been moved to the former Youth Group/Choir Room and will be getting new furniture; the stairs leading up to the choir loft are receiving more lighting; the basement is getting an overhaul in preparation for its repurpose.

We have three Vestry members rotating off and are looking for parishioners to join this dynamic group the next three years. Interested? Reach out to Brother Aelred or Barb Parker.

Clergy Report – Ælred - absent

Finance Report – As sent by Cindy – Frank will discuss

Marketing – Steve Talbert:

Parish Life – Nancy Ardizone: The Parish Life Committee will be meeting Saturday, December 16, to assemble the Christmas Baskets for our shut ins. This is always a festive time for the committee and a wonderful time of fellowship and giving.

Welcoming – Nancy McKinney - no action

Formation – Andrew Goldsmid: The Formation Commission met and decided to use the Film Series 'Embodying Advent' for a series of Advent Forums. There will be 4 topics: Hope, Faith, Peace, and Joy.

The *My Love Chapel Forums* planned for the advent season will be rescheduled. The presenter, Ed Booth, is not in good health.

Committee Members will review the website *The Work of the People* for next year's Lenten study.

Bible Study continues via Zoom every Thursday morning from 10:00 to 11:00am.

Outreach – Barb Parker: Love Chapel's Christmas Feast Give-away (formerly known as the Christmas Pantry) will continue with the month-long give-away which was started last year. Pantry guests will pick up their Christmas basket at the pantry over a 4-week period (November 27 – December 22). St. Paul's will once again be providing money to purchase the cans of green beans for the baskets.

Love Chapel's Blue Christmas – If you're dreading the upcoming holidays because of a recent (or even not so recent) loss, you are not alone. The season is certainly difficult. Love Chapel has a service for anyone who has experienced loss of any kind: a loved one, health, ability, career, financial stability, or job. Mark your calendars now to join us on Friday evening, December 1 at 7pm upstairs at Columbus Commons for the community event.

Schmitt Trunk or Treat - Andrew Goldsmid and Barb Parker had a grand time handing out candy at the Schmitt Trunk or Treat. Once again, we made good use of the seasonal fall flowers borrowed from the memorial garden. The weather was perfect for this fun event, and Schmitt saw a record crowd. We ran out of pencils after an hour, but our candy lasted the entire event!

Hoosier Action Town Hall - The Bartholomew County chapter of Hoosier Action hosted a town hall at St. Paul's with a dozen local candidates and about 100 community members attending. Candidates for city office in the Nov. 7 election talked about their views on affordable housing, substance abuse, homelessness, well-paying jobs, and transparency.

Committee Reports, con't

Worship – Kelli Thompson: Important Dates for Advent:

Dec. 2nd 10:00 am Organ is being tuned. No one should be in sanctuary during this time.
 Dec. 3rd Decorate ahead of the concert after the 10:15 am service. Soup lunch for volunteers.
 Dec. 10th Concert
 Dec. 17th Full Greening of the church after the 10:15 am service. Lunch for volunteers.
 Dec. 24th 10:15 am service
 3:00 pm Children's service
 7:00 pm Evening service
 Dec. 25th No service

Buildings & Grounds – Don Wools: Duke Energy has confirmed to me that we will soon get a check for \$1,701 representing their promised rebate toward the cost of our air condition system.

As soon as we have confirmation of our Wi-Fi system we will have Loesch's make sure we are logged in to our thermostats for digital adjustments. Otherwise, I have heard no issues. The thermostats changed themselves when Daylight Saving time ended last weekend.

I asked Andrew to interact with the electricians for the choir area light upgrades. I think that has been done with some minor adjustments forthcoming. Andrew has asked for assistance to paint the choir loft walls.

The programmable security lock for the Sacristy was installed by Nick and Andrew. Needs some modification before it's ready for use.

The junk TV downstairs has been removed by volunteers.

I have the name of someone who would be willing to take the 60+ year old Sanctuary lights to put them to good use if the Vestry will approve (with no money involved)

We then will have a ping pong table, junk air hockey table, bookcases, a cross, chalk board, and a lot of junk to get rid of in the basement. I'm near to the point of saying "let's bring a truck to the back door and finish it", with Vestry approval.

Andrew Goldsmid: Planning/ input for the meeting:

Tree trimming on California Street - The Boyers, our neighbors to the North, would like us to trim the Honey Locust Trees so they don't overhang the street or their yard. One of the limbs they complained about has recently been trimmed (presumably by their tree guy).

No plans for pin oaks and flowering pears on the South and East. The pin oaks have several dead limbs low and high up. I'm not sure if all 3 trees will survive long term.

The back parking lot will be partially redeveloped to accommodate a ramp to the basement and that could impact the 5 Bettys and 2 old flowering pears.

John Delap and I have talked about clearing the bed between the parking area. Perhaps a Saturday project?

Tracy Moses (Electrician) is looking for square can LEDs to improve the lighting at the back of the nave. Brighter bulbs don't do enough, as the fixtures do not do a good job dispersing the light. I will call Tracy in a few days to check on progress and the quote.

We need to paint the stairwell and choir loft. Any volunteers? Paint would be the same color as the parish hall and meeting rooms. We purchased a gallon of this paint from Neil Paint and Wallpaper and used a little to 'touch up' the empty nurse's room.

Planning to use the temporary sign to announce the Christmas concert and Christmas Services and should be able to re-use last year's banners.

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) and 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, has returned to class and will generally be in the office Tuesday and Friday from 8am—3pm. She can be reached in the office during those hours (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

October: YTD Actual Revenue is \$141,750 as compared to the budget of \$125,500 for a favorable budget difference of \$16,250. YTD Actual Revenue is \$141,750 as compared to the previous year of \$124,694 for a favorable year-over-year difference of \$17,056. YTD Actual Expenditures are \$152,850 as compared to the budget of \$166,054 for a favorable budget difference of (\$13,204).

Birthdays

- 1 Steve Talbert
- 3 Ben Thompson
- 11 Sam Parker
- 18 Bryce Mueller
- 19 Nick Neeley
- 20 Eris Johnson
- 27 Andrew Goldsmid
- 28 Win Morris

Michelle Farnsworth



Anniversary

Dec. 28 McClain & Jill Clotfelter

December 2023 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
Dec. 3 10:15 am <i>1 Advent</i>	Nancy Morris	Dorcas Miller Andrew Goldsmid	Andrew Goldsmid Dick Weaver	Andrew Goldsmid Dick Weaver	Nancy Morris	Andrew Goldsmid
Dec. 10 10:15 am <i>2 Advent</i>	David Thompson	Cheryl Paravitana Nancy McKinney	Chuck & Tina Boddie	Bill Garber Barb Parker	Roxie Garber	
Dec. 17 10:15 am <i>3 Advent</i>	Sarah DeLap Chalice: Nancy Morris	Melis zur Loye Ken Erickson	Don Wools Ken Erickson	Nancy Morris Ken Erickson	Cindy Overmyer	Steve Talbert
Dec. 24 4 pm 7:30 pm	<i>Please email the church office your availability and preference for serving on Christmas Eve—we will put this schedule together soon</i>					
Dec. 31 10:15 am	Chuck Boddie	Nick Firestone Chuck Boddie	Andrew Goldsmid Nick Firestone	Andrew Goldsmid Bill Garber	Roxie Garber	Andrew Goldsmid

December 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 Holy Eucharist 10:15 Rite II In Person & Livestream	4	5 9am — AA	6 5:30 pm Finance 6pm Choir	7 10am Bible Study 1pm—Bridge Group 6pm IN Action	8 9 am — AA	9
10 Holy Eucharist 10:15 Rite II 11:30 Coffee Hr. In Person & Livestream 3 pm— Christmas Concert	11	12 9 am — AA 5 pm — Vestry 6:30 pm Parish Christmas Party	13 6 pm Choir	14 10am Bible Study 1pm Bridge Group	15 9am — AA	16 10:30am — Making goodie baskets for shut-ins Noon: Parish Pizza Lunch
<i>Kathi on vacation this week</i>						
17 Holy Eucharist 10:15 Rite II In Person & Livestream	18	19 9am — AA	20 6 pm Choir	21 10am Bible Study 1pm—Bridge Group	22 9am — AA	23
24 Holy Eucharist 4pm & 7:30pm Rite II In Person & Livestream	25  Christmas Day	26 9am — AA	27 6 pm Choir	28 10am Bible Study Noon—Men's lunch @ El Nopal 1pm—Bridge Group	29 9am — AA	30
31 Holy Eucharist 10:15 Rite I In Person & Livestream	Jan. 1  New Year's Day	2 9 am— AA	3 6 pm Choir	4 10am Bible Study Noon — Men's lunch 1pm—Bridge Group	5 9am — AA	6

Sunday services can be accessed on our website (stpaulscolumbus.org)—click the Facebook icon.
 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, Dec. 6, 5:30 pm

Vestry
Tuesday, Dec. 12, 5 pm

Followed by Parish Christmas Party

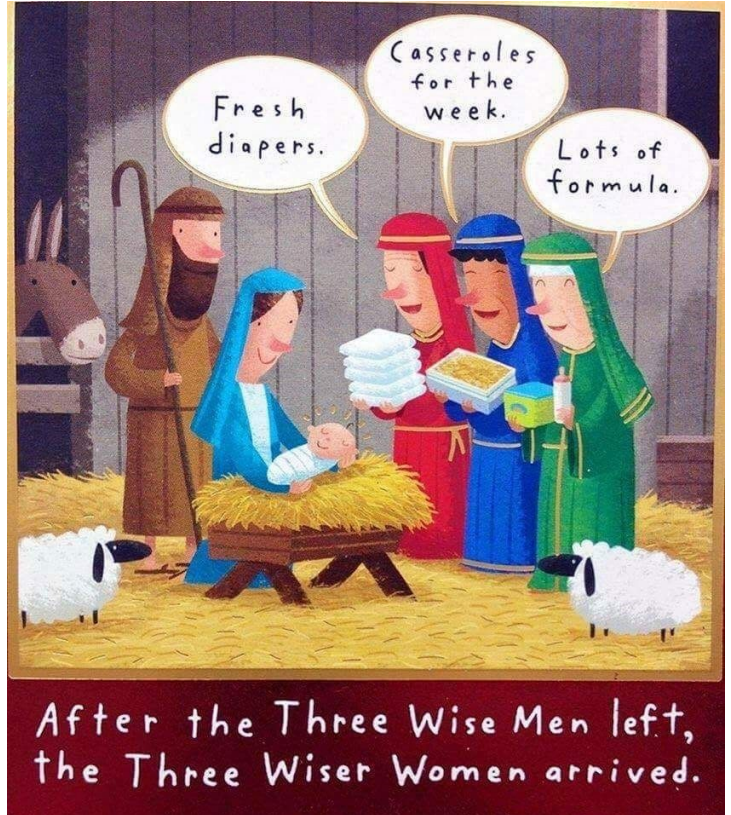
Vestry Officers

Senior Warden	Barb Parker
Junior Warden	Don Wools
Treasurer	Cindy Overmyer

Vestry Members

Commission Liaison

Julie Abedian '23	Communications
Nancy Ardizone '25	Parish Life
Andrew Goldsmid '24	Formation
Frank Guthrie '24	Finance
Nancy McKinney '24	Welcoming
Barb Parker '23	Senior Warden, Outreach
Steve Talbert '25	Marketing
Kelli Thompson '23	Worship
Don Wools '25	Jr. Warden, and Buildings & Grounds



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, Barb Parker

Junior Warden, Don Wools

Kathi Whipker, Parish Administrator
Michelle Farnsworth, Interim Music Director

2651 California Street
Columbus, IN 47201
Phone: 812-372-7869
stpaulscolumbusin@gmail.com

stpaulscolumbus.org

In case of pastoral emergency please call:

The Rev. Bro. Ælred Dean,

office: 812-372-7869

Email: stpaulscolumbuspriest@gmail.com