# THE TOWER



Dustin leads devotion for Ash Wednesday at Pool of Bethesda

















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## NEXT TOWER DEADLINE! March 16, 2023 at 5:00pm

Submit articles and/or pictures to Sara Ferebee at <a href="mailto:sara@stpaulchurchky.org">sara@stpaulchurchky.org</a>.

## **DEATHS SINCE LAST ALL SAINTS DAY**

Terry Byers - December 15, 2022 Joyce Lynn - December 24, 2022 Jan Wade - January 4, 2023 Mary Vise - January 17, 2023 Mae Claxon - January 20, 2023 Virginia Dick - February 3, 2023 Kel Thrush - February 13, 2023

#### **MEMORIALS**

**In memory of Jim Mynhier** from Women's Bible Study

**In memory of Mary Vise** from Betty Matthews

In memory of Jan Wade, from Betty & Donald Tinsley, Forrest S. Kuhn, M.D., and Staff, Mary Lou & Chuck Dobelstein, the Women's Bible Study, Four Seasons Town House Association, Constance Stewart, Susan & Michael Kauffmann Gilbert & Carol Atnip

## **STAY CONNECTED!**



WEBSITE: The St. Paul website is our communications hub! To keep up with all the St. Paul news and activities, visit StPaulChurchKY.org. Bookmark it!





Connect with St. Paul Church on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

Prayer Requests: Send prayer requests or sign up to receive the Prayer Chain by emailing prayer@ stpaulchurchky.org or by filling out the form at the St. Paul website. The Prayer Chain is emailed throughout the week as prayer requests are received.



## St. Paul Weekly Email - Stay informed!



Stay informed about the news and happenings at St. Paul. Subscribe at our website or email info@stpaulchurchky.org.



## Pastor Darren's Weekly Phone Message



Each Wednesday, Pastor Darren sends an uplifting phone message. To receive these calls, email info@stpaulchurchky.org or leave a message at 502-459-1595.

**Worship Recordings:** Our Sunday morning worship service is video-recorded. Find the recordings at **StPaulChurchKY.org/sermons**, or follow the link under **Recorded Worship Services!** 

## From Ashes to Joy

## Rev. Dustin Woods, Associate Pastor

I've always been struck by how much Mark's gospel can pack into a few short verses. In six verses, Mark 1:9-15, Jesus is baptized, driven out into the wilderness to be tempted, and begins his ministry of proclaiming the good news of the Kingdom of God! The time Jesus spends in the desert, a key passage for us during Lent, serves as a time of transition between a proclamation of Jesus' identity and his beginning of his vocation.

The rhythm of our lives can follow the same pattern. We have some amazing experience where everything is made clear and we know what it is we should do, only to find out that before we can begin, we must navigate our way through preparations, details, and unforeseen circumstances. This could be frustrating. If you're like me, you may wish that we could simply skip right to the new opportunities we see before us without busying ourselves with the things which come up in between.

But Jesus' experience in the desert reminds us that for Him, and for us, the transition times are critical. In fact, it was so critical that the Holy Spirit drives Jesus to the desert. While there, Jesus renounces temptation in a way others had failed to do. He affirms his faith in God as the bedrock of His life and mission, and he refuses to provide for himself or achieve his ends by any other way than the way of God. In the desert Jesus doesn't hop right to work, but establishes the foundations, meaning, and importance of the work he is about to do.

This month finds us in transition.

We have experienced Christmas
and Epiphany. We have just begun Lent with Ash

Wednesday We antisingto Easter but are not the

Wednesday. We nave just begun Lent with Ash Wednesday. We anticipate Easter, but are not there yet. In the course of our lives, we are always in some sort of transition or another. People and situations change around us and we must adapt. How might we dwell within our transitions this Lent and Easter season?

Lent has always been a time of preparation. We are called to reorient ourselves to God and to recommit ourselves to the faith we hold. Perhaps part of this calls us to be like Jesus in the desert. What must we let go of and renounce? What are we building ourselves and our identities on? Why do we do the things we do and why should we do them?

Similarly, the new life of Easter Sunday presents us with questions about what a new year of life in Christ might hold. What God might be calling us to? What new opportunities do we see in our lives? What fresh expressions of grace and invitation does God give?

As we leave the ashes of Ash Wednesday and move toward the joy of Easter, we have an opportunity to look deep within ourselves and to ready our hearts for new life in the year to come. Skipping from Christmas to Easter would miss something just as surely as Jesus skipping the desert would have. May we live into the movement.



## **Quilt Blessing - March 12**

## Connection, joy, fulfillment, commitment, pride, comfort.

These words were offered by Pat Miller, Anita Hall, and Pat Taylor, who - along with the late Linda Bowles and others - started St. Paul's Faith Quilters in 2003. Those same words would surely be uttered by the current group of sewists.

Each child who has received a hand-sewn quilt over these 20 years has been prayed for square by square, binding by binding, St. Paul label by Project Linus label.

Please join us for the observance of this milestone in either worship service on March 12.

# Lent & Easter Sermon Series Sundays, March 26-April 9

Join us as we journey from ashes to the joy of resurrection. Each step of the journey a Sunday in Lent and the days in between.

Ash Wednesday: "Ashes Everywhere"

1st Sunday in Lent: "Into the Wilderness"

2nd Sunday in Lent: "Through the Night"

3rd Sunday in Lent: "Thirst for New Life"

4th Sunday in Lent: "Healing and Conversion"

5th Sunday in Lent: "Out of the Depths"
Palm Sunday: "Celebration and Betrayal"
Good Friday: "Words from the Cross"

Easter Sunday: "Alive with Joy"



## **Holy Week and Easter Services**

Maundy Thursday, April 6 7:30pm in the Gym

Good Friday, April 7 Noon in the Sanctuary 7:30pm in the Sanctuary

**Easter Sunday, April 9** 

7:30am - Sunrise Service, front steps 9:00am - Koinonia Service, Gym 11:00am - Traditional Service, Sanctuary

Image by Pete Linforth from Pixabay

## Highlands Community Ministries Lenten Lunch Series

Thursdays during Lent,12:00-1:00pm Location: Highland Baptist Church, 1101 Cherokee Road, fellowship hall. (parking lot entrance)

Join HCM during Lent for a simple lunch of soup and bread and a short devotional by speakers from Highlands Congregations on the theme of "Being a Beloved Community." March 2 - KT Ockels (Strathmoor Presbyterian)

March 9 - Rachel Small-Stokes (Immanuel UCC)

March 16 - David Platt (Deer Park Baptist Church)

March 23 - Dustin Woods (St. Paul UMC)

March 30 - Mark Eldred (Bardstown Rd Presbyterian)

# Thank you!

Thank you for all of the prayers, cards, calls and texts during these past months. Thank you for checking on my mom, Lucy Fluke. She greatly appreciates it!!

I ask that you continue to lift me up as I continue on my medical journey.

Many Blessings, Penny Riddle

## Thank you from SPAMS and Henderson Settlement!

Our diaper drive for the MIHOW program at Henderson Settlement yielded 2465 diapers, 3360 baby wipes, and other generous donations.

The SPAMS group would like to thank you for your support of MIHOW (Mothers and Infants Health Outreach Workers) at Henderson Settlement in southeastern Kentucky.



## St. Paul Vision Team Goal #5: Diversity Ministry

In February, 2022, the St. Paul Vision Team and the Strategic Renovation Team agreed to change the name of its # 5 Goal to "Diversity Ministry" and to include in this goal three things to start with: Partnership with Coke Memorial UMC, Refugee Ministry, and Habitat work. In the Tower last May (2022), we explained how Diversity Ministry is about how we respond in love and hospitality to strangers, as Jesus challenged his followers in the Gospel of Matthew, where he said, "I was a stranger and you welcomed me" (Matthew 25: 35).

This time, we want to report on two events in which members of St. Paul took part recently, which are part of furthering this ministry.

The first was a morning of workshops, a luncheon, and worship service on Saturday January 14, as part of the observation of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial weekend. Under the overall leadership of Jan Brown-Thompson, Chair of the Kentucky Annual Conference Commission on Religion and Race, members from both St. Paul UMC and Coke Memorial UMC joined with other representatives from the Kentucky Annual Conference. The morning workshops featured Rev. Bessie Hamilton of Oklahoma City, who led "Shattering the Stained Glass Windows"; and Jennifer Davis and R. Dwayne Burks of Gastonia, North Carolina, who led "Reimagining" Diversity: Building Capacity for Acceptance." Both workshops had challenging words about how discrimination renders people nameless and invisible, but that each and every one of us has the power to make the invisible visible through attentive and loving relationships. The workshops called all of us to "develop the capacity to discern the needs of anyone, anywhere, anytime, and help one another with dignity."

The workshops were followed by a moving worship service, in which Rev. Dr. Vance P. Ross, senior pastor of Central UMC in Atlanta gave a powerful sermon on "Faith Communities in the Midst of the Dream: The Time Is Now." He insisted that the church – which has so often fallen short in leading on equality – must do better in these trying days; and can do better, with the empowerment of God. Reminding us that Dr. King was branded an extremist, the prophet Amos an extremist for justice, and Jesus an extremist for love, he said the question is not whether we will be extremists, but what kind of extremists we will be.

A few days later, on Wednesday evening January 18, a group of people at St. Paul began working through a study of the book Small Business: Big Heart, by Paul Wesslund, using a study guide called Christianity At Work, developed by Paul in collaboration with Sue Mink. The study focuses on the development of The Café, a restaurant started by church members Sal and Cindy Rubino. It explores how a business can express compassion, justice, and mercy by staffing itself with refugees and people struggling to recover from substance abuse, in the process valuing people whom society does not value, quintessential 'strangers.' The study guide speaks of "treating other people like you'd want to be treated, and giving people second chances," as well as "asking how it could change relationships to remember that every person is beloved by God."

Both of these recent experiences remind us that welcoming strangers is hard work, needing deliberate decisions to build our capacities for discerning need and meeting it. Are you ready to welcome strangers at St. Paul? If you have questions or comments regarding this goal, please reach out to Graeme Donovan at donovangraeme@gmail.com.

## Personnel Committee Update - February 2023

After prayerful consideration, Lorie Williamson has decided to step away from the Director of Family & Children's Ministry position to focus on her and her family's health. We are grateful for Lorie's time on staff and in ministry to our families. Lorie's last day in this role will be March 5, after which she will return to work at Second Presbyterian where she previously served for five years. She and her family will remain members of St. Paul's congregation. We will be posting the full-time position of Director of Family & Children's Ministry next week.

Thanks to the thoughtful work and planning of Lorie, our pastors, staff, and volunteers, plans are in place to cover the transition period, including Sunday mornings, Wednesday nights, and events already scheduled.

Please join us in praying for Lorie as she makes this transition and in acknowledging her good work. We encourage you to send cards of appreciation to Lorie's attention at St. Paul.

## **LENT EXPLAINED**

Lent is a difficult time and concept for children to understand and sometimes for adults to understand! Hopefully the following information will help if your child has any questions!

## WHAT IS LENT

Lent is the 40 days—not including Sundays!—from Ash Wednesday to the Saturday before Easter. Christians

around the world consider Lent a time to reflect on what Jesus did for us. Lent is a time to get our hearts ready to truly appreciate Jesus' death for us and celebrate Easter. Lent is a prime time to introduce spiritual disciplines—prayer, fasting, remembering, simplicity, celebrating—into your family's lifestyle and rhythms.



Sunday has always been considered to be a 'little Easter,' the day on which we celebrate Christ's resurrection and his victory over sin and death. This is why Sunday is never considered a day of sadness but always a day of rejoicing.

## WHAT ARE THE IMPORTANT DAYS IN LENT? Ash Wednesday

This day kicks off Lent. Speaking verses like "for you are dust and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19), a pastor applies ashes in the shape of a cross to a person's forehead. It's a day for humbling ourselves, for

remembering God is great—yet made us from dust.

## **Palm Sunday**

Palm Sunday is the day we remember Christ's entry into Jerusalem riding on a donkey. Palms were waved and laid down in front of Jesus as a sign of honor. Palm Sunday falls one week before Easter Sunday and marks the beginning of the Holy Week.

St. Paul Church
Kids

## Maundy Thursday

Maundy Thursday is the Thursday before Easter. We remember the Thursday when Jesus ate the Last Supper with His twelve disciples and was then betrayed by Judas, arrested, and put on an unjust trial.

## **Good Friday**

Though it may seem strange to call it "good," the Friday before Easter is when we remember Jesus' death on the cross. The bad part about this day is that we needed Jesus to die because of our sin. The good part is the incredible gift of God's forgiveness that came from that action!

## **Easter Sunday**

Easter is technically not part of Lent. It's after the 40 days. But it is the "happy ending" of Lent: Jesus rose again! This translates to new life, an empty tomb, forgiveness, and the opportunity to start again!



SATURDAY, MARCH 25
10:00AM-NOON
FAMILY LIFE CENTER



Bring your family and friends to the Easter Eggstravaganza! This is a free event for St. Paul and the surrounding community. Enjoy crafts, games, cookie decorating, and more! Bring your Easter Basket for the hunt and your camera to capture a picture with the Easter Bunny. The age-specific Easter Egg Hunt will happen rain or shine, so please dress appropriately for the day's weather.

## BRING YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Questions about Family and Children's Ministries?
Contact Lorie Williamson,
Director of Family and Children's Ministries, at
loriew@stpaulchurchky.org.



Join us for dinner and activities during Wesley Night - Wedesdays, 6:00-8:00pm!

Learn more about these programs and studies and RSVP for the meal at this page: <a href="https://www.stpaulchurchky.org/ministries/wesley-night/">https://www.stpaulchurchky.org/ministries/wesley-night/</a>

Or scan the Flowcode to the right for quick access -->>

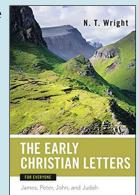
## **WESLEY NIGHT ADULT BIBLE STUDY**

**The Early Christian Letters: James** 

March 1-29 at 7:00pm McAdams Hall

From March 1st-March 29th, the adult study for Wesley Night will be a 5-week Bible study on the book of James, led by Pastor Dustin.

We will read and discuss one chapter a week and we will use N.T. Wright's commentary, "Early Christian Letters for Everyone: James, Peter, John, and Judah." These



commentaries can be purchased from the church for \$15 each. All are welcome to attend!

# Youth News!

## **CONFIRMATION 2023**

Confirmation classes have begun! This year, we have seven youth in our confirmation class. Please be in prayer for these young people:

Sofia Elbert
Quenton Horton
Caroline Keith
Eleanor Keith
Samuel Meadows
Cash Northington
Abe Peña

Confirmation Sunday will be May 7th.

## Winter-Spring Youth Schedule:

## March

3/3-3/4 - Lock In!

3/5 - No Youth (Recover from Lock In)

3/12 - Regular Youth

3/29 - Regular Youth

3/25 (Saturday) - Easter Egg Hunt

3/26 - Regular Youth

## April

4/2 - No Youth / Palm Sunday (JCPS Spring Break)

4/9 - No Youth / Happy Easter! (JCPS Spring Break)

4/16 - Regular Youth

4/23 - Regular Youth

4/30 - Regular Youth

## May

5/7 - Regular Youth

5/14 - No Youth / Mother's Day

5/21 - Senior Banquet

To stay up to date on Youth events:

• Sign up for the Youth email list here

• Check the Youth Instagram account @stp.youth

General Youth info can be found on the St. Paul Youth Webpage.

# **SPAMS** (St. Paul Adult Ministry for Seniors)

## MARCH POTLUCK AND ENTERTAINMENT



# Thursday, March 23

12:00pm in McAdams Hall

Join the SPAMS (St Paul Adult Ministry for Seniors) for lunch and entertainment by The St. Paul Strummers, who will be performing "I'll Fly Away," "Victory in Jesus," and other foot-patting tunes - plus a few surprises...

Fried chicken will be furnished by SPAMS. Please bring a dish to share.

Sign up at the Information Center or call the church office at 459-1595.

## An Invitation to the Women of the Word Lenten Bible Study

Wednesdays, 10:00-11:30am, Room 113

Women of every age are invited to a six-week Lenten study called Finding Jesus in the Psalms. It has a DVD and book.

We meet from 10:00-11:30 every Wednesday in Room 113. We'll start with a devotion from *Lent in Plain Sight: A Devotion Through Ten Objects*, watch the DVD, then study the Psalms and other scriptures for the week. If you'd like to purchase a book, they are \$14.00; however, for this short course, it is not an absolute necessity. Just join this group of caring women.

Description: In *Finding Jesus in the Psalms*, author "Barb Roose guides the reader through a meaningful encounter with the Psalms through the season of Lent. Combining an interpretation

of the Psalms with real life stories, the study moves through the familiar words of Psalm 23 toward the painful cries of Psalm 22 uttered by Jesus on the cross. The study includes reflections on the life of King David and the original context of the writings, along with connections between the Psalms and the life and death of Jesus the Messiah."

The author says: "The Psalms provide a perfect framework for experiencing Lent through the verses that were Jesus's own scriptures, offering both him and us strength and wisdom in a painful and redemptive season. The Book of Psalms hums with the heartbeat of our humanity with divinely inspired words that find purchase in the tenderest places in our hearts when our human words or wisdom fails us."

# "ONE TEAM" PARTY!

Saturday, March 18 • 5:00-8:00pm, Gym

ST. PAUL CHURCH

## LET'S CELEBRATE ST. PAUL!

The Resilience Team, in conjunction with other church groups, is throwing a "One Team" party to celebrate the resilience and perseverance of the church, the body of believers!

Let us gather to celebrate our St. Paul community and remember God's faithfulness and goodness in the midst of challenges.

In the spirit of March Madness, we'll enjoy



# CONCESSION-STYLE FOOD **MUSIC • GAMES**



ENTERTAINMENT FOR ALL AGES!

To help us plan, please sign up at the Information Center (2nd floor near main office) or call the church office at 502-459-1595.

## Resource Center Consignment Sale Fundraiser

## Sunday, March 26 10:00-11:00am and 12:00-1:00pm, McAdams Hall



We have a lot of men's items!

Coats • Shirts • Pants • Cashmere sweaters

Brands include Ralph Lauren, Daniel Cremieux, Claiborne, Nautica, Burberrys, Nicklaus Golf, Roundtree and Yorke, Murano, Donna Karan, and more.

We have women's items as well!

Coats • Blouses • Pants • Dresses • Purses

Brands include Talbots, Worthingtons, Liz Claiborne, Donna Karan, and more.

Are you interested in some great deals on quality, name-brand clothing? Need to spruce up your wardrobe or buy a gift for someone special? Not questions you usually see in a church newsletter, eh?

Recently, the Resource Center received donations of some high-quality clothing. Many of these items have never been worn; some still have the tags on them!

The Resource Center volunteer team has sorted through these clothing items to determine which are appropriate for those we serve, and it has been a joy to offer some of these brand new clothes to guests at the Mobile Resource Center! We've also given some of the clothes to the United Methodist Mountain Mission to help stock their Opportunity Stores.

But we still have a lot of clothing left, so we've decided to have a Consignment Sale to raise funds for the Resource Center. These funds will then be used to buy the everyday items needed by those we serve items such as underwear, socks, and hygiene items.

Stop by the "One Team" Party on March 18 for a sneak peek at some of the clothing items that will be available on March 26!

## All proceeds will go into the Resource Center Fund.



# Mobile Resource Center Saturday, March 11 11:00am-1:00pm

at Fourth Ave UMC's Open Door Community Ministry

We have a great group of committed volunteers at our Mobile Resource Center, but we'd love to have some more! No long-term commitment needed; join us any month that works for you! You can sign up to volunteer here: <a href="https://www.stpaulchurchky.org/mobile-resource-center/">https://www.stpaulchurchky.org/mobile-resource-center/</a>

## **March 2023**

#### **HEALTH & WELLNESS**

## Senior Adult Wellness Class

Tuesday & Thursday, 10:00-11:00am, McAdams Hall

#### **Guided Meditation**

Wednesdays, 10:30am, Zoom

#### **SUPPORT GROUPS**

### **AA Groups**

Mondays at 6:00pm and 7:30pm, Tuesdays at 7:30pm, Thursdays at 6:00pm, Saturdays at 10:00am & 8:00pm, Sundays at 8:00pm

## - GLI AA Meeting

March 9, 6:00pm, McAdams Hall

## **Depression Bipolar Support Alliance**

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 7:30pm, Rooms 110 & 113
- DBSA Writing Group - Tuesdays, 6:30pm, Room 111

#### **FELLOWSHIP & CLASSES**

#### Kaleidoscope

Tuesday, March 7, 7:00pm, Youth Center

#### Men's Group

Mondays, March 13 & 27, 7:00pm, Common Cup

#### Faith Quilters

Tuesday, March 21, 10:00am, Room 100

## Women of the Word Bible Study

Wednesdays, 10:00-11:30am, Room 113

## Women's Discernment Group

Thursdays, 10:00am, Zoom

## **Prayer Beading Group**

Sunday, March 19, 1:00pm, Common Cup

### **Guitar Club**

Sunday, March 19, 6:30pm, Room 113

#### **MUSIC**

### **Chancel Choir**

Thursdays, 7:15pm, Choir Room

## Bells of St. Paul

Wednesdays, 8:00pm, Room 303

#### **OUTREACH**

## **Resource Center Assistance**

Mondays & Wednesdays, 10:00am-1:00pm Available to those in need of basic necessities.

## **Mobile Resource Center**

March 11, 11:00am-1:00pm, Fourth Avenue United Methodist Church

#### **WESLEY NIGHTS**

## Wednesdays, 6:00-8:00pm

Dinner: 6:00-7:00pm, McAdams Hall

Children's Choirs:

Music Milestones (age 3-K), 6:00-6:30pm, Room 302 Joyful Song Choir (Grades 1-3), 7:00-8:00pm, Room 306 Wesleyan Choir (Grades 4-6), 7:00-8:00pm, Room 302 Open Gym: Open to children with trusted adult, 6:00-

7:00pm

Adult Study: Bible Study - James, 7:00-8:00pm,

McAdams Hall

## **CHILDREN & YOUTH**

#### **Confirmation Class**

Sundays, 10:00am through April

Youth Choir

Sundays, 5:00-6:00pm, Room 302

## Youth Group

Sundays, 6:00-8:00pm, McAdams Hall and Youth Center

#### Scouts

Boy Scouts, Tuesdays, 7:00pm, Gym Cub Scouts, First and Third Thursday, 6:00pm, Family Life Center

### **SPECIAL EVENTS**

## "One Team" Party

Saturday, March 18, 5:00-8:00pm, Gym

## Resource Center Consignment Sale Fundraiser

Sunday, March 26, 10:00-11:00am, 12:00-1:00pm, McAdams Hall

## **ADMINISTRATIVE**

## **Worship Staff Meeting**

Tuesdays, 10:00am, Youth Center

## **Staff Meeting**

Tuesdays, 11:00am, Youth Center

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