

—The Episcopal Parish of —
**St. Mark
& St. Paul**
—On the Mountain —

Formerly Otey Parish

Epiphanytide 2022



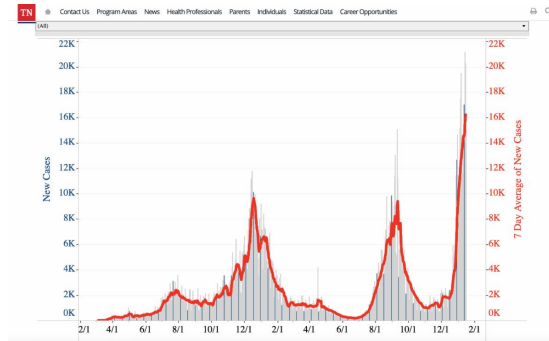
From the Rector: More Omicron (ugh!)

At this writing the most recent data available show new COVID cases in our county and state at their highest level ever and increasing sharply. Less than 10% of regular and ICU hospital beds are available statewide. For these reasons we have held Christian Formation classes via Zoom only January 9, 16 & 13, and worship via Facebook or Zoom (but not in person) January 16 & 23.

For 2022 the Tennessee Department of Health has changed its policy on releasing COVID data. Instead of providing data through the previous day 5 days per week, they are now releasing data up through the previous Saturday once a week on Wednesday. This change makes it considerably more difficult to assess current COVID conditions. On Thursday each week I have been making a decision for the coming Sunday, and we announce it via email, Facebook, and the Sewanee Classifieds.

Whether worship is held in person and children's and youth classes take place indoors, outdoors, or a combination will be based on the weather and COVID conditions. If the situation warrants, we'll probably return the 11am service to outdoors once it is warm enough to do so in March.

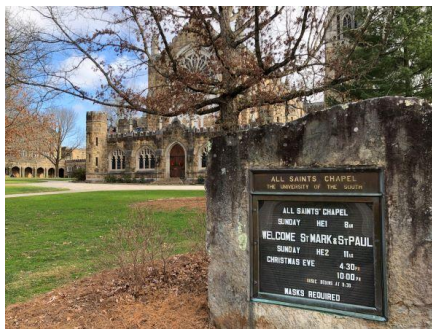
I look forward eagerly to a day when such adaptations won't be urgently necessary. In the meantime, though, God is no less present and we are no less important to one another. I ask for your forbearance as we endure this trial, and your creativity to help us find ways to maintain and grow connections even as it is deeply challenging to do so.



The Rev. Becca Walton (L), transitional Deacon from the Diocese of Mississippi and senior at the School of Theology, participated in the 11am service on Sunday, January 9.

Worship at All Saints' Chapel over Christmas Break

We were blessed by the gracious hospitality of Chaplain Peter Gray and the All Saints' Chapel staff to hold distanced in-person services on Christmas Eve and at 11am on December 19 & 26 and January 2. Many thanks!





Greening of St. Mark & St. Paul. Thank you to all who helped.



Vestry Highlights

Highlights of Vestry meeting of December 16, 2021 (in Kennerly Hall)

- Adopted the 2022 operating budget.
- received an update on information received since the December meeting about an arrearage in pension contributions for former CAC Director Betty Carpenter.
- approved clergy housing allowance provisions for the Revs. Rob Lamborn and David Goodpaster.
- supplemented the work of the Stewardship Committee by writing thank-you notes to three 2022 pledgers each.
- enjoyed refreshments provided by Junior Warden Annette Smith.

Highlights of Vestry meeting of January 20, 2022 (via Zoom)

- Elected Joel Cunningham as Senior Warden, Annette Smith as Junior Warden, and Alec Moseley as Treasurer for the coming year.
- Reviewed the duties of vestry service in relation to the mission of the church and diocesan canons.
- assembled vestry member responsibilities as outlined on the list of personnel in this newsletter.
- Authorized payment of half of a pension arrearage owed on former CAC Director Betty Carpenter's behalf, anticipating a proposal on how to pay for the 2nd half at its February regular meeting.

Diocesan Convention



Because of COVID, a reduced delegation consisting of Alex & Kathryn Bruce and Rob Lamborn participated in convention on the second day only at St. George's, Nashville, Saturday, January 22. In addition to holding hearings on resolutions and the budget, adopting the 2022 budget, listening to an address from Bp. Bauerschmidt, and worshipping together at the Holy Eucharist, hearing a report from the Episcopal School of Nashville, diocesan convention adopted two resolutions. The first implemented last year's requirement for anti-racism training by establishing a curriculum clergy and Senior Wardens must participate in during

2022. The 2023 convention will consider next steps, likely adding Vestry member and lay employees to the requirement. The second resolution reminded the diocese of the 2018 General Convention resolution in opposition to the death penalty and called for the establishment of a diocesan task force as specified in the General Convention resolution. In that resolution we learned more about Abu-Ali Abdur'Rahman, a confirmed Episcopalian on Tennessee's Death Row for whom we have been praying for a few years. Mr. Abdur'Rahman, who has been involved in Education for Ministry while in prison, has had his sentence converted to life without parole. Next year's convention will be January 20-21 at St. David's, Nashville; please let Rob or a Vestry member know if you'd be interested in representing your parish there.



Roof Ridge Update

Replacement of the ridge of the church roof with a copper ridge cap to repair wind damage is now complete. The copper ridge cap will be tied into an upgraded lightning protection system. Many thanks to Mickey Suarez and Annette Smith for shepherding this process to completion!



Christian Formation News

Christmas Pageant

Our annual Christmas pageant took place in St. Andrews-Sewanee School in McCrory Hall. What an honor to use this beautiful space! The Sewanee String Blazers played the prelude and postlude, as well accompaniment for carols sung by the audience. Ray Gotko accompanied the children's choir on piano. Elyzabeth Wilder provided stage direction for the pageant, while Kathy Bruce and Alex Bruce led singing. They also helped Annika Derham corralling and cueing during the rehearsal and pageant. Devin Villery provided lighting and sound and Beth Wiley videography.

Many thanks to Julia Gatta and Aaron Elrod for the drinks, to David Goodpaster for manger transport, and to Brenda Matthews for bringing bales of hay. Lane Beaumont purchased new wings and halos and washed and pressed the surplices. I'm leaving out too many folks who contributed in so many ways, especially the parents and grandparents who worked so hard to make this pageant what some have called our best yet. Of course, they are all, always, the best yet! We love our St. Mark & St. Paul children and take so much joy in all they do!

If you missed the pageant, watch the video on the church's Facebook page: https://fb.watch/af9md_NwJ7/.





Nursery News



Look for weekly emails regarding nursery hours. They may change from week to week depending on COVID numbers.

Our new Nursery Coordinator is Cara Kitzrow. Cara is an artist, naturalist, parent, and a Sewanee graduate local to the mountain. She and her two children spend their days exploring, playing, or working in the garden. Cara has worked as a Nursery Caregiver since 2019. She has also assisted with VB-Us; in 2021 she developed and implemented the children's program for our fully outdoor program. Cara brings creativity and a peaceful spirit to all that she does.

We also have a new Nursery Caregiver, Emily True. Emily has worked in the nursery as a substitute all year, so the children already know and love her. Emily is a junior at the University majoring in Geology. She brings three summers of camp experience. Emily's interests revolve around the outdoors – camping, climbing, and kayaking – so she has been very much at home with our Covid-inspired outdoor nursery! She also loves cooking and reading.

Diana Rung continues to serve as a substitute when Cara or Emily is out. We will be hiring more substitutes this month; please let Jeannie or Cara know if interested. Substitutes are usually scheduled for one Sunday per month and are available to work most other Sundays if needed. Church members may also choose to serve as backup volunteers. Volunteers and paid workers are subject to the same Safeguarding protocols.

Current nursery hours are 9:30 am to 12:00 noon. Nursery meets outdoors when the weather is nice; otherwise, downstairs in the first classroom. Anyone over 2 years old must wear a mask while indoors.

Godly Play



Godly Play 1 is for children who are at least three years old through first grade. Godly Play 2 is for children in grades 2-5. Children will meet in the Godly Play rooms for a story and wondering. Please bring children before 9:45 so the storyteller can begin! After the story and wondering, we will go outside for feast and play if weather allows. If it is too cold or raining, children will remain indoors for

an art reflection time, but will not have the feast.

Pick up children at 10:45 on the playground or in the rooms according to weather. **In case of Covid-19 risk increase, we will meet via Zoom.** The link is sent by email, so please make sure we have your information in Realm, the church's database.

During the season after Epiphany, children hear parables. Each year as they encounter the parables, the story may be the same but they hear it from a different perspective. The storyteller asks children questions like "I wonder if the birds have names?" or "I wonder what this place could really be?" Wondering about the parables often leads to amazing insights, for the storyteller as well as the children.

Godly Play 1 (ages 3 through 1st grade)

Feb 6 – Parable of the Sower told by Beth Wiley

Feb 13 – Parable of the Leaven told by Jeannie Babb

Feb 20 – Parable of the Mustard Seed told by Cara Kitzrow

Feb 27 – Parable of Parables told by Cara Kitzrow

Godly Play 2 (grades 2-4)

Feb 6 – Parable of the Sower told by Lauryl Tucker

Feb 13 – The Greatest Parable told by Barbara Prunty

Feb 20 – The Greatest Parable told by Barbara Prunty

Feb 27 – The Greatest Parable told by Barbara Prunty

Children who are at least two years of age should wear a mask the entire time they are indoors. Children's workers will also be masked. If feasible, the windows will be opened in the Godly Play rooms for extra ventilation.

Please know that Covid-19 safety continues to be high priority for the parish. We recognize that risk factors and comfort levels vary from family to family, and over time. If you or your children are unable to participate because of risk, exposure, or illness, please let us know how we can continue to care for your spiritual needs during this time.

Godly Play Training

Would you like to learn to tell Godly Play stories? Or perhaps you feel called to provide support as a doorkeeper? We are in the midst of a Commuter Core Training here at the Parish of St. Mark & St. Paul. There are three modules, which can be taken in any order and any place, so if you missed the classes we held in November and December, join us for the final class in February! Click the link below to register – but first contact Jeannie for the Promo Code. All costs will be covered for trainees who will be telling stories here at St. Mark & St. Paul.

[Commuter Core Godly Play Training: SEWANEE 2021 Sacred Space and Sacred Stories](#)

Youth Sunday School

Youth Sunday school meets on the upper screened porch at the back of Brooks Hall for Bible study, snacks, and games. In the case of inclement weather, the class moves inside. Masks are worn inside and on the screened porch. In case of increased Covid-19 risk, the class will be held on Zoom. The link will be emailed. This class is for young people who are at least 10 years old, and not more than 18 years old. Teachers are Anatol Ferguson, Andy Thompson, Richard Ahlquist and Jeannie Babb. This is a really great group! We are having so much fun and deepening our walk with God.

When Godly Play is on Zoom, Youth Sunday School will not meet.

Fire on the Mountain for Youth

Fire on the Mountain is open to 5th-12th graders who want to have fun while learning and serving. Our teaching and leadership approach are from an Episcopal perspective; however, students of all faith backgrounds are encouraged to participate. We are an inclusive group, not only in word but in deed. We'd love to have you!

Tentative schedule of events (4-6pm unless specified)

Feb 6 – Valentine's party and service project (Kennerly Hall)

Feb 20 – Painting icons (Kennerly Hall)

Mar 6 – Rosary making (Kennerly Hall)

Mar 20 – Outdoor fun and service project (TBD)

Apr 3 – Stations of the Cross (Brooks Hall porch)

Apr 17 – Service project – hide eggs at 9:00 a.m. (Brooks Hall lawn)

May 1 – Spring party, maybe swim (TBD)

See our [Facebook](#) page. We also regularly communicate by text and email. To join the list, please send a text to Jeannie at 423-255-6479 and ask to be added.

Sunday Forum 2021-2022 Sundays, 9:45-10:45 in Kennerly Hall

December 19 Paul Holloway	Paul or Not Paul? <i>Hebrews 10:5-10</i>
December 26 & January 2	No Sunday Forum
January 9 Rob Lamborn	Rector's Forum
January 16 Wallace Benton	Anti-racism Work at All Saints <i>1 Corinthians 12:1-11</i>
January 23 Richard Ahlquist	Who was Paul? <i>1 Corinthians 12:12-31a</i>
January 30 Jim Turrell	Theological Education in a Changing Church <i>1 Corinthians 13:1-13</i>
February 6 David Stark	Preaching Grace in a World That Prizes Success <i>1 Corinthians 15:1-11</i>
February 13 Becky Wright	First Fruits: Giving the Best <i>1 Corinthians 15:12-20</i>
February 20 Celeste Ray	Sacred Landscape <i>1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50</i>
February 27 James Tengtenga	Decolonizing Evangelism <i>2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2</i>
March 6 Yuri Rodriguez	Decolonizing Church Music <i>Romans 10:8b-13</i>
March 13 Hilary Bogert-Winkler	Eucharist as the Threshold to the New Creation <i>Philippians 3:17-4:1</i>
March 20 Richard Cogill	The Struggle for Full Inclusion in Church & Society <i>1 Corinthians 10:1-13</i>
March 27 Leigh Preston	Oscar Romero <i>2 Corinthians 5:16-21</i>
April 3 Sr. Hannah	A Spiritual Journey <i>Philippians 3:4b-14</i>
April 10 & 17	No Sunday Forum
April 24 Rob Lamborn	Rector's Forum
May 1 Karen Meridith	Wrapping up the Year <i>An Interview with St. Mark & St. Paul</i>

November 2, 2021

The Challenge of Growing a Church **Kathleen Sturgis, Parish Organist**

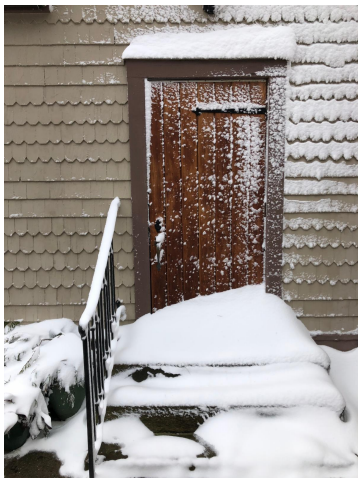
The Pandemic was a big impediment to our celebration of the 150th Anniversary of our parish. We did make a name change during the time of celebration. We now are the Parish of St. Mark and St. Paul. We have spent the first semester learning about St. Mark and soon will begin a study of St. Paul in the Sunday Forum. So this is a time of adjustment for all of us.

Each time I have heard our Bishop speak he cites our motto, to be open, obedient, responsive and committed. Recently some of our consistent and

committed parishioners have moved to other places near family or for care. We will miss Karen Keele and Claudia and Joe Porter so much. But I was thinking about the challenge that gives us. We have a need for others to step forward to pick up the torch and demonstrate being open, obedient, responsive and committed.

Commitment has always been a challenge in churches. The secular world calls us away to higher positions of greater responsibility and shortens the time we have to serve our church. Sometimes we get so busy being busy, we forget our church commitment completely. We are lost to the fellowship of Christ's own. We allow our faith to erode, because we quit caring for our faith. In this next year, we need to be open and responsive to the needs of those around us. Also, there are so many new folks that come to the mountain each year. Let's do all we can to be a welcoming person. It would be wrong for someone to feel loneliness simply because no one has invited them to participate.

We have a great challenge in the future. We need to realize that there was never a perfect parish or person. However, we need to do our best to be inclusive to all. If you see someone new, invite them to church. Invite them to Fire on the Mountain, Godly Play or Forum depending on their age. The GO with them. As they say, you must be a friend to make a friend. You never know when Christ is asking you to be the invitation to grace. I hope we bring many folks to worship with us. When the pandemic is over, we can swing into action with activities that are meaningful to all of us. If we want our church to grow, it must be changing and constantly being a witness to Jesus Christ. Let's keep praying for the day when we can all meet dance and sing together in praise. Best wishes for 2022.



St. Mark & St. Paul and CAC follow Franklin County Schools for closures and delays on account of snow or icy conditions.

Mental Health Resources

*If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and the light around me become night,"
even the darkness is not dark to you;*

*the night is as bright as the day,
for darkness is as light to you.*

Ps. 139:11-12

Christians are not exempt from feeling the effects of isolation, loneliness, and fear, especially during these months of social distancing and quarantine. There is no doubt that the COVID-19 pandemic has taken a toll on mental health. While taking care to prevent physical complications of the disease, many neglect to safeguard their mental well-being in the process.

If you or someone you know is experiencing a mental health crisis, there is help available! You can call **855-CRISIS-1 (855-274-7471)** to speak with the State Crisis Line, or **text HOME to 741741**. Just need someone to talk to? Call the Church Office at **931-598-5926** and let us know. We will be happy to lend a listening ear, pray with you, and help connect you with any additional services you might need.

Giving to the Parish of St. Mark & St. Paul

Bill Pay from Your Bank Website

Use the Bill Pay service provided by your bank. If your bank offers online bill pay services, follow their setup directions to add the church as a payee, and add recurring automatic payments. Use the name and address below for the payee:

Parish of St. Mark & St. Paul
P.O. Box 267
Sewanee, TN 37375
(931) 598-5926

By Mail

Mail us a check, or place cash or check in the offering plate on Sunday. If you are giving toward a pledge, please write "Pledge" on the memo or envelope. If mailing, send to us at the above address.

Online Giving

Convenient and secure -- You can make a one-time donation or set up a recurring gift. Choose credit, debit or bank account payments. If you already have a login for our Realm software, you can either **Give Now** or text "Otey\$75" (or any amount) to 73256. Follow the prompts and manage your account. **More information regarding Realm below.**

Get Connected with Realm

Let's get connected. ✨

Download our Connect app today.

- 📄 Update your personal information
- 🗣️ Communicate with groups & teams
- 📅 Follow church announcements
- 🔍 Look up members
- 💰 Manage giving
- 📅 Create and join events

Let's be the church... together.



Our church management software has expanded capabilities to help

parishioners get connected and stay that way. You can easily update your personal information, see the status of your giving, and set up online one-time or recurring electronic giving. As always, we are still able to receive gifts by check.

Interested or have questions?
Call the Church Office at 931-598-5926.

Prayer List: Phoebe Bates, David Bowman, Paul Cahoon, Alison Cane, Corky Carlisle, Un Jung Ee, Barb Ford, Catherine Garcia, Sue Hawkins, Carl P. Hill, Jr., Jane Holmes, Misty Isbel, Ariel Jones, David Kearley, Michelle King, Brenda Matthews, Jeff Mazur, Noël McLaughlin, Susannah Metz, Kip Moravec, John Noland, Jamie Pappas, George Ramseur, Jennifer Sturgis Cummings, Kathy Sturgis, Faye and Francis Walter, Estelle, and those suffering from COVID-19.

The prayer list will renew on March 1, 2022. If you want yourself or your family member to remain on the list, please let Frieda know by calling (931) 598-5926 or emailing to admin@stmarkstpaul.org.

February/March Birthdays



February: Jeff Lynch 2/1; David Goodpaster 2/1; Barb Ford 2 / 2 Elliott Duncan 2/3 ; Jay Fisher 2/6 ; Mac Croom 2 / 9 Beth Wiley 2 / 12 ; Trudy Cunningham 2 / 13 ; Miree Wood 2 / 14 ; Brenda Matthews 2 / 14 ; John Gatta 2 / 15 ; Jane Holmes 2 / 16 ; Jeannie Babb 2 / 16 ; Jimmy Blythe 2 / 17 John Fisher 2/ 17 ; Julia Bates 2 / 17 ; George Dick 2 / 18 Tim Nelson 2 / 19 ; Amy Neubauer 2 / 19 ;

Maddie Van de Ven 2 / 19 ; Jett Fisher 2 / 22 ; David Kearley 2 / 23 ; Thomas Macfie 2 / 23 ; J.T. Jenkins 2 / 23 ; Liz Camp 2 / 24 ; Samson McClain 2 / 24 ; Hampton Mauzy 2 / 27 ; Bonnie McCardell 2 / 28 ;

March: Sam Goodpaster 3 / 1 ; Debi Hart 3 / 1 ; Dorothy Gates 3 / 2 ; Tom Howick 3 / 6 ; Mary Blount 3 / 7 ; Elliott Benson 3 / 7 ; James Mazur 3 / 7 ; Olivia Howard 3 / 9 ; Luke Winkler 3 / 10 ; Paul Wiley 3 / 13 ; Marguerite Lloyd 3 / 13 ; Tom Macfie 3 / 14 ; Janet Graham 3 / 18 ; Ann Seiders 3 / 23 ; Chris Asmussen 3

/ 27 ; Ren Elrod 3 / 29 ; Christian Taylor 3 / 30 ; Frieda Hawkins 3 / 30 ; Doug Seiders 3 / 31 ; Thomas Phelps 3 / 31 ;

The mission of the Parish of St. Mark & St. Paul is

to worship God,
to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ,
to serve the world for which Christ died,
to educate and nurture our community,
and welcome all.

Staff:

The Rev. Robert C. Lamborn, D. Min., Rector, rector@stmarkstpaul.org
The Rev. Elizabeth Carpenter, Deacon, deacon@stmarkstpaul.org
The Rev. David Goodpaster, CAC Director, cac@stmarkstpaul.org,
Frieda Hawkins, Parish Administrator, admin@stmarkstpaul.org
Kathy Sturgis, Organist, music@stmarkstpaul.org
Jeannie Babb, Christian Formation Director formation@stmarkstpaul.org
Jan Stevens, Financial Assistant, finance@stmarkstpaul.org
Cara Kitzrow, Nursery Coordinator
The Rev. Giulianianna Cappelletti Gray, Priest Associate, giuliannagray@gmail.com
Richard Ahlquist, Seminarian, ahlqurl0@sewanee.edu
Anatol Ferguson, Youth Ministry Intern, anatolferguson@gmail.com

Vestry:

Beth Chamberlain, CAC
Joel Cunningham, Senior Warden
Diane Jones, Christian Formation
Tom Phelps, Outreach beyond CAC
Annette Smith, Junior Warden
Lynn Stubblefield, Parish Life
Lynn Taylor, University/Community Relations
Lauryl Tucker, Stewardship
Beth Wiley, Finance
Alec Moseley, Treasurer

The Parish of St. Mark and St Paul
216 University Avenue
P. O. Box 267
Sewanee, TN 37375
(931) 598-5926

www.stmarkstpaul.org



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