

St. Paul's

• Y O U T H •

Christian Education, The Anglican Way

In every Sunday school, Sunday Night Live, and small-group Bible studies this semester we will focus on and participate together in two major subjects: prayer and Scripture.

Anglicanism is the tradition that gave the world the English Bible and the Book of Common Prayer, two resources that—for the first time in centuries—gave normal (common) people the tool to hear the Word of God and pray the Word of God in their own language.

What does this have to do with Youth Ministry? We live in a world that tells us we need to work hard to find God. Whether we try to find God in academics, sports, the arts, nature, or even church, we end up looking for God in His Creation and not in His Son, Jesus.

Prayer and Scripture are disciplines that have one message: while you think you're looking for God, God is already looking for you. If there's one thing to know, it's that. And that's exactly what we're learning together.

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Weekly Flow

High school Sunday school at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday will focus on the sermon passage of the week. We will read and pray the passage three times together, paying special attention to how the passage challenges us and teaches us about God.

Middle school Sunday school will focus on experiencing the sacraments and stories of our faith through experiential, tactile learning.

SNL at 5:00 p.m. on Sundays will include a game, a meal, and a service of Evening Prayer or Compline from the Book of Common Prayer. In this setting we will hear the Word of God read, prayed, sung, and taught by and with each other.

Tuesday Morning at 6:30 a.m. in the Parish Hall, High Schoolers and adults will explore the rich treasury of Psalms that we regularly hear in cooperate worship. All of this lofty conversation will be aided by bagels, coffee, and juice.

Parish-Wide Camping Trip & Fall Youth Retreat

Friday, October 13 - Sunday, October 15, Henry Horton State Park
Registration open now!

Join your whole St. Paul's family on the shores of the historic Duck River as we enjoy a beautiful fall weekend! It is just 45-minutes away from St. Paul's, so you can join for day trips or stay the whole weekend. St. Paul's has reserved a (tent-only) group campsite as well as a picnic shelter for the weekend.

We scheduled Youth-centered programming all day on Saturday, October 14. We will pray Morning and Evening Prayer, have lunch together, play games, go on a hike, eat, and break out into small groups. If you have any questions, contact Chase or Anna Stewart at anna.Stewart@stpaulsmurfreesboro.org.

Fall Worship Schedule

7:30 a.m., Rite I
9:00 a.m., Christian Education
10:00 a.m., Rite II

Helpers Needed!

While we work toward our common mission together, we need your (adult) help!

The first thing we need you to do: pray for our youth and the people who care for them. Tell us that you are praying for us and what you are praying for us!

The second thing we need you to do: Serve as teachers, volunteers, and chaperones for Sunday School, SNL, the High School Bible study, and trips.

The third:
Cook for us! (Or buy us food!)
We share a meal every Sunday evening, and we need volunteers to make sure there is food for us to eat. This is a great way to meet several of the people you are regularly praying for!

If you are interested in any of these opportunities, contact Chase at Chase.Benefiel@stpaulsmurfreesboro.org

Upcoming Events

Saturday, September 9

✘ Fall Kickoff

Sunday, September 10

✘ Youth Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.
✘ SNL, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, September 12

✘ High school Bible study, 6:30 a.m.

Sunday, September 17

✘ Youth Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.
✘ SNL, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, September 19

✘ High school Bible study, 6:30 a.m.

Sunday, September 24

✘ Youth Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.
✘ SNL, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, September 19

✘ High school Bible study, 6:30 a.m.

Sunday, October 1

✘ Shenanigans 9:00-10:00 a.m.
✘ No SNL

Tuesday, October 3

✘ No high school Bible study

Sunday, October 8

✘ Youth Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.
✘ Blessing of the Animals, 4:00 p.m.
✘ SNL, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, October 10

✘ High school Bible study, 6:30 a.m.

Friday, October 13-Sunday, October 15

✘ Parish-wide Campout and Youth Retreat

Sunday, October 15

✘ No SNL

Tuesday, October 17

✘ High school Bible study, 6:30 a.m.

Sunday, October 22

✘ Youth Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.
✘ Gratitude Picnic, 12 p.m.
✘ SNL, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, October 24

✘ High school Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.

A Letter from the Youth Ministry Coordinator

If we haven't met already, I look forward to meeting you in the coming months as we begin our Fall programming season. We have several opportunities to spend time together, study, read, pray, and—I'm sure—laugh and cry. Robert Harling said "laughter through tears is my favorite emotion." I tend to agree.

I am thrilled, on a personal note, to be back in Middle Tennessee after almost 10 years being away at Carson-Newman University and Duke Divinity School. My father has ministered in Middle Tennessee for most of my life, and it is a special joy to carry on the tradition.

I have been a church worker for 14 years, starting as a church organist as soon as my feet could touch the pedals. While in college studying Biblical Languages, I began discerning a call to ministry, and in Seminary I began to discern a calling to ordained ministry. I continue that process as I start at St. Paul's and I covet your prayers while I continue on the long road of "The Process."

Youth Ministry is special to me for many reasons. The first is that I hope to minister to this (very different) generation for several decades. Though I'm only 10 years older than the High Schoolers, I still grew up before everyone had a cell phone, before everyone had social media, before high-speed internet made it's way to rural Middle Tennessee, before the COVID-19 pandemic, before a lot of things. It is a serious calling to provide spiritual care to our youth who are navigating a rapidly changing world. We'll all learn a lot together.

While I did come of age during a slightly different (if still fairly recent) world, I look forward to telling you truths that people have told me over and over again. The main thing is this: long before you chose God, God chose you. Why? Wouldn't we love to know! I'm not totally sure, but a main reason seems to be that He delights in you, can't seem to get enough of you, thinks of you all the time, and he just so happens to love sinners who can't help themselves.

In my relatively short time at St. Paul's, I can already tell that you are highly-functioning, highly-achieving, doers of good, seekers of God. Very good people. It is a delight to be around you, talk to you, and serve with you. You have done good work long before I came and will continue after before I leave.

So allow my message to be a little different. I won't encourage you to do more, better, harder, and faster. Everything else in the world tells you that. Let me simply tell you some Good News: God chose you long before you chose Him, God knows that you stray from what is good and right and He goes and tracks you down every time you get into trouble, and God loves you so so much that he is holding on to you and never letting go even when that sends Him to the cross.

I hope you will tell me that story, too, when I forget.

Peace,
Chase Matthew Benefiel

Upcoming Events

Sunday, October 29

- ✘ Youth Sunday school, 9:00 a.m.
- ✘ Hymn Sing, 4:00 p.m.
- ✘ SNL, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, October 31

- ✘ High School Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.

Sunday, November 5

- ✘ Youth Sunday school, 9:00 a.m.
- ✘ SNL, 5:00-7:00p.m.

Tuesday, November 7

- ✘ High School Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.

Sunday, November 12

- ✘ Youth Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.
- ✘ SNL, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, November 14

- ✘ High school Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.

Sunday, November 19

- ✘ Shenanigans, 9:00-10:00 a.m.
- ✘ No SNL

Tuesday, November 21

- ✘ No high school Bible Study

Sunday, November 26

- ✘ Youth Sunday school, 9:00 a.m.
- ✘ SNL, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, November 28

- ✘ High school Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.

Sunday, December 3

- ✘ Youth Sunday school, 9:00 a.m.
- ✘ Advent Wreath Party, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 5

- ✘ High school Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.

Sunday, December 10

- ✘ Youth Sunday school, 9:00 a.m.
- ✘ SNL, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 13

- ✘ High school Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.

Sunday, December 17

- ✘ Youth Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.
- ✘ Lessons and Carols, 4:00-5:00 p.m.
- ✘ Advent Party, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 19

- ✘ High school Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.

Sunday, December 24

- ✘ No Youth Sunday School
- ✘ Christmas Eve Eucharist, 4:00 p.m. & 10:00 p.m.
- ✘ No SNL

Sunday, December 31

- ✘ No Youth Sunday School
- ✘ Eucharist 10:00 a.m.