



St. Paul's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

OUR DOORS ARE ALWAYS OPEN
FRANKLIN, TENNESSEE

Annual Report 2019

*The Mission of
St. Paul's Episcopal Church:*

*To proclaim the Good News of
Jesus Christ and care for all.*

The Vision of St. Paul's Episcopal Church:

St. Paul's is a church where:

- Through our doors, we welcome all into fellowship with Christ and one another; and we go out to serve the community.
- We challenge one another to engage in a ministry.
- We help one another use our God-given gifts and talents.
- We support one another in those ministries to which we are called.
- We commit time and financial resources to accomplish our mission.

St. Paul's Staff and Vestry

CLERGY AND STAFF

The Rev. W. R. "Rusty" McCown, *Rector*
The Rev. Monna Mayhall, *Associate Rector*
Mrs. Donna Stokes-Rogers, *Music Minister*
Mrs. Shannon Buttrey, *Parish Administrator*
Mrs. Libby Sullivan, *Children's Minister*
Mrs. Leena Mondal, *Nursery Care*
The Rev. Ann Van Dervoort, *Ret. Priest*
Miss A.G. Passey, *Youth Minister*
Mr. Rick Jackson, *Organist*
Mrs. Kristy Moore, *Finance Manager*
Mrs. Ana Enriquez, *Sexton*
Mr. Nic Parmer, *Youth Intern*

VESTRY

Serving through 2019

Vanessa Bateman
Debra Brake (Jr. Warden)
Sharmilla Patel (Clerk)
Bob Van Dervoort

Serving through 2020

Mary Kate Brandon
Russ Brown
Bob Larson (Sr. Warden)
Chris McBrayer

Serving through 2021

Pat McCracken
Sheila Morreale
Jon Paul Saalwaechter
Beth Woodruff

Treasurer

Mark Hyssong

Assistant Treasurer

Michael Walters Young

Report from the Rector

2019 has been an incredibly joyous and enriching year! God's grace has truly been abundant at St. Paul's. While there are always challenges before us our church home sees them as opportunities to spread the gospel, the good news of God in Christ. Below are just a few of the highlights that have been a part of my life at St. Paul's.

Personnel. We have been blessed that there has been no employment changeover in the past year. St. Paul's has a wonderful and dedicated group of people helping with all the various parts of our ministries. I am very thankful that Donna Stokes-Rogers has taken on two new duties in her vocation—editing the newsletter and managing the church kitchens. Her impact has been immediate.

Community Outreach. This year I have been able to be a part of different community ministries and organizations. Homelessness is an issue closely linked with St. Paul's. This year I was asked to serve on the Williamson County Homeless Coalition. We look at the short term and long term solutions for this dire problem and need in our community. I have also been a part of The Red Sand Project, Unite Williamson, and attended a seminar in Sewanee that focused on Confederate symbols in historic Episcopal churches.

Long Range Planning. This year our parish began the process to see where God is leading us and to look where St. Paul's may be in the near future. To do this we started a series of small discussion groups, facilitated by a member of the Episcopal Church Foundation. The discussions were in response to questions that looked at assets and attractiveness of St. Paul's as well as limitations and liabilities our parishioners witnessed. The results showed that there is a deep and abiding love for our parish but most could see we are lacking in some other areas. These areas mainly pointed towards our aging and outdated facilities. We knew more information was needed.

The Long Range Planning committee and the Vestry decided to hire an outside agency help with this endeavor. A feasibility study would be necessary. This will give us a deep look to gauge our true interest in combating our facility issues. After interviewing three capital campaign companies we hired Vandersall Collective of New York, NY. They will begin the study process in the first quarter of this year. This will be an exciting opportunity for all of us to get a better vision of the wonderful future ahead.

It is an honor and privilege to be your rector. St. Paul's is an open and welcoming church community and a great place to call home. We honor our past, enjoy our present, and look with great expectation to the future. 2020 will be an exciting year, no doubt. As we look to see where God is leading us we also adhere to our mission statement as we proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ and care for all.

The Rev. W. R. "Rusty" McCown

Report from the Senior Warden

It has been both an honor and a pleasure to serve as your Senior Warden this past year. I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to work with, and learn from, so many wonderful and talented people – Rusty and Monna, our amazing staff, the absolute best-ever Vestry, other lay leaders and parishioners. What a blessing!

Serving as Senior Warden has given me an unusual opportunity to observe first-hand how dedicated our clergy and staff are to the work in this place and how many of you work tirelessly to serve. I wish I could mention each of you individually for your contributions but time does not permit. Please know how much we appreciate you and what you do.

Vestry service is a calling like none other. I am thankful that we are able to continue to be able to attract and retain Vestry members that truly reflect the diversity of our parish. I would like to personally thank the retiring Vestry class of 2019: Debra Brake, who served as our Jr. Warden, Sharmila Patel our Clerk, and Bob Van DerVoort, a font of wisdom and a self-proclaimed resident curmudgeon. The insight and perspective each of them provided made the Vestry experience a truly collaborative process.

The Vestry year began with an overnight retreat to Camp McDowell, a summer camp run by the Diocese of Alabama, but also an amazing conference center. Camp McDowell is one of those “thin places” – places where the distance between Heaven and earth collapses and we are able to connect with God’s plan for us. It was an incredible venue for your Vestry to explore where God is taking St. Paul’s. We took time to share our thoughts, feelings and callings. This led to a decision to embark on a discernment process to engage the greater Parish community in that exploration. In the fall, we held a number of listening sessions. Many of you participated and there was overwhelming consensus that certain aspects of our church facilities are inhibiting our ability to minister to parishioners of all ages, as well as to others in our Franklin community. As Rusty recently pointed out in a parish-wide email, the Vestry has engaged a firm called Vandersall Collective of New York City to help us better understand how best to address what God has in mind for our growing parish. Vandersall will join us at our Vestry Retreat next month and there will be much more for all of us to discuss in the coming weeks ahead.

We are an unusual parish within the greater Episcopal Church because we are growing. Just look at how many visitors and new parishioners we added in 2019. And how about all the kids! Godly Play is a huge success. Thanks, Libby! Our Youth Group is growing by leaps and bounds. Thanks, AG. And I hope you’ve heard St. Cecilia’s Choir. Thanks, Donna. And we’re even attracting old folks like Jean and me! It’s a fun time to be a member of St. Paul’s.

Our financial position is strong. For the second year in a row, we’ve ended with a balanced budget. And in 2020, for the third year in a row, our annual pledges and our commensurate budget will be larger than the prior year. That has allowed us to increase our outreach to those in need within the broader St. Paul’s community, enhance our Christian Formation – especially for our young people – and fulfill our mission to the Diocese of Tennessee.

There are a lot of great things happening here at St. Paul's. But they all bring added responsibilities to you and me as parishioners, and most especially as Disciples of Christ. We told each other this past fall that spiritual growth, individually and as a community, is our top priority. With spiritual growth clearly identified, we at St. Paul's are poised to move forward into deeper relationship with God and our neighbors. I see that as our common endeavor for 2020.

Thanks all. You are an amazing family.

*Sincerely,
Bob Larson - Senior Warden*

Report from the Junior Warden

I want to take this opportunity to share with you some of the work and team effort that has happened this year to care for our church home.

Maintenance and Improvement projects at St. Paul's are ongoing. However, in 2019 we did not take on as many improvement projects as we did in 2018. Some of our projects this year include the following:

- We installed a new security/door access system including 24/7 alarm monitoring and cellular dispatch. Our church administrator, Shannon Buttrey, did an outstanding job getting detailed comparison bids which enabled us to select the right vendor for our needs.
- With the help of Gene Brown, we had the front doors of the Sanctuary refinished.
- We replaced the refrigerator in the Founder's Hall kitchen, which is an improvement.
- We replaced the heat exchanger in Barnabas.
- The Bell Tower has been repaired.

We continue to benefit from the maintenance and repair work from our contractor, SFM Service. We contracted with SFM in April of 2018. They are on call for us, responding promptly to urgent needs as well as some larger projects. SFM provides us with a maintenance manager who knows our facility well. He makes sure that routine maintenance happens and assigns repair projects to the SFM crew or works with a contractor to do the work. We've been satisfied with this relationship. The list of minor repairs in 2019 are too numerous to outline. In a church the age of ours, there is always something to fix.

This is my last year on the Vestry. I'd like to take this opportunity to say that it's been an honor and pleasure to serve on the Vestry and for the past two years in the capacity of Jr. Warden. It's been an eventful three years that includes bringing Rusty and Laura McCown to St. Paul's. I am sure that I speak for all of us in expressing our gratitude for their dedication to St. Paul's and their tireless service.

Thank you for your continued support.

*Sincerely,
Debra Brake - Junior Warden*

Christian Formation

Adults

In the fall, three Christian Formation classes were offered to the Adults on Sunday morning.

- 1) And He Began To Teach Them Many Things: The Teachings of Jesus
Scottish theologian James Stuart said, “The teaching of Jesus has had a power and an effect with which the influence of no other teacher can even for a moment be compared.” Through his sermons, lessons, stories, and parables Jesus, the rabbi, was constantly instructing his followers about the ways of the Kingdom of God. Our class will look at many of these experiences and see what they meant to those who heard them as well as their relevance for us today. This class meets in Antioch.
- 2) Christian Responsibility in a Changing World explores what it means to be a Christian in a rapidly changing world. Several topics were covered in the Spring. In the Fall topics were addressed covering *Chapters in a Family: Issues from Birth to Death* - How do we live out the promises we make at every baptism once the service is over?
- 3) Richard Rohr's The Universal Christ: Attendees of this small group enjoyed a cursory glance of this important work in the fall of 2019. Activities included discussion and contemplation of passages from the book. Plans for 2020 include continued contemplative practices and possibly an in-depth study of key chapters.

Our Rector, Rev. Rusty McCown taught a Seekers Class in the Spring of 2019. This class was offered for those who wished to join the church through Confirmation or Reception. It was also offered as a refresher course for anyone. At Bishop Bauerschmidt’s annual parish visit in the Spring of 2019, Sixteen people were Confirmed and Six people were Received.

In addition to Sunday Adult programs, there were also regular weekly programs which included:

The Tuesday Morning Lectionary Bible Study

The Tuesday morning lectionary Bible Study met year round in Damascus Room from 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. to read and study the scripture passages for the upcoming Sunday. For more information on this lively and enlightening bible study, please contact Charlie Crumpton at ctcrumpton@yahoo.com or 615-790-1233.

The Coffee Club

The Coffee Club continued strong this past year. It is a Men’s Bible Study that meets every week on Wednesdays at 6:45 am in Barnabas. For more information, contact Rev. Rusty McCown at Rusty@stpaulsfranklin.com or 615-790-0527.

WITS

WITS (Women in Theological Study) continued to meet on Thursday mornings in Barnabas this past year from 9:30-11:00 a.m. WITS covered a variety of topics that included studying Rachel Held Evan’s *Inspired and Holy Envy* by Barbara Brown Taylor. We had a few contemplative gatherings, as well as fun craft sessions taught incredibly talented Carrie McBrayer and her mother Cheri Liddell.

In the summer WITS took the opportunity to gather for potluck lunch, each week at a different house. We also took a field trip or two to various places for lunch and just for fun. Anyone is always welcome to join. For other information contact Monna Mayhall monna@stpaulsfranklin.com or 790-0527.

Theology on Thursday

2019 was another interesting year inviting us to self-examine ourselves and who our neighbor is, in God's world. "Racism, Racial Injustice and Reconciliation" was the theme for this year. We used streaming videos to hear talks by Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, Fr. Richard Rohr, Robin DeAngelo and others. A documentary on Howard Thurman moved us to read his book, "Jesus and the Disinherited". We ended this series with a movie, "The Best of Enemies". This movie was based on the desegregation of schools in Durham, N.C. We continue to meet 6:30 to 8:00 pm every Thursday night in Barnabas. Contact Gerald Hancock for more information at gwlwhancock@comcast.net or 615-604-9635.

Education for Ministry (EFM)

St. Paul's has an active Education for Ministry (EfM) group that meets weekly on Tuesday evenings from 6:00-8:30 pm. This year's seminar group has 11 active members. EfM is an adult formation program, administered by the University of the South, that examines the bible, church history, and Christian beliefs and practices. Each week we also explore theology, often using a technique called Theological Reflection. We write a collect at the end of each night's work. Here is one of our favorites for this year:

*Dear God who created the first family,
You allow our loved ones to find refuge in the world;
We pray and give thanks for the rituals that bring us together
So that we share your love from generation to generation
Amen.*

For more information contact Jean Larson at jam.larson@gmail.com or 847-987- 6949.

Knowing God – Women's Bible Study

A new Bible Study started this past fall. *Knowing God* offers an opportunity for women to gather together to deepen their relationship with God, and discover what the Bible says about God's character and attributes. This study began with a 10-week series, entitled *God of Creation: A Study of Genesis 1-11*. The class met on Tuesdays from 9:30-11:00 am in Barnabas. Two more Bible Study series are planned for Spring of 2020. For more information, contact Monna Mayhall at monna@stpaulsfranklin.com or 615-790-0527

Youth

The purpose of St. Paul's Youth Ministry is to tend to the Christian Formation of our young people, assisting their transition in becoming full communicants in the church and witnesses of Christ in the world. Youth Ministry at St. Paul's is a community of young people who are trying to shape their lives around following Jesus in the world through our hearts, minds, and actions. Take a look at some of the things we did in 2019 and some of the things we have planned for 2020!

Weekly Gatherings:

Biscuits & Bibles: for 6th- 12th grades at 10 a.m. Each week on Sunday morning a group of students gather for about 45 minutes to enter into a community of engaging conversations and spiritual reflection. We begin by sharing the best part of our week, something we struggled with that week, and a time we felt close to God. We then have a lectionary-based discussion or activity.

Sunday Night Youth Group: for 6th - 12th grades on Sundays from 5:00-7:00 p.m. Every Sunday night we gather across Fair Street in Barnabas for dinner, worship, games, discussion, activities, and good community. All of our meals are provided by parents and volunteers. Occasionally we split into Jr. High (6th&7th graders) and Sr. High (8th-12th graders) for special outings and programming.

Special Events of 2019 and 2020

Confirmation Class: for 8th graders- This class creatively moves through the catechism of the Episcopal Church towards the rite of confirmation encouraging youth to explore what we believe and why—as well as what we do and why. This course consists of 8 classes beginning on February 9. Students are encouraged to question their faith in this safe environment. Confirmation takes place this year on April 26.

Mountain TOP: We had 18 participants for our annual summer mission in July. This past summer we all worked on home improvement projects for substandard housing in the Cumberland Plateau area.

Lock-Ins and Retreats: Our teenagers' favorites! We've enjoyed a Back-to-School, Christmas and Girls' lock-in this year. We also had our Winter Retreat at Dubose to kick off 2020 together and set our goals for the year.

Fundraising: Throughout the year we offer a few car park fundraisers for events such as Pumpkinfest and Dickens of a Christmas. We also host the annual Pancake Supper to raise money for our trip to Mountain T.O.P.

Diocesan Youth Events: This year we had youth attend Episcopalooza (a fellowship field day in the fall) and Seeds of Spring (lenten retreat at Dubose in the spring).

Mountain T.O.P. and Youth Sunday: These are special Sundays where our students lead the service in readings, prayers, and even preaching. The youth aren't just the future of the church, they are the church right now!

Helping Out:

Men's Annual Cookout: As a thank you to the men's club for supporting our trip to Mountain TOP each year, we help cook and serve at the BBQ.

Easter Egg Hunt: Each year on Easter morning our students help hide the eggs in varying locations around the church for the children.

VBS: Each year the youth volunteer to help set up and staff our vacation bible school.

Childcare: We helped out with the children over in Barnabas during adult programs throughout the year.

For more information on Youth Ministries, contact me at ag@stpaulsfranklin.com

-A.G. Passey, Youth Minister

Children and Families

This ministry encompasses quite a variety of programs. Here are some of the wonderful highlights throughout this past year in Children's Ministries:

- **Sunday Christian Formation** – Thanks to generosity of our parish, we were able to begin Children's Christian formation in September with 2 Godly Play rooms. This was incredibly exciting since the initial goal was to have one room up and running. We had so many people lend their time and talents to make shelves, purchase materials, and recreate materials that we were able to pull it off! Special thanks to David Zegley, Andy Larson, and the Maker's Table for helping make this dream come true. The Fall Semester went smoothly thanks to our wonderful storyteller and doorknocker volunteers. We had 50 children turn out for Godly Play from September through December, with an average Sunday attendance of 20 children.
- **Children's Chapel** – During the 8:45 am and the 11:00 am Sunday services, we offer Children's Chapel. Children through 5th grade age leave the worship service after the second lesson and return at the Peace. We have a great time of sharing, learning, praying, and creating together. On a typical Sunday, we have as many as 25 children participate at the 8:45 service, and as many as 15 at the 11 am service.
- **Children's Service**-St. Paul's held its inaugural Children's Service on May 5th at 8:45. We used more child-friendly language for the service and music. Many of our children served as ushers, greeters, and readers. They did such a great job. The service was a hit for children and adults alike.
- **Lenten Series** – Since Lent was a little later in the year, we were able to be outside in the courtyard for warm evenings during the Lenten Series. We enjoyed playing, sharing, and learning together in the 6th Avenue Courtyard.
- **Children's Communion Preparation Class** – During the Fall, we offered a communion preparation class, taught by Monna, for baptized children who wished to begin receiving communion or who wanted some further instruction about the Eucharist. We continue to believe this is a very necessary part of Christian Formation for Children. The class consisted of 2 sessions covering different material each week. We had 17 participants. We celebrated our children who completed the class with a special cake and coffee hour on November 24th.
- **Easter Day** – We are so grateful to our Youth who helped out by hiding Easter eggs for our children once again. We were able to enjoy great weather this year. Children were sent to three different hunting grounds- according to their age. All eggs were found, and children left happy with full baskets.
- **Week of Wonder WOW– formerly known as Vacation Bible School VBS** – Otey Hall was transformed into Athens in record time for this year's Week of Wonder thanks to our many volunteers. Participants travelled on a journey with Paul as he went from place to place sharing the love of Christ. The children had a great week of exploring Bible stories, playing, crafting, singing, and snacking. Speaking of snacks-we tried to explore new foods from Greece in the snack tent this year. Children enjoyed trying different cheeses, hummus, vegetables and herbs (for the most part) while learning about the country of Greece. We had a packed house on the following Sunday with our children sharing a song and wearing their WOW t-shirts to church. Many thanks to our wonderful adult organizers and volunteers, our amazing Youth, and everyone who supported the Week of Wonder by sending snacks, building set, getting crafts

ready, and the list goes on. It is a tremendous feat, and couldn't happen without your incredible support!

We ended the week with a family celebration Thursday evening with a delicious potluck. Fried chicken was supplied by our friends, the Men of St. Paul's. We had a great meal and a slideshow re-capping the week. Save the date for WOW 2020-June 22-25th.

- **Nursery** – We are fortunate to have Leena Mondal and Morgan Moore- our wonderful nursery workers- here with us each Sunday. We continue to utilize Childcare Solutions to provide us with additional nursery support, and they have been a great help to us-not only on Sundays-but with special events as well.
- **Intergenerational Activities** – Throughout the year there were many opportunities when children had the chance to get together with youth and adults in the church. Rally Day kicked off the new Christian Formation year in September. We had a football theme and tailgate party. The Annual Blessing of the Animals in October welcomed a large crowd of all kinds of creatures brought by the amazing Laura Turner. A great addition to our Parish Life is our monthly “Gathering for Good” event. We started off in January with a Jeopardy Game night. February's G4G was our Talent Show-a great success! In May, we were able to enjoy the weather with an outdoor movie and Mojo's Taco Truck. We took the summer off, but came back in September with a bluegrass sit-in and BBQ dinner, complete with home-made ice cream. We had our 2nd Trunk or Treat and chili cook-off in October, and it was a great success-even though it had to be moved inside. At the beginning of the Advent season, we made Advent Wreaths and enjoyed dinner together. These events have been a great way for our entire Parish family to interact and enjoy each other. Look for more “Gathering for Good” in 2020.
- **St. Paul's Families Events** – It's no secret that St. Paul's has many families with young and not-so-young-anymore children who love to socialize. It's so great to get together and let the children play and parents to socialize. Here are some highlights from this year's events:
 - In February, the Armstrong Family hosted a great Mardi Gras potluck at their house with a big turnout.
 - In May we had a great time at the Parish Shrimp Boil. Lots of families were in attendance.
 - In July we met at Bunganut Pig on the Eve of the Men's BBQ. A few of us wandered down to the Bluegrass Festival afterwards.
 - In August, we had a great Parents Night Out at Mafiaoza's while the children had their own get together with dinner and a movie in Otey Hall.
 - We had a great time seeing each other for the Parish Picnic which was also in August.
 - In September, the Pratt family hosted us for snacks, sangrias, and sundaes.
 - Our popular December Parents Night Out/Polar Express party was moved to January due to busy schedules.

There's a Facebook group that acts as a forum for this lively group. If you'd like to be added, or if you'd like to host this group in 2020, please contact me. We'd love to have you!

Our Children's programs are only possible because of the many volunteers who offer their time and talents to educate and offer wonderful opportunities for our children. I offer a tremendous thank-you to all those who have helped in any way with Children's Ministry this past year.

For more information on Children's Ministries, contact me at libby@stpaulsfranklin.com

-Libby Sullivan, Children's Ministry Coordinator

Music Ministry and Creative Ministries

We, the musicians, artists, and creative friends at St. Paul's, have much to be thankful for. The opportunity we have weekly to worship our creator by following in God's footsteps is a tremendous gift we are given. Our choirs rehearse joyfully each week to enhance the worship and parish life of the congregation. We know that when we come together as a choir, we are individually and collectively caretakers of each other and all who gather in this place, and we recognize that our common ministry is a greater reality than our individual gifts. ***Collaboration is key in all that we do!***

Donna works with our clergy to choose music that is appropriate for each Sunday. Rick creates arrangements for our 8:45 musicians and provides the foundation for our Sunday morning music. Donna and Rick work together to create a seamless musical offering each week. We are so grateful for the continued gifts of our choral section leaders that help choir members during rehearsal and performance to fearlessly face musical challenges. Our section leaders include Iain Macpherson, Brad Williams, Sharon Hels, Janet Flanagan, and Elizabeth Tyer.

- Biggest project of 2019 was our recording! All four choirs (Adult Choir, Consort, Handbells, and ST. Cecilia) recorded music in the fall that will be featured on our CD (working title is currently *The Best Darn Church Album Ever* but stay tuned for its release.)
- The Adult Choir meets each Wednesday from 6:30-8:00 pm in the church to rehearse for Sunday mornings and extra services. In November, we sang a moving concert on All Saint's Sunday entitled *We Will Remember Them*, with music and readings to highlight grief and remembrance. The Women of the Adult Choir ended 2019 with a beautiful performance on Christmas Eve of Benjamin Britten's *Ceremony of Carols* with Julliard graduate and harpist Clara Warford. It is an extremely difficult piece and the women aced it. The Tenors and Basses of St. Paul's premiered a commissioned work by our own Don Michael Dice entitled, *The Work of Christmas*, based on the poem by Howard Thurman. The piece will be published this year, and we are grateful to sing it first!
- The Consort meets on Wednesday after the Adult Choir rehearsal and works on advanced pieces. Consort members are willing to spend extra time and energy to raise the bar musically every year.
- The Handbell Choir has three new members! We rehearse on Sundays after the 11:00 service and play on Sunday mornings whenever we feel we are ready to present our best efforts. We get better every month!
- The St. Cecilia Choir meets on Sunday evenings at 5:00 and sings several times during the year at the 8:45 service. These children bring their energy, talent, and sweet spirit to our music ministry, and we are so grateful for them.
- Our 8:45 musicians, Derek Pell and Ken Burnside, continue to bless that service with their AMAZING talent and collaborative creativity with Rick. We are so lucky to have these first-class musicians worshiping with us at ST. Paul's.
- Jennifer Alvey continues in her role as mentor and organizer for the Maker's Table, a group that meets each Tuesday at 11:30 to explore creative ministry at St. Paul's. These ladies and our gentleman have created all sorts of projects for the church, including sewing and painting props for Godly Play classrooms and for Week of Wonder.

We hope you enjoy the beautiful music you hear each week and know how much it means to each of us to offer our gifts and talents to St. Paul's. On behalf of all our choirs, instrumentalists, and Rick Jackson, I thank our parish, who with your prayers, donations, and continued enthusiasm for what we do, keep us working hard and prayerfully tending to our "musical garden." If you would like to share your musical talents with our congregation, please call me. I would love to talk to you about ways you can share your talents with us. And remember Henry Van Dyke's words:

*Use what talents you possess;
the woods would be very silent if no birds sang there except those who sang best.*

*Blessings and Peace,
Donna Stokes-Rogers*

Worship

Ushers and Oblationers

Ushers at St. Paul's greet parishioners and visitors at services, distribute bulletins, assist with seating, and assist at the offertory. They also assist with special services such as weddings and funerals. Oblationers present gifts of bread and wine at the offertory at the 8:45am and 11:00am services. For more information contact Shannon Buttrey at Shannon@stpaulsfranklin.com or Fred Warner at fredhwarner@gmail.com

Chalice Bearers

Chalice Bearers assist the priest at the altar with serving communion. There is opportunity to serve at any of the services. They also can assist with special services such as weddings and funerals. If you are interested in serving contact Shannon Buttrey at Shannon@stpaulsfranklin.com or Fred Warner at fredhwarner@gmail.com

Readers/Intercessors

Readers and Intercessors have the opportunity to read the lessons and/or the *Prayers of the People* at the services. For more information contact Shannon Buttrey at Shannon@stpaulsfranklin.com or Fred Warner at fredhwarner@gmail.com

Acolytes

The St. Paul's Acolyte Program recruits, trains and offers get-togethers for youth who wish to serve as Torch Bearers and Crucifers during St. Paul's worship services. By participating in the Acolyte Program, you join many others who help make each worship service happen by serving as ushers, choir members, readers, oblation bearers, Altar Guild members, etc. It is fulfilling to be part of the worship service team and to help make St. Paul's one that current members and visitors want to return to. Youth who are 2nd grade age or older can be an acolyte. For more information contact Shannon Buttrey at Shannon@stpaulsfranklin.com or Fred Warner at fredhwarner@gmail.com

Altar Guild

This ministry gives people the opportunity to prepare the Altar for regular services, and maintain the linens, vestments, and silver. The Altar Guild also takes part in the set up for weddings, funerals, and other services. For more information contact Phyllis Thompson at Phyllisgt2@att.net

Eucharistic Visitors

This ministry gives people the opportunity to take Holy Communion to people who for varying reasons, are unable to come to a church service to receive Holy Communion. Eucharistic Visitors or LEV's take communion to parishioner's homes, assisted living facilities, and hospitals. For more information or if you are interested in being a part of this ministry, contact Monna Mayhall at monna@stpaulsfranklin.com or 615-790-0527.

Parish Life Ministries

The Contemplative Group

The Contemplative Group has two meeting times for those interested in contemplative gatherings that include Lectio Divina (meditative reading of Scripture) and Centering Prayer. One group meets Monday nights from 6:30-7:30 p.m., and one group meets Tuesday afternoons from 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Daughters of the King – DOK

The Mary Magdalene Chapter of DOK is a vibrant active group at St. Paul's. DOK is an order for women committed to service and prayer. In September, five women took vows for membership, which brought the number of active members to 32, where it is now. This past year, the DOK offered 2 parish-wide quiet days, one in Lent and one in Advent. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Mishelle Phillips at shellbokey@gmail.com

The K-Group

The K-Group ("K" stands for *koinonia*, the Greek word for community) continued to meet weekly, on Monday nights from 6:30 - 8 p.m. for discussion and dessert in parishioners' homes. Topics ranged from discussing last Sunday's sermon and scripture readings, to articles about social justice and how those might challenge participants' religious beliefs and theological norms.

Dinner Groups

Dinner groups are organized each fall. They utilize a small group and dinner setting to enable parishioners to become better acquainted. For many people, Dinner Groups are the way they have met many people and have become more involved at St. Paul's. For more information, contact Ellen Kirk at 794-1497.

The Bad Girls Book Club

The Bad Girls Book Club met monthly, usually on the fourth Tuesday of the month from 6:30-8 p.m. in Founders Hall.

Social Graces

Social Graces is a ministry geared and designed with mostly people 55 years of age and older in mind. This past year, Social Graces provided a variety of programs, such as delicious lunch programs with interesting speakers and musical entertainment at the church. Social Graces also enjoyed dinner and the Symphony at the Franklin Theatre a few times this past year. If you want to find out more about Social Graces, please contact Monna Mayhall at 790-0527 or monna@stpaulsfranklin.com

Heart Notes

Heart Notes is currently made up of a small group of people who write notes to Shut-Ins. It is typically a short note mentioning things happening in the parish at the time, or maybe something about the season. The purpose of the group is to make a connection with these people so that they know that St. Paul's has not forgotten them and that we continue to love them and pray for them even in their absence. If you have any questions about this ministry contact Marida Stearns at 776-2814.

Men of St. Paul's - MOSP

The Men of St. Paul (MOSP) has completed another busy and successful year within the St. Paul's Community. Our signature event, The Summer Cookout, Bake Sale (thank you, WOSP, for all you do) and Silent Auction, took place on Saturday, July 27, 2019. As always, we had the help of many people, including our Youth and our Rector. Whatever the weather might be, it is a joy to watch the entire St. Paul's Parish pull together to make this event a success.

As a result of this successful cookout, the MOSP were able to provide financial support to a number of ministries, both in-reach and out-reach. To the latter, meals were served to the Boys and Girls Club, Habitat for Humanity, Saddle Up, High Hopes and Church in the Yard (CITY). Additionally, the MOSP provided financial assistance for several ministries within St. Paul's family as well.

At present, MOSP is meeting on a bi-monthly basis. Watch for us in the Monthly Newsletter, The Take Out and e-mail for upcoming events. Our membership requirements are few... a little spare time and an interest in service to our Parish and the larger community. For more information or if you have any questions, contact Joe Horne at JoeH@williamson-tn.org

Women of St. Paul's

The Women of St. Paul's is a multi-generational group of women whose focus is service through fellowship. We dedicate our time and energy to Inreach, Outreach, Church Preservation, and Fellowship. Whatever we do, we make it fun, with music, snacks and laughter.

WSP meets throughout the year, both for pure fellowship and to work on big annual projects. Our biggest fundraisers are the Labor Day Bazaar and the English Tea. Many years, including 2020, we also have a spring furniture sale. WSP serves other ministries such as Spring Street Outreach, Feed My Sheep, Church in the Yard, and we do a bake sale to support the Men of St. Paul's BBQ.

One of our biggest projects is our annual retreat, HeART and Soul, at DuBose Conference Center in Monteagle. The Retreat is a critical time to nurture ourselves and each other, and it is also a blast!

This year we're meeting monthly during the school year, usually on a Friday, at Church, in a public venue, or in each other's homes. We have a brief business meeting, then a social with wine and appetizers.

Every adult woman of St. Paul's is invited to join us for any WSP function. There is no minimum commitment to join us, and come as you are; we are informal. We love newcomers and invite you to join us to work on whatever ministry interests you. Watch for us in the Monthly Newsletter, The Take Out and e-mail for upcoming events. We also have a private Facebook page and an email list; just ask one of the officers or the parish administrator to get added to the list.

If you have any questions, contact Julia High at jahigh22@gmail.com or 615-714-1950.

The Maker's Table

All artists and those interested in embarking on a creative journey of any sort are warmly welcomed! We meet weekly on Tuesdays at 12:30 pm in the Van Dervoort library. Contact Jennifer Alvey at jalvey@jenniferalvey.com or at 615-947-7521 for information about upcoming and activities.

Feed My Sheep/Meal Baby

Feed My Sheep prepares and delivers meals short-term to parishioners who are ill, recovering from an illness, injury or surgery, or who have had a baby. There are 2 ways to help:

Meal Calendar - when an email goes out indicating a meal calendar has been set up for someone, you can go online and sign up for a specific date and time to prepare and deliver a meal.

Take and Bake - when the calls goes out via the monthly newsletter or weekly Take Out, you can prepare a casserole or 2 which will be kept in the church freezer for any immediate needs which may arise.

We always need more volunteers, so I would encourage you to watch for the calls for help and respond when you can. Thank you! Also, if you know of someone in need of a meal, please let the church office know. For more information or to volunteer for Feed My Sheep, contact Barb Roth at daba224@aol.com

Prayer Shawl Ministry

People who are interested in the Prayer Shawl Ministry have the opportunity to gather to stitch as a community at least once a month. We welcome those who crochet as well as those who knit.

Currently we meet for stitching, coffee and chatting on the last Thursday of each month from 9:30 to 11:00 am in Founders Hall. If someone wants individual instruction in order to knit or crochet a shawl at home, we can send the instructions to you. This year we branched out a bit and some folks who like to sew made Kangaroo Cuddlers to be used in the NIC unit at Vanderbilt, however, our goal is to keep an ongoing supply of prayer shawls and baby blankets for all who need them. We do have some kits ready for knitting if you do not have yarn of your own. Donations of yarn are always welcome.

If you have questions or want more information, contact Jane Muir at 615-566-8465 or nanadrives@comcast.net

Pastoral Visitors

This ministry gives people the opportunity to make an occasional visit to people who for varying reasons, are unable to come to church or be involved in church activities. Pastoral Visitors visit parishioners in the parishioner's home, assisted living facilities, and hospitals. For more information or if you are interested in being a part of this ministry, contact Monna Mayhall at monna@stpaulsfranklin.com or 615-790-0527.

Kairos

Kairos is St. Paul's very unique writing group, meeting in the church library the second and fourth Friday of each month, at 10:00 a.m.

Using suggested writing prompts or pictures to get started, we write for five or ten minutes whatever comes to mind. What makes each writing unique are our own individual thoughts, memories and styles. Reading aloud what we have written is a choice — not required.

Come join us. Bring your favorite pen and we'll give you a choice of notebook. No guarantees that any of us will ever publish what we write at Kairos meetings, but we do promise you will leave with a smile on your face!

Contact Peggy Macpherson at pmacpherson@comcast.net for more information.

St. Paul's Small Groups

Small groups are gatherings of 6 - 12 people who meet regularly for fellowship, Bible study and prayer. The goal of the small group program is to develop small Christian communities within the larger church where Jesus Christ is experienced in his presence and power.

Small Groups are intended for all parishioners of all ages and stages of life. Each group is led by a volunteer leader/facilitator with groups deciding their own meeting schedule. There is a commitment of attending and participating, with some reading as preparation.

During 2019 there were two adult small groups that met regularly, encompassing approximately 20 parishioners. The groups meet weekly or bi-weekly from September through May, with the focus of the meetings being fellowship, Bible study, and prayer. The studies during the year included:

- Sermons and lectures by Bishop Michael Curry, NT Wright, Amy-Jill Levine and others
- A study of Marcus Borg's book "Convictions"
- A study on The Letter to the Romans by William Barclay from his Daily Study Bible series
- A video series by Amy-Jill Levine on The Passion
- A book study on "The Remarkable Ordinary" by Frederick Buechner
- A book study on "Mudhouse Sabbath"

For more information, contact Charles Carlisle at Carlisle@bristoldg.com or 615-415-7326.

Historic Committee

St. Paul's celebrated its **192nd birthday on August 25th** with a reception following the 10:00 am service hosted by the Historic Committee. Scott Smith, Historian and Historic Committee member, told interesting stories of the history of St. Paul's. Over 100 members, friends, and children attended the event.

The Historic Committee Projects

History Books only 15 remain of the 500 printed.

The popular *Windows Brochure* was reprinted. These are available to all the visitors which St. Paul's welcomes, as well as our members. We have also included these in the Welcome Packets for new members and visitors, along with information about our services. Additionally, the *St. Paul's Ornament* was a popular item during the Christmas Season as well as *T-shirts* and *various other items*.

Another major area of interest and activity for the Historic Committee is the preservation and archiving of our precious historical documents and records. This is a time consuming, costly, but very important, task. St. Paul's has 192 years of important and compelling historical documents and materials that need to be preserved for future generations... an on-going project as more items are discovered and catalogued.

Additionally, we are interviewing numerous members to tell "their" story and memories of St. Paul's. Videos will be produced and made available on the St. Paul's website and other outlets.

The Historic Committee identified the portraits in Otey Hall; installing archival plaques with bios of the various individuals.

The *Bicentennial Society*, funding partner of the St. Paul's Bicentennial Committee, currently has *66 members*. The Historic Committee is continuing to work alongside the Bicentennial Committee in event planning and fundraising efforts.

The Bicentennial Committee of volunteers plans meetings of interested parishioners to assist in the research, technology, events, finance, and facility preparation for the Bicentennial Celebrations. Interested persons should contact Libby Sullivan libby@stpaulsfranklin.com.

We are so blessed to be a part of a church that is rich in history, both at the international, national, but also at the local level. Let us ensure that our history can guide us to good works, outreach, and of course, spirituality.

Historic Committee Members

Melanie Lampertz, Scott Smith, Susan Miller
Joyce Little, Kathy Ulezelski, Andrea Hyssong
Tina Jones, Libby Sullivan, Taylor Brown
Rusty McCown, Tom Stearns, Len Reinhardt
John Henderson

Bicentennial Committee Chairmen

Libby Sullivan, Jay Fahey, Julie Reinhardt

Stephen Ministry

The Stephen Ministry is a strong group of ten (10) care givers. We completed over fifty (50) hours of training and were commissioned on January 20, 2019. Our training included topics such as good listening skills, assertiveness skills, setting boundaries, confidentiality, ministering to persons with grief, dealing with depression, ministering to the dying and their families, caring for people during periods of hospitalization, ministering to the pregnant, divorced or aging individual. Since we are not professionals, Stephen Ministers are listeners who can provide spiritual care.

As of year-end we have visited with eleven care receivers. These care receivers are not only in the St. Paul's family but also the surrounding community. A total of 340 hours of time has been spent with the care receivers or about one hour per week visiting. Some of these care receivers receive additional contact by phone, email or text.

Another important aspect of Stephen Ministry is the support we give each other. We meet twice a month for group support discussions. We also have once a month continuing education. To enhance our education we try to invite professionals in the Franklin community to help us understand the practical nature of their business. We have had counselors, Hospice care personnel, retired St Paul's people living in a retirement community, etc.

St. Paul's also had the opportunity to host an introduction to Stephen Ministry workshop. A professional trainer from the Stephen Ministry Corporate was the presenter to about 60 visitors. The workshop was a success with Churches as far north as Kentucky and as far south as Alabama.

Our goal is to continue to support our community in listening and healing in any way that we can. We have been overwhelmed by the outpouring from the community. As a result we are planning to start another Stephen Ministry training this coming fall. If you are interested in attending the workshops, please contact Fred Warner, Stephen Ministry Leader, at SM@stpaulsfranklin.com.

Also, if we can be of service to you or someone you know, contact Fred Warner at SM@stpaulsfranklin.com or Monna Mayhall at monna@stpaulsfranklin.com 615-790-0527

Beloved Community at St. Paul's

As a congregation of the Episcopal Church, St. Paul's participates in the Beloved Community, with the opportunity to meet with others in this Parish, in this Diocese, in the Episcopal Church and beyond. We gather with people interested in racial reconciliation, telling the fuller story, and social justice. There are many ways to join Presiding Bishop Michael Curry in nurturing the body of Christ within the diocese of Tennessee, and the cities of Franklin and Nashville.

We began the Beloved Community at St. Paul's in the summer of 2019 with the hope of presenting resources, offering awareness of upcoming events, reading relevant books, and entering into conversations.

For more information contact Jean Larson at jam.larson@gmail.com or 847-987-6949

Outreach Ministries

Homeless Ministry - Opportunities at CITY (Church In The Yard) and Jefferson Street

We continue to be blessed with the opportunity to serve our homeless brothers and sisters in Nashville. Three hundred to four hundred meals are served the fourth Sunday of each month at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church (CITY-Church in The Yard) and under the Jefferson Street Bridge. This has been an active and successful Saint Paul's ministry for the past 10 years.

If you would like to support this ministry in any ways, there are several areas that always need help and support. Peace through Practice...

- A. *Financial support is always needed – this ministry spends approximately \$1000/meal or \$12,000/year. The ministry is committed to providing healthy meals and feeding all that show up to eat on our assigned Sunday.*
- B. *Sandwich Bags – At each Sunday meal sandwich bags are assembled at Saint Paul's and distributed to everyone coming through the line. Help is ALWAYS NEEDED after the 8:45 service to assemble bags in Barnabas.*
- C. *Assistance transporting food and supplies is always needed. We depart Barnabas at 12:00 to head to downtown Nashville.*
- D. *Plate/Serve – Help plate and serve food at CITY and/or Jefferson Street Bridge. There are always opportunities to interface with the homeless individuals at the meal.*
- E. *For any additional information please contact Gerald Hancock at gwlwhancock@gmail.com or Ellen Kirk at ellenkirk@comcast.net or Mike Gengler at genglerm52@gmail.com*

Love Thy Neighbor

St Paul's has developed a partnership with a local non-profit charity group based out of Shorter Chapel on Natchez Street. They are literally our “neighbors down the street”. To know these ladies is to love them. The joy they have in serving the Lord is contagious!

They have several initiatives including a meal program, a pageant promoting a healthy self-image for girls and young women, a back-to-school/backpack program, and a women's conference. Over the last three years, St. Paul's **Love Thy Neighbor** program has provided support for all of these programs.

In support of the meal program in 2019, we provided around 2,500+ meals to low income seniors, veterans, disabled, and children within a five-mile radius of Shorter Chapel/ St. Paul's. *The cost for **Love Thy Neighbor** to provide a meal averages around \$1 per meal (main course, vegetable or salad, bread and dessert).*

For more information or to get involved, please contact: Pat McCracken (615) 351-1113, Mishelle Phillips (615) 403-0703, or Laura McCown (205) 601-6959

Food Bank

St. Paul's has a Food Bank! It is located in the undercroft. We offer food to anyone who comes by looking for help. The Food Bank is also open to our parishioners in need. We keep a few filled bags in the workroom, ready to give away. There are "Ready to Eat," "To be Prepared," and "Personal Hygiene" bags. The "Friends of the Food Pantry," for the oversight of the pantry, keep everything organized and restocked. When items need to be replenished, the group publishes a list of needed items by email or the Take-out, but we welcome donations and contributions to the pantry anytime. A bin designated for the food pantry is located in Founder's Hall. If you have any questions, please contact Virginia Callicott at vcallicott@yahoo.com or Rita Warner at ritasuewarner@gmail.com

Spring Street Outreach

The Spring Street Seniors Outreach program had another great year in 2019. Primarily our guests come from the traditionally African American neighborhoods of Hard Bargain and Natchez Street, and the public housing and affordable housing buildings providing by the Franklin Housing Authority. We generally meet on the last Thursday of the month, although during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays sometimes that schedule changes.

Each month our volunteers provided a delicious hot meal complete with fresh fruit, salads, bread, coffee, drinks and dessert. They always provide enough extra food to send everyone home with "to go" boxes. A group of men – "The Gold Guys" - faithfully volunteer with the program washing all of our dishes, helping to serve the food, and providing whatever additional assistance is needed. Volunteers provide centerpieces and goody bags for every guest each month. The guests look forward to the raffling off of the centerpieces after lunch each month. We also bring in talented live musicians to perform for our guests. Generally, they are coordinated through the nonprofit Music for Seniors program in Nashville, although in November 2019 we kept up our tradition of hosting the children's choir of New Hope Academy. Additionally, each month we have one additional activity program such as a speaker, craft project or Bingo game.

For Christmas 2019 we focused on our largest program of the year – our food bag distribution. Every year, the parishioners of St. Paul's remind us of the true spirit of the holiday when they provide 100 bags of groceries for our guests. They fill 50 sets of grocery bags – one bag of pantry staples and one bag of Christmas dinner supplies so that every senior can go home with a nice gift. Additionally, volunteers provided wrapped gifts for each guest, a handmade craft, a goody bag, and other prizes.

The Spring Street Seniors program has been an essential part of St. Paul's outreach activities for decades and it would not be possible without the generosity of the many volunteers who participate. The guests and the volunteers have become a community such that many of those involved no longer consider it an outreach program but an in-reach one was well. We look forward to continuing this work in the coming year. Please join us! For more information, contact Tina Jones at cahalanjones@yahoo.com

Upcoming Dates in 2020

January 30 - Valentine's Day Party

February 27 - Craft

March 26 - Easter

April 30 - TBD

May 28 - Cook out

Meals on Wheels

Meals on Wheels delivers meals to about 120 people in Franklin city limits every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Volunteers from St. Paul's deliver on the 3rd Wed. and Fri. of every month and an occasional Monday. There are about 20+ volunteers from St. Paul's who drive or cook monthly, a very dedicated group. If you have any questions contact Kathy Berry at 794-9750.

Lord's Lift

Lord's Lift ministry is a transportation system that offers rides to church on Sunday for people who, for whatever reason, are unable to transport themselves.

If you can offer a ride to someone to church on Sunday... Contact the church office to volunteer and be placed on a Sunday Lift Driver list. Toward the end of the week, Shannon will send out an email to all drivers letting them know who needs a ride. The drivers respond to the email giving their availability or unavailability to meet that Sunday's need.

If you need a ride to church on Sunday... Contact the church office before 4:00 pm on the Thursday before the Sunday that you need a ride to church. Provide our Parish administrator with your name, address, contact information, your preference of Sunday Service time, and if you use a walker or wheelchair. *The Lord's Lift* driver will contact you to finalize transportation.

If you have any questions please contact Shannon Buttrey at shannon@stpaulsfranklin.com

