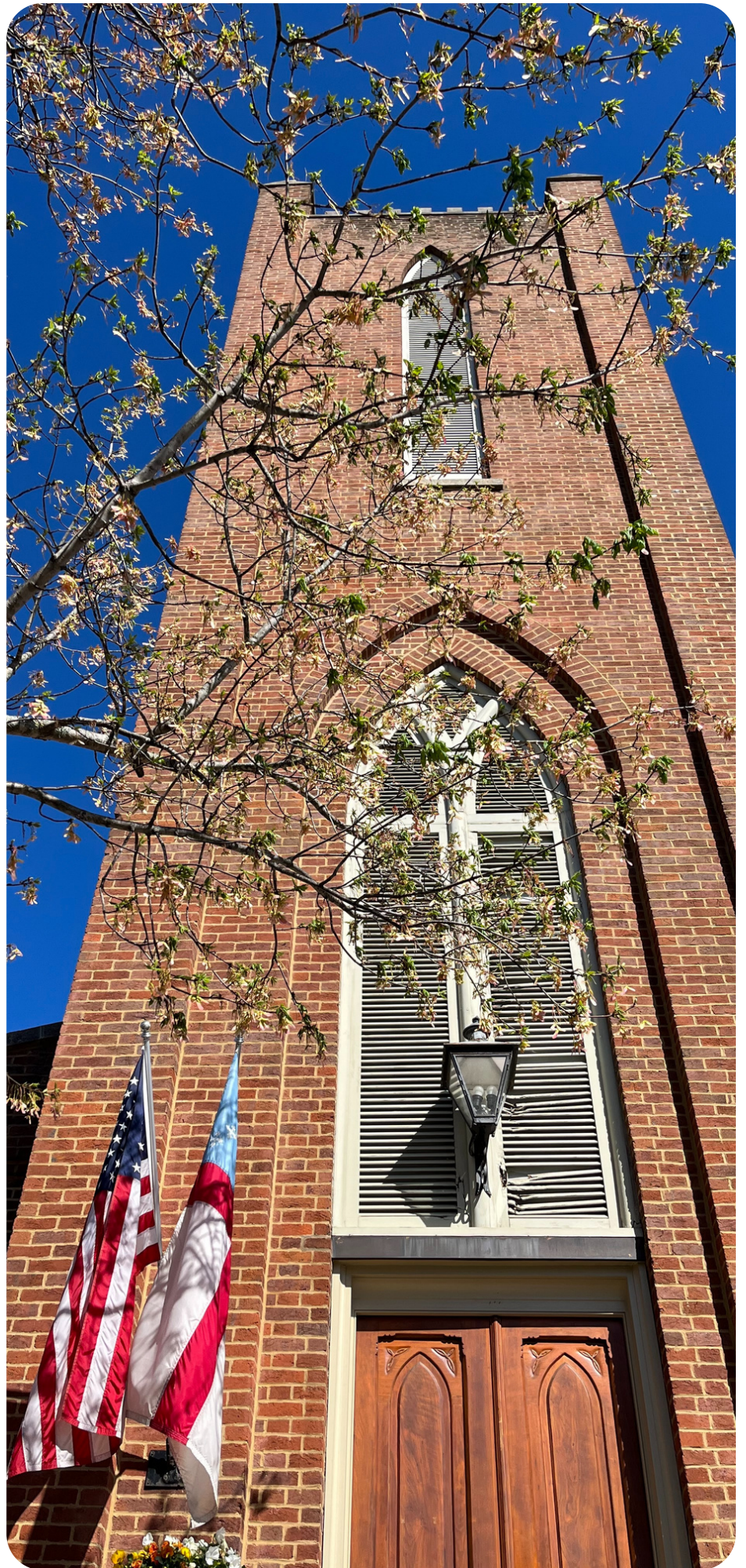


# **St. Paul's Annual Report 2023**



**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.



## CLERGY AND STAFF

The Rev. W. R. "Rusty" McCown, Rector  
The Rev. Ann Van Dervoort, Retired Priest  
Ms. Shannon Buttrey, Parish Administrator  
Ms. Libby Sullivan, Children's Minister

The Rev. Monna Mayhall, Associate Rector  
Ms. Donna Stokes-Rogers, Music Minister  
Mr. Rick Jackson, Organist  
Ms. Kristy Moore, Finance Manager  
Ms. Paula Sherman, Communications Mgr.

## VESTRY

### **Serving through 2023**

George Bishop  
Jean Larson  
Chris Oberholtzer  
Sam Yeager

### **Serving through 2024**

Mary Emilie Acklen  
Rob Curwen  
Pam Horne  
Ron Howes

### **Serving through 2025**

Mindy Boggs  
Paul Hannah  
Holly Spain  
Bruce Theobald

### **Treasurer**

Michael Walters Young

# Report From The Rector



2023 was an exciting year for St. Paul's. As we came out of COVID our parishioners returned to the church for worship, spiritual renewal, and fellowship. It was such a blessing to see us gather again as a church family. While the year certainly had its challenges, the grace of God has shown through in so many different ways.

I am so very grateful to so many people who make St. Paul's the church parish that it is. You are the church and it shows in the many different areas of ministry that you touch. The volunteers of St. Paul's go above and beyond to provide a church experience everyone wants to be a part of. I cannot tell you how many times I have heard from visitors to the church how welcoming our parish is. While all the volunteers are too numerous to name in this space I so appreciate your service and witness of Jesus Christ to the world.

Our staff is really remarkable. Each and every one of our staff members is so dedicated to their vocation. Even though they all possess their own gifts each one is ready to assist in areas outside their expertise to help our church flourish and thrive.

Through the efforts of you and our staff 2023 was a year that showed what we can do with God's help. While we continued to offer church ministries such as Christian formation, pastoral care, music, parish life, and children/youth ministries, we also looked to see where we can better provide spiritual offerings both within the church and out in the Franklin community. In 2023 we experienced new ministries as we broadened our outreach footprint, hosted the Franklin Historical Symposium, attended a Sounds game, started the Garden Guild, installed a new and improved audio/visual system, and provided housing on Thursday nights through the Williamson Homeless Alliance. Many different ministries but all important ways to spread the gospel.

And so on to 2024. Great things and days lie ahead. Certainly the main subject on everyone's minds is our building project. While this has been a much slower endeavor than I anticipated I know that we are with great partners and that the project will be done in the proper and correct manner. It now looks like the construction will begin right after Easter and continue through the end of the year and beyond slightly. The committee will be communicating our plans once we get a better understanding of what the building project will consist of.

While we will most certainly have to make some adjustments in how we practice our faith and juggle our ministries due to the physical limitations that await us, I am convinced that we all will continue down our many spiritual paths without missing a beat. A little construction won't be able to hinder anything we do.

I am always humbled and grateful to be serving in incredible parish, simply blessed to be able to be called your rector. Every day I thank God for you and your witness to our world. It is an honor to spread the Gospel, the Good News of Jesus Christ, throughout our world. May God bless you and beloved church home, St. Paul's.

Peace-Rusty+



# Report from the Senior Warden



2023 was a good year for St. Paul's. In our first full year coming out of the COVID pandemic, our parish activities resumed a vibrant and more normal character. Due to the dedication and hard work of many of you, our ministries served a great number of parishioners and other members of the Williamson County community.

The work of your Vestry began with our annual Vestry retreat in February. This year we went to Henry Horton State Park to welcome our five new Vestry members: Mindy Boggs, Paul Hannah, Chris Oberholtzer, Holly Spain and Bruce Theobald. Over two days we discussed our thoughts regarding the future direction of St. Paul's. Our discussions were led by Sam Barcus who did a great job of keeping us focused and on task.

Throughout 2023, the Vestry monitored the work of our Building and Design Committee as it continued to consult with architects and others to move forward with the upcoming construction contemplated by our successful capital campaign. In this regard, 2024 will be an exciting, but challenging, year for us as our facilities are substantially reworked. I am confident that, despite the inevitable difficulties that the parish will face, we will work together to continue and enhance our many ministries and other activities.

As you are aware, during 2023 the Vestry felt the need to revisit St. Paul's "open doors" policy. The Vestry discussed the relevant issues over several months before making its decision. I wish to take this opportunity to thank you for the manner in which the parish addressed this situation. The courtesy and respect shown to those with different opinions on this issue was commendable.

I am glad to be able to report that St. Paul's continues to be a thriving parish that serves the spiritual and other needs of its parishioners and the greater Williamson County community. We are financially stable as is evidenced by our recent successful stewardship campaign. Your generosity will enable us to continue to boost our commitment to outreach as is reflected in the 2024 Budget presented to you today.

Finally, let me say that it has been a great privilege to have served on the Vestry for the past three years and as Senior Warden for the past two. Working with Rusty, Monna, the lay staff and the Vestry has been a joy. As I've said before, being the Senior Warden of St. Paul's has not been a difficult job. For the most part, all that has been required has been to watch and cheer on many amazing people doing many amazing things in the service of our Lord.

George Bishop  
Senior Warden

# Report from the Junior Warden



The biggest project of the year was the replacement of the Louvers on the Front of the Bell Tower. An area craftsman built a new Louver assembly to exactly match the old one, and it was painted and installed by our building maintenance company in early August.

The small chimney on the east side of the Nave was treated with silicone water repellent, and the blistered east wall of the Nave was repaired and repainted.

A Columbarium committee was formed to select a new site and style for a needed third Columbarium. The front wall of the Office building was selected as the location for the new unit. This new one would be similar to the other outdoor Columbarium but would be split into two parts to be located either side of the window to the left of the front door. This project is on hold because of the pending construction.

A new Garden guild has been formed to get more members of the Parish involved in maintaining our front and side courtyards.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ron Howes  
Junior Warden





# Christian Formation

## Adults

These Christian Formation classes were offered to Adults in 2023 on Sunday morning.

1) An Adult Christian Formation Class was held on Sundays in Otey Hall throughout the program year. Topics included a series discussing "Holy Living, Holy Ending - Planning for Aging and End-of-Life Matters," and a series on "Building up the Kingdom of God" (scriptures relating to "building"). The Rev. Rusty McCown, the Rev. Monna Mayhall and Jean Larson served as presenters.

2) Our Rector, Rev. Rusty McCown taught a Seekers Class in the Spring of 2023 in person. 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. Bishop Bauerschmidt came in April for his annual visit and confirmed more than fifteen persons total - youth and adults.

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

## The Tuesday Morning Lectionary Bible Study

2023 was a really big year for the Tuesday Lectionary Group that meets at 10:30 AM (CST) on Zoom. It was started 25 years ago by our new priest The Rev. Ann Van Dervoort. We have selected to stay on Zoom this year because some of our participants travel and they are still able to participate on a weekly basis. Please consider participating with by logging on to the following web site:

Join URL: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/94356697489?pwd=Q2VIYkRpbDc4QU93ZVBPWHBZOERSQT09>

Lectionary Readings Web Site: <https://www.lectionarypage.net/>

If you would like to join us, just e-mail Charlie Crumpton at [ctcrumpton@yahoo.com](mailto:ctcrumpton@yahoo.com).

## The Coffee Club

The Coffee Club continued strong this past year. This Men's Bible Study meets every week on Wednesdays at 6:45 am in-person. For more information, contact Rev. Rusty McCown at [Rusty@stpaulsfranklin.com](mailto:Rusty@stpaulsfranklin.com) or 615-790-0527.



## WITS

WITS (Women in Theological Study) met on Thursday mornings this past year from 9:30-11:00 a.m. in-person. We met in parks, in the church courtyard, in Barnabas, in Otey, and at Healing Housing. WITS covered a variety of topics throughout the year, including:

- A series on Forgiveness
- Stations of the Cross
- This Side of Easter Reflection
- Thistle Farms Café Field Trip
- Chopped Cooking Competition with Catherine Mayhew,
- Lunch and afternoon fun at Susi Trabue's Creek Site
- The Ordination of Women presentation by Ann Van Dervoort
- Walking Home: From Eden to Emmaus by Margaret Guenther (Book Study)
- The Future of Faith - Video Series
- Learning to Walk in the Dark by Barbara Brown Taylor (Book Study)
- Advent Meditation and Stations
- Selected Sermons by Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, Nadia Boltz-Weber, and many others

For other information contact Monna Mayhall [monna@stpaulsfranklin.com](mailto:monna@stpaulsfranklin.com) or 615-790-0527.



## Education for Ministry (EFM)

Education for Ministry (EfM) is an international adult formation program administered by The University of the South. This year 7 members make up St. Paul's seminar group. Three participants completed the four-year program last summer.



We meet weekly on Tuesday evenings, from September to May, to study Hebrew Scripture, the New Testament, Church History and Theology, in a small group setting. We also share spiritual autobiographies and work on theological reflections. In 2023 we met in person with the option to Zoom in. If you are interested in EfM please contact Jean Larson ([jam.larson@gmail.com](mailto:jam.larson@gmail.com)) or Kelly Pitsenberger ([pitz@bellsouth.net](mailto:pitz@bellsouth.net)).



# Youth - EYG

The purpose of St. Paul's Youth Ministry is to tend to the spiritual and emotional needs of our young people, 6th through 12th grade. St. Paul's Youth is a community of young people who are in the process of shaping their lives around following Jesus through their hearts, minds, and actions. Take a look at some of the things we did last year and what we have planned for 2024!

Sunday Night EYG (Episcopal Youth Group): We meet most Sunday nights in Barnabas from 5:00pm – 7:00pm. We gather for dinner, games, and compline. Parents sign up to provide a meal each week. This past semester, we averaged around 18 youth, but some nights we had as many as 23! This is led by Maddie Rogers, with the assistance of a parent chaperone.



Youth Christian Formation: The youth have our own Christian Formation hour on Sunday mornings from 10:00am-11:00am. We gather for a discussion-based class focused on each week's Gospel lesson. This is led by Maddie Rogers and Rebecca Percy.

Youth Confirmation: Last year, Confirmation Class was led by Nic Parmer during our regular Christian Formation hour. In 2023, we had 4 youth confirmed. This year, the class is being led by Jay Fahey, and we hope to have a large group going through.

## SPECIAL YOUTH EVENTS IN 2023

Pancake Supper: Once again, in February, the youth had our annual Pancake Supper to raise money for Mountain T.O.P. In 2023, this event made \$1,600. Thank you to the Men of St. Paul's for helping with the food and to all the parent and youth volunteers who made the night a success!

Spring Retreat: In April of 2023, the youth went on a retreat to Grace Point Camp and Retreat Center in Kingston, TN along Watts Bar Lake. We had 12 youth and 4 adults on this trip. This was a weekend filled with fun, fellowship, and friendship.



Youth Sunday: Every year on Mother's Day, the youth lead two of our Sunday morning services by providing readers, ushers, musicians, and even the sermon. We also like to celebrate our graduating seniors on Youth Sunday. In 2023, we had 4 youth graduate high school. Our youth are not the future; they are the present!

Mystery Road Trip: In June, we took the youth on a Mystery Road trip. They did not know where we were going until we pulled up to... Foster Falls! This trip was so much fun and I hope to make this an annual tradition.

Mountain T.O.P: As always, we traveled to Coalmont, TN in July with 14 youth and 6 adults. Our youth that participated in service projects tended to the physical needs of individuals in the MTOP service area through tasks like painting, yard work, and various construction projects. Those that did day camp helped meet the social, emotional, and spiritual needs of children in the service area by leading a week of day camp for children ages 6 – 11.



Car Parks: The youth host car parks whenever we can because we can easily make over \$1,000 dollars in just a couple hours. This past fall, we had multiple cars parks that went towards fundraising for pilgrimage.



Pilgrimage Fundraiser: In October of 2023, we launched our pilgrimage fundraiser with the goal of raising \$20,100. This once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that 6 of our high school youth are participating in is not without significant cost; therefore, this fundraiser is ongoing.



## OUTREACH AND INREACH

Nashville Diaper Connection: In the Spring of 2023, we collected diapers for the Nashville Diaper Connection, a nonprofit that distributes diapers for children in need across the greater Nashville area. In April, we culminated our drive by traveling to the organization's headquarters to help package diapers for distribution.



Vacation Bible School: Every year, many of our youth volunteer to help set up, staff, and break down VBS. This year was no different. We had youth help with almost every facet of VBS, including games, crafts, snacks, and leading groups.

## RECENT CHANGES

As you all know, Nic Parmer stepped down as youth minister at the end of July 2023. Since then, I have continued my role as the Youth Intern. We continue to adjust to this new dynamic, but I am proud to say that our participation is holding steady and we have many exciting events coming up in 2024! In addition to these new ventures, we are actively looking to fill the role of Youth Minister. Please hold the youth in your prayers as we navigate this time of transition.

## 2024 EYG CALENDAR

February 4: Confirmation Class starts at 10 am in Barnabas  
February 13: Pancake Supper in Otey Hall from 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm  
May 5: Confirmation Sunday with Bishop Bauerschmidt  
May 12: Youth Sunday/Mother's Day  
June 27 – July 6: Pilgrimage to Scotland and England  
July 14 – 20: Mountain T.O.P.

Please email me at [maddie@stpaulsfranklin.com](mailto:maddie@stpaulsfranklin.com) with any questions, comments or concerns.

-Maddie Rogers, Youth Intern



# Children With Families

This year was another wild and wonderful year for St. Paul's Children and their families. I am grateful to all the children, families, volunteers and supporters who make this ministry so vibrant!

## Sunday Christian Formation

We continued to use Godly Play for our Sunday Formation for Children in 2023. From January through May we had two circles: one for preschoolers through first grade, and one for second through fifth graders. I am so grateful to the volunteers who offered their time to be storytellers and doorpersons so that we could make this happen. After Rally Day in the Fall, we began a new class, Godly Talk, for 4th and 5th graders. In Godly Talk, we expand the discussion on the Godly Play stories the children have heard so many times, and it has been fun to dive deeper into the sacred stories from the Old Testament, the Liturgical Action stories, and the Parables. After the discussion, the children and adult volunteers help with the Free Little Pantry ministry by stocking it. The children have really taken ownership of this ministry, and it has been fun to watch it grow.

Having three Children's Formation classes has given us the opportunity to have smaller groups in the Godly Play classes. The "Younger" room is now for Pre-K and Kindergarten, while the "Older" room is for 1st-3rd graders.

## Children's Chapel

Children's Chapel was available for 8:45 and 11 am services, except for the summer when we only had one service at 10 am. There was an average of 12-20 children who attended each Sunday. During Children's Chapel, we share the Gospel story in child-inclusive language and share a picture book with a similar theme. Afterwards we share a lively discussion and say our version of prayers of the people before we exchange the peace and head back to the service to join our families.



## Week of Wonder

Week of Wonder planning and dreaming begins early in the year, and with so much uncertainty surrounding the availability of our buildings, we began to think outside the box-or building in this case. The planning team (Donna, Maddie, Monna, Nic and I) decided that we could make it work off-site at Jim Warren Park utilizing the screened pavilion. Thirty participants and 39 youth and adult volunteers made it a memorable week, and everything ran smoothly considering this was our first year hosting the event away from St. Paul's. We had a great turn-out for the wrap up party Thursday night, and the Men of St. Paul's provided the fried chicken for a potluck supper. The participants wore their t-shirts to church on Sunday to share a song with the congregation. Many thanks to everyone who made this wonderful week possible!



## **Nursery**

The nursery has been a busy place this year! We are so lucky to have Eliza Tyer work in our nursery each week. We are going to miss her next year when she graduates! We continue to utilize Childcare Solutions to fill the other nursery worker position.

## **Blessing of the Backpacks**

This fun event was held in person once again in August. Students chose pins they could use on their backpacks and our teachers were blessed as they began their school year as well.

## **Children's Service**

Back by popular demand, the Children's Service took place at both 8:45 and 11 am again this year. On November 12, children stepped up to usher, greet, read, and share in a wonderful service that is "understandable for children and enlightening for adults."



## **St. Paul's Families Group**

This vibrant group made a comeback after the pandemic years thanks to the help of our planning committee-Carrie McBayer, Holly Spain and Ellen Hart. We met in the Spring to plan monthly events for families with children to get together. In July, we had a kick-off party at the church where parents enjoyed a meal in the courtyard and Founder's Hall while the children had a party of their own in Otey Hall, thanks to our Youth leaders and volunteers who made it possible. In August, the parish wide Bayou Bash was our event. Holly Spain hosted the moms and children at her house the Friday night before the Men's BBQ while the dads were at the church preparing for the big day. In October, the parish wide Halloween Carnival was our event, and a big hit with families. On Saturday December 2nd, we had a Christmas Parade potluck brunch and viewing party. The planning team was encouraged by the turn out at the events in 2023 and have already planned events for the first half of 2024. We welcome any feedback and ideas for future events. If you'd like to serve on the planning committee, please let me know.



## Intergenerational Activities

Our popular Gathering for Good monthly series was back to in-person only events this year, and we are so grateful! Highlights from this year's Gathering for Good events are the Talent Show, Family Game Night, Burgers and Bluegrass, Halloween Carnival, and Advent Wreath Making. We are grateful to the McBrayer family for hosting a summertime Shrimp Boil in August. The Zydeco band was so much fun, and the children had a great time on the water slide. It was so nice to have nice weather for all the outdoor activities again this year.



Our Children's Programs are only possible because of the many volunteers who offer their time and talent to create opportunities for our children. As we continue to watch this ministry grow, I am so grateful-especially to our great staff, nursery workers, Godly Play leaders, and volunteers who make it happen.

For more information on any of the above activities, contact me at [libby@stpaulsfranklin.com](mailto:libby@stpaulsfranklin.com) (615)790-0527 ext. 111

-Libby Sullivan, Children's Ministry Coordinator



# Music Ministry

The Creative Ministries at St. Paul's have seen many changes over the last years, with new faces in the choirs, the passing of others, and the start of a thriving new outlet for Creatives. What I refer to as "Creative Ministry" includes our Adult Choir, Chamber Choir, Handbell Choir, St. Cecilia Choir, Maker's Table, and the Weavers Guild. These groups are also fluid, with many participating in several groups. If you are looking for a way to explore your creative spirit, St. Paul's has a tribe for you. And if we don't have an existing one, then there are surely folks who would like to start another. I am always thrilled when new people and new ideas push the boundaries of what is into what can be. If you have an idea or a desire to make music and try something new, please reach out.



Biggest change in 2023 was the installation of our new Audio-Visual system by Corner Music in Nashville, Bob Nickerson, Chief Engineer. They did an amazing job, listening to our needs, working through the challenges of bringing technology to a historic church, and holding my hand through the training process. Maddie Rogers (my daughter) took the controls and is now better at running the system than I could ever be. It took several weeks to get the bugs worked out, but we now have clear visuals and sound! We feel we have found a balance between invention and technology, while still honoring our traditional service and sanctuary. The hope is to offer opportunities for those at home and further abroad a clearer picture of church with us on Sundays.



In January, members of our Chamber Choir joined the choir of St. David's Episcopal Church in Nashville at our 2023 Annual Diocesan Convention and enjoyed working with St. David's Organist, Dr. Stephanie Budway, and their Choir Master, Laura Duke. Collaboration is incredibly rewarding, and it was wonderful to experience the opening Eucharist of convention with so many from the Diocese. In February, the Chamber Choir sang at Christ Church Cathedral for the Absalom Jones Service. It is always such a thrill for us to participate in that amazing service and we were honored to be asked to return. In March, James Westerfield and Kent Burnside led the music for the Taize service offered by the Daughters of the King. There will be another in March this year!

Summer at St. Paul's is all about Bluegrass and Stained Glass! On the first Sunday of each month, we have some of the finest musicians in Nashville join us for pickin' and clapping. There is so much enthusiasm and joy during these services, and they have been the most well attended services we have outside of Easter and Christmas!

Our Sunday morning 8:45 musicians, Derek Pell and Kent Burnside, along with the genius of Rick Jackson, continue to serve our parishioners and our online watchers. We are so grateful to them for their dedication after nine years of music making and look forward to more. Each week, they offer the amazing gifts and professionalism, and what gifts they are!

This summer we said goodbye to James Westerfield when he joined his partner in a move to Memphis. James continued to visit throughout the fall and sang our concerts and special December services. He now serves of the Music Minister at a Unitarian Church and our loss is their gain. James is such a phenomenal musician, and we were so blessed to have him with us.



This fall was one special event after another. Our All Saints Concert, entitled Remembrance, featured both our adult choirs, our handbell choir, along with strings, bagpipe, drum and the brilliant narration of Robert Collins, to create a poignant and beautiful moment for everyone. Advent Lessons and Carols is our favorite music moment. The structure and the story are always the same, but with changing carols, there is a unique feel every year. Our Adult and Chamber Choirs and Handbell Choir along with narrators from our parish make this service so special and the perfect lead into the Christmas Season. Christmas of 2023 was outstanding with our women joining harpist Phyllis Sparks for a performance of Ceremony of Carols by Benjamin Britten. Our string quartet always makes Christmas Eve special, and we appreciate Louise Morrison, violin, Denise Baker, violin, Michelle Collins, viola, and Julie Adams, cello. They are the best!

December also saw the start of our new soprano section leader Ashley Vance. She is first class coloratura soprano and experienced conductor, who will work with us before heading to graduate school next fall. We are going to enjoy every moment we have with her. All of our section leaders: Elizabeth Tyer, Sharon Hels, and Iain Macpherson help make our choir program so strong and thriving. We are still looking for a baritone. If you know a professional baritone looking for a job, please let me know!

Weavers Guild is continuing to flourish with most of the members coming from all over Nashville and surrounding areas under the tutelage of Sarah Webster.



Our Handbell Choir rings and rocks! Thank you to Julie Reinhardt, Maddie Rogers, Kathy Germain, Sarah Webster, Linda Wesson, Beth Woodruff, Andrea Hyssong, Mark Hyssong, and Daniel Robicheaux for their continued dedication to this amazing artform. With construction around the corner, we are sending our handbells away for refurbishment (which they are in desperate need of.) Instead of handbells, we will be playing handchimes instead. They take up less space and do not require the padded tables that handbells do. You may have seen and heard these lovely instruments in the past. We have purchased the third octave of chimes and plan to have a great time this year with them. Here is a picture of a Schulmerich Handchime:



Our St. Cecilia Choir has yet to come back from the pandemic and the ever-increasing busy schedules of our young people and families. If you have a child that would like to participate, please give me a call. I will work hard to find a time that works for most schedules. Let's start with desire to sing, and we can make it all work!

And to close, I have to thank my great partner, Rick Jackson, who continues to bless us all with his talent. What a musical giant you are! Arrangers, pianist, and organist, you bring it all together for us each week, and St. Paul's is incredibly blessed and thankful for you. And to the members of all our choirs and creative groups- THANK YOU. Thank you for coming back each week. Thank you for working so hard to always get better and try new things. This is the greatest group of folks in the world, and their presence helps make St. Paul's such a beautiful place.

Peace,

Donna Stokes-Rogers



# Worship

## Ushers

Ushers at St. Paul's greet parishioners and visitors at services, take temperatures, distribute bulletins, and assist with seating. Currently, Ushers are needed to serve at all of the services. For more information contact Shannon Buttrey at [Shannon@stpaulsfranklin.com](mailto:Shannon@stpaulsfranklin.com)

## Oblationers

Oblationers present gifts of bread and wine at the offertory for the 8:45 am and 11:00 am Sunday services.

## Chalice Bearers

Chalice Bearers assist the priest at the altar with serving communion. Chalice Bearers are needed to serve at all of the services.

## Readers/Intercessors

Readers and Intercessors read the lessons and/or the Prayers of the People at the services. For more information contact Shannon Buttrey at [Shannon@stpaulsfranklin.com](mailto:Shannon@stpaulsfranklin.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](mailto: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 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 Ann Van Dervoort at [annvdv65@gmail.com](mailto:annvdv65@gmail.com) or Monna Mayhall at [monna@stpaulsfranklin.com](mailto:monna@stpaulsfranklin.com) or 615-790-0527.



## The Contemplative Groups

### Monday Morning Prayer - 8:00 - 9:00 AM (zoom).

Morning prayer is offered via zoom every Monday morning. The format and scripture follows "Morning Prayer from Mission St. Clare" that can be downloaded from your App store. "The Prayer List" follows the St. Paul's Prayer List from the church bulletin and individuals add their own personal family and friends' names. Some prayers follow the Franciscan Order of Daily Office. All are welcome.

Contact Gerald Hancock TSSF - gwhancock44@gmail.com or 615-604-9635

Zoom Numbers - ID - 863 9006 0743, PW - 111870

Contemplative Prayer Group continued to meet in person on Wednesday mornings at 11:00 am. For more information contact Scott Faulkner at scottlfaulkner@comcast.net or 334-430-4646.

### Contemplative Prayer - Thursday zoom 4:00 -5:30 pm- Meditation and Discussion

A small group meets via zoom every Thursday afternoon for Meditation and Discussion. We are taught from a very early age to pray, to talk to God. We are rarely taught to listen for God's answer or how to listen. Maybe we don't really want to hear God's answer because it would lead us out of our comfort zone or maybe challenge some life-long ideas that anchor our beliefs.

Each session starts with a period of meditation (computer mikes turned off) to center ourselves, quiet the mind, clear the day's chatter, using breathing techniques to reach a calm space. After meditation we have a discussion on a variety of topics. Presently we are discussing topics found in "Living Untethered - Beyond the Human Predicament, by M. A. Singer. His first book, "Untethered Soul" has helped many develop their practice of meditation. If you are struggling to develop a practice of meditation, I highly recommend this book. All are welcome.

Contact Gerald Hancock - gwhancock44@gmail.com, 615-604-9635

Zoom Numbers - ID - 858 5382 0650, PW - 639 561





## Daughters of the King – DOK

At St. Paul's, we are the Mary Magdalene Chapter of the Order of the Daughters of the King (DOK). We have taken vows of prayer, service, and evangelism. Our vision statement: *Empowered by the Holy Spirit, our vision as Daughters of the King is to know Jesus Christ, to make Him known to others, and to become reflections of God's love throughout the world.*



- Member Rita Sue Warner serves as President of the DOK Diocese of Tennessee and Rev. Monna Mayhall serves as the Diocesan Chaplain.
- Our Guild of the Christ Child continues to gift the parents of infants being baptized with a special banner. Cards are sent on baptism anniversaries to each child for three years.
- Our Chapter provides worship bags for children to use during services and supplies our Little Free Pantry.
- Mary Magdalene Chapter sponsors scholarships for two students through Education = Hope in Haiti
- One Daughter, Dorcas Mansell, died in the past year.
- Daughters attended both the Spring and Fall DOK Assemblies in Columbia and Murfreesboro
- We implemented our first Discernment Class in several years. For the first time, teams of Daughters were empowered to teach one of the 12 chapters during the three-month study. This required a great deal of planning and member participation.
- Members of our Chapter gathered in June to make personal videos to educate the parish about the Order and recruit new members. The videos were featured in News from the Pews and the Epistle.
- Our Senior Daughters Discernment class consisted of six postulants, one daughter for reinstatement and one daughter transferring from another chapter. Informational and Orientation meetings were held prior to the study sessions went from Aug 13 through Nov 5. The Admission to the Order ceremony was held Jan. 7, 2024.
- Our Chapter made history this year by sponsoring the first Junior DOK Chapter in Tennessee. Phyllis Thompson has been the lead mentor for these young women. Our Treasurer, Nancy Boring, was able to secure a grant from the National Alpha fund for discernment study materials. Four young women – all in high school - have gone through discernment to be admitted to the Order in January 2024.
- Three Daughters attended the DOK Province retreat at Kanuga, NC this past October.
- DOK sponsored the Charitable Gifts Fair on Sunday Dec. 3. Six non-profit organizations participated and over \$17,000 was collected that day.
- Small prayer groups were maintained, as well as our monthly prayer list.

If you are interested in this ministry, please contact Ginny Brewer at [vgbrewer@gmail.com](mailto:vgbrewer@gmail.com)

Ginny Brewer, Chapter President



## **Dinner Groups**

After a few years of not gathering, Dinner Groups formally organized this past Fall. Dinner Groups 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. There are Family Groups, Adults Only Groups, Restaurant Groups, and Women Only Groups. For more information, contact Ellen Kirk at [ellenkirk@gmail.com](mailto:ellenkirk@gmail.com)

## **St. Paul's Young Adults - New Ministry in 2022**

St. Paul's Young Adults is a new ministry that started in Fall of 2022. It is for parishioners in their 20's and 30's. SPYA meets for fellowship and outings around Franklin. Watch the News from the Pews and Takeout for upcoming events.

## **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 615-776-2814.

## **The Maker's Table**

Maker's Table met in person this year on Tuesdays. We have done a few hands-on projects together and have made gifts for those in our lives who might need an unexpected bit of cheer. Contact Jennifer Alvey at [jalvey@jenniferalvey.com](mailto:jalvey@jenniferalvey.com) or at 615-947-7521 for information.

## **Men Of St. Paul's**

The Men of St. Paul's (MOSP) had a busy 2023. We cooked burgers and hot dogs for CITY (Church in the Yard) and the Jefferson Street Bridge Committee four times to help the homeless. We cooked for community organizations throughout the year: High Hopes, The Boys and Girls Club, Brightstone, Saddle-Up, Freedom Reigns, Both Hands Foundation, Natchez Community Center and Spring Street Ministry. At home we served Vacation Bible School, Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and Halloween Carnival.



The Annual BBQ has been held in July for years; however, this past year, the BBQ was in September. It was a much welcome break in the hot July temperatures, and it was well supported by the parish and the community.

If you have any questions about MOSP, contact Greer Carlisle at [carlislefam7@gmail.com](mailto:carlislefam7@gmail.com).



## 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 fellowship as well as fundraising to support In-reach, Outreach, and Church Preservation. 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. WSP meets throughout the year, both for pure fellowship, and to work on big annual projects. You will also find the Women of St. Paul's volunteering in all areas of the church. Here is a listing of highlights and activities from this past year.

### Board meetings

February 21, March 8, April 14, May 10, June 9,  
July 11, August 11, September 29, October 13,  
November 8, December 15, January 17

### Socials

February 17- Home of Pam Leet, new board elected  
April 14 - Home of Kathy Ulezelski  
June 9 - Home of Cindy Thomsen  
August 11 - Home of Pat McCracken  
October 20 - Home of Kathy Berry  
December 15 - Home of Pam Leet

### Events

February 3-5 Approximately 70 women attend heART & Soul Retreat held at Pickwick Landing State Park



## 2023 Financial Activity

April 22 Flower basket/parking fundraiser made \$4,660

\$500 contribution to the St. Paul's Youth Group project for Nashville Diaper Connection

June \$5,000 donation to Bicentennial Committee to help fund the replacement of the bell tower louvers

Bylaws adopted

Staff appreciation gift cards

September Bazaar fundraiser made \$4,226

October bake sale in conjunction with the men's BBQ made \$2,658

\$200 donations made to the choir and the flower guild in appreciation for their spectacular work

\$600 donation to the Youth Ministry with thanks for all they do in support of the Christmas Tea fundraiser as well as VBS and much more.



Toys and books donated to Natchez Community Center

Christmas Tea fundraiser made \$6,418

\$3,000 donation to The heART and Soul Retreat for community spaces

\$10,000 donation to the outreach committee

Current Financial  
\$10,081

Watch for us in the monthly Epistle, the weekly News from the Pews, and the church bulletin take out. We also have a private Facebook page; just ask one of the officers or the parish administrator to get added to the list.

## 2023 Board

President - Jackie King

Vice-President - Cyndy Howes

Secretary - Kathy Berry

Treasurer - Pat McCracken

At Large - Fran Osteen, Kathy Ulezelski, Mindy Boggs, Suzanne Dibble, Susan Miller, Cindy Thomsen

For more information please contact Jackie King at [momking2nd@yahoo.com](mailto:momking2nd@yahoo.com)





## The Bad Girls Book Club

The Bad Girls Book Club read, reviewed, and discussed a varied line up of titles in 2023. Our email list grew to 75+, our meeting attendance has grown, and we continue to thrive within a growing parish congregation. Thank you all for your continued interest! We welcome all to join us, this isn't a women-only group. Do not let our moniker throw you a curve. We meet the fourth Tuesday of each month, except for December (no meeting that month), in Founders Hall, unless planned otherwise.

Our list of titles for 2023 included:

*The Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towles

*The Bookwoman's Daughter* by Kim Michele Richardson

*Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict & Victoria Christopher Murray

*West with Giraffes: A Novel* by Lynda Rutledge

*Emma* by Jane Austen

*Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus

*Just Mercy: A Story of Justice & Redemption* by Bryan Stevenson

*Landscape of a Marriage; Central Park Was Only the Beginning* - by Gail Ward Olmsted

*The Horse Dancer* by Jojo Moyes

*The Girls in the Stilt House* by Kelly Mustian

Highlights of our year included:

"An Evening with Suzanne & Alan Robertson" (fellow parishioners) in February, which featured the back-story around her non-fiction title: *He Called Me Sister: A True Story of Finding Humanity on Death Row*. The St. Paul's parish family was invited to attend the evening, meeting in Otey Hall, with refreshments provided by the Book Club.



Another special evening was Dr. Robert Collins joining us to review *Emma* by Jane Austen, which included his synopsis of Jane's life, giving us a deeper appreciation of the novel. Dr. Collins is a St. Paul's parishioner, husband of our fellow Book Club participant, Sharon Collins, and a former English instructor at St. Cecelia Academy in Nashville, TN. Our largest attendance this year happened around *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus. (We held a follow-up meeting the very next week due to strong interest in continuing our discussion.)



Upcoming Bad Girls Book Club titles for 2024 will appear in the Sunday bulletin's insert, the Take Out, as well as our weekly St. Paul's News from the Pews.

In closing, my continued appreciation to Kathy Berry and to Virginia Callicott for their behind-the-scenes support to me on our Book Club meeting nights. Thanks much to you both!

Submitted by:

Ann Denson

denonannm@gmail.com

## Social Graces

Social Graces is a ministry geared and designed mostly with people 55 years of age and older in mind. This past year, Social Graces was able to provide programs and lunch gatherings. We offered a few catered lunches followed by musical entertainment. We also offered a presentation by Age Well Tennessee about scams and ways to prevent them. If you want to find out more about Social Graces, please contact Monna Mayhall at 615-790-0527 or [monna@stpaulsfranklin.com](mailto:monna@stpaulsfranklin.com).



## Prayer Shawl Ministry

Prayer Shawl knitters did not meet in person this past year. People however continued to knit or crochet on their own. If you have questions or want more information, contact Donna Stokes Rogers at [donna@stpaulsfranklin.com](mailto:donna@stpaulsfranklin.com).

## Feed My Sheep/Meal Baby

Thanks to the many generous folks at St. Paul's, the Feed My Sheep ministry provided multiple meals to parishioners and their families during the past year.

Feed My Sheep provides meals to parishioners are ill or injured, who have suffered loss, or who are celebrating the birth of a new baby.

If you are interested in providing a meal to a parishioner in need, just watch for the church email notification and sign up via the provided online meal calendar link [www.takethemameal.com](http://www.takethemameal.com), or contact Barb Roth to plug you in.

If you know someone who we could help short term with a few meals, please contact the church office or Barb Roth. [daba224@aol.com](mailto:daba224@aol.com) or (615) 975-6636

## 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](mailto:monna@stpaulsfranklin.com) or 615-790-0527.



## Kairos

KAIROS is St. Paul's unique group for writers — accomplished or not — who meet on the second and fourth Fridays of each month at 10 am in the church library. We are a friendly group of ladies and gentlemen, and we always welcome newcomers of all ages.

During meetings, we write spontaneously about similar subjects for five or ten minutes — using our own personal thoughts, memories, and interests. We offer free notebooks to new members, so all you will need to bring is a smile on your face and your favorite writing pen.

The name Kairos suits us because our time together is meant to be calming and relaxing — a bright spot in today's fast-paced world.

If you're interested in joining Kairos, or just want to learn more about what we do, please contact Peggy Macpherson at [pmacpherson@comcast.net](mailto:pmacpherson@comcast.net).

## 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.

At the beginning of 2023, there was one adult small group meeting bi-weekly. The gatherings for this group for 2022 focused on fellowship, Bible Study and prayer.



# Historic Committee

St. Paul's Historic Committee had an incredible 2023.

The first annual Bicentennial Symposium was launched on April 30, 2023 featuring local historians on the early 19th century and the faith traditions that took seed here. This will be an annual public educational event occurring each spring for the next four years, focused on fostering a deeper understanding of Franklin's heritage, St. Paul's evolution and the religious roots that helped the town grow into the vibrant community of today.



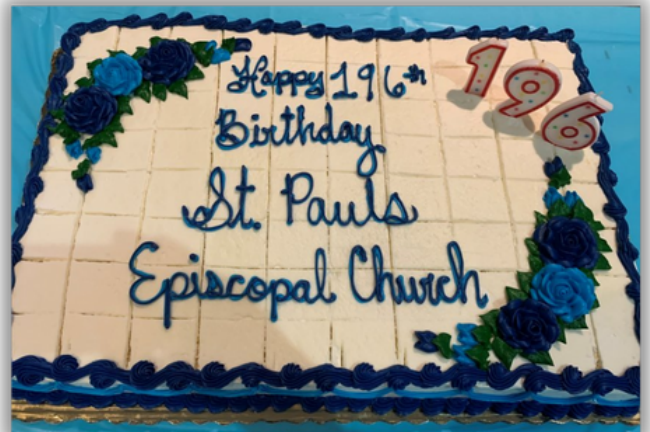
A \$10,000 contribution was made to assist with the replacement of the wooden louvers above the front doors of St. Paul's.

The tombstone of Reginal Heber Otey, infant son of Bishop James H. Otey, was cleaned and restored including a permanent marker and garden area.

The History Education Committee was established; a history trivia game was developed this year and is available to various groups upon request. Additionally, the committee will provide ongoing articles on St. Paul's history in the monthly *Epistle*.

Ongoing cataloguing of historic documents and photographs – a time consuming, costly task, but essential to preserve for future generations. These are housed at the Williamson County Archives.

The 196 Birthday Celebration – On Friday, August 25, 2023, we celebrated the 196th birthday of St. Paul's. It was standing room only for lots of new and familiar faces joining in the festivities, which included music by Fred Newell and Barny Robertson, several pizza choices, beverages and of course birthday cake and ice cream. A lively history trivia contest was held. Ball caps, Blue and Navy were the newest items for sale joining the candles, mugs, and history books.





The Bicentennial Co-Chairmen – Libby Sullivan, Jay Fahey and Mike Wesson announced the schedule for the Bicentennial Celebration beginning on Wednesday, August 25, 2027 and concluding on Sunday, August 29, 2027. Each day will special events.

### **Education**

### **Preservation**

### **Celebration**

The Bicentennial Society, funding partner of the St. Paul's Bicentennial Committee, currently has 82 members. The Historic Committee is continuing to work alongside the Bicentennial Committee to create plans for our many events and worship services leading up to our 200-year anniversary in 2027. We hope you will consider joining other parishioners in the Bicentennial Society to be a contributing part of this very special time in our history. As the Mother Church of the diocese of Tennessee, we were the first to be established and to begin the spiritual work that continues here today. We would welcome and be grateful for your contribution of \$1,000, which can be spread out over the next four years, to allow us to continue the planning and preparation already well underway. Also, we would love to have your participation on any of the committees being formed to support the Bicentennial Celebration.

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

#### Historic Committee Members

Scott Smith, Melanie Lampertz, Kathy Ulezelski, Libby Sullivan, Greer Carlisle, Cindy Thomsen, Pam Horne, Virginia Callicott, Pat McCracken, Mike Wesson, Colbi Lang Hogan, Suzanne Dibble, Jesse Tumblin, Rusty McCown, Rector.

#### Bicentennial Committee Co-Chairmen

Libby Sullivan, Jay Fahey, Mike Wesson



# Stephen Ministry

**Stephen Ministry is a lay-lead pastoral ministry with one-to-one care for persons experiencing grief, pain, transition, illness, loneliness, or any other hardship that comes their way.**

**People do not always need advice. Sometimes all they really need is a hand to hold, an ear to listen and a heart to understand them.**

Stephen Ministry is alive and active. We are regularly reaching out to individuals who are experiencing grief, pain, transition, illness, loneliness, or any other hardship that might come their way. We are available to meet by FaceTime, email, messages, and cards as the situation warrants. If you could benefit from the care of a Stephen Minister, or if you know of someone who could, please let us know. Thank you in advance for reaching out to us.



The Stephen Ministry is a strong group of twenty (20) care givers. A new group of eight (8) participants completed the fifty (50) classroom hours of training and will be commissioned on February 4, 2024. The 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 divorce or an aging individual. Since we are not professionals, Stephen Ministers are listeners who can provide spiritual care.

This year we implemented a new communication step by making available the mailing of four (4) Journeying Through Grief booklets. The set of short books will be mailed to grieving people at four crucial times during the first year of loss. One does not need to be in a Stephen Ministry relationship to receive the booklets. Please let the Church office know and we will begin mailing the booklets immediately.

As of year-end we have visited with fifteen (15) care receivers. These care receivers are not only in the St. Paul's family but also living in the surrounding community. We have participated in a total of 365 hours with the care receivers. We are committed to visiting the care receiver for about one hour per week. These care receivers may also 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. Our goal is to continue to support our church family and community in listening and healing in any way that we can.

I want to express my gratitude for the faith and support of so many of you and the St. Paul's family. I want to thank Rusty for his total commitment to Stephen Ministries. He is always available and enthusiastic in supporting us. Thank you, Rusty. I must thank our Stephen Ministries mentor, Monna, for everything she does to support us and guide us day to day. She is our rock. Thank you, Monna.



The ten (10) active Stephen Ministers have stepped up to every challenge presented to them. Thank you. Next Sunday I will be asking Monna to commission eight (8) more talented Stephen Ministers. Their training was the extra effort of our current Stephen Ministers in preparing, guiding, and facilitating in the training of this new very gifted group. Thank you. One individual who has been a Stephen Minister for many years has also stepped forward to help us in this major training, Bruce Theobald. Thank you, Bruce.

Stephen Ministry is successful at reaching out to hurting people through the support and response from you. Without your direction we would not have the opportunity to help those in distress. If we can be of service to you or someone you know, please contact us through our confidential email address – [sm@stpaulsfranklin.com](mailto:sm@stpaulsfranklin.com), or by contacting Monna Mayhall through St. Paul's Episcopal Church office at 615-790-0527 or through any of the Stephen Ministers listed below.

May the peace of the Lord be with you.

Submitted by Fred Warner  
Email: [SM@stpaulsfranklin.com](mailto:SM@stpaulsfranklin.com)  
Phone: 615-790-0527

Jan Abstein	Sam Barcus	George Bishop	Mindy Boggs	Heather Bottoms
Val Box	Vicki Carlisle	Melissa Crain	Becky Farmer	Scott Faulkner
Barbara Green	Jean Larson	Chris Oberholtzer	Sharmila Patel	Kelly Pitsenberger
Donna Thomas	Elizabeth Tyer	Carol Waters	Marcia Wilkinson	



## **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 conversation about 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.

Our hope is to continue, by whatever means possible, to provide relevant resources, offer book studies, and opportunities to engage in conversations.

This past year, Beloved Community at St. Paul's continued to participate in the Beloved Community of the Diocese of TN. Some activities are organized by the diocese such as the Absalom Jones service at Christ Church Cathedral in February and a day-long anti-racism training led by the Beloved Community Commission. This past year our parish hosted a diocesan-wide book study on Zoom featuring, "The Church Cracked Open" by The Reverend Stephanie Spellers

For more information contact Jean Larson at [jam.larson@gmail.com](mailto:jam.larson@gmail.com) or 847-987-6949.



## **Recycling at St. Paul's**

The recycling ministry at St. Paul's began in late 2021. Williamson County and the City of Franklin do not offer recycling pickup to the business community. A few gentle souls decided that we would ask a group of families if they would support recycling by volunteering one day a month to retrieve recycling material throughout the Church building and Barnabas. The next step was to provide recycling containers. Today, you may not see the families going through the building cleaning out the recycling, but you do see the containers.

We thank you for properly placing recycling material (clean paper, boxes and plastic - but not glass) in the containers. We also ask you to empty the recycling container when full and add it to your recycling. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to any of the recyclers, Ellen Kirk, Gerald Hancock, Fred Warner, or any of the Church staff with your questions.

We are always looking for volunteers. This is a "one day of the month" responsibility and you have a week to complete the sweep of the building, so you have a great deal of flexibility. There are opportunities available as primary recyclers or backup recyclers. Please contact the Church Office and/or one of the individuals named above. Your help is always appreciated.

For more information, please contact Fred Warner at [fredwarner@gmail.com](mailto:fredwarner@gmail.com).



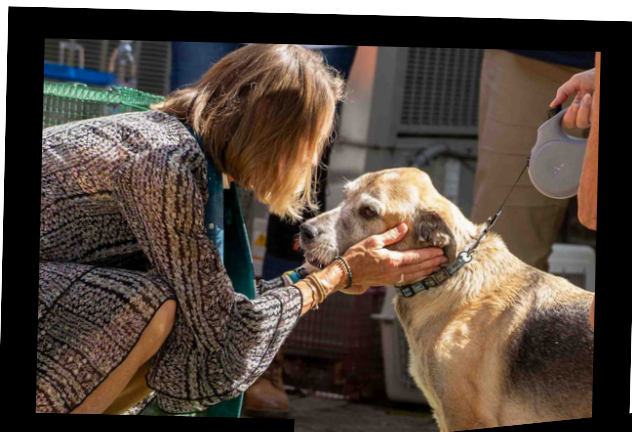
## Lord's Lift

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. For more information, please contact Shannon Buttrey at [shannon@stpaulsfranklin.com](mailto:shannon@stpaulsfranklin.com).

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## St. Paul's Food Pantry

We are fixing between 6-8 bags weekly. Around 300 for the year. That does not include what the staff hands out. We have food for anyone that comes to the church in need, and we try to provide food ready to eat and bags of food to be prepared.

St. Paul's always amaze me with all their contributions! I've never seen such a small church make such a big difference in the community!

You can leave non-perishable food donations in the bin outside the church office, or inside in the church office building. Most needed items are posted each week in the Takeout. We are looking for more people to help in the making and the delivering of the bags. To find out more information or to volunteer, contact Larry and Debbie Whitlock at 901-277-5909 or email Vandyman1@aol.com.

## Little Free Pantry – New Outreach Ministry in 2022

The Little Free Pantry continues to faithfully serve the Franklin community since becoming operational in August 2022. After monitoring the usage patterns for the first six months of existence, it was decided in April that the Little Free Pantry provide meals that can be consumed quickly and easily while on the go such as smaller, canned meats with pull-tops and individual servings of packaged foods and fruits and beverages, including bottled waters and juices.

Since April 2023, St. Paul's parishioners have been kept aware of the items needed through the church's monthly publications, and in June a permanent posting on the church website was created to publicize the year-round needs of this pantry.

Also in April, stepping-stones were added to the front of the Little Free Pantry, allowing visitors to avoid the mud in rainy weather, and a more durable, attractive, wooden sign was added. Additionally, in the Spring a heat-reducing film was applied to the front windows of the Little Free Pantry, in an effort to protect pantry items from the summer heat. Unfortunately, it peeled off and was removed, so it will be re-applied in the spring of 2024. During the summer months, ants/insects raided the pantry, which resulted in the exterior housing being treated for the unwelcomed guests.

Although there have been a few individuals who visited and emptied the pantry, there are many more individuals/families who have benefited from the pantry and have expressed their thanks and gratitude for it. In an effort to keep the pantry stocked for everyone who visits, our six volunteers began restocking twice per week on random days, resulting in an estimated ninety-seven days of fully stocking the pantry in 2023. In September, Libby Sullivan asked that the 4th and 5th graders in St. Paul's Christian Education Class be introduced to the workings of the Little Free Pantry. This class regularly stocks the pantry on Sundays and prays over it when their work is done.





In an effort to restock the bare undercroft pantry, from which the Little Free Pantry is stocked, our Rector suggested we hold a parish-wide Food Pantry Sunday twice per year, the first of which was held on November 12th, coinciding with Children's Sunday. Parishioners generously provided a variety of non-perishable food and personal toiletry items, creating a short-lived overflow.

The St. Mary Magdalene Chapter - Daughters of the King at St. Paul's – packed and stocked individual toiletry bags, including soap, shampoo, lotion, hand sanitizer, socks, toothpaste and toothbrushes, etc. In 2023, 152 Personal Care Bags were provided to guests at the pantry.

Phyllis Thompson, who from the beginning led the effort to keep the Little Free Pantry stocked, passed her leadership role to Ginna Campbell in November 2023. We thank Phyllis Thompson for her devotion and service. The Little Free Pantry is an important ministry that has been a blessing for both the child volunteers as well as the adult volunteers. We pray all these efforts will continue to be a gift for those in need and will expand in the year to come. For more information, please contact Ginna Campbell at [ginnacampbell@gmail.com](mailto:ginnacampbell@gmail.com)

## **CITY - Church In The Yard and The Jefferson Street Bridge Community**

St. Paul's has many outreach programs that focus on a variety of needs in the local community and the greater community. CITY (Church In The Yard) is an outreach program to the poor and homeless in and around the center of Nashville. The ministry is anchored by Fr. Bill Denler at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church. St. Paul's has been working with Fr. Bill for over 15 years. Weather permitting, the homeless gather in the side yard of Holy Trinity on Sunday around noon. Fr. Bill offers a full communion service followed by a meal. St. Paul's provides the food and staffs the cafeteria style serving line. Clothes and other donated articles are passed out, such as jackets, Khaki pants, toothpaste and brushes, etc. We continue to provide food on the 3rd Sunday of each month.

From the relationship with CITY, contacts were made with a homeless community living under the Jefferson Street Bridge in cardboard boxes. With the generous support of St. Paul's and from the proceeds of the annual BBQ, we were able to double our outreach to this separate group. We serve this community on the 3rd Sunday of each month. The "Great Nashville Flood of 2010" wiped out this community. They were living in cardboard homes and were rebuilt in no time. Then the City of Nashville started erecting fences around the land where the Bridge Community lived. They were constantly being moved. An NPO named "Sanctuary" offered meals daily to the Bridge community and others. We partnered up with them and started delivering our prepared meals to them since they knew where the homeless had been herded off to.



Every Thursday, men from St. Paul's drive the church van to the Sanctuary NPO and pick up several hundred pounds of fresh food collected from Trader Joe's and deliver it to the Natchez Street Community Center where it is distributed to the needy of that community. Everywhere you turn, St. Paul's is living the Gospel through our outreach programs.

CITY Contact:

Gerald Hancock [gwhancock44@gmail.com](mailto:gwhancock44@gmail.com), 615-604-9635

Ellen Kirk [ellenvkirk@gmail.com](mailto:ellenvkirk@gmail.com), 615-545-8820

Trader Joe Food Pickup - Terry O'Donnell, 615-397-9650

## Meals on Wheels

Meals on Wheels continues to be a wonderful outreach that our church continues to support monetarily and "hands on." There are 30 St. Paul's parishioners and a few others who continue to deliver meals on wheels to approximately 100 local residents in the city of Franklin every third Wednesday and Friday of every month. If you have any questions, contact Kathy Berry at 615-794-9750.

## Spring Street Outreach

Our Spring Street Ministry met each month this year except for June, July and August usually on the 4th Thursday in Otey Hall. Normally between 25-35 guests have social time and a delicious lunch, as well as a game, musical performance or craft activity. A dedicated group of St. Paul's volunteers enjoy providing this special outing and visiting with our older friends and neighbors from the Spring Street/Hard Bargain neighborhoods. For more information or to get involved, contact Jackie King at [momking2nd@yahoo.com](mailto:momking2nd@yahoo.com)



## St. Paul's Gift Shop and Docent Ministry

We continue to get new items quite frequently, and for the most part, the Gift Shop is honor system, allowing people to submit payments for items in a designated mailbox. If you are interested in volunteering to help in the Gift Shop, be a Docent, or help in any other way with this ministry, contact Libby Sullivan at [libby@stpaulsfranklin.com](mailto:libby@stpaulsfranklin.com) or Monna Mayhall at [monna@stpaulsfranklin.com](mailto:monna@stpaulsfranklin.com). Training provided - No experience necessary!



## Love Thy Neighbor

Love Thy Neighbor (LTN), which welcomes volunteers from the entire Parish, has broadened its scope to include other activities in addition to cooking meals. In 2023, LTN/Parish Outreach provided love to our neighbors through the following activities:

LTN hosted "Chef for the Night" where we prepared a meal to share with the eight residents and two staff members of My Friend's House, which serves neglected, abused or at-risk boys ages 12-18 with a program of safety, structure, encouragement, care and expectations here in Franklin. The goal is to give them the opportunity to recover from their adverse situations and become successful young adults. It was a great opportunity to socialize with the boys, play games, and teach some important cooking skills. LTN supported the YWCA Dress for Success program by gathering donations of new or gently used professional clothing to support this program, which provides clients with one professional suit and accessories to prepare her for a job interview. Once employed, the client receives additional professional clothing to mix-and-match for a full week's worth of outfits. Working with the MOSP, LTN helped the Boys and Girls Club staff throw an end-of-school year celebration for our neighborhood kids in the Franklin area. The BGC is a comprehensive youth service organization focused on helping young people ages 5-18 reach their full potential. Burgers & hot dogs with all the sides and delicious desserts were provided along with some welcome take home bags. A bubble machine provided hours of slip-sliding enjoyment for the children.



LTN again supported the DOTK Feed My Sheep–Summer Feeding Program with a nutritious meal for 300+ seniors, veterans, special needs folks and children in a 5-mile radius of Shorter Chapel/St. Paul's.

LTN supported the Big Backpack Giveaway that equips students in our neighborhood with the tools necessary to start the school year by donating supplies and helping fill over 3,000 backpacks.

LTN, again in conjunction with MOSP, provided an afternoon of fun, feasting and fellowship with the men of 21st Recovery Court in Franklin. With a 90% 5-year success rate, their mission is to end the cycle of addiction and crime in our community by providing accountability and compassion to non-violent offenders in the criminal justice system. The young men and staffers in attendance helped grill burgers, hot dogs and brats in the Barnabas parking lot. Everyone socialized and played games before sitting down to a sumptuous meal along with St. Paul's volunteers. To-go bags were happily received. For more information or to get involved, please contact: Pat McCracken at [pat@newleafpartners.com](mailto:pat@newleafpartners.com) or 615-351-1113.

## Local Outreach

St. Paul's Outreach Committee's mission is to do what it can for our Williamson County neighbors in need by showing them love and helping them where possible. The committee works with non-profit organizations in the county that are supporting adults and/or children needing assistance. 100% of the monies entrusted to this committee in 2023 by St. Paul's vestry, the Women of St. Paul's, and donations by individuals wanting to help with our mission was spent to help improve the lives of those in need. The Outreach Committee also coordinated the parish collection of 60 gift cards for the Waves Angel Tree.

These non-profits were financially helped in 2023:

CASA

Boys and Girls Club of Middle Tennessee

Healing Housing

Davis House

High Hopes Development Center

Bridges Domestic Violence Center

21st District Recovery Court

St. Paul's Food Pantry

Love on Wheels

WAVES

The Well Outreach

Williamson County Homeless Alliance

Freedom Reigns Ranch

Mercy Community Healthcare

My Friend's House

My Bag, My Story

BrightStone

Franktown Open Hearts

Franklin Community Development

Gentry's Educational Foundation

FUMC – Meals on Wheels

Clergy Discretionary – Rusty McCown

Clergy Discretionary – Monna Mayhall

The Outreach Committee Members:

Judy Stockton (chair)

Monna Mayhall

Will Boggs

Jim Miller

Sheila Morreale

Fred Warner

Pam Horne

Spencer Dibble

It is our prayer that we have wisely used the budget entrusted to us. There are so many people in Williamson County needing St. Paul's love and support; we look forward to spreading God's grace even further in 2024. If you know of any non-profit in Williamson County you would like for this committee to contact, please get in touch with one of the committee's members. Thank you. To get direct links to these non-profits or any we have helped in the past, visit St. Paul's Website. For more information contact Judy Stockton at [jnkstockton@comcast.net](mailto:jnkstockton@comcast.net).





## Do you know about these ministries?

### Moses Basket

When there is a new birth in the parish family, to be celebrated, a baby blanket along with various gifts are gathered for the newborn and the family. All the gifts are placed in a basket and delivered to the family. For more information, contact Fran Osteen at [fwosteen@comcast.net](mailto:fwosteen@comcast.net)

### Flower Power

After all Sunday services are over, the beautiful altar flowers are far from over. On Monday mornings, Fran Osteen along with a couple of helpers, put together several vases of flowers from the altar flowers, to be delivered to people on our parish prayer list. A tag is attached to the vase that reads, "A Gift for You from St. Paul's Episcopal Church – These Flowers were on our Altar this past Sunday." For more information, contact Fran Osteen at [fwosteen@comcast.net](mailto:fwosteen@comcast.net).



## NEW in 2023!

### Weekly Bible Readings

We started providing a Weekly Bible Reading Card for anyone who would like one. The card has Weekly Bible Readings listed on it, arranged for you to read on a daily basis leading up to the Sunday for which they are assigned. Our hope is that this provides a way for you to deepen your knowledge, prepare for Sunday worship, and become more familiar with themes of the church calendar. They are available in the Narthex.

## Holy Hikes – Middle Tennessee

As of July 2023, St. Paul's has been excited to offer a Holy Hikes ministry, officially named "Holy Hikes–Middle Tennessee," part of a larger ministry based in California. The Vestry approved, by formal vote, to adopt the local Holy Hikes group as a ministry of the congregation. The ministry serves the larger community, but it must be formed through a congregation so that the congregation's liability Insurance will cover the hikes.

Holy Hikes is a Christian eco-Ministry network committed to rebuilding Communion between all of God's Creation. Through Holy Hikes we worship God in the beauty of God's creation, in what John Muir called God's "first temples."

### QUICK POINTS

Holy Hikes...

- Are like Stational Eucharists.
- Are usually on a Saturday once a month.
- Are open to anyone, any age.
- Are intended to be accessible, being mostly flat, and 2-3 miles in length.
- Vary in location each month - park, trail, zoo, etc.
- Are free unless the location of the hike charges an admission/fee.



Holy Hiking since July:

July - Aspen Grove Park – Cool Springs

Aug - Timberland Park at the Natchez Trace

Sep - Marcella Vivrette Smith Park - Brentwood

Oct - Winstead Park - Franklin

Nov - Eastern Flank Battlefield Park - Franklin

This link gives you general information about Holy Hikes <https://holyhikes.org/>

If you are interested in helping lead a hike, or if you have any questions about Holy Hikes – Middle Tennessee, contact Monna [monna@stpaulsfranklin.com](mailto:monna@stpaulsfranklin.com).





# Capital Campaign

My father used to tell me that “life is a marathon, not a sprint.” That certainly has been the case with our building project. In 2019, we made a commitment to refresh and reimagine our physical spaces here at St. Paul’s. We began the race strong but encountered a “false start” when COVID 19 derailed us. In 2021, we stepped up to the starting line again and we were off! We “sprinted” through a very successful capital campaign which raised \$4.5 million to enable us to offer an open central welcoming area, updated workspace for clergy and staff, flexible meeting spaces for all ages, ADA accessibility throughout all areas of the church, and a refreshed gathering space in Otey Hall.

We were quite a few “miles” into our building project marathon and were feeling pretty good. We assembled an impressive design team made up of our general contractor Solomon Builders, Inc, our architect 908 Studio, interior designers, structural, electrical and mechanical engineers, and a plumbing contractor. The hard months of planning seemed to have paid off. We then began the hard stretch of the race – obtaining all of the necessary city approvals. That’s when we began to be out of breath and starting to slow down. Like in any marathon, along with pain and fatigue, doubt starts to creep in. Can we really make it?

But late last year, the adrenaline kicked in and we found our pace. The finish line is still a number of miles away but we have confidence that we can make it to the end.

Here is where we are in the race – The city of Franklin has approved our project. We expect to have all of the necessary drawings and an accurate price for this overall project within the next few weeks. We then will hold a parish-wide meeting so everyone will be able to see what the “finish line” will look like.

We hope to break ground in early April. We then will have to remind one another that, “Slow and steady wins the race.”

Bob Larson

