

# The Epistle



MAY 2024

*Our mission is to proclaim the news of Jesus Christ and care for all*

## The Clergy and Staff

**The Rev. W.R. "Rusty" McCown**, Rector  
**The Rev. Monna Mayhall**, Associate Rector

**The Rev. Ann Van Dervoort**,  
 Assisting Priest, Retired

**Donna Stokes-Rogers**, Music Minister

**Rick Jackson**, Organist

**Libby Sullivan**, Children's Minister

**Maddie Rogers**, Interim Youth Minister

**Shannon Buttrey**, Parish Administrator

**Kristy Moore**, Financial Administrator

**Paula Sherman**, Communications Manager

## Vestry

**Pam Horne**, Senior Warden

Finance, Stewardship, Long Range Planning

**Ron Howes**, Junior Warden

Building and Grounds

**Mindy Boggs**

Clerk and Parish Life

**Angela Lassiter**

Outreach

**Dr. Larry Whitlock**

Stewardship

**Ann Denson**

Christian Formation

**Mary Emilie Acklen**

Hospitality

**Paul Hannah**

Finance

**Chris Oberholtzer**

Communications

**Bruce Theobald**

Pastoral Care

**Rob Curwen**

Long-Range Planning

**Holly Spain**

Youth and Children's Ministries

**Michael Walters Young**

Treasurer

## FIND US:

**510 WEST MAIN STREET  
 FRANKLIN, TN. 37064**

**(615) 790-0527**

**WWW.STPAULSFRANKLIN.COM**



**FIND US ON FACEBOOK**

**@STPAULSFRANKLINTN**

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**@STPAULSFRANKLIN**

**May 2024**

**Office Hours:**

**Monday-Thursday**

**9:00 am - 4:00 pm**

**Friday**

**9:00 am - 12:00 pm**

**Office Closed May 27**

## AFTER HOURS EMERGENCY:

A member of the clergy is always on call. If you need assistance from a priest outside office hours, the number to call is 615-790-0527. You will then be directed to a member of the clergy.

# In This Issue

- 5 Announcements
- 9 April at St. Paul's
- 22 Parish Life
- 31 Outreach
- 33 Stephen Ministry
- 35 Historic Reflections
- 36 Corner Gift Shop
- 38 Volunteer Opportunities
- 39 Financials
- 40 Life Events



The Epistle is published the first of each month. Forward any information you have for News In The Pews, Sunday bulletin, or The Epistle monthly newsletter to [communications@stpaulsfranklin.com](mailto:communications@stpaulsfranklin.com) and we will make sure it gets to the right publication.

[Deadline for the June newsletter is Tuesday, May 28, 2024](#)

# Upcoming Events

May 1  
Sounds Game

May 3  
Taize Service

May 5  
Bishops Visit

May 12  
Youth Sunday

May 26  
Summer Sunday Schedule  
Starts

June 5  
Newcomer's Dinner

June 11  
Bluegrass & Stained Glass



Many more meetings and gatherings can be found on the Church Calendar, under the "About Us" tab on the church website: <https://74053364.view-events.com/calendar/74053364/>

# Construction Update

Greetings St. Paul's Family!

We are so excited to begin our building transformation soon. At the same time, I'm sure there are a lot of questions about how the church will function for the next 12 months. Please know that the staff and vestry are doing all we can to assure that all our ministries will continue as we serve our parishioners and the community.

First, you should know that the staff will be moving to our temporary offices in Barnabas during the weekend of June 7-9. We hope that construction will begin about that time. We'll have more information soon about how you can help with our move.

Second, we have been working to make sure all our many groups will have sufficient space to continue their good work. We will be making time/space assignments once we get a better idea of the exact time for construction. Most of these meetings, whether weekly or monthly, will take place in Barnabas on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. You may know that our community recovery groups meet in Barnabas on Monday and Wednesday and Friday evenings as well as Saturday morning.

Third, I know that the Sunday bathroom situation is a topic of conversation. While we haven't reached a full agreement we are working with our neighbors, the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, located across the street. We are speaking with them about letting us use their facilities for Sunday morning restrooms and our children's Godly Play during our Formation Hour. Of course, the Barnabas bathroom facilities will be in full use (there are four bathrooms located there).

There is much more to come. Things will certainly get messy but the final outcome will be a blessing. We will all need a little patience (and prayer!) over the coming months ahead. But please know that St. Paul's many ministries will continue, no matter what.

Thank you all for your commitment and your witness to Christ, our Lord. Great days lie ahead!

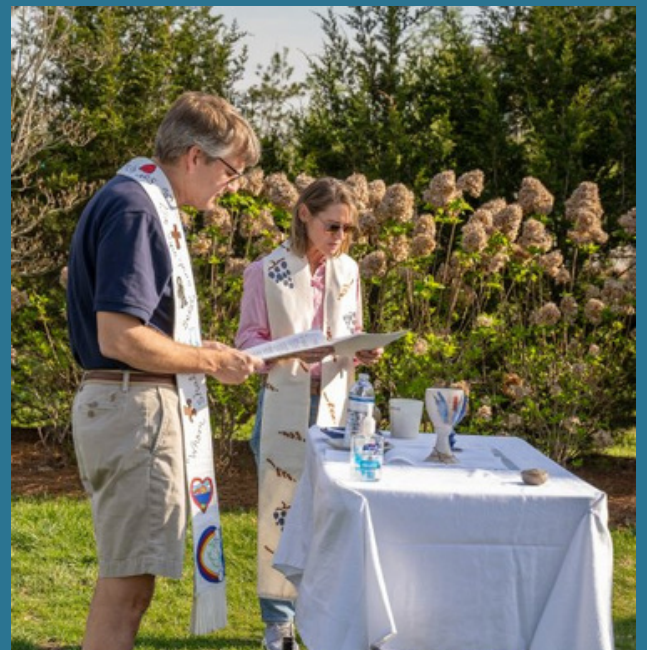
God's Peace—

Rusty+

# Annual Picnic



# Annual Picnic



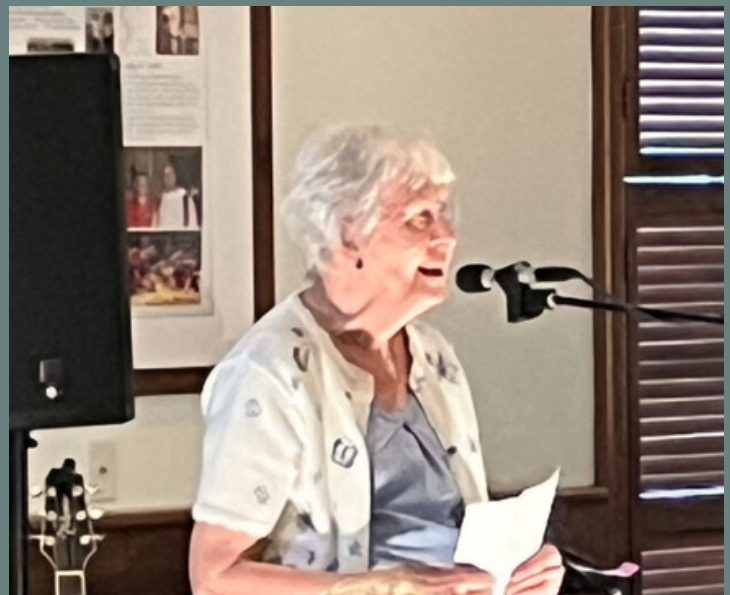
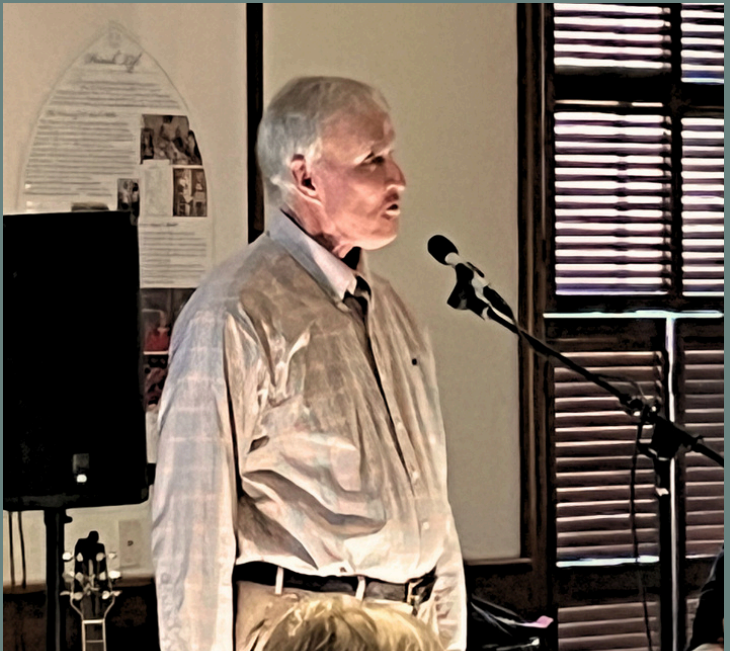
# BGA Visits St. Paul's Food Pantry

Battle Ground Academy's Kindergarten class visited St. Paul's to learn about our food pantries. After a brief talk and Q&A, they went to the pantry and each made a donation. Afterwards they walked by The Little Pantry on their way back to school. The school also made a donation in addition to the items the children brought.





# Talent Show



# Talent Show



# Talent Show

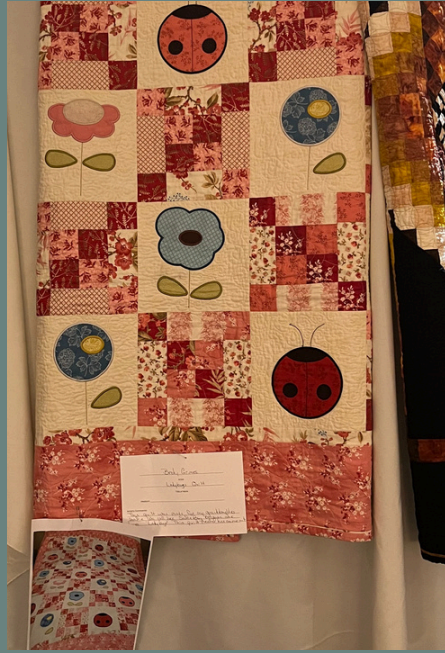


# Talent Show

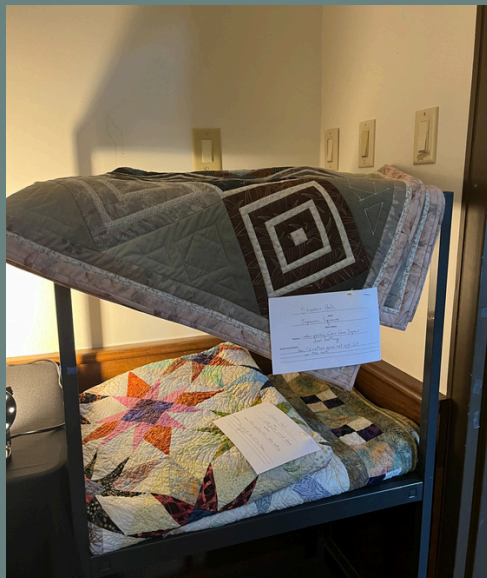
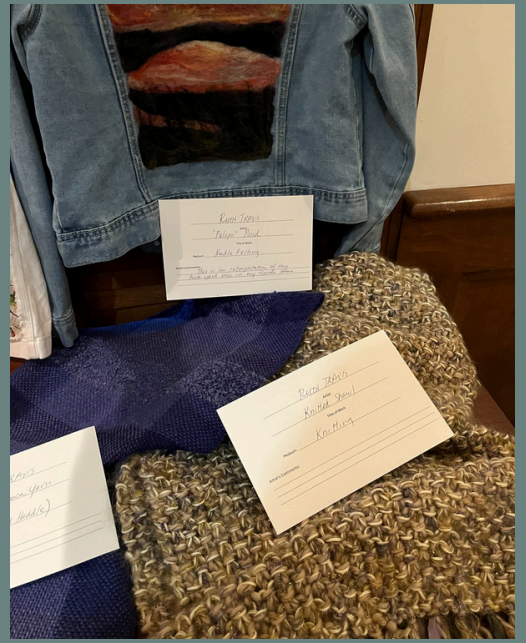
This year's talent show also featured many works of art members of our congregation created. Otey Hall was lined with paintings, quilts, other textile arts. Thank you to all who participated.



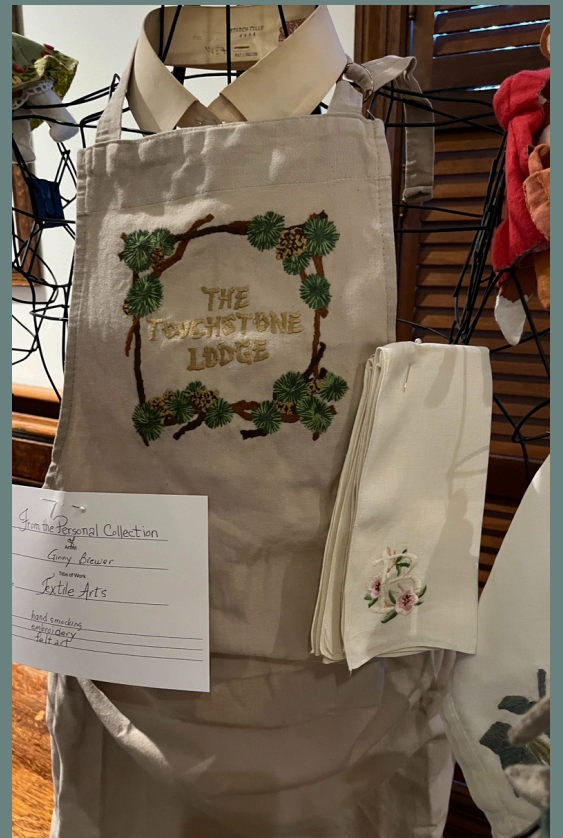
# Talent Show



# Talent Show



# Talent Show



## First Friday Taize Services

Friday, May 3rd at 6 pm is the kickoff service of St Paul's First Friday Taize services.

Taize services are held the first Friday of each month at 6 pm. The service is a music, scripture and meditative candlelight prayer service, lasting approximately one hour. Professional instrumentalists accompany the repetitive chant style songs and volunteers officiate leading the service and readings.

The dates for the remainder of 2024 are:

- May 3
- June 7
- July 5
- August 2
- September 6
- October 4
- November 1
- December 6

If you desire to join St Paul's Taize Guild please contact Ginny Brewer.  
[vgbrewer@gmail.com](mailto:vgbrewer@gmail.com) or 435-602-9148.





## Bad Girls Book Club

The next meeting for The Bad Girls Book Club is Tuesday, May 28 in Founders Hall from 6:30 PM to approximately 8:00 PM. We will discuss *Winter Garden* by Kristen Hannah.

Please bring a light appetizer and/or a drink to share.



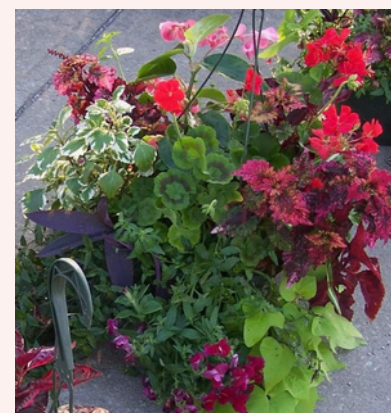
## Historic Tour of the Shiloh Battlefield

The Historic Committee is offering a wonderful opportunity to tour the Shiloh Battlefield with our very own Margaret Ann Horn as our tour guide on Friday, May 10th. We will tentatively leave St. Paul's around 8 am, enjoy a delicious lunch at the Catfish Hotel before exploring the nearby battlefield. We will return to St. Paul's around 5 pm. There are lodging options nearby, but if you are interested in taking a chartered van and going just for the day, the cost will be around \$115 per person and will be limited to the first 14 people to register.

If you are interested in taking the van, please contact [libby@stpaulsfranklin.com](mailto:libby@stpaulsfranklin.com) as soon as possible to reserve your spot!

## Women of St. Paul's Flower Sale

Once again the fern and flower sale was a great success! A huge thank you to Caroline Butler for her impressive, detailed organization and hard work. Thank you also to Sarah Karpie for sharing this wonderful project with us. And finally thank you to everyone who sold, bought, and volunteered! These funds will enable us to continue our mission supporting outreach, in reach, and historic preservation at St. Paul's.



## Packing Help Needed

The Move Committee needs help!! Over the next 6 weeks the Move Committee could use help packing items, moving lightweight items, and disassembling or taking down items off walls, so renovations can begin.

The fun will culminate in a Move Party on Saturday June 8th starting at 9:00 am. We will move lightweight items from offices in the main building across the street to Barnabas. Then movers will come on June 10th to move all heavy items.

Please take a look at the signup genius and see where you can help:

<https://bit.ly/sp-move>

Thank you!!



# Week of Wonder

## Week of Wonder - VBS 2024

We're all abuzz around here planning for the Week of Wonder, which will take place at Jim Warren Park June 17-20th. We are taking advantage of our outdoor space to explore God's creation and learn from flowers and bees how to work together to realize God's dream!

Register Here: <https://www.stpaulsfranklin.com/vbs/>

St. Paul's V.Bee.S. is geared toward children who are 3 years old through rising 4th graders. Children who are entering 5th grade or older are encouraged to register as volunteers and helpers. We need plenty of adults, too!

Volunteers can register here: <https://www.stpaulsfranklin.com/vbs-volunteers/>

Just like the bees, butterflies, and plants we'll be studying, we will all work together to create a beautiful Week of Wonder world!

Contact [libby@stpaulsfranklin.com](mailto:libby@stpaulsfranklin.com) if you have any questions.



## Youth Sunday

May 12 is Youth Sunday! The youth will be leading the 8:45 and 11:00 services in various roles. If you are in 6th through 12th grade and would like to participate please sign up for a role at one or both of the services!

<https://bit.ly/youth-sunday-2024>

## Attention Graduates!

We will also be celebrating graduates from high school, college, or graduate programs. If you are graduating and would like to be recognized, please fill out the following Google Form or email Brett Smith at [brett@stpaulsfranklin.com](mailto:brett@stpaulsfranklin.com).

<https://forms.gle/sa8UZeRrrbNPMInH7>



St. Paul's Brett Smith with the Bishop and other members of the Youth Committee of the Diocese.

## Parish Outreach - Love Thy Neighbor

St. Paul's is beginning a partnership with United4Hope, an organization dedicated to connecting churches and public schools to help students thrive and communities be transformed. Currently, there are 122 churches successfully partnered with 77 schools in Nashville and Franklin.



We will be supporting a few schools in our neighborhood throughout the year, beginning with Franklin Elementary. We're seeking volunteers to help with two events.

For Franklin Elementary's Spring Field Day for 1st through 4th graders on Friday, May 10th we need 7-10 volunteers to help from 8:30 a.m. to noon and 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

For an end-of-school-year Teacher Appreciation event on Friday, May 24th we'll be preparing box lunches for 73 teachers the morning of May 24th. We'll purchase all supplies so just need help making sandwiches and assembling the meals.

Volunteers will need to register and attend one hour of online training over the next few weeks and a background check will also be done. Once completed, volunteers can help with any future projects.

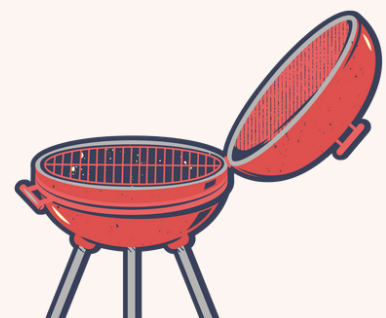
If you're interested or have any questions, please contact Pat McCracken at [pat@newleafpartners.com](mailto:pat@newleafpartners.com) or 615-351-1113, or Laura McCown at [lmccown17@gmail.com](mailto:lmccown17@gmail.com) or 205-601-6959.

## Spring Street

Thank you to all the volunteers who cooked, served, cleaned up, and supported bingo. We had a great time!

Our cookout on May 23 will be our last gathering before the summer break.

We are starting to plan for our gatherings in Barnabus starting in September during construction. It will be different, but everyone agrees that the important thing is to get together!



The Outreach Committee of St. Paul's Church functions to serve nonprofit organizations. Its vision is to share God's Grace with those in need in Williamson County. The mission of the Outreach Committee is to embrace community services in Williamson County dedicated to encouraging and advancing development in all people towards their fullest potential, and it is the intent of the committee to assist our church community in sharing God's grace outward into our wider community, participating, donating and encouraging people and the organizations addressing their needs. We intend to promote existing initiatives in our church and continue the conversation within our church community on what we can do for our neighbors in the fulfillment of our Christian duty.

The Outreach Committee would like to thank the parishioners of St. Paul's for entrusting us with such a labor of love. Your financial support is making a difference in the lives of so many people. You are only the reason we can do this, thank you! And, to that effect, we would like to make all aware of exactly who you are helping in our community. So, each month, we would like to share a few of them so you might be able to see and support these organizations.



**Oak Cottage**  
for women

Oak Cottage for Women is a nonprofit in Franklin that provides a residential home for formerly incarcerated women allowing them to re-enter society as productive citizens. Entering this program, the residents have literally the clothes on their backs and few possessions.

Oak Cottage supplies not only shelter and food, but also transportation, counseling, spiritual guidance and life skills. All women must be gainfully employed, participate fully in the program and pay rent each month. Approved by the Tennessee Dept. of Corrections, there have been 41 graduates of the program since it's beginning in 2020 and there is a recidivism rate of 10%. The Franklin Trolley provides almost all the transportation needs of the participants and it costs \$1,300 a month. The Outreach Committee gave \$2,600 to cover the cost of two months of trolley tickets. To learn more about this amazing nonprofit we encourage you to check out their website at [oakcottage.org](http://oakcottage.org) and find a way to participate in changing the lives of women in our community.

Our committee meets the third Tuesday of each month and is always eager to learn from church members about groups in Williamson County that can use our church's extra hand up. Our best nonprofits are found through our parish! If you have any thoughts or suggestions about organizations, please contact Monna Mayhall at [monna@stpauls.com](mailto:monna@stpauls.com) or any other members on the committee: Will Boggs, Jim Miller, Judy Stockton, Fred Warner, Sheila Morreale, Spencer Dibble and Angela Lassiter.

# Stephen Ministry

*The gifts God gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some ministers, and teachers, (some Stephen Ministers), to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ. (Ephesians 4:11-13)*

There are periods when one feels empty or broken-hearted, or times when there are too many questions and not enough answers. The help of a Stephen Minister may be part of the answers. We are not the solution, but we can be the sounding board for your inner thoughts and search for direction. We can walk with you in search for answers.

A Stephen Minister is a layperson who will provide one-to-one Christian care to confused or hurting people in St. Paul's and the community. Look over the list of needs for care. Are there people with needs described? Yes, there are many people who have these needs. You or someone you know may be one of them.

Please take a moment to reach out to us. Your information is confidential. Our contact with the care receiver is confidential. And the care by the Stephen Minister is confidential. We know that people in need of care suffer alone and may slip through the cracks. The Priests and congregation may not have the means or capacity to reach out to hurting people long term. This is why St. Paul's has a Stephen Ministries program. When necessary, we can be there for the long haul.

If you know of a situation where we might help, please contact Rusty or Monna, call the Church Office (615-790-0527), leave a confidential email ([sm@stpaulsfranklin.com](mailto:sm@stpaulsfranklin.com)) or contact one of the Stephen Ministers below.

Marcia Wilkinson and Carol Waters, Stephen Ministry Leaders

Barbara Green	Becky Farmer	George Bishop
Jean Larson	Scott Faulkner	Vicki Carlisle
Kelly Pitsenberger	Jan Abstein	Sam Barcus
Heather Bottoms	Chris Oberholtzer	Sharmila Patel
Donna Thomas	Elizabeth Tyer	



## **Needs for Care That Stephen Ministers Can Meet**

- Those who are grieving the loss of a loved one
- People who are hospitalized
- People being treated for cancer -- and members of their families
- Individuals who are terminally ill -- and members of their families
- People who are experiencing divorce (before, during, and after)
- Parents who have children leaving home for the military, college, marriage, or work in another geographical area
- New congregation or community members who are experiencing transition difficulties
- Parents and families with children who have disabilities
- People recovering at home or in a rehabilitation facility after an illness or injury
- Those who are homebound or reside in an assisted living facility or a nursing care center
- Family members of someone (nearby or far away) who is homebound or resides in an assisted living facility or a nursing care center
- People with a chronic illness or a long-term disability-and their primary caregivers
- People facing birth-related issues such as infertility, adoption, an unplanned pregnancy, or the birth of a child
- People who have lost their jobs or had some other significant financial setback
- People experiencing significant job-related stress
- Family members of deployed military personnel
- People in the process of downsizing to a smaller home, moving into an assisted living situation, or changing their living arrangements in some other way
- People who are preparing to retire, who have recently retired, or who have been forced to retire early
- People affected by disasters or violence
- People experiencing spiritual crisis
- People with other critical needs or major life transitions that you know about



## Join St. Paul's Bicentennial Society

With only four years left until St. Paul's 200th birthday, please consider joining the Bicentennial Society by making a donation of \$1,000, payable on a schedule of your choosing between now and 2027.

Funding from the Bicentennial Society supports our mission of preserving our past, and securing our future by supporting various projects and events that are not provided for in St. Paul's annual budget. As a member, you will play an important role in these endeavors.

**Education:** St. Paul's recently hosted a History Symposium on the establishment of the early churches in the city of Franklin. This symposium, open to the entire community, was the first of a series of events to both educate and unite our local faith communities. The Bicentennial Society has also helped create the history panels on display in Otey Hall and the self-guided tour brochures of our historic nave.

**Preservation:** The Bicentennial Society has helped catalogue our historic documents and photographs now maintained at the Williamson County Archives, and will soon undertake the restoration of the broken tombstone of Bishop Otey's son at the front entrance of the church.

Presently, the society is helping with the repair of the historic wooded louvers above the front doors of St. Paul's. Keeping the historic parts of our church in good repair is a key goal for the Bicentennial Society.

**Celebration:** Your membership will also support the many events currently in the planning stages for 2027. When the Bicentennial Society was established in 2017, one of the primary goals was to raise funds to support church-wide and community celebrations without straining the annual operating budget of the church.

Please consider joining the Bicentennial Society and play an important role in the Education, Preservation, and Celebration of St. Paul's.

Gratefully,

Jay Fahey and Libby Sullivan, Bicentennial Co-chairs

# Corner Gift Shop

## Historic Committee Products

Stop by the Corner Gift Shop to pick up some items from the historic committee.



# Corner Gift Shop



## Ushers For All Services Needed

If you are interested in being an usher for one of our Sunday services, please let us know by contacting the office (shannon@stpaulsfranklin.com). A training class will be offered on what to expect and how to handle each situation.

## Holy Eucharistic Visits

If you would like Holy Communion brought to you, please let us know, and we can schedule a time for someone to visit you. For questions or if you would like to schedule a Eucharistic Visit, you can contact Monna Mayhall at monna@stpaulsfranklin.com or 615-790-0527.



## Altar Flower Sign-Ups

If you would like to sign-up to memorialize, honor, celebrate or thank a special person(s) with Altar Flowers, please sign up on the date of your preference by signing up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0c48abad2fa0f58-altar>. We will also have a list hanging on the Church Bulletin board if you prefer to sign up that way.

## The Lord's Lift

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 will need a ride. If you can offer a ride to someone to church on Sunday, contact the church office to be placed on a Sunday Rotation Schedule. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Shannon at 615-790-0527 or shannon@stpaulsfranklin.com.

## Recycling



We need the help of parishioners who would be willing to take a blue bag with them to recycle with their own household recyclables when they come to church. Paper is collected in the large, gray bin in the workroom next to Shannon's office and there is a large, green bin for glass in Otey kitchen. For more information, please contact Shannon or any member of the recycling committee. St. Paul's and the environment are grateful for your help.

## Financial Performance for the month of March 2024

**March Summary:** One quarter through the year and the parish continues to perform better than expected, though March was negative month financially speaking.

**Revenues:** March collections were 12.5% under expectations, in both pledging and cash in plate were both ahead of expectations. Overall, pledging continues to slightly outpace expectations through 3 months.

**Expenses:** Expenses were over budget, but only by 1.1%. Essentially, expenses came in where they were anticipated to be, but there are some large swings in these numbers: 1) Music Ministry continues to be over budget for the year by \$5,900. 2) Property Maintenance is over budget by nearly \$10,000. Offsetting this is the one-time crediting of insurance proceeds to pay for damage to Barnabas.

**Overall:** The parish is still performing well through the first three months of 2024, but the expense budget bears watching moving forward.



Item	March 2024				Year to Date to March 2024			
	A	B	C (A-B)	D (A/B-1)	E	F	G (E-F)	H (E/F-1)
	Actual	Budget	Monthly Variance - Positive / (Negative)		Actual YTD	Budget YTD	YTD Variance - Positive / (Negative)	
<b>Revenues</b>								
Pledges & Cash in Plate	\$70,899	\$81,055	(\$10,156)	-12.5%	\$414,318	\$411,395	\$2,923	0.7%
Other Income	\$693	\$542	\$151	27.9%	\$1,206	\$1,625	(\$419)	100.0%
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$71,592</b>	<b>\$81,597</b>	<b>(\$10,005)</b>	<b>-12.3%</b>	<b>\$415,524</b>	<b>\$413,020</b>	<b>\$2,504</b>	<b>0.6%</b>
<b>Expenses</b>								
Personnel	\$58,627	\$55,350	\$3,277	5.9%	\$165,300	\$166,250	(\$950)	-0.6%
Operating Expenses	\$38,458	\$42,852	(\$4,394)	-10.3%	\$83,898	\$123,257	(\$39,358)	-31.9%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$97,085</b>	<b>\$98,202</b>	<b>(\$1,117)</b>	<b>-1.1%</b>	<b>\$249,198</b>	<b>\$289,506</b>	<b>(\$40,308)</b>	<b>-13.9%</b>
<b>Net Operating Income</b>	<b>(\$25,494)</b>	<b>(\$16,606)</b>	<b>(\$8,888)</b>		<b>\$166,326</b>	<b>\$123,514</b>	<b>\$42,812</b>	
<b>Non-Budgeted Rev. &amp; Exp.(Net)</b>	<b>\$10,866</b>				<b>(\$8,925)</b>			
<b>Total Parish Performance</b>	<b>(\$14,627)</b>				<b>\$157,400</b>			

# May Birthdays

- 1 Laurie Austin, Suzanne Robertson, Nic Parmer, Robert Walter
- 2 Marida Stearns, Matthew Riddle, Jim Haddon
- 3 Dylan Paschal
- 4 Linda Wesson, David Zegley, Alston Tyer, Emily Peters, Kent Burnside
- 5 David Rogers, Genevieve DeRosia
- 6 Emerson Cook, Wyatt Dees
- 7 Josey Messina, Wyatt Anderson, Tiffany Sugalski
- 8 Sarah Ingram, Patrick Gilchrist, Louis Pirtle
- 9 Wendy Heard, Murray Huber, Juliette Blackwelder
- 11 Alex Wilkerson, Judith Walter, Ann Martin
- 12 Elizabeth Morrow, Avery Tyer, Virginia Such
- 13 Susan Nance, Mary Eloise Austin
- 14 Bob Broenen
- 15 Stephanie McCormick, Grayson Garner, Mickey Trailov, Will Riddle,  
Larry Morrisett
- 17 Sarah Butler, Katie Gilchrist, George Renaudin
- 18 Jennifer Lloyd
- 19 Elliott Paris
- 21 Eddie Phillips, Mimi Grant, Paige Poole
- 22 Artie Bobo, Noah Mayhew, Rebekah Brown, Rick Leet, Blake Hogan
- 23 Carolyn Loeffel, Carla Myers, Lucinda Dyer
- 24 Sarah Webster, Bennett Chew, Ellen Hart, Robert Pitt
- 25 Angela Curtiss, Bill Muir, Beth Sheller, Marty Sutherland,  
David Crumpton, Mary Hill
- 26 Kristy Williams, Jeff Bailey
- 27 Stuart Saylor, Samuel Chew, Maria McPherson, Rusty Culp
- 28 Kathy Miller
- 29 Wayne Senseney
- 30 Bea Thurman
- 31 Catherine Gain, Inez Rice, Cynthia Keiser

## May Anniversaries

- 5 Mary Kate & Bill Brandon
- 6 Lois & Huba Nagy
- 8 Elizabeth & Phil Pace
- 14 Paris & Allen Henry
- 14 Joan & Jason Bowles
- 15 Natalie & Philip Pratt
- 16 Caroline & Bo Butler
- 16 Christine & Luke Pototschnik
- 17 Kathy & Dewees Berry
- 18 Lauren & Will Jordan
- 20 Debbie & John Brake
- 20 Maria & Nelson Williams
- 20 Jonathan & Kristin Schmitter-Webster
- 22 Sam & Brad Williams
- 24 Chloe & Paul Hannah
- 26 Vicki & Jim Ramsey
- 29 Alice & Curtis Finn
- 29 Mindy & Will Boggs
- 31 Julia High & David AustinDoug

## Baptisms

Jake Martini

# Condolences to

Ann Denson in the death of her brother, Scott Thomas Denson

