

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Franklin, TN
Vestry Minutes
March 24, 2025

Attendees: Bruce Theobald, Ann Denson, Jim Miller, Chris Oberholtzer, Melissa Montero, Paul Hannah, Spencer Dibble, Jonathan Webster, Larry Whitlock, Mindy Boggs, Angela Lassiter. *Absent: Holly Spain*

Staff: Rusty McCown, Monna Mayhall, Michael Walters Young, Libby Sullivan, Donna Stokes-Rogers

Call to Order: 5:30pm

Opening Prayer: Rusty McCown

Approval of Minutes: Rusty made a motion to approve minutes as written. Bruce seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Melissa introduced herself as she missed the retreat.

Financials: *Michael Walters Young*

February Summary: Two months into the fiscal year and the parish remains where it wants to be - in an incredibly strong financial position.

Revenues: Cash-In-Plate and pledgin remain very strong. Cash-in-Plate through two months is double the anticipated budget, and pledging for the month of Ferbaury was nearly \$25,000 more than the anticipated budget. Taking into account the regular monthly pledges received, the parish has raised 36% of all of its expected income for the year - in one month.

Expenses: Expenses were more than \$11,000 under budget for the month, and are nearly \$8,000 under budget for the year-to-date. While Personnel costs are nearly right on budget, the parish has lower insurance and outreach expenses than anticipated (Insurance received a reimbursement for the now canceled premium for the former van owned by the parish). Music costs were higher than anticipated.

Overall: The parish starts the year over \$254,000 to the good.

Capital Campaign

- On time and on budget.
- Appliances have been ordered.

Larry made a motion to amend the budget for Brett Sullivan's salary to \$30,000 annually. Bruce seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Ann Denson made the following motion: *The Vestry of St. Paul's Episcopal Church hereby authorizes the Senior Warden, Paul Hannah, to sign Section 9, the Certificate of Authority, from the Charles Schwab Corporation allowing the Treasurer, Michael Walters Young, signatory access to act on behalf of St. Paul's for the investments held therein.* Spencer Dibble seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Staff Reports

Music and Creative Ministry- Donna Stokes-Rogers

- Maker's Table Tuesday meetings are turning out Blind Dates books for the Women of St. Paul's Fundraisers. Stop by and check them in Founders. Macrame and quilting projects are coming up soon.
- I am currently working with the children during Children's Chapel at 8:45 and 11:00 am services to teach our kids a song for Palm Sunday.
- One of St Paul's long-time members and choir rockstars, Iain Macpherson, got a new hip yesterday! He did great and is recouping at home today. In the meantime, you will see two returning faces to choir, Janet Flanagan and Josh Post, who are helping us out through Easter. And yes, it takes two people to make an Iain Mac.
- Adult Choir and Chamber Choir continue to rehearse for Sunday mornings, while also prepping for the Holy Week marathon! Extra services means extra music, and our choir is always up to the challenge.
- Handbell Choir is currently rehearsing in Founders Hall after the 11:00 service, as trying to use the sanctuary was just too chaotic with folks lingering and our traffic jam of the door leaving the church. This space suits us well, and you will hear them play the prelude on Sunday, April 6.

Youth Ministry-Brett Smith

EYG

Thank you to everyone who came out to and volunteered for the Pancake Supper!! We were able to raise \$1800 for the youth fund, and our beignet mix and frozen hashbrown casseroles are still for sale! An extra special thanks to the MSOP for paying for food and letting us use their griddles to cook outside this year! And infinite thanks to Donna Stokes-Rogers for cooking king cakes, creating a delicious beignet recipe, and keeping the serving trays full of delicious pancakes!

To close out Spring Break, two of our youth and three youth volunteers joined CITY in serving lunch on March 16. It was a great experience to be a part of such an impactful ministry! We will return to having regular EYG on March 23.

The EYG Spring Retreat is scheduled for April 4-6, however only 3 students are registered. If more youth do not register by the deadline of March 23, I may make the tough decision to cancel. The venue is free and no deposits have been made for transportation so we will not lose any funds.

Young Adults

The young adults have a full calendar again this month with trivia nights, an Escape Room night, and a March Madness bracket challenge

Children's Ministry - Libby Sullivan

It's time to bring in Easter eggs and candy for the Easter Egg hunt! Please bring your new or used plastic eggs and peanut free candy to Barnabas or hand them to me on Sundays by April 13th. The actual hunt will be on Easter Sunday at 10 am.

Monna and I are hosting Communion Class for children and their families on Tuesday, April 15th from 5:30-7 pm. The class is for children 5 or older who are curious about communion or even want a refresher. We will have the nursery available for younger siblings. Folks who are interested can email me to sign up.

May's Gathering for Good at the Nashville Sounds is Thursday, May 8th

at 6:35 pm. We hope you will join us for a fun night at the ballpark as the Sounds take on the Norfolk Tides.

Tickets are \$20-please email me to reserve your spot!

Associate Rector - Monna Mayhall

PASTORAL CARE

Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministry meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month, with the 2 different groups - a morning group and a late afternoon group. We have 15 Active Stephen Ministers, with 13 of them currently having Care Receivers.

Grief Support Group at St. Paul's

Loss comes in all shapes and sizes. Grief of any kind, can feel very lonely, even when you have loved ones around. Sharing your sorrow with others who have experienced similar losses can help. The pain of grief can often cause you to want to withdraw from others and retreat into your shell. But having the face-to-face support of other people is vital to healing from loss. Even if you're not comfortable talking about your feelings under normal circumstances, it's important to express them when you're grieving. Comfort can also come from just being around others who care about you. The key is not to isolate yourself.

There are 7 people who will continue to help rotate as facilitators with the Grief Group at St. Paul's. We continue to have good turnout for the morning group, but have decided to cancel the evening group for now. The Grief Support Group is open to anyone and meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month from 9:00 am-10:00 am.

Ash Wednesday – Ashes to Go

On Ash Wednesday, we were able to minister to 10 people who were unable to come to church to receive Ashes or Holy Eucharist.

PARISH LIFE

WITS

For March and April, WITS (Women in Theological Study) has been offering a series on the book "Freeing Jesus," by Diana Butler Bass. Freeing Jesus is an invitation to leave the religious wars behind and rediscover Jesus in all his many manifestations, to experience Jesus beyond the narrow confines we have built around him. It renews our hope in faith and worship at a time when we need it most.

PARISH LIFE

Holy Hikes

Holy Hikes-Middle Tennessee offered a hike at Preservation Park in Thompson Station on

Saturday, March 22 at 9:00 am - weather permitted!

OUTREACH

Spring Street

February Spring Street was great hit with Black History Celebration and wonderful meal prepared and provided by a team of Men of St. Paul's. Jackie King and her crew continue to do a great job of navigating new space and coordinating all things.

Birthday Outreach Ministry

If you like a party, and if you have a heart for visiting people, then we have an opportunity for you that combines the two. On the 2nd Tuesday of every month, join with parishioners to visit Charter Senior Living of Franklin, to celebrate the birthdays of the Charter residents for that month. We will plan to meet there from 12:40-1:30 pm giving us a chance to visit with residents, and eat cake too! It has been a great event for Charter, and for the St. Paul's Volunteers as well. We have had 3 parties, so far, and each with about 5-6 volunteers from St. Paul's.

Outreach Committee

With Jim Miller becoming Junior Warden, and rolling off of Outreach Committee, we have asked Mark Rohde to serve on the committee. He has kindly accepted and is ready to help however needed. (Mark and his wife Lori, attend the 8:45 am service.)

Listing of Funds recently distributed:

21st

District Recovery Court \$800

The Well Outreach (Jetpacks for 12 children). \$2700

Rectors Report - Rusty McCown

- Lenten Series "Sensing the Gospels" is going well
- Seekers class has started. As of today, we have 13 to be confirmed, 2 received, 3 discerning
- Newcomers dinner is April 3rd
- Holy Week begins April 13 with Palm Sunday
- Parish Picnic April 27th
- Bishop's visit is May 25th (memorial day weekend)
- Capital Campaign: letters send out with opportunities to give to capital campaign The Advanced Gifts committee identified 55 people to be contacted. 22 pledges have been received to date, with 4 being new members.
- The information session for the capital campaign was successful. Ann Denson suggested we have a short information session in Founders for new members.

Senior Warden - Paul Hannah

- Paul thanked everyone for putting our trust in him.
- We are blessed to be on time and on budget for the Building Project.
- He is excited about the work that was done at the vestry retreat.

Junior Warden - Jim Miller

- New HVAC units have been purchased from Trane. Rosco Brown will install.
- Merryman Farr will be asked if we can extend the warranty for our HVAC units

Committee Reports

Parish Life: Mindy Boggs

Parish Picnic will be at 4:30 , April 27th, at Berry Farms Pavillion. We are praying for good weather!

Communications: Ann Denson

A motion was made by Melissa Montero concerning the General Communications Policy:

The Vestry of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Franklin, TN, authorizes the Rector, Senior Warden, and/or the Rector's designees, as the primary contact for any/all media *inquiries or statements. The Rector alone (and/or/ his/her designees) has **sole authority** to make public statements to media* on behalf of St. Paul's Episcopal Church regarding matters of Church policy, including Church/Diocesan property, finances, and/ or the staff.

As related to promotions for St. Paul's events and ministries *via local* media, the Vestry authorizes that the Rector has final say re: any/all promotional statements. The specific ministry contacts &/or Parishioner(s) for said events are asked to fist check with the Rector before such promotions occur.

(*Media = including but not limited to print publications, electronic/internet outlets, TV/ broadcast &/or radio entities)

Chris Oberholtzer seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

Old Business: none

New Business: none

Closing Prayer: The Lords Prayer

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 6:35 pm

* April Vestry Meeting Tuesday, April 22, 2025 at 5:30 pm

