

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Franklin, TN
Vestry Minutes
September 22, 2025

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

Staff: Rusty McCown, Monna Mayhall, Donna Stokes-Rogers, Brett Sullivan, Libby Sullivan

Call to Order: 5:30pm

Opening Prayer: Rusty McCown

Approval of Minutes: Paul Hannah made a motion to approve as written, Larry Whitlock seconded, motion passed.

Financials-Michael Walters Young not in attendance, Rusty presented:

August Summary: August was supposed to be another summer month - more outflows than inflows. But whereas a large deficit was planned, strong pledging and lower expenses had the parish nearly breaking even for the month.

Revenues: Pledges were much higher than budgeted - by over \$28,000. CashIn-Plate came in where expected. For the year-to-date, the parish is 6.2% over expectations in collections

Expenses: Expenses were under the monthly budget by 10.9%. In personnel, lower than expected medical premiums result in the decrease. In operations, expenses were lower than expectations in two areas - utilities and outreach. The utility budget is nearly spent for water, electric and gas through the first 8 months of the year.

Overall: The parish budgeted for a \$39,333 but operationally ran a surplus of \$103. For the year, the parish remains \$64,443 to the good.

Capital Campaign:

We are entering the home stretch. We have (as of August 31) less than \$750,000 left in the capital account and we will be moving money from our investment accounts beginning in September, likely in \$500,000 tranches in September, October, and November as approved by the vestry. There is between \$2.2 and \$2.7M left in project expense as of the end of August, and our goal will be to maintain \$500,000 in cash available in project funds at the end of the calendar year. This will result in increasing the amount we borrow from the construction loan from 25% (which we have been at for the last 4 months) to 50% for the rest of the year. To date, we have used \$1,215,587.38 of the commercial loan of the \$3.5M allowed.

Staff Reports:

Music and Creative Ministries: *Donna Stokes-Rogers*

- Wonderful Rally Day Kick-off with Adult Choir returning.
- Makers Table has returned to our regular Tuesday morning meetings, 9-11:30 am each week.
- Children sang beautifully on Sunday! They will sing again in December.
- Next Choral event is All Saints Evensong service, Sunday, Nov. 2 at 6:00 pm with the Chamber Choir, where we will be honoring those who have passed in the last year.
- Advent Lessons and Carols service is set for Dec. 7, 6:00 pm.

Youth and Young Adults Ministry-*Brett Smith*

EYG

First, I am so excited to welcome Ashley Anderson into the role of youth intern! Ashley recently moved to Franklin from Charleston, SC and teaches dance for children ages 2 – 12. She is excited to get plugged into EYG as well as the young adults group!

EYG is in full swing! We had a great kick-off event full of water games and ice cream. 15 students attended, with the majority between 6th-9th grade. Our two EYG meetings since have been attended by 4 and 6 students. Of all the students who have attended an EYG event so far this year, 10 visited EYG for the first time! EYG will continue to meet most Sundays at 4:30, and serve with CITY the third Sunday of each month.

Christian Formation kicked off on the 14th as well! The theme, The Story of My Life, will take us through the book of Philippians to see how Jesus' story impacted the lives of early Christians. Robert Collins has agreed to participate in youth Christian Formation and is such a wonderful addition to the class!

In more big news, juniors and seniors will continue the biennial tradition of a St. Paul's Youth Pilgrimage! We will journey to Quebec June 8-14, 2026 with a guide from Wonder Voyage. We have an interest meeting on September 28 at 6pm, so if you know of any 11th or 12th graders who may be interested, spread the word! We need a minimum group of 10, and if we have not reached that number signed up by October 24, we will open registration to 10th grade. We will utilize car parks, car washes, and a letter writing campaign to friends, family, and St. Paul's groups to raise money for our trip.

Young Adults

The young adults had a wonderful first Dinner and Discussion evening, which we hope to develop into a young adults Christian Formation class in the spring. Each month Jess and Katherine have chosen three events, one soulful, one social, and one service as official young adults events. We also encourage the young adults to get involved with the Men and Women of St. Paul's groups as well as church-wide events. Our next event is volunteering with the Mens BBQ, followed by our second Dinner and Discussion night in October.

Children and Families: *Libby Sullivan*

Now that we have settled into the routines of a new school year, we have seen lots of families at church on Sunday mornings. We had a great Rally Day on September 7th, with lots of children at both 8:45 and 11 am services. The bounce house in the backyard of the Rectory was a big hit! Godly Play, our Christian Formation for children, returned on September 14th with 12 children participating.

Donna has been helping us learn a new song in Children' Chapel since the middle of August, and the children will share it with the congregation on Sunday, September 21st.

Children's Sunday is September 21st at both 8:45 and 11. We are looking forward to having the children serve as ushers, readers, and greeters!

As of now, we have 43 registered for our September Gathering for Good event, which is September 18th. We will have spaghetti and create tie dye projects!

Our next Gathering for Good is the Halloween Festival and Chili Cookoff on October 30th.

Childcare will be available in the conference room during the BBQ from 1-4 pm.

Associate Rector: *Monna Mayhall*

PASTORAL CARE

Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministry continues to provide pastoral care for several people. The Stephen Ministers meet 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 12 of them currently having Care Receivers. I am so grateful to Marcia Wilkinson and Carol Waters for coordinating this vital parish ministry.

Grief Support Group at St. Paul's

St. Paul's Grief Support Group continues to help people experiencing any kind of grief. There are 5 parishioners who rotate as facilitators with the Grief Group. We offer a morning group, open to anyone. It meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month from 9:00 am-10:00 am in the Barnabas Conference Room.

PARISH LIFE

WITS

WITS (Women in Theological Study), started back up last Thursday with a new study based on the book, "Holy Companions: Spiritual Practices from the Celtic Saints.

Holy Hikes

Holy Hikes-Middle Tennessee went to the Nashville Zoo last Saturday. While there were less than a dozen people, it was fun for everyone. Our next Holy Hike is planned for Saturday October 25.

OUTREACH

Spring Street

Spring Street ministry started back last Thursday with a bang. The room was jam-packed and everyone went home a winner! Everyone left with at least one BINGO prize, a full stomach, a to-go-meal of fried chicken with fixings, and 2 free BBQ tickets.

Birthday Outreach Ministry

On the 2nd Tuesday of every month, we continue to visit Charter Senior Living of Franklin, to celebrate the birthdays of the Charter residents for that month. We meet there from 12:40-1:30 pm giving us time to visit with residents. We have had 9 parties, so far, providing cake and ice cream. Each month, we have had about 5-6 volunteers from St. Paul's.

Outreach Committee

Listing of Funds recently distributed:

Tucker's House – Emma's Project \$7,000

FUMC – Meals on Wheels \$1,500 (Quarterly contribution)

Mercy Community Healthcare \$2,500

Gentry's Educational Foundation \$10,000

ST. PAUL'S PATHFINDERS - SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

Survey

As Senior Adult Ministry seeks to expand, we have posted a survey for people 55+ years old, as a way to get feedback as to how to design programming. The survey is available in hard copy or online.

Eldercare Coach with AgeWell Middle Tennessee

St. Paul's has officially entered into an Eldercare Coach Partnership Agreement with AgeWell Middle Tennessee. The agreement lasts for one year but can be terminated at anytime without consequence. AgeWell will provide the congregation with 2 educational sessions along with resources including AgeWell's Directory of Services and caregiving guidebooks. Each congregation will also have 10 individual Eldercare Coach Consultations. Congregations determine how those consultations will be used. Those services are provided as confidential, personalized care support for caregivers.

Rector-Rusty McCown

- Rusty thanked us for rescheduling, so he could enjoy his time in Yosemite.
- He has been asked to serve on the Bishop Search Committee, first meeting is next week. The first task is to put together a diocesan package. Hoping for a wide range of candidates. 15 on the committee and chaplain.
- Building project: Biggest issue is power. Permanent power needs to be on so certain artisans can come in and do that work. Furniture has been purchased.

Target dates:

- December 9th grand party kickoff, from 5-7:00. Bishop will be in attendance to bless the new building. 5:30 reception. Historial committee is taking this on.
- October 5th-Blessing of the Animals in front of Barnabas
- Gathering for Good October is trunk or treat

Senior Warden-Paul Hannah

- Vestry nominations will start soon. We will receive them in November and vote in December.
- Room at the Inn-4 showed up for training.

Junior Warden-Jim Miller, as presented by Rusty McCown

- Columbarium memorial garden meeting with architect soon.
- Stained glass windows above altar need to be fixed. Historial committee is aware and will be looking into it.

Committee reports:

- Parish Life-the idea of a “kitchen shower” for our new kitchen needs was discussed. Mindy will begin the conversation with Melissa and the organization/packing committee (Laura McCown, Debbie Whitlock, Carol Waters)
- Communications: Ann reported the Rally Day directory update with photos, new contact info went well.

Old Business - none

New Business-none

Closing Prayer-*The Lords Prayer*

Adjournment: 6:45 pm

**next meeting is Monday, October 20th, @5:30pm*

