

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Franklin, TN
Vestry Minutes
November 17, 2025

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

Absent: *Jonathan Webster, Holly Spain*

Staff: Rusty McCown, Monna Mayhall, Brett Sullivan, Libby Sullivan, Donna Stokes-Rogers, Michael Walters Young (financial advisor)

Call to Order: 5:30pm

Opening Prayer: Rusty McCown

Approval of Minutes: Bruce Theobald made a motion to approve minutes as corrected. Chris Oberholtzer seconded, motion passed.

Financials: *Michael Walters Young*

October Summary:

10 month through the year and the parish is performing better than expected, though the surplus is narrowing as we get closer to the end of the year.

Revenues: Pledges and cash-in-plate were again higher than expected, but only by 1.6%. For the year, we have collected nearly 94% of expected total cash-in-plate - with 2 months to go, and historically the largest collections.

Expenses: Expenses were slightly over budget in Personnel in Operations. In operations, expenses were higher in Music, Sexton Services (two months of bills) and Worship.

Overall: The parish budgeted for a \$22,312 loss but operationally ran a slight surplus due to the recognition of unrealized gains. For the year, the parish remains \$64,000 to the good.

Capital Campaign:

- All major bills should be expensed by January.
- \$500,000 will be kept local as a safety net as we see what might be needed.
- We will have borrowed close to 2 million when all is finished.

Finance Committee:

- Final adjustments are being made on the audit
- Calendar was reviewed with finance committee concerning next years budget. Committee will meet for approximately 2 hours to submit a budget for approval.
- Shannon is in the process of getting bids from insurance and vendors so we will have a good idea of our costs going forward.

Staff Reports

Children and Families: *Libby Sullivan*

- Thank you to everyone for another great Halloween Festival. The chili cookers, cake walk bakers, costume wearers, and party goers made for another great Gathering for Good.
- We had a really sweet morning at Godly Play on All Souls Day November 2nd. The children brought stories, photos, and favorite foods of loved ones we've lost. We lit candles in their honor, and shared a special meal together.
- The children have been learning a new song in Children's Chapel. We will share it with the congregation at the 8:45 service on December 7 and later that evening at Lessons and Carols at 6pm.
- Due to the move, we will have Advent Wreath making in Barnabas at 10 am on Sunday, November 30th. You can make a wreath while you enjoy some Biscuit Minute treats. If you need to reserve a to-go kit for pick up on December 1st or 2nd, email me: libby@stpaulsfranklin.com
- Pageant sign-ups will be posted on Sunday, November 30th. Practices will be held on the 14th and 21st of December at 10 am. Call time for children participating in the pageant is 3:30 on Christmas Eve. We are going back to having the pageant and Eucharist again-woohoo!
- I have created a couple of registries to update and replenish some of our toys for the new nursery.

Please visit our Amazon Wishlist

here: https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2ADBMAU3YSK72?ref_=wl_share or visit our Target Wishlist here: <https://www.target.com/gift-registry/gift/st-2>

Music and Creative Ministries: *Donna Stokes-Rogers*

- Makers Table continues to meet regularly on Tuesday morning meetings, 9-11:30 am each week. They are prepping new handmade items for the new Gift Shop.
- All Saints Evensong was well attended. The choir sang beautifully!
- Advent Lessons and Carols service is set for Dec. 7, 6:00 pm. I always ask some vestry members to be readers. Any volunteers? (Thank you, Ann. I have you down!)
- The Handbell Choir is on hiatus until January and looking forward to a dedicated rehearsal space after almost a decade of shuffling around.
- The children are working hard on their piece for Lessons and Carols during Children's Chapel each Sunday. Copious tears will fall when you hear them. They are precious.
- As soon as L and C is over, I will start working on Christmas Eve music with them.

Youth and Young Adults: *Brett Sullivan*

EYG

- This month we had two alumni, Maggie Gilchrist and Eliza Tyer, visit EYG to share about MTOP and the impact that being a MTOP camper and staffer has had on their lives.
- EYG youth also attended the All Saint's Evensong together.
- This past Sunday three of our youth attended the Diocesan Youth Event in Nashville where we packed 600 hygiene kits for Luke's House!
- Coming up we have our winter lock-in on December 20! Registration will open in December.

- In Christian Formation we will be switching gears in December to focus on Advent. We will wrap up our Philippians study in January and begin a Lenten series in February.
- Looking ahead to summer 2026, MTOP registration is open now through January 11! We also still have 3 youth spaces remaining for our youth Pilgrimage! If you know a junior or senior who is interested, encourage them to sign up by December 15.

Young Adults

- The young adults had a small group gather for a Friendsgiving dinner last week.
- This week we will meet for a game night.
- We are looking ahead and planning for a young adults Christian Formation class next semester!

Associate Pastor: *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 11 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

For November and December, WITS (Women in Theological Study), is offering a study series based on the book, "Homegrown Mystics: Restoring Our Nation with the Healing Wisdom of America's Visionaries" by Bruce Epperly. From Ralph Waldo Emerson to Maya Angelou and Emily Dickinson to Howard Thurman, America's large-spirited mystics can lead us through the challenges of pluralism and polarization. WITS meets on Thursdays from 9:30-11:00 am.

Holy Hikes

The next hike for Holy Hikes-Middle Tennessee is planned for Saturday November 22 at 9:00 am at Harpeth River Trail in Franklin. We are meeting at the intersection of 3rd Avenue N. and 5th Avenue N. - Bicentennial Park behind Tiny Donuts.

Pilgrimage to Holocaust Exhibit at Belmont

On Thursday November 20 at 2:30 pm, anyone is invited to join us to experience the Holocaust Exhibit currently hosted by Belmont. The Rev. Charlie Curb Center for Faith Leadership in cooperation with The United States Holocaust Museum present "Some Were Neighbors – Choice, Human Behavior, and The Holocaust." This exhibit explores the vast

difference in the ways ordinary people displayed great courage or willful complicity in the face of devastating violence during the rise of Hitler's Germany. Neighbors made choices. Some acted with bold courage, while others stood idle as friends, neighbors, and colleagues were victimized.

We will Meet in the lobby at 2:30 pm at Belmont University's Lila D. Bunch Library – 1907 Belmont Blvd – Nashville, TN. Dr. Jon Roebuck will offer some context for the exhibit, prior to us processing the exhibit. Following the exhibit, at 3:30 pm, there will be an opportunity to discuss and debrief. The exhibit is free, and open to the public.

OUTREACH

Spring Street

Spring Street ministry gathers this Thursday for the Thanksgiving Celebration. So many thanks to Jackie King and all the volunteers for navigating the fellowship and food for Spring Street for the past year in Barnabas.

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. It is hard to believe that we have had 11 parties, so far, providing cake and ice cream. We are an event on Charter's calendar, and the residents thank us each month.

Outreach Committee

During Stewardship Season, at Stewardship Minute (8:45/11:00), parishioners have gotten to hear from a few of the organizations that we have helped this year.

Listing of Funds recently distributed:

Davis House \$3,200

Kindred Spirits Farm \$4,000

ST. PAUL'S PATHFINDERS - SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

Melanie Lampertz and I recently met to discuss the results of the surveys we received. Larry Whitlock joined us in spirit. We charted a course, planning out 6 months of programming for Pathfinders – Senior Adult Ministry. The Programming consists of a mix of activities and events.

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's Report-Rusty McCown

- Newcomers dinner last week-over 20 in attendance
- Our fair share to the Diocese is 10% yearly. This year it is \$112,514. Larry Whitlock made a motion to give our fair share. Paul Hannah seconded. Motion passed.
- Delegates to convention: Rusty presented the candidates for approval: Ann Denson, Michael Walters Young, Jonathan Webster, and Paul Hannah. Bruce Theobald made a motion to accept these candidates. Melissa Montero seconded, motion passed.
- Memorial Garden: Chris Oberholtzer made a motion to work with Mike Hayes and associates on this project. Their bid was \$4567. Jim Miller seconded, motion passed.
- February 20-21st is the vestry retreat.

Committee Reports:

Communications:

Ann questioned how the Williamson Herald got the info for the Jared Sullivan book event to put in the paper. She is not complaining, but wondering about our process.

Christian Formation:

A discussion about possibly starting a young families group

Hospitality:

Melissa will hold a tutorial to introduce our new kitchen equipment. She will also inventory our kitchen supplies and see what else will be needed, possibly for a new kitchen "shower."

Larry Whitlock is happy to announce the food pantry is full! More requests for food are coming in, so this is much needed. Diapers and formula will be added to the needs list.

Senior Warden: Paul Hannah

- Vestry nominations were discussed. Please email Paul your numbers by Monday, Nov 24th.
- Paul thanked the vestry and staff for getting to the end of this year as well as we have.

Junior Warden-Jim Miller

See attached report

Jim recommends we go with Lee Co as our HVAC contractor. Bruce Theobald moved we accept the Lee bid, Chris Oberholtzer seconded. Motion passed.

November 2025

Junior Warden Report

The HVAC system was finally completed at the end of last month and is now operational. Some members of the staff and I were “trained” on the system – how it works, what are some of the options the system affords in terms of scheduling, etc. It was a good visit and the person from Trane was very receptive to a phone call or email in the future.

I have finally received pricing on the HVAC service contract from all 4 contractors I solicited for bids. The results were surprising:

Lee Company: \$4588

Roscoe Brown: \$6776

Trane: \$16,974

Merryman-Farr: \$18,600

I am waiting for two service contract customer references to respond with their experience with Lee Company but unless I hear terrible things, that is my recommendation for our service contract.

Shannon and I met with Mike Hudson (IT) and Brian Lemar from Solomon to go over wiring, doors, cameras, etc. This led to another meeting on the Otey Kitchen door and the Otey double doors. Otey Kitchen door will be replaced entirely. Otey double doors are being cleaned up and will have all new hardware installed including a handicap button inside and out. The other handicap button will be installed outside the reception door, which will also be a new single door with glass on either side of the door.

Rusty, Shannon, Susan and I met with a key company to go over our “strategy” for keying all the doors – how exciting!

As a result of the above meetings, there are additional card/FOB readers required, and a phone line will be ordered for the elevator and chair lift outside the Nave. The internet circuit for the building is installed and will be live this week. We are also looking into a solution for scheduling software so we can display the daily/weekly schedule on one or two TVs on the first floor.

Jim Miller

Old Business:

Ann hopes we will all attend the special author’s event

New Business: none

Closing Prayer-*The Lords Prayer*

Adjournment: *7:05pm*

next meeting is Monday, December 15th, @5:30pm followed by Christmas party at the rectory.