

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Franklin, TN
Vestry Minutes
December 15,, 2025

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

Staff: Rusty McCown, Monna Mayhall

Call to Order: 5:30pm

Opening Prayer: Rusty McCown

Approval of Minutes: Motion made to approve minutes as written. Motion passed.

Financials: *Michael Walters Young*

November Summary:

With one month to go the parish had a lower performance than expected in November, especially in revenues. Revenues: Pledges and cash-in-plate were lower than expected for the month of November, but still exceed year-to-date expectations. Cash-In-Plate has met the budget for the year a month early.

Expenses: Expenses were lower in Personnel and higher in operations but remarkably came in almost exactly on budget for the month of November.

The single largest expense increase was payments from Outreach.

Overall: With one month to go, the parish remains nearly \$70,000 ahead of expectations.

Capital Campaign:

- On track to pay all expenses in January
- More money was spent than our contingency allowed
- 237 pledging units in the Capital Campaign, we still need to collect money

Finance Committee:

- Budget process packets going out to staff
- Finance committee meets in January-budget will require some degree of amending as new building expenses are not completely known at this point.

Stewardship:

Stewardship met and exceeded the goal of \$1.2 million.

Although new people are pledging, we have not met our goal of pledging units yet

Staff Reports

Children and Families: *Libby Sullivan*

- We had a great turn out for making Advent wreaths on November 30th. Special thanks to our Biscuit Minute team for providing refreshments!

- I want to thank everyone who donated toys from our wishlist for the new nursery. Our beautiful new space is now well stocked with exciting things to do!
- Rehearsal for the Christmas Pageant takes place on Sunday, December 14th
- and December 21st at 10 am in the sanctuary. The pageant will take place on Christmas Eve at 4:30. Children participating in the pageant should arrive at 3:30 to rehearse, and parents are strongly encouraged to stay at that time to reserve their seat. We are so looking forward to having only one pageant again this year!

Music and Creative Ministries: *Donna Stokes-Rogers*

- Advent Lessons and Carols was magnificent! Well attended and the choir did a beautiful job. The children were precious. Thank you to all who attended.
- The Handbell Choir is looking forward to their new rehearsal space in the music suite near Otey Hall. We start rehearsing Feb. 10.
- The choir is gearing up for "A Baroque Christmas" on Christmas Eve at 10:30 pm. with music by Vivaldi, Bach, and Buxtehude.
- The Makers Table will be setting up their creations in the new gift shop as soon as we are able. Plenty of Christmas bounty for everyone!

Youth and Young Adults: *Brett Sullivan*

EYG

- The youth winter lock-in is on December 20th and we expect to have about 15 students! We are going rockclimbing, caroling, playing Grog, and watching a Christmas movie!
- Pilgrimage is officially open to ALL high school students and the final registration deadline is January 23! If you have a 9th-12th grader in your life, please encourage them to join us in Canada this summer! We need 5 more people to register to keep our group flight reservations!
- Mountain TOP registration is also open through January 11! We will once again be joined by our friends from Marysville United Methodist Church in Marysville, Michigan!
- All college students are invited to a reunion dinner at Brett's home on December 23rd!

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. They gathered for a Holiday Gathering last week.

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 10:00 -11:00 am in the Barnabas Conference Room for now. The time changed this month.

PARISH LIFE

WITS

For December, WITS (Women in Theological Study), met only one time to finish up the series based on the book, "Homegrown Mystics: Restoring Our Nation with the Healing Wisdom of America's Visionaries" by Bruce Epperly. WITS will resume meeting in January with a book swap – they cannot wait to find a new space on meets on Thursdays from 9:30-11:00 am.

Holy Hikes

Holy Hikes-Middle Tennessee is taking a break until January or February. November hike at Bicentennial Park went well with perfect weather.

OUTREACH

Spring Street

Spring Street ministry gathers this Thursday for the Christmas Celebration. We will give out the Red/Green Christmas bags along with a \$50 Kroger Gift Card. 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 12 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

Listing of Funds recently distributed:

Meals on Wheels \$1,500 (Quarterly Contribution)

St. Paul's Food Pantry \$500 (Quarterly Contribution)

High Hopes \$5,000

One Gen Away \$5,000

GraceWorks \$3,000

Freedom Reigns Ranch \$2,000

Rusty's Discretionary Fund \$1,500

Monna's Discretionary Fund \$1,500

ST. PAUL'S PATHFINDERS - SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

Pathfinders – Senior Adult Ministry gathers tomorrow – Tuesday December 16 for a Holiday Lunch/Music Program. Members of our Adult Choir are offering holiday music for all to enjoy.

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*

- We are moved in!
- Thank you for making the celebration a successful, joyful occasion. Special thank you to the Nickerson's for storing all our stuff-so much stuff!
- New tables will be replaced due to their weight
- Memorial garden committee getting together first of the year to start process
- Bishop search continues
- Renewal Works: Steve Thompson will head up this project. The kick off will begin after the vestry retreat at Henry Horton February 20-22nd.
- Ann Denson and Larry Whitlock have agreed to count the Christmas money the Sunday after Christmas, Dec. 28th
- Epiphany brunch is January 4th in Otey
- Diocesan Convention is January 23rd
- Annual Meeting is January 25th

Senior Warden: *Paul Hannah*

Vestry nominees are: Marty Karpie, Jenna Martin, Mark Tumblin, and Jim Lambert

Junior Warden: *Jim Miller*

- New building project not finished yet-lots of activity still and for some time.
- We are receiving bids from 4 different vendors for cleaning services. Prices are all similar. Jim will send out an email with his choice for us to vote on before next month.
- Kitchen door has been replaced.
- New locks are being installed. They are quite sophisticated, with face recognition!

Committee Reports:

Hospitality-*Melissa Montero*

Needs of new kitchen will be listed at a later point

New Business:

The reception area of our new building will be staffed by volunteers who will work 3 hour shifts. This will be set up shortly.

Old Business: none

Closing Prayer-*The Lords Prayer*

Adjournment: 6:30,pm. Adjournment to the Rectory for Christmas celebration.

*next meeting is **Tuesday**, January 20th at 5:30pm in upstairs conference room. Note the date change due to MLK day.