

# St. Paul's Episcopal Church

## Annual Report 2026











## **The Mission of St. Paul's Episcopal Church:**

To proclaim the Good News  
of Jesus Christ and care for all.

## **The Vision of St. Paul's Episcopal Church:**

St. Paul's is a church where:

- Through our doors, we welcome all into fellowship with Christ and one another, and we go out to serve the community.
- We challenge one another to engage in a ministry.
- We help one another use our God-given gifts and talents.
- We support one another in those ministries to which we are called.
- We commit time and financial resources to accomplish our mission.



# St. Paul's Staff and Vestry

## CLERGY AND STAFF

The Rev. W. R. "Rusty" McCown, *Rector*  
The Rev. Ann Van Dervoort, *Retired Priest*  
Shannon Buttrey, *Parish Administrator*  
Libby Sullivan, *Children's Minister*  
Paula Sherman, *Communications*

The Rev. Monna Mayhall, *Associate Rector*  
Donna Stokes-Rogers, *Music Minister*  
Holli Scholtz, *Organist*  
Kristy Moore, *Finance Manager*  
Maggie Gilchrist, *Nursery Coordinator*

## VESTRY

### Serving through 2025

Mindy Boggs  
Paul Hannah  
Holly Spain  
Bruce Theobald

### Serving through 2026

Ann Denson  
Angela Lassiter  
Chris Oberholtzer  
Larry Whitlock

### Serving through 2027

Spencer Dibble  
Jim Miller  
Melissa Montero  
Jonathan Webster

### Treasurer

Michael Walters Young





# Report From The Rector



I think it goes without saying, but 2025 was one of the busiest and most fruitful years in the recent memory of St. Paul's. But even in the midst of the various changes in our parish, we continued to keep to our goal of worshipping Jesus and providing for our community.

Obviously, the biggest event this past year was moving into our newly renovated and enlarged building. Already we are seeing how the expansion is helping our many ministries. I hope that you agree with me that the building turned out to be beautiful, both inside and out.

The evening of our opening was magical. Having Bishop John here to bless our space and celebrate with us was wonderful as well as having so many of our folks here to give thanks. It was truly a dream come true. I hope you were able to attend.

There were and are so many parishioners to thank for their holy work in getting our building ready. I was able to touch on this at the opening but again, let me simply say "thank you" for making it all happen. I will thank one person again — Susan Miller. Her dedication to this project was a true Godsend. We can never thank her enough.

I also want to thank the leadership of the parish and, in particular, Jim Miller and Paul Hannah, our Junior and Senior Wardens, as well as the vestry of St. Paul's. Their tireless work and commitment to the church always amazes me, but I know it shouldn't. Also, a big "thanks" to our staff who continues to provide their talents even in the upheaval of moving back and forth across Fair Street. And since I am in a "thank you" mode, let me again say thanks to all of you for your patience and understanding this past year as it pertained to the construction. It was a challenge, no doubt, but you handled it with grace, humor, and tolerance.

As I stated, even with all the chaos that can surround a parish when it goes through a major construction project, we were able to maintain our many ministries, for the most part. In addition to my duties here at the church I was also able to serve the greater church in a number of ways. New to this year was my agreeing to serve on the Bishop Search Committee. While this has been and will continue to be a time-consuming venture, I appreciate the parish allowing me the dedicated time needed to be part of this ministry. Please keep us and the diocese in your prayers as we discern the call of our next bishop.

Now on to 2026. While it may be prudent to sit back and enjoy the new space, St. Paul's doesn't work like that. For the upcoming year we will attempt to accomplish a few new endeavors such as renovating Barnabas, starting a long-needed endowment program for the church and launching an exciting program called RenewalWorks. RenewalWorks is a structured way to look at ourselves as a spiritual congregation and see what we can offer to help facilitate a more prayerful parish. Much more to come.

It is an honor and privilege to be your rector. There is not a day that goes by when I'm reminded of the love and grace that comes from our church. You are a blessed company of disciples and apostles and I am grateful to be part of such a church. May God continue to bless you, your family, and our church home of St. Paul's.

God's Peace  
Rusty+



# Report from the Senior Warden



What a year and what a finish! I am grateful for all that has been accomplished in these past 12+ months! As I was considering taking on the role of Senior Warden, I was concerned about funding the capital project (with the least possible debt), maintaining ministries and our parish in the midst of this great upheaval and continuing to grow services with the support of the congregation. I can only imagine the conversation in heaven one year ago (January 2025). I imagine Jesus approaching St. Paul and discussing my pending role as Senior Warden and the year ahead:

Jesus saying, "Well, we are getting a lot of prayers from Paul Hannah and the parishioners at St. Paul's Church in Franklin, TN. They seem to be worried about the large project they have taken on to expand the church. They seem especially concerned about meeting the construction deadline and raising more funds to meet the increased cost.

St. Peter adds - You know St. Paul's has had great leadership in the past – you know what a great job Reverends Rusty and Monna, Vestry Sr. Wardens George and Pam did leading St. Paul's Church over the past two years – 2023 and 2024. I am sure we can help the new Senior Warden, Paul in 2025!

Fortunately, St. Paul replies, "Hold on Peter! You say there is a Paul at St. Paul's that needs our help? Us Pauls have to stick together! I am willing to offer my help. Let me check on the status of things at one of my favorite churches!"

(Since this is in heaven, St. Paul was back with the information in a flash - Of course!)

"Well, I have been checking on St. Paul's Church, and the current status in January 2025 seems very good – over the past three (3) years the church has remained stable and growing, despite the challenges of Covid and the new construction. In fact, the current status is as follows:

- a. The church enjoys strong faithful leadership with Reverends Rusty, Monna and Ann AND strong support from their staff with Donna, Holli, Libby, Brett, Kristy, Shannon and Paula.
- b. Likewise, the Church enjoys experienced leadership from the Vestry and numerous committees and ministries. Paul can rely on the counsel of his experienced and diverse vestry members - Mindy Boggs, Ann Denson, Spencer Dibble, Angela Lassiter, Junior Warden Jim Miller, Melissa Monterro, Chris Oberholtzer, Holly Spain, Bruce Theobald, Jonathan Webster and Larry Whitlock.
- c. The leadership has completed designs for almost doubling the meeting and workspaces of the church and has hired experienced architectural and construction support from a seasoned construction firm, with supervision by Susan Miller of the parish.
- d. The parish has raised significant funds in their initial capital campaign to get the project started.



e. The church enjoys a strong financial position and has secured bank financing for the project through the help of Michael Walters Young of the parish and a congregation that consistently meets the annual stewardship funding needs to maintain their important ministries.

f. The Diocese and the City of Franklin have granted their approval and support. In fact, the project is well underway and is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2025 (earth time).

Jesus continues "I am so proud of this parish and the leadership that has continued the important service of the church during this time! As I understand it, despite the challenges of having their working space disrupted, the clergy and staff also squeezed into the building next door and continued the incredible ministries of St. Paul's Church during this time!

Paul added, "Yes, Lord, numerous parishioners stepped in to continue their important ministries and to help with moving and storing furniture."

a. They did not just focus on their campus ministries, but through Lay Ministers, Jean, Charlie, Karen, Peggy, Gerald, Ellen, Greer, Jackie, Cyndy, Barb, Melanie, Fred, Marcia, Carol, Debbie, Ginna, Judy, Kathy, Ann, Pat, Laura, Larry and many others continued their important outreach into the community during this period

b. Also, the second capital campaign has just begun and Peter can confirm it will be a great success all while minimizing the church borrowing. Too bad Sr. Warden Paul and the rest of the Vestry do not know this or they would be more relaxed.

Jesus agrees "I have been impressed with the commitment of so many of my faithful who demonstrate with their time, talent and treasures to Loving their Neighbors and worshiping my Father. St. Paul's Church has nothing to worry about!"

St. Paul continues, "I am so proud to have my name on this church!

Jesus: I like this plan, with all that has been completed, with the current leadership and resources available, and the ongoing commitment of the parish, I am confident that St. Paul's will thrive in the next year. It seems St. Paul's Church will receive the help they have requested! Also, I understand the Church will be celebrating its Bicentennial in a year and a half! I look forward to being there!"

Thank you, Lord! I can only say that God has answered so many of my prayers and, I am sure, many more prayers from this congregation that have brought us forward to today. It has been an incredible year for St. Paul's!

Thank you for this opportunity to serve. Everyone has made this the easiest job I could have hoped for and I thank God for all of you and your commitment to our church and our community at St. Paul's.

God bless you all!

Paul Hannah  
Senior Warden

# Report from the Junior Warden



Wow, what a year! The year began with the church project well underway and most activities being held in Barnabas. It also began with the rooftop HVAC units needing to be replaced. Both were replaced in the first quarter. The rest of the year was consumed with helping on the project. Two items of note were the bidding out and awarding contracts for the HVAC service provider and cleaning. Two new vendors were selected and have begun their work. A few other things I was involved in on the project were attending OAC (Owner, Architect, Contractor) meetings, purchasing items for the new space and receiving a bid for the stained-glass window outside of the nursery. Once we moved the staff in early December, there still remains several things to button up such as working on the TV's on the second floor to ensure we can cast to them from a laptop for presentations.

Earlier in the year, I was asked to procure a bid for another columbarium in the Main Street courtyard. After receiving the bid, Rusty formed a small committee to discuss the path forward on a columbarium. The committee recommended that we move forward with a memorial garden rather than a physical columbarium. The reasoning is that a physical columbarium is expensive and finite in how many can be interred in them. Also, we have limited space in the Main Street courtyard. A memorial garden is designed to only inter ashes in biodegradable boxes allowing an infinite number of ashes to be buried. A wall will be erected with a small plaque added for each interment.

I am honored to serve as Junior Warden again and look forward to a more relaxed 2026!

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jim Miller – Junior Warden









# Christian Formation

## Adults

These Christian Formation classes were offered for Adults in 2025 on Sunday morning:

1) Due to construction, Adult Christian Formation Classes were held on Sundays in Founders Hall throughout the program year.

- In January and part of February we focused on the "Wise Men (aka the Three Kings, or the Magi)," and we explored scriptures, prayers, and a bit of theology associated with the liturgical season of Epiphany.
- For the last half of February, Rev. Rusty McCown offered a 2-week series on "Angels and The Bible," looking at angels depicted in both the Old and New Testaments to learn better their role in God's salvation story.
- In March, Dr. Jon Roebuck led a 3-week series on "Striving for Accuracy – Guidelines for Interpreting Scripture." This class examined some principles of Biblical text interpretation that we can apply whenever we choose to study the Bible.
- Next, Rev. Bob Abtein led a 3-week series on the early chapters of Genesis, looking at Creation and other ancient stories. This class explored what these stories have to tell us today.
- Jean Larson led a series on "The Acts of the Apostles," and took a deeper dive into what the 5th book of the New Testament teaches us about our own faith journeys.
- We started off the Fall with a series on "The Nature of Jesus," led by Rev. Rusty McCown. This series focused on Jesus using the things that surround us—nature, to teach his disciples. It examined what we can learn from the simple but profound items that are all around us.
- During October, Dewees Berry facilitated 3 classes, each on a different topic. The first was on "Bible Stories in Song and Verse" (works by Lord Byron, Ira Gershwin, and others). The next one was on "Don't Pigeonhole Me!" (a whimsical look at stereotypes, including some about Episcopalians). Lastly, he offered a class on "Selected Passages from The Gospel of Mark" (using vignettes from the hit Broadway play).
- A 3-week series on "Miracle and Message: What miracles of the New Testament Have to Say to Us Today," followed in late October and early November. This class, led by Dr. Jon Roebuck, looked at three different miracles from the Gospels in the Book of Acts to draw meaning for everyday application.
- Jean Larson facilitated a 2-week series on "Disciples in the 21st Century," which in focusing on Jesus' call to his disciples to leave their nets and follow him, posed the question for us, "What is Jesus calling us to do today?"
- In December, we turned to the season of Advent. First, we gave our attention to 4 core themes that come to light this season - "Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love." Rev. Monna Mayhall led a class exploring each theme, considering what each means for us in our own lives. Rev. Rusty McCown ended the Christian Formation year with a class about the "Characters of Advent," which looked at the various people who make up the holy season of Advent.



2) Rev. Rusty McCown taught a Seekers Class in the Spring of 2025, which met in Barnabas. This class was offered for those who wished to join the church through Confirmation or Reception. It was also offered as a refresher course for anyone. Bishop Bauerschmidt came in the Spring for his annual visit and Confirmation.

In addition to Sunday Adult programs, there were also Christian Formation regular weekly programs which included:

## The Tuesday Morning Lectionary Bible Study

Our Tuesday Morning Lectionary Zoom Meeting is at 10:30 AM every week. We have an active and creative discussion each week. Please join us on Zoom. Just contact Charlie Crumpton at [ctcrumpton@yahoo.com](mailto:ctcrumpton@yahoo.com), and he can help you get online.

## The Coffee Club

Coffee Club is a men's Bible study, meeting each Wednesday at 6:45 in the Barnabas conference room. Our time together lasts about one hour. We generally check in with each other, read the gospel lesson for the upcoming Sunday and discuss what the passage meant to those hearing it a long time ago and what it means for us today. Coffee Club is a low-key Bible study that simply is attempting to read and understand better God's holy Word and how we can take it out to the world. Please join us. For more information, contact Rev. Rusty McCown at [Rusty@stpaulsfranklin.com](mailto:Rusty@stpaulsfranklin.com) or 615-790-0527.

## WITS

WITS (Women in Theological Study) met on Thursday mornings this past year from 9:30-11:00 a.m. We met in Barnabas and Bicentennial Park. WITS donated much needed items for NOOK (Needs of Our Kids in the Williamson County Schools). In 2025, WITS covered a variety of topics throughout the year, including:

- *Prayer in the Night: For Those Who Work, or Watch, or Weep* by Tish Harrison Warren
- *Freeing Jesus*, by Diana Butler Bass
- Biblical accounts of post-resurrection appearances of Jesus
- Jesus' original twelve disciples
- *Holy Companions: Spiritual Practices from the Celtic Saints*
- Desi Noller led a fabulous class about blindness, "God Doesn't Make Mistakes"
- Having Trouble finding Your "Living Room..." When it's time to declutter your mind and your matter
- Taking time to be intentional about remembering and honoring loved ones we've lost
- *Homegrown Mystics: Restoring Our Nation with the Healing Wisdom of America's Visionaries* by Bruce Epperly
- Holiday Hoopla with Food, Fun and Games
- Selected Sermons by Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, Padraig O'Tuama, Nadia Boltz-Weber, and many others



For more information contact Monna Mayhall [monna@stpaulsfranklin.com](mailto:monna@stpaulsfranklin.com) or 615-790-0527.



## Education for Ministry (EFM)

St. Paul's has two active Education for Ministry (EfM) seminar groups, comprised of a total of 17 participants and two mentors this year. EfM is an international adult Christian Formation program administered by The University of the South. One participant completed the four-year program last summer and five new members joined in the fall of 2024. Seven alumni returned to start a new 5th year curriculum.



Both groups meet weekly on Tuesday evenings to study Hebrew Scripture, the New Testament, church history and theology, in a small group setting. We try to attend in person, but participants are welcome to Zoom in. We also share spiritual autobiographies and work on theological reflections, a way of finding God in our everyday lives.

If you are interested in EfM please contact Jean Larson ([jam.larson@gmail.com](mailto:jam.larson@gmail.com)) or Kelly Pitsenberger ([pitz@bellsouth.net](mailto:pitz@bellsouth.net)).





# Youth - EYG

The St. Paul's Youth Ministry offers a space for students in 6th to 12th grade to cultivate meaningful friendships through fellowship and deepen their faith through prayer, study, and service. Below are highlights of activities that St. Paul's youth participated in this past year!

**EYG (Episcopal Youth Group):** EYG meets most Sunday evenings in Barnabas. In August we welcomed Ashley Anderson to our youth leadership as the Youth Intern! She has helped with planning activities, chaperoning, making social media posts, and has been a great addition to EYG! In 2025, we met from 5-7 in the spring and transitioned to 4:30 – 6 in the fall. Our time together includes a combination of games and activities, small group time, and Compline. A few times during the year we participated in service activities in lieu of our evening meeting. Four times in 2025 we joined the Church in the Yard (CITY) ministry on Sunday afternoon in Nashville to help serve lunch. We also joined with Diocesan Youth in November to pack hygiene kits for Saint Luke's Community House. Attendance ranged widely in 2025, with peak events having 15 youth, and some evenings having 2-3 students.



**Youth Christian Formation:** Youth Christian Formation meets on Sunday mornings from 10:00am-11:00am. In the spring of 2025, we used video lessons to ask a common question about God and faith and explore that question together. In the fall, Robert Collins joined us as a formation teacher! The class focused on different ways to read and study the Bible, using Philippians as an example.

**Youth Confirmation:** In 2025, Confirmation Class was led by Jay Fahey and 6 youth were confirmed! The youth had a great experience with Jay and he will lead the class again this year.

## SPECIAL YOUTH EVENTS IN 2025

**Pancake Supper:** In March, the youth held our annual Pancake Supper to raise money for Mountain T.O.P. It looked a little different hosting in Barnabas with two different seating times, but the night was a success, raising \$2100 from selling both tickets and items from our take home menu. Thank you to all the volunteers and the Men of St. Paul's for covering ingredient costs and cooking pancakes outside!

**Youth Sunday:** On Mother's Day, the youth led two of our Sunday morning services, serving as readers, ushers, and acolytes. Three of our 2025 graduating seniors, Adam Curwen, Emma Haddon, and William Swallows, gave sermons. They were each uniquely poignant, making for a very special service.





**Mountain T.O.P:** 2025 was St. Paul's 27th year attending summer camp at Mountain Tennessee Outreach Project (Mountain T.O.P.). For a week in July, 8 St. Paul's youth and 6 adults served families in Grundy County, one of the most impoverished counties in Tennessee, through home repair projects and day camps for children ages 6-11. We were also thrilled to host 4 youth and 2 adults from Marysville United Methodist Church in Marysville, Michigan as a part of our church group at MTOP.



**Week of Wonder (WOW):** We had another wonderful WOW this summer where we got to pretend each day was a different season. Many youth (rising 5th – college students) volunteered to lead small groups and activities, including games, crafts, snacks, and science stations. One afternoon we celebrated our youth volunteers with ice cream sandwiches!

**Car Parks:** The youth raised \$3,200 in 2025 by charging cars to park in our parking lot behind Barnabas during downtown Franklin festivals. This money is used to cover youth and adult MTOP tuition, travel expenses, and Pilgrimage fees.

**Winter Lock-In:** 14 youth and 3 adult chaperones had the best time at our winter lock-in! We had a full and fun night, starting with rock climbing at The Crag in Cool Springs. We then returned to the church to go caroling down Main Street. Then we got to know our new building in a way only youth can – by playing Grog for hours! We wrapped up our night by watching the Grinch in our PJs and lighting the last Advent candle at midnight. Volunteers chaperoned and drove our students to rock climbing, the Men of St. Paul's provided our meals, and the Women of St. Paul's created special gift bags for the youth! It was a team effort for a wonderful event – thank you to everyone who participated!



## THANK YOU!

As always, I am so grateful to our incredible chaperones and volunteers behind the scenes giving their time and attention to the special group of students in our parish. The Men of St. Paul's provided multiple meals for our events and went above and beyond this year for the Pancake Supper. The Women of St. Paul's donated beautifully crafted gift bags for our lock-in that were adored. The generosity of our parish toward our youth is the reason this ministry can thrive, and I thank each of you immensely!



## 2026 EYG CALENDAR

February 8: Confirmation Class starts at 10 am in the Barnabas Conference Room

February 17: Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper Fundraiser

March 1: Diocesan Youth Easter Egg Battle at St. B's

May 10: Youth Sunday/Mother's Day

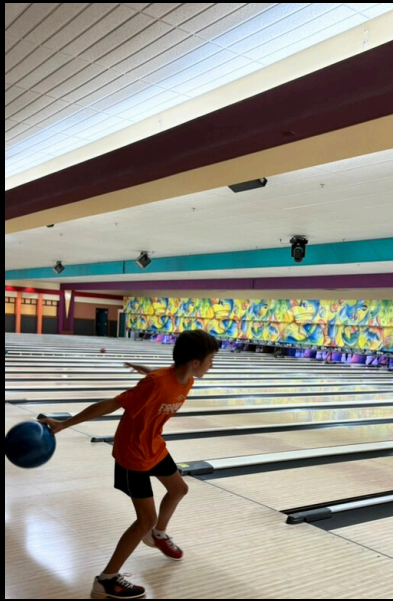
May 17: Confirmation Sunday with Bishop Bauerschmidt

June 8 – 14: Youth Pilgrimage to Quebec

July 12 – 18: Mountain T.O.P.

Please email Brett at [brett@stpaulsfranklin.com](mailto:brett@stpaulsfranklin.com) for more information about our youth ministry!

-Brett Smith, Youth Minister





# Children With Families

## Sunday Christian Formation

We continued to use Godly Play for our Sunday Formation for Children in 2025, with all of the children combined to one circle in our temporary space inside Barnabas. Despite the limitations of our space, the program thrived thanks to the extra efforts of GP volunteers, our biscuit ministry team who provided special service to Barnabas, and of course our children for being flexible and showing up with their smiling faces each week. We continued to work in the Free Little Pantry each week, and the children took ownership by bringing in food donations for this ministry. On our last Sunday before summer break, we had "Share the Light" Sunday where children brought items to help stock the Free Little Pantry over the summer, and shared ice cream sundaes as we sent our 5th graders off to Youth Group. On All Saint's Sunday, we honored loved ones we've lost by sharing their stories, photos and favorite foods together in a time of remembrance.

## Children's Chapel

Children's Chapel was available for 8:45 and 11 am services, except for the summer when we only had one service at 10 am. There was an average of 12-20 children who attended each Sunday. During Children's Chapel, we share the Gospel story in child-inclusive language and share a picture book with a similar theme. Afterwards we share a lively discussion and say our version of prayers of the people before we exchange the peace and head back to the service to join our families. During August and September, Donna came to Children's Chapel to teach us a song that the children sang at the Children's Service on September 28th. During November we learned a song that the children shared at Advent Lessons and Carols on December 7th.



## Week of Wonder — Seeds and Seasons

Week of Wonder was held off-site at Jim Warren Park screened pavilion for the third year. Thirty-seven participants and 31 youth and adult volunteers made it a memorable week as we explored how each season brings both gifts and challenges. We had a great turn-out for the wrap up pizza party on Thursday night. The participants wore their t-shirts to church on Sunday to share a song with the congregation. Many thanks to everyone who made this wonderful week possible! The Week of Wonder will be back at St. Paul's for the summer of 2026. Save the dates for June 15-18th!





## Nursery

The nursery has been a busy place this year! Our nursery director, Rachel Shoaf moved to West Tennessee at the end of August, and we were very fortunate to have Maggie Gilchrist take over as the nursery director the very next week. I am grateful to Rachel, Maggie, and helpers Mary Austin, Sophie Spain, Bonnie Sullivan, and Elizabeth Webster for not only making the nursery and a fun and safe space for our children, but for working to set up and put away all the toys each week while we were in our temporary space in Barnabas. I am also so grateful to the members of the congregation who purchased toys from our gift registries to stock our new nursery in our beautiful, completed space.

## Blessing of the Backpacks

This great St. Paul's tradition was once again held in August. Students chose pins they could use on their backpacks and our teachers were blessed as they began their school year as well.



## Rally Day

We had a very successful Rally Day in the backyard of the Rectory in September. Parishioners had opportunities to meet and learn about the many ministries offered at St. Paul's. There was a lot of food, and even a bounce house to enjoy!

## Children's Service

The Children's Service took place at both 8:45 and 11 am again this year. On September 21st, children stepped up to usher, greet, read, and share in a wonderful service that is "understandable for children and enlightening for adults."





Our Children's Programs are only possible because of the many volunteers who offer their time and talent to create opportunities for our children. As we continue to watch this ministry grow, I am so grateful-especially to our great staff, nursery workers, Godly Play leaders, and volunteers who make it happen.





## Intergenerational Activities

Gathering for Good continues to be very popular, and a fun way for parishioners to get together and enjoy social time outside of Sundays. Highlights from this year's Gathering for Good events were Jambalaya and Jeopardy, Nashville Sounds Baseball game, Tie Dye Spaghetti Dinner, Halloween Carnival, and Advent Wreath Making.

For more information on any of the above activities, contact me at [libby@stpaulsfranklin.com](mailto:libby@stpaulsfranklin.com).

-Libby Sullivan, Children's Ministry Coordinator

### Gathering For Good





# Music

The musicians of St. Paul's chugged away through a year of change and chaos. Our sheet music moved around, our handbells shifted all over, our choir robes hung in multiple places, but thanks be to God, we still made beautiful music! Like everyone has during construction, we flexed and carried on with weekly rehearsals, Sunday liturgy, and some of the best summer music ever.

Blue Grass and Stained-Glass Sundays have grown to be some of the most well-attended services at St. Paul's. Everybody loves the music and the spirit of the day bolsters our hearts and invigorates our bodies! August was special due to a special guest, Charlie Pate (Jan Abstein's incredibly talented son) who sang and played upright bass with our regular crew: Derek Pell, Kent Burnside, Charles Butler, and Jeremy Holt. You may have noticed the choir joined in the fun this year, with more group pieces being done.



This fall was full with All Saints Evensong sung by our Chamber Choir, followed by Advent Lessons and Carols (where every choir participated), and then Christmas Eve. And while we love our special services and concerts, it is our role on Sundays that is our primary focus. Singing the hymns, chanting the psalms, and offering our anthems at the Offertory and during Communion feeding us and hopefully enriching the service for everyone.

Our children practiced their anthems during Children's Chapel this year and sang on three different occasions. We have some amazingly talented young singers! The Choir also celebrated two of our members graduating from nursing school this year. Maddie Rogers (May) and Amanda Max (December) are not only singing songbirds but are also Florence Nightingales! Congratulations!



Above all, it is the contribution of so many talented people that makes our ministry so special: Holli Scholz, with her amazing gift at the organ and piano, Derek Pell and Kent Burnside, who bring so much beauty to our 8:45 service, and each and every one of our choir members (Adult Choir, Chamber Choir, and Handbell Choir) who week after week offer their gifts to St. Paul's. A special thanks to our section leaders, Elizabeth Tyer, Iain Macpherson, and Sharon Hels, who help lead us each week and step in for extra duty whenever asked.

My heartfelt thanks to all of you: musicians, clergy and staff, and the lovely parishioners who help sustain us. With a new choir room and dedicated rehearsal space, we can't wait to see what we can do in 2026!

If you are interested in making music at St. Paul's, please reach out to me. There is a place for everyone!

Peace,  
Donna Stokes-Rogers  
Minister of Music



# Worship

## Ushers

Ushers at St. Paul's greet parishioners and visitors at services, take temperatures, distribute bulletins, and assist with seating. Currently, Ushers are needed to serve at all of the services. For more information contact Shannon Buttrey at [Shannon@stpaulsfranklin.com](mailto:Shannon@stpaulsfranklin.com).

## Oblationers

Oblationers present gifts of bread and wine at the offertory for the 8:45 am and 11:00 am Sunday services.

## Chalice Bearers

Chalice Bearers assist the priest at the altar with serving communion. Chalice Bearers are needed to serve at all of the services.



## Readers/Intercessors

Readers and Intercessors read the lessons and/or the Prayers of the People at the services. For more information contact Shannon Buttrey at [Shannon@stpaulsfranklin.com](mailto:Shannon@stpaulsfranklin.com).

## Altar Guild

This ministry gives people the opportunity to prepare the Altar for regular services, and maintain the linens, vestments, and silver. The Altar Guild also takes part in the set up for weddings, funerals, and other services. For more information contact Phyllis Thompson at [Phyllisgt2@att.net](mailto:Phyllisgt2@att.net).



## Eucharistic Visitors

This ministry gives people the opportunity to take Holy Communion to people who for varying reasons, are unable to come to a church service to receive Holy Communion. Eucharistic Visitors take communion to parishioner's homes, assisted living facilities, and hospitals. For more information or if you are interested in being a part of this ministry, contact Ann Van Dervoort at [annvdv65@gmail.com](mailto:annvdv65@gmail.com) or Monna Mayhall at [monna@stpaulsfranklin.com](mailto:monna@stpaulsfranklin.com) or 615-790-0527.

## Weekly Bible Readings

We provide a Weekly Bible Reading Card for anyone who would like one. The card has Weekly Bible Readings listed on it, arranged for you to read on a daily basis leading up to the Sunday for which they are assigned. Our hope is that this provides a way for you to deepen your knowledge, prepare for Sunday worship, and become more familiar with themes of the church calendar. They are available in the Narthex.



## The Contemplative Groups

### Monday Morning Prayer/Daily Office - 8:00 - 9:00 AM (Zoom)

A group of 4-8 meet every Monday Morning from 7:45-9:00 for morning prayer. We meet via zoom which allows for attending while out of town and for those who live in other states to attend. We follow a Franciscan format which is available via a pdf attachment which I will send to anyone interested in attending. The scripture readings come from an app, "Daily Office, Mission St. Clare" or "Morning Prayer-Josh Thomas."

The zoom numbers are: 863-9006-0743, pw-111-870

For more information contact Gerald Hancock - [gwhancock44@gmail.com](mailto:gwhancock44@gmail.com) or 615-604-9635

### Thursday Contemplative Prayer/Meditation - 4:00 -5:30 pm (Zoom)

A group of 4-8 meet every Thursday from 4:00-5:00 for meditation. After a brief check-in, we sit in meditation for 15-30 minutes. Most believers are comfortable talking to God through prayer but are uncomfortable sitting, waiting for God to respond. If meditation is new to your spiritual journey, please join us and we will share what practices work for us and what doesn't work. The discipline of meditation, like most beneficial paths requires practice and commitment.

The zoom numbers are: 827-8291-6653, pw-497-545

For more information contact Gerald Hancock - [gwhancock44@gmail.com](mailto:gwhancock44@gmail.com) or 615-604-9635





## Daughters of the King – DOK

The Order of the Daughters of the King is an international order for women who are communicants of the Episcopal Church, churches in communion with it, or churches in the historic episcopate but not in communion with it. Members of The Order undertake a Rule of Life, incorporating the Rule of Prayer and the Rule of Service. By reaffirmation of the promises made at Baptism and Confirmation, a Daughter pledges herself to a life-long program of Prayer, Service, and Evangelism, dedicated to the spread of Christ's Kingdom and the strengthening of the spiritual life of her parish.



Each member's personal Rule of Life reflects her unique spiritual journey. A Daughter's Rule of Life is not taken lightly but is developed prayerfully with God's guidance. The Rule is not meant to be fixed, but flexible, and should be begun simply and reviewed regularly to accommodate her changing life circumstances and spiritual growth.

The Mary Magdalene Chapter of St. Paul's Episcopal Church has 42 senior members. We conducted a Discernment program and admitted one new Daughter in 2025. In 2025 we surrendered our Junior Daughters' Chapter Charter due to inactivity. We hope to reactivate the Chapter in the future.

Our Guild of the Christ Child continues to honor the parents of, and infants being baptized with a banner and sends cards on baptism anniversaries to each child. A photographic record book is kept of all baptized.

The Chapter sponsors scholarships for two students through Education = Hope in Haiti. The Chapter also provides items for the Little Free Pantry.

A Prayer List is maintained by Daughter Katie Faulkner and distributed regularly to all Chapter members. In addition, a prayer box and votive candle stand have been placed in the columbarium for visitors and parishioners to submit prayer requests and offer prayers. The Chapter maintains the candle stand and prayer box.

Our Daughters continue to be involved in Diocesan and National DOK events. Members attended Spring Assembly and Fall Assembly in the Diocese as well as Province IV Assembly in Alabama in the fall.

Our Chapter's officers are:

Karen Austin - President

Beth Woodruff - Vice President

Nancy Boring - Treasurer

Rita Sue Warner - Secretary.

If you have any questions or want additional information, please contact me at [KSAustin@bellsouth.net](mailto:KSAustin@bellsouth.net).

Karen S. Austin  
Chapter President





## Blessing of the Animals





## St. Paul's Young Adults

The Young Adults ministry serves college students and young adults in their 20s and 30s. The group was led by Madeline Murphy in the spring and the events calendars were always full with both social events and service opportunities. Jess Fitzpatrick and Katherine Harris led the group starting in the fall, and had a goal to create three young adult events a month: one soulful, one social, and one service. The soulful event in the fall became a monthly dinner group that allowed for fellowship and discussion of the lectionary readings. Social events included a zombie-filled escape room (!), an afternoon at Arrington, pool gatherings, and trivia and game nights. The young adults regularly served with CITY and volunteered with the Men's BBQ. Lastly, St. Paul's college students met for a couple of EYG reunion events in 2025! Both young adults and college students have a GroupMe to stay connected!

Please email me at [brett@stpaulsfranklin.com](mailto:brett@stpaulsfranklin.com) for more information about our young adults ministry!

Brett Smith, Youth Minister



## Heart Notes

Heart Notes is currently made up of a small group of people who write notes to Shut-Ins. It is typically a short note mentioning things happening in the parish at the time, or maybe something about the season. The purpose of the group is to make a connection with these people so that they know that St. Paul's has not forgotten them and that we continue to love them and pray for them even in their absence. If you have any questions about this ministry, contact Marida Stearns at 615-776-2814.



## Men Of St. Paul's

First of all, the Men of St. Paul's has been supporting Williamson County for over 50 years. Thank you for your continual commitment to the Men of St. Paul's (MOSP) through your generous contributions and dedicated hands-on support. The men could not do what they do without you.

The MOSP had a busy and gratifying 2025. We cooked at Holy Trinity for CITY (Church in the Yard) four times to help the homeless. We cooked for community organization throughout the year. Some highlights are: multiple times at Freedom Reigns Ranch, special events for Both Hands Foundation, High Hopes, Saddle Up, and 21st District Court, enough food for a weekend for the Boys and Girls Club of Franklin, supporting the homeless children at Bethany Christian Services, partnering with the Love Thy Neighbor women at Franklin Elementary School, and supported the local Natchez Community Center and Spring Street.

At home we served our young children and teens with meals for Vacation Bible School (Week of Wonder) Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, Mountain Top, and a Holiday Lock-in. The Annual BBQ this past year was held on the fourth (4th) weekend in September, and it was a great success for the parish and the community. Thank you to all the parish volunteers

We are grateful to so many people this past year. What an opportunity to enjoy time with you as we reach out to the community in so many positive ways. The MOSP teams are grateful for the time when we can meet and greet the families, friends, young children, and teens we share a meal with. Our hope is that you have found enjoyment and comfort in the form of your giving of time, talent, and support in 2025 and will continue the same in whatever ways you are able in 2026.

Again, what you are doing for the Men of St. Paul's is recognized and appreciated by so many. If you are interested in MOSP, reach out to one of the key men listed below or any of the other active members. If you are not on the MOSP communication list, send your email address to [fredhwarner@gmail.com](mailto:fredhwarner@gmail.com).

Greer Carlisle – President

Joe Horne – Past President

Mike Wesson – Treasurer

Fred Warner – Calendar of Events Coordinator

Jim Miller – Church of the City (CITY) Coordinator

If you have any questions about MOSP, contact Greer Carlisle at [carlislefam7@gmail.com](mailto:carlislefam7@gmail.com).





## Women of St. Paul's

The Women of St. Paul's, WSP, had a very successful year despite the limitations we had with our fundraisers. Let me go through the year with the Highlights of 2025:

- WSP members hosted socials in the months of March, May, July, September, November and a Christmas social in December.
- We participated in an amazing heART & Soul Retreat held at Montgomery Bell State Park in February.
- The WSP sold a record number of spring floral baskets this past spring, and aided the heART & Soul Retreat committee with the sale of mums in the fall.
- WSP brought baby items to aid the need of diapers, baby wipes, etc.
- WSP provided funds for several of our youth for Mountain Top.
- In September, the WSP assisted the Men of St. Paul's Barbecue with a bake sale.
- Many of our women have been testing food items for the St. Paul's Cookbook coming out hopefully this year.
- The Blind Date With A Book Sale is a brainstorm from the amazing Donna Stokes-Rogers, and has helped the Treasury of WSP.
- WSP gave the Outreach Committee a \$5000 donation to boost the outreach of St. Paul's Episcopal Church.
- And, the most important asset that WSP has is the Women of St. Paul's!



### 2025 Board

President – Cyndy Howes  
Vice President – Cindy Tumblin  
Secretary – Kathy Berry  
Treasurer – Pat McCracken  
At Large – Suzanne Dibble,  
Mindy Boggs, Jackie King,  
Becky Grimes, and Susi Trabue

Elections will be held later this year for Board Members for the 2027-2028 biennium.

For additional information about WSP, please contact Cyndy Howes at [cyndyh@comcast.net](mailto:cyndyh@comcast.net)

Sincerely submitted,  
Cyndy Howes, President





## The Bad Girls Book Club

The Bad Girls Book Club read, reviewed and discussed a varied list of titles in 2025. Our email list grew to 80+, our meeting attendance fluctuated each month, usually a dozen or so, and we continued to thrive within our growing parish congregation. Thanks to all for your continued interest!

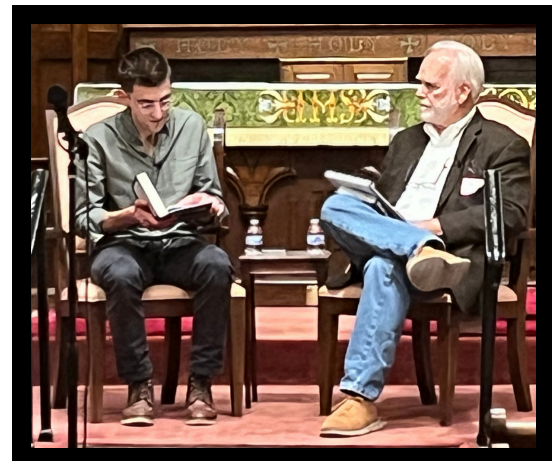
We welcome everyone to join us, this isn't a women's-only group. We typically read a variety of titles, mostly fiction, some non-fiction. We meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month, from 6:00 to 8:00, usually in Founders Hall. However, as of June of 2024, we met in Barnabas through the end of this year.

Our list of titles for 2025 included:



**"An Evening with Jared Sullivan"** was our year-ending gathering on Tuesday, November 17, a Parish-wide event. Our featured author was Jared Sullivan who wrote *Valley So Low; One Lawyer's Fight for Justice in the Wake of America's Great Coal Catastrophe*.

The program was preceded by a Welcome Reception in Founders Hall that was hosted by the book club. Delicious treats and various and tasty wines were offered to a happy crowd! Then, we gathered in the Sanctuary and after a welcome to all, a very special highlight was the presentation of the Humanities Tennessee "Non-Fiction Book of the Year" award to Jared, by Serenity Gerbman, Director, Literature and Language Programs for Humanities Tennessee. Jared's parents and in-laws were present to witness the presentation and to enjoy the program. Jared, his wife Caroline, and their two daughters are new members of St. Paul's. We are pleased they are in our midst.



Our program ensued with Joel Tomlin of Landmark Booksellers facilitating a one-one with Jared about his fascinating and important book. Joel has known Jared a long time and has been an encourager in the early years of Jared's career path. Further, Landmark Booksellers helped kick-off the introduction of Jared's book in the Fall Of 2024. St. Paul's was pleased to welcome a very attentive audience of approximately 75 or so that evening as they listened attentively, offering a variety of questions and compliments following the discussion.

Upcoming titles for 2026 will appear in the Sunday bulletin insert, the 'Take Out', in our weekly St. Paul's "News from the Pews," as well as the monthly St. Paul's newsletters.

In closing, my continued appreciation goes to Kathy Berry and to Virginia Callicott for their behind-the-scenes support to me for our Book Club meeting nights. Thank you both! Hope to see new faces in 2026 to join in with our "regulars."

Submitted by Ann Denson ([denonannm@gmail.com](mailto:denonannm@gmail.com))



## Pathfinders – Senior Adult Ministry (previously “Social Graces”)

Pathfinders is a ministry geared and designed mostly with people 55 years of age and older in mind. Under a new name, this ministry has expanded just a bit. This past year, even with limited space, Pathfinders was able to offer several programs and lunch gatherings. We offered a few catered lunches followed by musical entertainment, as well as educational gatherings presented by AgeWell TN. We conducted a survey in order to access what people wanted as far as programming and activities. There was a variety of opinions and we have charted a calendar through May to hopefully meet most all of the program preferences.

As another development in Senior Adult Ministry, 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 any time 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.

If you want to find out more about Pathfinders – Senior Adult Ministry, please contact Monna Mayhall at 615-790-0527 or [monna@stpaulsfranklin.com](mailto:monna@stpaulsfranklin.com).

## Maker's Table

The Ladies of Maker's Table had a wonderful year, meeting and crafting on Tuesdays in Barnabas. We started the year with the “Blind Date with a Book” project as a fundraiser for the Women of St. Paul's. When the Founders Hall Gift Shop had to close down, the books went away, but they will soon return! In February, many of our ladies baked King Cakes for the Youth Ministry, with glittery swaths of purple, gold, and green sugar everywhere!



During the summer we had four-day crafting sessions during June, July, and August, where we made quilt pieces for upcoming projects and tote bags (soon to be found in the gift shop) and rope bowls. It was a fun time of laughter, sewing, and getting to know each other better.

This fall was spent mostly in “Sit and Stitch” gatherings, where we brought our knitting and crochet projects and sat together in community and peace. Sarah Webster, who is leading our prayer shawl ministry, took this time to help guide many new makers who want to create prayer squares and shawls.

If you are looking to expand your creative talents, the Maker's Table is an open group that anyone can join. We love to try new things, often spending a day to learn something new, while spending others working on our own projects. There is a place for you at the Maker's Table, where we celebrate and honor God's creative spirit in us. Call Donna for more information (615) 481-5144 or at [donna@stpaulsfranklin.com](mailto:donna@stpaulsfranklin.com).



## Feed My Sheep/Meal Baby

Thanks to the many generous folks at St. Paul's, the Feed My Sheep ministry provided multiple meals to parishioners and their families during the past year.

Feed My Sheep provides meals to parishioners are ill or injured, who have suffered loss, or who are celebrating the birth of a new baby.

If you are interested in providing a meal to a parishioner in need, just watch for the church email notification and sign up via the provided online meal calendar link [www.takethemameal.com](http://www.takethemameal.com), or contact Barb Roth to plug you in.

If you know someone who we could help short term with a few meals, please contact the church office or Barb Roth, [daba224@aol.com](mailto:daba224@aol.com) or (615) 975-6636.

## Pastoral Visitors

This ministry gives people the opportunity to make an occasional visit to people who for varying reasons, are unable to come to church or be involved in church activities. Pastoral Visitors visit parishioners in the parishioner's home, assisted living facilities, and hospitals. For more information or if you are interested in being a part of this ministry, contact Monna Mayhall at [monna@stpaulsfranklin.com](mailto:monna@stpaulsfranklin.com) or 615-790-0527.

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## Rally Day





## Kairos

KAIROS is St. Paul's unique group for writers -- accomplished or not -- who meet on the first and third Fridays of each month at 10 am. We are a friendly group of ladies and gentlemen, and we always welcome newcomers of all ages.

During meetings, we write spontaneously about similar subjects for five or ten minutes — using our own personal thoughts, memories, and interests. We offer free notebooks to new members, so all you will need to bring is a smile on your face and your favorite writing pen.

The name "Kairos" suits us because our time together is meant to be calming and relaxing -- a bright spot in today's fast-paced world.

Because our dates and meeting locations are subject to change, for current information, please contact Peggy Macpherson at [pmacpherson@comcast.net](mailto:pmacpherson@comcast.net).

## St. Paul's Small Groups

Small groups are gatherings of 6 - 12 people who meet regularly for fellowship, Bible study and prayer. The goal of the small group program is to develop small Christian communities within the larger church where Jesus Christ is experienced in his presence and power.

Small Groups are intended for all parishioners of all ages and stages of life. Each group is led by a volunteer leader/facilitator with groups deciding their own meeting schedule. There is a commitment of attending and participating, with some reading as preparation.

At the beginning of 2025, there was one adult small group meeting bi-weekly.





# Historic Committee

St. Paul's Historic Committee had a wonderful 2025!

The Historic Committee had a year of "great reflection" of our almost 200 year old Nave and Founders Hall with the anticipation of our newly constructed addition for office and meeting space. We discussed at length several things we would like accomplished in the Nave prior to the Bicentennial.

To that end, we had the accessible chairs in the Nave stained to better match the color of the pews. We plan to have cushions to match the pew cushions made for the four chairs. Additionally, with the talent and expertise of Sarah Webster and Mary Plummer our kneelers at the altar were refurbished adding stuffing and a zipper to make it easier to remove the covers for future cleaning. These needlepoint kneelers were originally stitched by Betty Ann Baugh, long time member of St. Paul's, over 55 years ago.

There are many other enhancements we would like for our beautiful Nave. We have a "wish list" including, new cushions for the pews, new runner for center aisle and new carpet/rug for Narthex and Columbarium room.

**Ongoing cataloguing of historic documents and photographs** – a time consuming, costly task, but essential to preserve for future generations. Since the construction, we have been holding our monthly meetings at the Williamson County Archives. It has been inspiring to meet where our archives are housed.

**The Education Committee** – has taken advantage of being so "close" to our archives and has done much research this year and provided numerous interesting tidbits from our past.



**The 198 Birthday Celebration** – On Sunday, August 24, 2025, we celebrated the 198th birthday of St. Paul's. Due to the 25th being on a Monday, we felt we would have better attendance if the celebration were held on the Sunday before. It was held in Barnabas with a standing room only crowd following the 10:00 a.m. service. It was complete with birthday cake and ice cream. An interesting presentation was given by Mike Wesson, Chairman of the Historic Education Committee. The presentation detailed the actual construction of the building and additions through the years 1834-2025.



**The Highlight of 2025** – St. Paul's Building Blessing, December 9, 2025 – The Historic Committee was privileged to host the Reception for the Building Blessing. With over 250 responses to attend, it was a joyous occasion! As the bishop blessed various rooms along the way, attendees followed through the beautiful new spacious addition ending in Otey Parish Hall. They were greeted and welcomed by Rector, Rusty McCown.

### Education

### Preservation

### Celebration

**The Bicentennial Society**, funding partner of the St. Paul's Historic Committee, currently has over 100 members. The Historic Committee is continuing to work alongside the Bicentennial Day Chairmen to create plans for our many events and worship services leading up to our 200-year anniversary in 2027. We hope you will consider joining other parishioners in the Bicentennial Society to be a contributing part of this special time in our history. As the Mother Church of the Diocese of Tennessee, we were the first to be established and to begin the spiritual work that continues here today.

Bicentennial Society members commit to a \$1,000 gift which can be spread out over the next 2 years. These funds will go towards the ongoing preservation efforts needed to maintain our historic structure.

Also, we would love to have your participation on any of the committees being formed to support the Bicentennial Celebration. If you'd like to know more, please reach out to any of the committee members listed below.

We are so blessed to be a part of a church that is rich in history, both at the international, national but also the local level. Let us ensure that our history can guide us to good works, outreach, and of course, spirituality.

### Historic Committee Members

Scott Smith, Melanie Lampertz, Kathy Ulezelski, Libby Sullivan, Greer Carlisle, Cindy Thomsen, Pam Horne, Virginia Callicott, Pat McCracken, Mike Wesson, Colbi Layne Hogan, Gale Haddock, Cindy Tumblin, Jesse Tumblin, Rusty McCown, Rector.

### Bicentennial Committee Co-chairmen

Libby Sullivan, Jay Fahey, Mike Wesson





## Offering Compassionate Care

**Stephen Ministry is a lay-led pastoral ministry that provides one-to-one care for individuals experiencing grief, pain, transition, illness, loneliness, or any other hardship.**

### Mission and Services

Stephen Ministry at Saint Paul's continues to evolve and grow, as we move into our tenth year as a ministry. We serve not only our parishioners but also individuals beyond our church community. We offer a confidential listening ear, during times of hardship. We communicate through various methods to suit the care receiver's schedule and geographic location. Our primary goal is to help through listening, being present, and showing compassion and understanding. The Care Receiver's personal information and details of their difficulties are held in strict confidence. Our job is to walk beside you in your time of need and be there for you to listen, affirm and gently encourage healing.



### Our Caregivers

Currently, we have 13 trained caregivers in our Stephen Ministry group. These dedicated individuals use their skills, gained through extensive training, to provide support. Skills such as listening, being assertive, and drawing out care receivers' concerns are central to our caregiving approach. We're especially grateful for Fred Warner who started the Stephen Ministry at St. Paul's and who trained us all, over the years.

### Our Team

Jan Abstein	Vicky Carlisle	Sharmila Patel	Carol Waters (Leader)
Sam Barcus	Becky Gengler	Donna Thomas	Marcia Wilkinson (Leader)
Heather Bottoms	Barbara Green	Elizabeth Tyer	
Val Box	Chris Oberholtzer		

### Supervision and Support

Our group meets twice a month for supervision sessions, where we confidentially discuss the effectiveness and challenges each Stephen Minister faces, both with their care receivers and in their own lives. This regular supervision ensures that our caregivers can provide the best possible outcome from the relationship with a Stephen Minister. We do not discuss "particulars" about Care Receivers so that their identities remain confidential.

### Referrals

We are grateful for the referrals we receive from the clergy and parishioners of our church, as well as from outside our congregation. We currently have a few Stephen Ministers available so if you or someone you know could benefit from having someone to speak with about your challenges, please contact Monna Mayhall or Carol Waters.

Sometimes, people do not need advice; all they need is a hand to hold, an ear to listen, and a heart to understand.

If you would like more information about Stephen Ministry for yourself or for someone else, you can reach out confidentially at this email address – [sm@stpaulsfranklin.com](mailto:sm@stpaulsfranklin.com), or you can contact Carol Waters or Monna Mayhall through St. Paul's Episcopal Church office at 615-790-0527.



## Grief Support Group

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. The key is not to isolate yourself. St. Paul's began offering Grief Support Group, beginning in December 2024, and we have continued to offer that through this past year. A morning group Grief Support Group gathers at 10:00 am in Barnabas Conference Room, on the first and third Wednesdays of the month. For more information contact Monna Mayhall at [monna@stpaulsfranklin.com](mailto:monna@stpaulsfranklin.com) or 615-79-0527.



### Moses Basket

When there is a new birth in the parish family, to be celebrated, a baby blanket along with various gifts are gathered for the newborn and the family. All the gifts are placed in a basket and delivered to the family.

For more information, contact Fran Osteen at [fwosteen@comcast.net](mailto:fwosteen@comcast.net).

## Recycling at St. Paul's

The City of Franklin does not remove recycling for commercial business. Recycling and trash are combined into one pick-up. Several years ago, a number of people in the parish felt the need to formally begin recycling. They placed recycling bins throughout the Church buildings, requested the help of parishioners, and formally began a weekly pick-up. Now that the first phase of the construction is complete, recycling has been modified to meet the needs of the new construction.

We are always looking for volunteers. There is a good deal of cardboard boxes that are ready for removal by anyone who can take the time to recycle with your own things or deliver them to a recycling center. We encourage you to stop by and remove the cardboard as you leave the building.

We also have a weekly schedule. Currently we are looking for individuals/families to participate in a one day a month removal of the recycling. We have a calendar which has a schedule and explains the pick-up process. Or one of us on the team will meet you to talk and walk you through the process. There will be times when there are conflicts and for that reason, we have people who will substitute in your absence.

For those who are helping with the recycling, thank you. You are appreciated. We have several open spots on our schedule that we would like to fill. Please feel free to reach out to any of the people currently participating in the recycling. Those people are: Tim Armstrong, Will Boggs, Gerald Hancock, Ellen Kirk, Doug Mayhall, Bill Phelps, Stader Richardson, Fred Warner, and Jon Webster.



## Beloved Community at St. Paul's

As a congregation of the Episcopal Church, St. Paul's participates in the Beloved Community, with the opportunity to meet with others in this Parish, in this Diocese, in the Episcopal Church and beyond. We gather with people interested in conversation about racial reconciliation, telling the fuller story, and social justice. There are many ways to join with others in nurturing the body of Christ within the diocese of Tennessee, and the cities of Franklin and Nashville.

Our hope is to continue, by whatever means possible, to provide relevant resources, offer book studies, and opportunities to engage in conversations.

This past year, Beloved Community at St. Paul's continued to participate in the Beloved Community of the Diocese of TN. Some activities are organized by the diocese such as the Absalom Jones service at Christ Church Cathedral in February and a day-long anti-racism training led by the Beloved Community Commission.

For more information contact Monna Mayhall at [monna@stpaulsfranklin.com](mailto:monna@stpaulsfranklin.com) or 615-790-0527.

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## Parish Picnic



## Lord's Lift

Lord's Lift ministry is a transportation system that offers rides to church on Sunday for people who, for whatever reason, are unable to transport themselves.

If you can offer a ride to someone to church on Sunday...Contact the church office to volunteer and be placed on a Sunday Lift Driver list. Toward the end of the week, Shannon will send out an email to all drivers letting them know who needs a ride. The drivers respond to the email giving their availability or unavailability to meet that Sunday's need.

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 need a ride to church. Provide our Parish administrator with your name, address, contact information, your preference of Sunday Service time, and if you use a walker or wheelchair. The Lord's Lift driver will contact you to finalize transportation. For more information, please contact Shannon Buttrey at [shannon@stpaulsfranklin.com](mailto:shannon@stpaulsfranklin.com).

## Holy Hikes – Middle Tennessee

St. Paul's has been excited to offer a Holy Hikes ministry, officially named "Holy Hikes–Middle Tennessee," part of a larger ministry based in California. The Vestry approved, by formal vote, to adopt the local Holy Hikes group as a ministry of the congregation in July 2023. The ministry serves the larger community, but is formed through a congregation.

Holy Hikes is a Christian eco-Ministry network committed to rebuilding Communion between all of God's Creation. Through Holy Hikes we worship God in the beauty of God's creation, in what John Muir called God's "first temples."

### QUICK POINTS

Holy Hikes...

- Are like Stational Eucharists.
- Are usually on a Saturday once a month.
- Are open to anyone, any age.
- Are intended to be accessible, being mostly flat, and 2-3 miles in length.
- Vary in location each month - park, trail, zoo, etc.
- Are free unless the location of the hike charges an admission/fee.



If you are interested in helping lead a hike, or if you have any questions about Holy Hikes – Middle Tennessee, contact Monna [monna@stpaulsfranklin.com](mailto:monna@stpaulsfranklin.com)



### Holy Hiking 2025:

February - Women of St. Paul's at Montgomery Bell State Park

March - Preservation Park in Thompson's Station

April – Eastern Flank Battlefield - Franklin

May – Marcelle Viverette Smith Park – Brentwood

September - Nashville Zoo

October - Preservation Park in Thompson's Station

November – Harpeth River Trail

This link gives you general information about Holy Hikes  
<https://holyhikes.org/>



# Outreach Ministries

## St. Paul's Food Pantry

It has been a record year for distribution of bags for 2025!

- We average 6 bags a week.
- We have been blessed with the parishioners stepping up with their donations and the added funds from outreach.
- We are happy to report that items we are unable to use, are now taken to The Well Outreach in Spring Hill.
- The Kindergarten Classes from BGA visited the Food Pantry, again this past year as a field trip. They filled the shelves with plenty of needed items.



You can leave non-perishable food donations in the bin outside the Front Courtyard door. Most needed items are posted each week in the Takeout.

To find out more information or to volunteer, contact Larry and Debbie Whitlock at 901-277-5909 or email [Vandyman1@aol.com](mailto:Vandyman1@aol.com).

## Little Free Pantry

The Little Free Pantry Ministry continues to faithfully serve the Franklin community since becoming operational in August 2022. The Little Free Pantry provides easy-to-access individual servings of food, beverages and personal care items on a 24 hours / 7 days per week basis. In November larger portions of food items were added to the Little Free Pantry to offset food insecurity.

Church members volunteer their time to restock the Little Free Pantry twice per week each month. Currently there are 13 volunteers who assist with the restocking. Also, children participating in Godly Play volunteer to restock the Little Free Pantry each Sunday that they attend under the direction of Libby Sullivan.

### 2025 Highlights:

- Little Free Pantry re-painted on the outside
- Training sessions held for 3 new volunteers starting in 2026
- Volunteer Training Handout up-dated
- Jessica Fitzpatrick takes over the management of the Little Free Pantry Ministry

Submitted by Ginna Campbell



## CITY - Church In The Yard

On the third Sunday of each month, a group from St. Paul's travels to the Church of the Holy Trinity in downtown Nashville to participate in Church in the Yard (a.k.a. "CITY"). We serve hot meals to 125-150 of our homeless brothers and sisters and provide them with a small ToGo bag of food that they can take with them to eat later. Throughout the year we also provide coats, scarves, gloves, socks and other essential clothing when we can. There are many ways to help - If you have questions or want more information, please contact Ellen Kirk 615-545-8820/ellenvkirk@gmail.com or Gerald Hancock 615-604-9635/gwhancock44@gmail.com.

As part of another effort to provide food to people, every Thursday, a few people from St. Paul's drive to the Sanctuary NPO and pick up several hundred lbs. of fresh food collected from Trader Joe's, and deliver it to the Natchez Street Community Center where it is distributed to the needy of that community. Everywhere you turn, St. Paul's is living the Gospel through our outreach programs.



### CITY Contact:

Gerald Hancock gwhancock44@gmail.com, 615-604-9635

Ellen Kirk ellenvkirk@gmail.com, 615-545-8820

Trader Joe Food Pickup - Terry O'Donnell, 615-397-9650

## Meals on Wheels

St Paul's continues to participate in the community Meals On Wheels program providing hot meals for approximately 120 people every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. We have 27 parishioners who help deliver these meals the third Wednesday and Friday of every month which are prepared at First United Methodist Church. The outreach committee also financially supports Meals on Wheels. Members of St. Paul's have been delivering these meals for at least 35 years.

If you have any questions, please contact: Kathy Berry at 615-419-4548.





## Love Thy Neighbor

We focused our efforts on Franklin Elementary School this year:

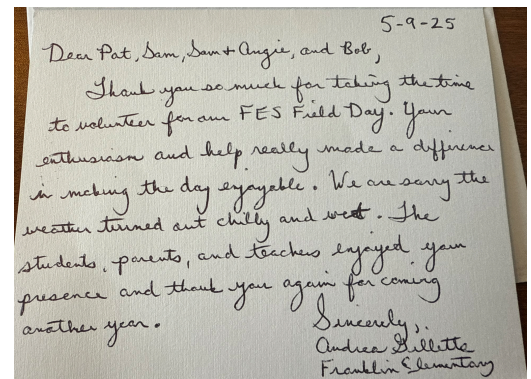
- Provided "Goodie Bags" including disinfecting wipes, paper towels, tissues for teachers and staff to help with back to school and flu season in January.
- Provided 20 sets of Premium Classroom Headphones with Microphones for use by children in the computer lab.
- Provided 5 volunteers for both morning and afternoon shifts of Spring Field Day for all grades (K-5): Bob & Jean Larson, Sam Yeager, Sam Barcus & Pat McCracken helped.
- Provided the following for 77 teachers at Franklin Elementary School during pre-Christmas Teacher Appreciation week:

### Popcorn Bar

Provided popcorn, mini M&Ms, goldfish, honey peanuts, gummy bears, pretzels and mini marshmallows plus Christmas-themed popcorn bags for all-day festive snack bar.

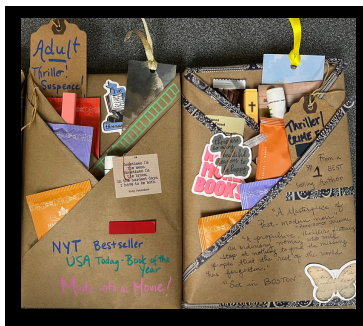
### Nacho Bar

Provided corn chips along with Nacho cheese, salsa and sour cream plus Christmas-themed paper plates and napkins for all-day festive snack bar.



## Birthday Outreach Ministry

A new outreach ministry was formed this past year that combines a party with visiting people. In January 2025 we began going out, on the 2nd Tuesday of every month, to 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 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. If you have questions or want to join us, contact Monna Mayhall at [monna@stpaulsfranklin.com](mailto:monna@stpaulsfranklin.com).



## St. Paul's Gift Shop and Docent Ministry

We have a new location! We are now in the reception area as you come in from the front courtyard. We continue to get new items quite frequently, and for the most part, the Gift Shop is honor system, allowing people to submit payments for items in a designated mailbox. If you are interested in volunteering to be a Docent, or helping with the Gift Shop, please contact Libby Sullivan at [libby@stpaulsfranklin.com](mailto:libby@stpaulsfranklin.com) or Monna Mayhall at [monna@stpaulsfranklin.com](mailto:monna@stpaulsfranklin.com). Training provided - No experience necessary!

## Move Day





## Spring Street Outreach

A dedicated group of St. Paul's volunteers gather monthly with our older friends and neighbors from the Spring Street and Hard Bargain neighborhoods. This is a much-anticipated social opportunity that has been a part of St. Paul's outreach for many years.

Each month volunteers provide a delicious lunch, and plan an activity such as a music performance, craft or game. We meet September through May and normally have 25-35 guests. Barnabas was our home during the renovation and we didn't miss a beat, but we are so happy to be back in the lovely Otey Hall.

If you would like more information or to get involved, contact Jackie King at [momking2nd@yahoo.com](mailto:momking2nd@yahoo.com).





## Local Outreach

St. Paul's Outreach Committee's mission is to do what it can for our Williamson County neighbors in need by showing them love and helping them where possible. The committee works with non-profit organizations in the county that are supporting adults and/or children needing assistance. 100% of the monies entrusted to this committee in 2025 by St. Paul's vestry, the Women of St. Paul's, and donations by individuals wanting to help with our mission, was spent to help improve the lives of those in need.

The Local Outreach also provided Kroger gift cards for Spring Street Ministry in December

These non-profits were financially helped in 2025:

WCHA – Williamson County Homeless Alliance  
Meals on Wheels  
Bridges  
African American Heritage Society  
One Gen Away  
GraceWorks  
21st District Recovery Court  
St. Paul's Food Pantry  
Tennessee Resettlement Aid  
The Well Outreach  
Kindred Spirits Farm  
Williamson County Health Department  
Clergy Discretionary – Rusty McCown

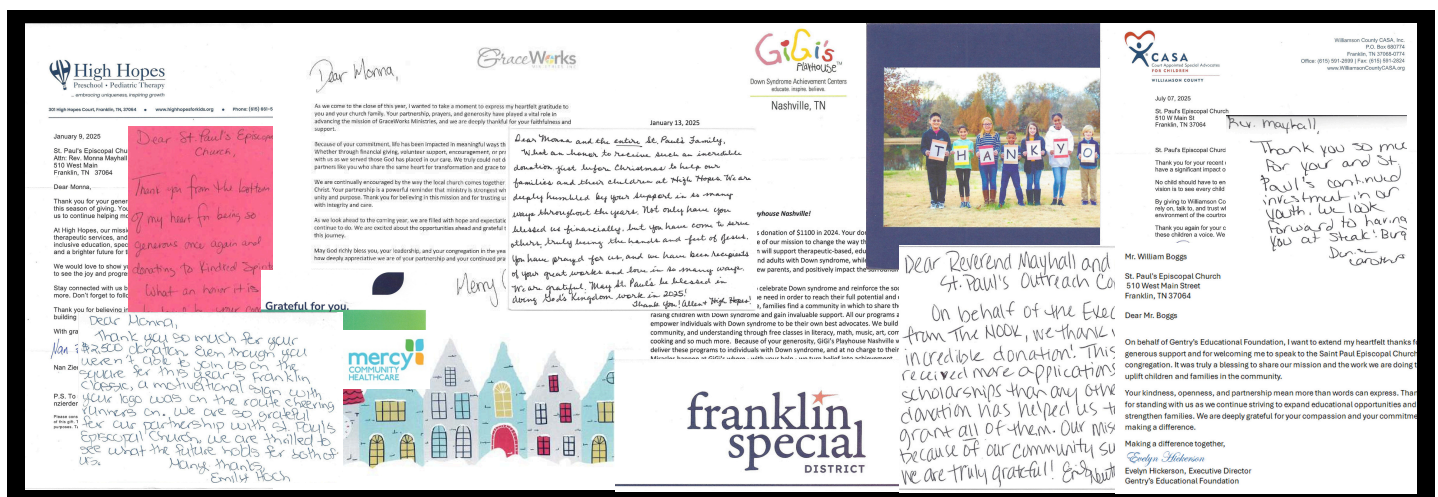
FSD – Food and Culinary  
Boys and Girls Club of Middle Tennessee  
My Friend's House  
Davis House  
High Hopes Development Center  
NOOK (Needs of Our Kids)  
Gentry's Educational Foundation  
Tucker's House  
CASA  
Mercy Community Healthcare  
Freedom Reigns Ranch  
Friends of WCAC  
Clergy Discretionary – Monna Mayhall

The Outreach Committee Members:

Judy Stockton (chair)  
Fred Warner  
Angela Lassiter (Vestry Liaison)  
Mark Rohde

Sheila Morreale  
Will Boggs (resigned end of 2025)  
Spencer Dibble  
Monna Mayhall

It is our prayer that we have wisely used the budget entrusted to us. There are so many people in Williamson County needing St. Paul's love and support; we look forward to spreading God's grace even further in 2025. If you know of any non-profit in Williamson County you would like for this committee to contact, please get in touch with one of the committee's members. Thank you. To get direct links to these non-profits or any we have helped in the past, visit St. Paul's Website. For more information contact Judy Stockton at [judy\\_stockton@comcast.net](mailto:judy_stockton@comcast.net)







## The Flower Guild

The Flower Guild selects, purchases, and creates beautiful flowers arrangements for Sunday Worship, special occasions, and other services during the year.

If you would like to sign-up to memorialize, honor, celebrate, or thank a special person(s) with altar flowers, please sign up for the date of your preference by visiting St. Paul's website or calling the church office.





