

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Franklin, TN
Vestry Minutes
January 20,2026

Attendees: Larry Whitlock, Ann Denson, Chris Oberholtzer, Jonathan Webster, Holly Spain, Paul Hannah, Mindy Boggs, Bruce Theobald, Spencer Dibble, Angela Lassiter
Staff: Monna Mayhall, Rusty McCown, Brett Sullivan, Michael Walters Young (financial)

Call to Order: 5:30pm

Opening Prayer: Rusty McCown

Approval of Minutes: Spencer made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Bruce seconded, motion passed.

Staff Reports

Children and Families: *Libby Sullivan*

- The pageant on Christmas Eve was a big success. Many thanks to Donna, Natalie Pratt, Lisette Smythe and everyone who volunteered to make it run smoothly.
- We held Godly Play in our new room this past Sunday, and it was wonderful! We are still waiting on some furniture for the second room. When it arrives, we will have two Godly Play rooms functioning on Sunday mornings for the first time since May of 2024.
- We are feeling so good about our Godly Play rooms that we are hosting a training this Spring. A Godly Play trainer from Chattanooga will come and train up to 12 participants over a 3 day weekend. We hope to have enough outside participants that will cover the cost to have our own teachers trained. I will keep you updated!
- Thank you to everyone who contributed to our beautiful new nursery by purchasing toys from our registry. Please stop by and check out our new space!
- Save the date for Jambalaya and Jeopardy on January 28th. It will be our first Gathering for Good in the new building. The fun starts at 5:30, and childcare will be provided.

Music and Creative Ministries: *Donna Stokes-Rogers*

- Christmas Eve and Christmas Day went beautifully from a musical perspective (although it went well for ALL). Our string players were fantastic, and our Baroque Concert at 10:30 was just lovely. Desi Noller and Holli held down the fort on Christmas Day.
- Iain Macpherson, Elizabeth Tyer, Desi Noller, Mark Hyssong, Sharon Hels, Holli Scholz, and myself sang at the Pathfinders December luncheon and had a great time.
- The Maker's Table is back at play and had our first January meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 13 where Louise Renaudin taught a "Relax with Watercolors" class. We have decided

to create a “Maker’s Board” in the new choir room with examples of our creativity and fun.

- Handbells begin rehearsing in a few weeks on Sunday, Feb. 15 after the 11:00 service. We are so very excited to have an official rehearsal space again!
- The St. Paul’s Choir and Derek and Kent are going to be the choir at the Diocesan service for Absalom Jones held at the Cathedral on Feb. 15 at 6:00 pm. It is always such an honor to represent St. Paul’s at this event.
- A Big Thank You to our substitute organists Bryan Jepson, Will Berger, and Elizabeth Smith, who played while Holli and her husband were visiting family after the holidays.

Youth and Young Adults: *Brett Sullivan*

EYG

- 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 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 a flashlight/freeze tag game called 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!
- On January 11th Rusty and Brett hosted a youth parent gathering for parents of students in 6th - 12th grade to get to know one another and youth leadership. We introduced the youth programs offered by St. Paul’s and discussed ways to encourage increased youth participation in the coming semester.
- Pilgrimage registration closes on January 23rd. If 3 more people sign up, we can retain our group airfare rates. If you or a high school student in your life is interested, we would love for you to join us!
- The students enjoyed returning to the Barnabas lounge for Christian formation this month! EYG will kick off for the semester on January 25th
- . Confirmation classes will begin on February 8th, once again led by Jay Fahey!
- Young Adults
- 7 St. Paul’s college students and EYG alumni had a reunion dinner at Sal’s in December!
- Four families (Blake and Colbi Hogan, Jake and Clara Martini, Josh Smith, and Jared and Caroline Sullivan) are sponsoring the new young adults Christian Formation class which started on the 11th! The first class had good attendance, and we are excited to offer this second adult formation class in our new space!

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 13 of them currently having Care Receivers. Marcia Wilkinson and Carol Waters just completed another leadership training class as Stephen Ministry Leaders.

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.

PARISH LIFE

WITS

For January, WITS (Women in Theological Study), is starting the new year off right, focusing on our Mind, Body, and Spirit. First, for the mind we shared in a Book Swap – bringing a book to pass along for others to read! Next, for the body we offered Stretching. Lastly, for the spirit we will engage in Lectio Divina - prayer practice of slow, meditative reading and reflection on Scripture to foster a deeper, personal encounter with God. WITS is loving a new space to meet in on Thursdays from 9:30-11:00 am.

Holy Hikes

Holy Hikes-Middle Tennessee is taking a break until February.

Pickle Ball Anyone?

St. Paul's is in the process of forming a Pickle Ball Group. E-Pickle-palians want you to come out and join them for fun and fellowship. All levels of play (or no play) are welcome to join. There is an interest meeting on Sunday February 1st after the 11:00 am service in Otey. If you have any questions, please contact Daniel Robicheaux.

OUTREACH

Spring Street

Spring Street ministry gathers this Thursday for the January Program. Last month was a huge success amid the rain. It started off with live music, and a delicious meal. It ended with

the distribution of the Red/Green Christmas bags filled with food donated by parishioners, along with a \$50 Kroger Gift Card for each person. Jackie King and all the volunteers continue to provide and support a great ministry.

Outreach Committee

Listing of Funds recently distributed:

50 - \$50 Kroger Gift Cards for Spring Street \$2,500

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. This month marked a year since the first time we went there to take cake and ice cream to the residents. No surprise we always leave with full hearts.

ST. PAUL'S PATHFINDERS - SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

Pathfinders – Senior Adult Ministry gathered today – Tuesday January 20 for Lunch and Learn Program, “Navigating Eldercare.” The program was open to the parish as it focused on all levels of Eldercare – Offering Caregiving, Needing Caregiving, or Approaching either of those. A representative from AgeWell TN and ElderCoach was here. These programs are a benefit we receive as being in a partnership agreement with ElderCare Coach Partnership Program.

BELOVED COMMUNITY

Beloved Community Commission of the Diocese of TN is hosting their 9th annual Absalom Jones Service on Sunday Feb 15 at 6:00 pm at Christ Church Cathedral in Nashville. Our choir will provide the music.

Rector's Report-Rusty McCown

All Christmas services went well and thanks to all who helped make them so successful. The new building is finishing up. It is hoped to be finished by the end of this month. The front door (in the front courtyard) and nursery windows will be installed in the next few weeks.

New chairs will be coming this week. New tables will be purchased. The company we are looking at is MightLight.

SFM will be our new cleaning company beginning February 1st.

Reception training is forthcoming. Volunteers will work 2 shifts a day Monday through Thursday from 9 to noon and 1-4pm. Friday will have one shift from 9 to noon.

Filters will be installed in front of windows (old office windows)

Renewal Works: Read your book before the vestry retreat. Lauren Dixon (president of RenewalWorks will be in attendance at the retreat.

Weather is not looking good for this weekend for our annual mtg. It will most likely be moved to the following weekend. Services may be cancelled as well and Rusty will hold morning prayer online.

Diocesan convention may be postponed as well due to weather

Rusty will keep an eye on Barnabas and make sure faucets are dripping because of the very cold weather we are likely to have.

Williamson County Homeless Alliance: Thursday nights in Barnabas during inclement weather.

Junior Warden: Jim Miller (as reported by Rusy McCown)

- Memorial Garden in the works
- Door locks are coming
- Landscaping is happening

Senior Warden: Paul Hannah

**see attached letter below*

Senior Warden Report – January 2026

My last Vestry meeting! I am thankful for so much.

- Of course, thankful for the new and beautiful space,
- Thankful for Susan Miller and her tireless monitoring of the building project.
- Thankful we can now look forward to the future renovations of Barnabas
- Thankful that we have continued our important ministries and services to our parish and our community.
- Thankful that 2025 operations resulted in a large surplus for our future needs
- Thankful for Michael's ongoing oversight of our finances
- Thankful for the generosity of the parish that will provide ample resources for operations in 2026, including sizable reserves.
- [Thankful that we have the opportunity to secure our future in downtown Franklin through the generous donation and addition of adjacent property!]

Most of all, I am thankful for all of you:

- Monna and Rusty
- Our church staff!
- This Vestry!

You all have made this past year so easy on me! I am so grateful! Thank you and God bless you all!

Committee Reports:

Stewardship: *Jonathan Webster*

- Final reach out for pledges

No new reports

Financials: *Michael Walters Young*

Michael Walters Young presented the 2026 budget summary as prepared by the Finance Committee. He emphasized that our budget is a reflection of our values at St. Paul's.

After discussion and questions, Ann Denson made a motion to approve the 2026 budget as written. Paul Hannah seconded, and motion passed.

This budget summary will be presented to the parish at the annual meeting.

Thank you to Michael Walters Young on your hard work!

New Business: none

Old Business: none

Closing Prayer-*The Lords Prayer*

Adjournment: *7:05 pm*

**next meeting at February 20th at Vestry Retreat at Henry Horton State Park*

