

# The Epistle



**MARCH 2026**

*Our mission is to proclaim the news of Jesus Christ and care for all*

## The Clergy and Staff

**The Rev. W.R. "Rusty" McCown**, Rector  
**The Rev. Monna Mayhall**, Associate Rector  
**The Rev. Ann Van Dervoort**,  
 Assisting Priest, Retired  
**Donna Stokes-Rogers**, Music Minister  
**Holli Scholtz**, Organist  
**Libby Sullivan**, Children's Minister  
**Brett Smith**, Youth Minister  
**Shannon Buttrey**, Parish Administrator  
**Kristy Moore**, Financial Administrator  
**Paula Sherman**, Communications Manager  
**Maggie Gilchrist**, Nursery Coordinator  
**Ashley Anderson**, Youth Intern

## Vestry

**Jonathan Webster**, Senior Warden  
 Finance, Stewardship, Long Range Planning  
**Jim Miller**, Junior Warden  
 Building and Grounds  
**Angela Lassiter**  
 Parish Life  
**Mark Tumblin**  
 Outreach  
**Marty Karpie**  
 Stewardship  
**Chris Oberholtzer**  
 Newcomer Engagement  
**Melissa Montero**  
 Hospitality  
**Spencer Dibble**  
 Finance  
**Ann Denson**  
 Communications  
**Jim Lambert**  
 Pastoral Care  
**Larry Whitlock**  
 Senior Ministries  
**Jenna Martin**  
 Youth and Children's Ministries  
**Michael Walters Young**  
 Treasurer

## FIND US:

**510 WEST MAIN STREET  
 FRANKLIN, TN. 37064  
 (615) 790-0527  
 WWW.STPAULSFRANKLIN.COM**



**FIND US ON FACEBOOK  
 @STPAULSFRANKLINTN**

**FIND US ON INSTAGRAM  
 @STPAULSFRANKLIN**

**March 2026  
 Office Hours:**

**Monday-Thursday  
 9:00 am - 4:00 pm**

**Friday  
 9:00 am - 12:00 pm**

**AFTER HOURS EMERGENCY:**  
 A member of the clergy is always on call. If you need assistance from a priest outside office hours, the number to call is 615-790-0527. You will then be directed to a member of the clergy.

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Birthday Girls!



Desi's presentation at the  
WSP Retreat

The Epistle is published the first of each month. Forward any information you have for News In The Pews, Sunday bulletin, or The Epistle monthly newsletter to [communications@stpaulsfranklin.com](mailto:communications@stpaulsfranklin.com) and we will make sure it gets to the right publication.

[Deadline for the April newsletter is March 26, 2026](#)

# Upcoming Events

March 4, 11, 18, 25

Stations of the Cross  
Wednesday Night Lenten Series

March 17

Pathfinders St. Patrick's Celebration

March 21

Holy Hikes

March 23

Renewal Works Meetings

March 29

Palm Sunday

April 1

Royal Table

April 2

Maundy Thursday

April 3

Good Friday

April 4

Great Easter Vigil & Holy Eucharist

April 12

Annual Picnic

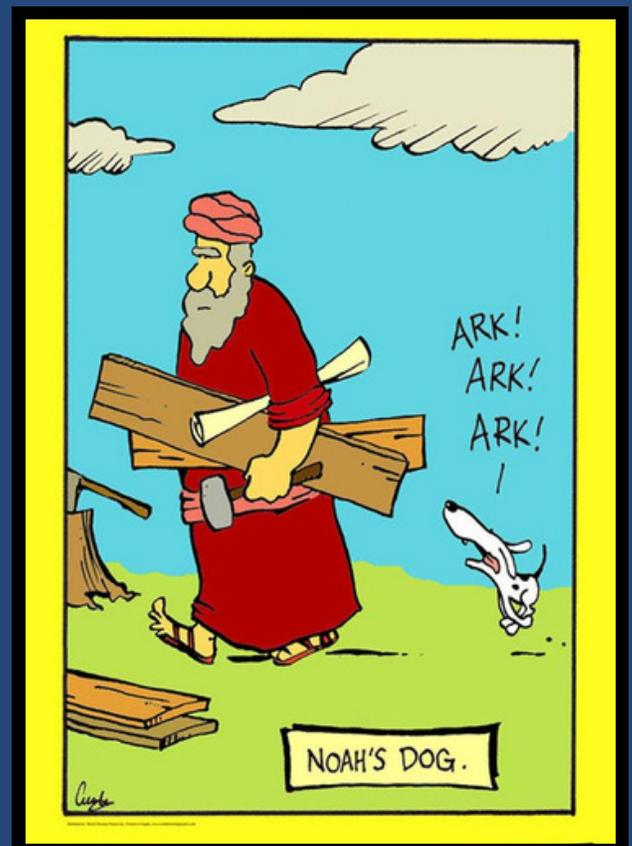
Many more meetings and gatherings can be found on the Church Calendar, under the "About Us" tab on the church website:

<https://74053364.view-events.com/calendar/74053364/>



Birthday Outreach Ministry  
at Charter Senior Living.

## Comics Corner



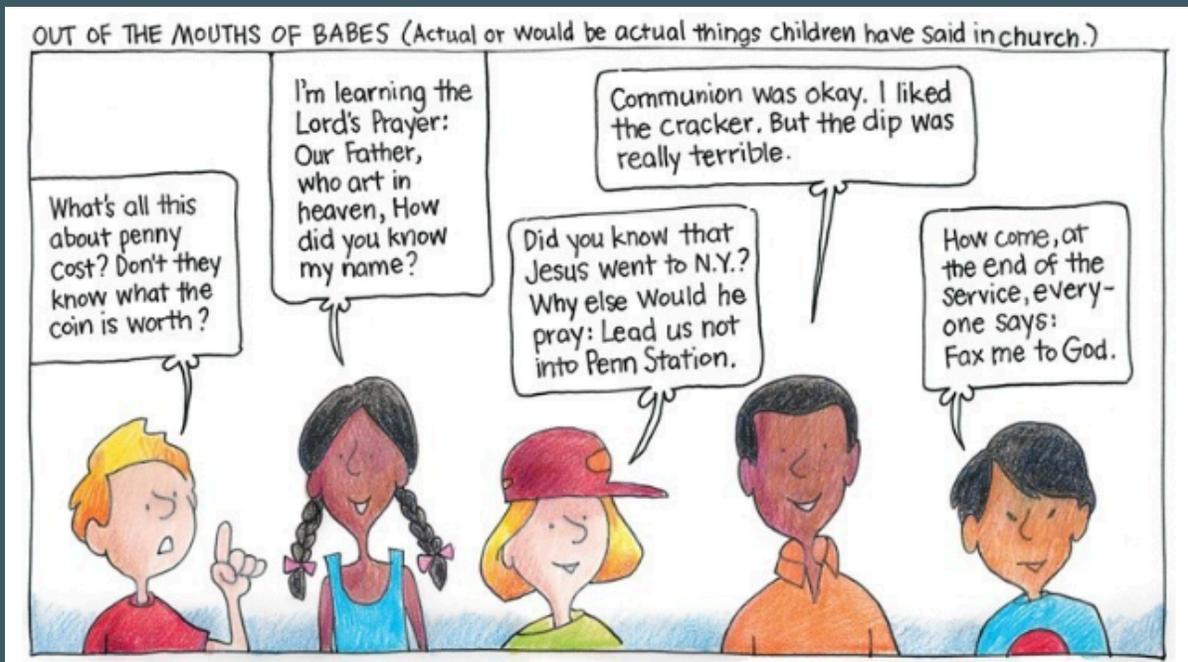
## Renewal Works is here!

It's a process meant to help our parish grow spiritually and begins with an online inventory. Everyone age 18 and over is encouraged to take it. Use the following link between February 22 and midnight March 15th. The 30–45 minute inventory is a great opportunity to listen and reflect on where your spiritual journey and our journey as a whole church is right now. The end point is to create a spiritual strategic plan that will help shape Christian formation focus for the next 3-5 years. This follows a period of intense physical infrastructure planning with the capital campaign and building improvements. Father Rusty has used this process before and believes in it.

Some have expressed frustration with trying to access the Spiritual Life Inventory on-line. We've learned that your cell phone is not the best option, even if you swipe off all open apps, clearing your history. If you are using an iPad, make sure you close all open apps and Safari tabs. Almost everyone who has completed the survey successfully used a desktop or laptop. If you've closed all apps on your phone and closed all open tabs on your iPad and are still having trouble, please consider stopping by the front reception desk off the Main Street Courtyard to obtain a hard copy of the inventory, returning it no later than March 12th.

Regardless of the method of completing the inventory, all responses are anonymous. It is important for our work that as many parishoners as possible complete the inventory in order for our results to be statistically reliable.

Click here to take Spiritual Inventory: <https://www.research.net/r/RenewalWorks2335>



Kick off your shoes, get a drink or something you like, give yourself 45 minutes and take the online [Spiritual Life Inventory](https://www.research.net/r/RenewalWorks2335). Enjoy!

Loren Dixon from RenewalWorks attended St. Paul's Vestry retreat. Below is an article he wrote for their publication about meeting our Vestry.

## Discipleship in Action

*A bi-weekly reflection on discipleship and church renewal*

*This week's reflection is offered by Loren Dixon, Director of RenewalWorks.*

Last week I travelled to Tennessee to join the vestry of St Paul's Episcopal Church at their annual retreat. It is a beautiful part of the country with warm weather, good barbeque and much hospitality.

St Paul's recently launched RenewalWorks in their church. This comes after a period of growth and a significant capital campaign centered around some needed physical church improvements. During recent years, the vestry has worked hard to ensure the future security of the church, and that their space will care for the needs of their parishioners.

With much of the campaign and construction now complete, Rector Rusty McCown discussed that he hopes the church will now add a spiritual master plan to the 2026 parish priorities. During the annual meeting, he invited the leadership and the parish to determine how they will use their facilities, activities, and ministries to foster and encourage a deeper parish spiritual life, a deeper love of God and neighbor.

At the retreat, the vestry spent some time on the methodology of RenewalWorks and the findings on Episcopal churches. We also discussed the notion of spiritual leadership. At RenewalWorks, we call this "The Heart of the Leader."

# Renewal Works

*The gifts God gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ. Ephesians 4:11-*

12

How is serving on a vestry different from serving on the board of a local non-profit? How can vestry service include a spiritual component for each participant that will deepen their own relationships, spiritual practices, and learnings?

**The group spent considerable time discussing how vestry meetings - despite all the work that must get done - can also include some spiritual food?**

St Paul's vestry is made up of thoughtful and dedicated folks. They had healthy discussion about how working on their own spiritual journeys can provide a model for others in their ministries, their lives, and the community. They discussed many options for incorporating spiritual conversations and spiritual practices into their vestry meetings, often reflecting the individual members' different backgrounds, needs and faith journeys.

Ultimately, St Paul's decided that they will begin vestry meetings with one person sharing a selected bible passage that is important to them. They will provide historical context for understanding the passage, but mostly they will share how and why it resonates in their life. A different vestry member will share at each meeting. This is meant as a first step and they look forward to contemplating the Heart of the Leader question further throughout the RenewalWorks process.

We wonder how you are sharing spiritual food in your church meetings and activities. How are you modeling your faith in your life and community? And how do these practices sustain you and draw you deeper to God and others? In this season of Lent, we invite you to reflect on these questions.

## 2026-2027 Vestry Members

Jonathan Webster  
Senior Warden (Finance, Stewardship, Long Range  
Planning)

Jim Miller  
Junior Warden (Building and Grounds)

Angela Lassiter  
Parish Life

Mark Tumblin  
Outreach

Marty Karpie  
Stewardship

Chris Oberholtzer  
Newcomer Engagement

Melissa Montero  
Hospitality

Spencer Dibble  
Finance

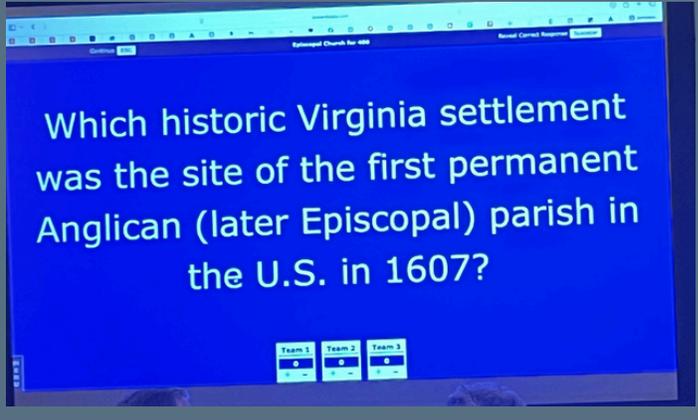
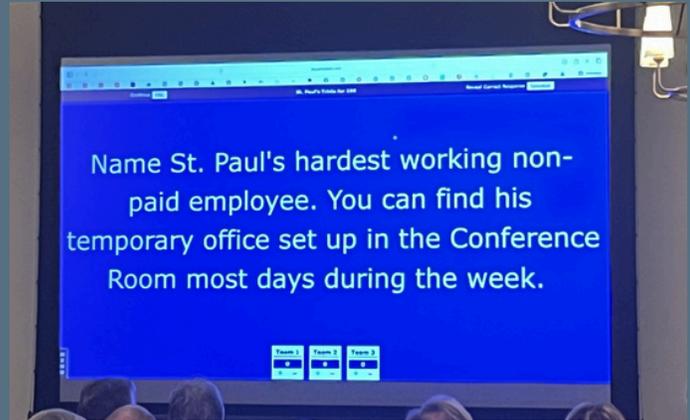
Ann Denson  
Communication

Jim Lambert  
Pastoral Care

Larry Whitlock  
Senior Ministries

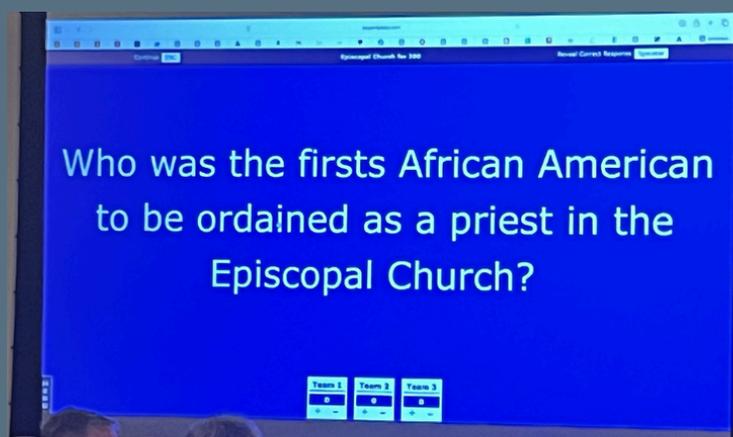
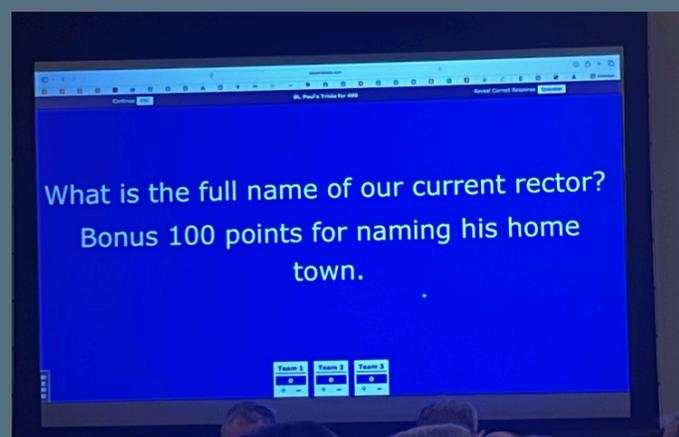
Jenna Martin  
Youth & Children Ministries

# Jambalaya & Jeopardy



# Jambalaya & Jeopardy

Winning Wonders	Pew Crew	Educated Episcopalians
600	500	500
400	450	500
400	400	300
1400	100	1300
1000	1450	1000
2400	900	2300
300	2350	300
200	300	200
2900	200	2800
200	2850	200
3100	300	3000
	3150	



# WSP heART & Soul Retreat



# WSP heART & Soul Retreat



## Understanding Art Made Fun

The Maker's Table would like to invite everyone for a fun excursion. We will be watching a video on "How to Look at and Understand Great Art" over two sessions: Tuesday, March 10 and Tuesday, March March 24 from 10:00am -11:30 both weeks in Otey Hall.

On Tuesday, April 14, we will then visit the Frist museum to view The Impressionist Revolution: Monet to Matisse from the Dallas Museum of Art and In Her Place: Nashville Artists in the Twenty-First Century. We will have lunch in downtown Nashville after.

If we have a group of ten or more, tickets can be purchased for \$16 per person. Smaller group tickets are \$20 per adult or \$16 for seniors.

If you want more information, please contact Donna Stokes-Rogers at (615) 481-5144 or [donnastokesrogers@gmail.com](mailto:donnastokesrogers@gmail.com). EVERYONE IS WELCOME!



## The Epicklepalians

Great news...St. Paul's has recently organized a Pickle Ball Group, EpicklePalians, and ready or not, we are getting out on the court!

Sunday March 22nd at 2:00 pm  
Cottonwood Clubhouse  
180 Cottonwood Drive, Franklin

If you are interested in learning to play Pickle Ball or are wanting to find people who like to play Pickle Ball, come out and join us for fun and fellowship. All levels of play (or no level of play) are welcome.

If you are interested in or have any questions about St. Paul's EpicklePalians, please contact Daniel Robicheaux at [robicheauxdaniel@gmail.com](mailto:robicheauxdaniel@gmail.com).





**HOLY HIKES**  
MIDDLE TENNESSEE

**Join us for our next Holy Hike**  
**WHEN: Saturday, March 21 at 9:00 am**  
**WHERE: Harpeth River Trail**  
**Meet at Intersection of 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave N. and 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. N.**  
**(Bicentennial Park behind Tiny Donuts**  
**in Franklin)**



- Holy Hikes...
- are like a progressive Liturgy
  - are once a month.
  - are open to anyone, any age - please share information.
  - are accessible, being mostly flat, and 1-2 miles in length.
  - are at various location each month - park, trail, zoo, etc.
  - are free unless place of the hike charges admission/fee.

# PATHFINDERS

## SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

**TUESDAY 17 MARCH**

St. Patrick's Day  
Lunch and Fun & Fellowship in Otey Hall

11:30 am – Catered Lunch  
12:00 noon – 1:00 pm Fun and Fellowship

\$10 for lunch  
RSVP by March 13 and  
Note any dietary restrictions  
Pay for lunch at the event

RSVP to Monna at  
[monna@stpaulsfranklin.com](mailto:monna@stpaulsfranklin.com) or 790-0527



Pathfinders is a ministry  
planned for people 55 years  
old and older – though we  
welcome all ages!

## Annual Spring Flower & Fern Sale

Are you ready for a little Spring? Order Spring and Summer all in one basket! The Women of St. Paul's are having our annual flower and fern sale. Give your friends, neighbors and family a chance to have a little instant spot of beauty!

Order forms are in the Narthex, Founder's or download one online. Orders are due by April 1st and pickup is April 25th in Barnabas parking lot. All information is on the order form.

Flower Baskets \$20  
Ferns \$22

Order Form:  
[Annual Spring Flower & Fern Sale](#)



## Women of St. Paul's Annual Flower and Fern Sale



**Order by April 1st**  
**Baskets \$20**  
**Ferns \$22**  
**Delivered April 25th**

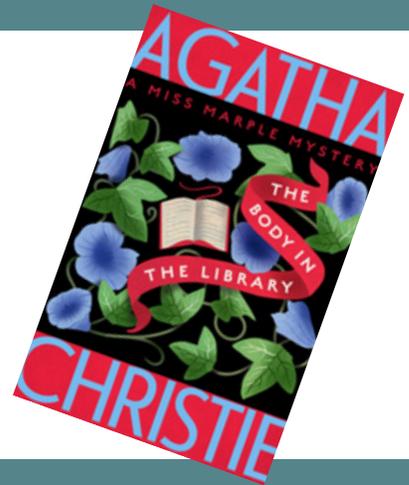


**Questions and payments to**  
**Cindy Tumblin**  
**615.406.8658**  
**425 Crofton Park Ln.**  
**Franklin, Tn. 37069**

## Bad Girls Book Club

The Bad Girls Book Club will meet in Founders Hall, Tuesday, March 24, 6:00 to 8:00 PM. Susan Hughes will lead a discussion of *The Body in the Library* by Agatha Christie.

Please join us! Bring a sip or a nibble to share, We look forward to seeing you then.



## Annual Talent Show



The Annual Talent Show is April 22nd. Details coming soon.

## Bishop Retirement

Bishop Bauerschmidt recently announced his retirement. Learn more about the Bishop Search here: <https://edtn.org/bishop-search/>



## Biscuit Minute & Coffee Hour

Biscuit Minute is back! Grab a quick snack on your way to Formation class. 9:45 - 10:00 AM in Founders.

Coffee Hour is after the 11:00 AM Service in Founders



## Vestry Meeting Minutes

The latest Vestry Meeting Minutes can now be found on the website. The link is at the bottom of the vestry page (<https://www.stpaulsfranklin.com/vestry/>), or [click here](#).

## Easter Egg Hunt

It's time bring new or used plastic eggs and/or wrapped, peanut free candy to prepare for the annual egg hunt at 10 am on Easter Sunday.

Please drop off egg and candy donations at the front desk of the church by Sunday, March 29th.



## Royal Table Family Communion Class

Do you have children interested in Holy Communion? Would someone in your family enjoy a refresher? Does your family just need an evening in conversation with other families about one of the Sacraments of the church? If you've answered "yes", make plans to join us for the Royal Table on the evening of April 1st. We will share stories about Holy Communion, explore the importance of the Last Supper during Holy Week, learn more about what participating in Holy Communion means for our parish family, and share a meal together.

If you are interested, just email [libby@stpaulsfranklin.com](mailto:libby@stpaulsfranklin.com) and we will save a seat for you!



## Week of Wonder - Save the Date

We are excited to have the Week of Wonder back on St. Paul's campus this summer! Make plans to join us June 15-18th. Children ages 3 years old through rising 4th graders are invited to participate in our version of VBS. Rising 5th graders through adults are encouraged to participate as volunteers and leaders, and the whole parish is invited to a cookout celebration on Thursday, June 18th. Look for registration near the end of April.

Questions? Email [libby@stpaulsfranklin.com](mailto:libby@stpaulsfranklin.com).



## Easter Choral & Floral Offerings

If you would like to offer a thanksgiving or memorial for a loved one on Easter, please sign up below for the Easter Floral and/or Choral offerings. After you have signed up below, you can send your donations online or mail a check noting the flowers or music ministry.

Contact Shannon with any questions at [shannon@stpaulsfranklin.com](mailto:shannon@stpaulsfranklin.com).

<https://bit.ly/floral-choral-offerings>



## Library News

The library is almost ready to be fully open! Just a few last minute items to make it easier for you to find books.

If you have a NEW book you would like to donate, please place it in the basket. If we can use it, great! If not, will donate to Franklin Library.

Thanks to all who have helped and/or are still helping put our beautiful new space together. In the meantime please browse, relax and chat with friends in this space.

The library will always be open as long as the church is open.

Peace and good reading.

Ann



# EYG - Episcopal Youth Group

## EYG - Episcopal Youth Group

Sundays, 4:30 - 6:00 PM, Barnabas  
All 6th - 12th grade students are welcome at St. Paul's Episcopal Youth Group! Due to Spring Break, EYG's next meeting is March 15!

## Youth Christian Formation

Sundays, 10:00 AM in Barnabas

# 2026 St. Paul's Youth

## JANUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

 Parent Gathering, 4:30 PM

## FEBRUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

 8<sup>th</sup>, Superbowl Lunch, 12 PM  
17<sup>th</sup>, Pancake Supper, 5:30 PM

 Christian Formation, 10 AM  
 Episcopal Youth Group (EYG), 4:30 PM

# EYG - Episcopal Youth Group

## Olympics - EYG Style



# EYG - Episcopal Youth Group

## Youth Pancake Supper



# EYG - Episcopal Youth Group

## Youth Pancake Supper



# *Young Adults & College Students*

## **ST. PAUL'S YOUNG ADULT GROUP MARCH EVENTS**

### **SOULFUL**

JOIN US FOR CHRISTIAN FORMATION,  
SUNDAYS AT 10AM

### **SOCIAL**

TRIVIA AT MCGREARY'S  
TUES. MARCH 10 [AT] 6 PM, TRIVIA AT 7 PM

JOIN US FOR DINNER AND DISCUSSION AT THE FITZPATRICKS  
THURS. MARCH 26 [AT] 6:30 PM  
2234 BEE HIVE DR. COLUMBIA

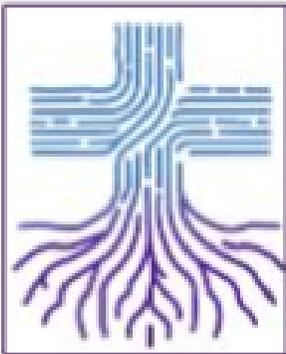
### **SERVICE**

HELP US STOCK THE CHURCH PANTRY BY BRINGING CANNED  
FRUIT, PASTA SAUCE, PASTA, DICED TOMATOES, JELLY, AND  
REUSABLE BAGS TO THE BIN OUTSIDE OF FOUNDERS.

The season now known as Lent (from an Old English word meaning “spring,” the time of lengthening days) has a long history. Originally, Lent was “a season of penitence and fasting,” the time of preparation for those who were to be baptized, at the Easter Vigil, the celebration of the Resurrection of the Lord early on Easter Sunday. But since these new members were to be received into a living community of Faith, the entire community was called to preparation. Also, this was the time when those who had been separated from the Church would prepare to rejoin the community.

Today, during the season of Lent all Christians are invited “to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word.”

In the western church the forty days of Lent extend from Ash Wednesday through Holy Saturday, omitting Sundays. The last three days of Lent are the sacred Triduum of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday. The number 40 is connected with many biblical events, but especially with the forty days Jesus spent in the wilderness preparing for His ministry by facing the temptations that could lead him to abandon his mission and calling.



The color used in the sanctuary for most of Lent is purple. This is the color of royalty, and so anticipates through the suffering and death of Jesus, the coming resurrection of Christ as the King of Kings, celebrated on Easter Sunday. There are no beautiful flowers on the altar during Lent, but only greenery or nothing at all. There are no Alleluias said within the liturgies, and there is no celebratory sounding music, but rather music that tends to be more somber.



## Ash Wednesday

Wednesday February 18 is Ash Wednesday, marking the beginning of the penitential Season of Lent, in the church. Ashes are an ancient sign of penitence. From the Middle Ages it became the custom to begin Lent (the forty days before Easter) by being marked in ash with the sign of the cross. The reminder that we are dust turns our attention to the creative power of God, and God's ability to heal the brokenness in our lives when we offer that brokenness to God. That turning to God is the work of Lent, preparation for the celebration of Jesus's resurrection on Easter Day.



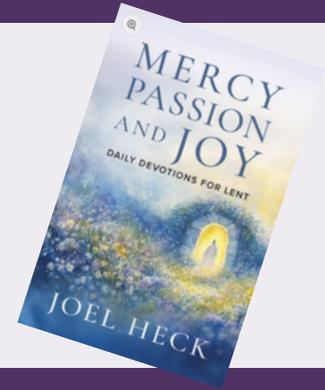
On Ash Wednesday, consider coming to one of these services to join with the community of faith to begin the Holy Season of Lent:

- 7:00 am Imposition of Ashes and Holy Eucharist
- 12:00 Noon Imposition of Ashes and Holy Eucharist
- 6:00 pm Imposition of Ashes and Holy Eucharist (Childcare is available)

*“You are dust and to dust you shall return.”*

## Lenten Devotions

Make sure to pick up a copy of *Mercy, Passion, and Joy* – Lenten Daily Devotional booklet. Available in the Narthex, Front Office, and Founders Hall beginning Sunday February 15th.



## Lenten Meditations

### Sign up to receive for daily emails

According to The Book of Common Prayer, Lent provides us with the opportunity for self-examination, repentance, prayer, fasting and self-denial; and to read and meditate on God's holy word (BCP, p 265). This Lenten Season, discover new ways your faith is guiding you through, as you journey through Episcopal Relief & Development's Lenten Meditations, reflecting on "Holy Habits."

Written by Sister Monica Clare, an Episcopal nun, author and unlikely TikTok star, these meditations offer an invitation to rediscover—or deepen—holy habits of prayer, worship and engagement with Scripture. These "holy habits" provide a path to a life that is given shape, meaning and direction by being rooted in a deeper relationship with God. You can also directly access the meditations at the same link.

Here is the link for people to subscribe to the Episcopal Relief and Development Meditations and receive one in your inbox each day.

<https://www.episcopalrelief.org/church-in-action/lent/>



## Wednesday Evening Lenten Programs

March 4, 11, 18, 25

### 5:00 PM - Stations of the Cross in the Sanctuary

Sign up here to lead Stations one Wednesday:

<https://bit.ly/LentenSeries2026>

### 5:30 PM - Supper in Otey

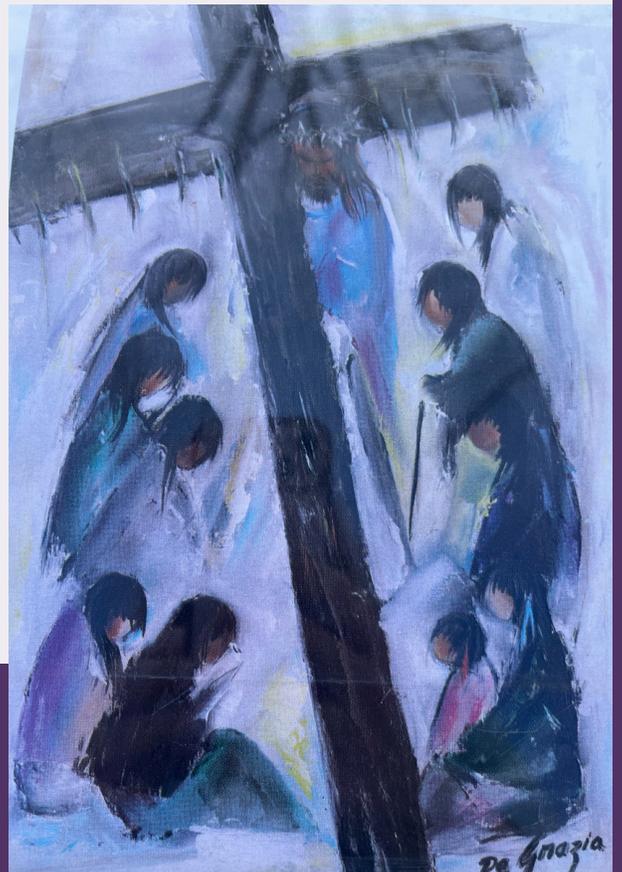
Sign-up here to to bring food one Wednesday:

<https://bit.ly/LentenSeries2026>

### 6:00 -7:00 PM Lenten Program – Will You?

When we are initiated into the church with the water of baptism, we (or our sponsors) answer a series of questions called the Baptismal Covenant. The first three questions echo the words of our creeds, our beliefs about God and the church. The last five questions focus on action. They each begin with the words: Will You?

These “Will You” questions articulate how we are to animate our baptism, to follow Christ's example in our relationships with others, our communities, and the world. These questions move from a gathering in to a sending out. They are a call to embrace and practice evangelism by proclaiming the Good News of Christ in all we do and say. Join us on Wednesday evenings during Lent to explore all that we can do and will do... With God's Help.



## Holy Week through Easter Sunday

### Sunday March 29 - Palm Sunday

7:30 am Holy Eucharist  
8:45 am Holy Eucharist  
10:00 am Palm Procession  
11:00 am Holy Eucharist  
6:00 pm Holy Eucharist

### Wednesday April 1

5:30 – 7:00 pm The Royal Table

Communion Class for Children and their Families, followed by Dinner  
(This is for children who have never received Communion and would like to, as well as those who already receive communion)

### Thursday April 2

6:00 pm Maundy Thursday (Foot Washing and Holy Eucharist)

### Friday April 3

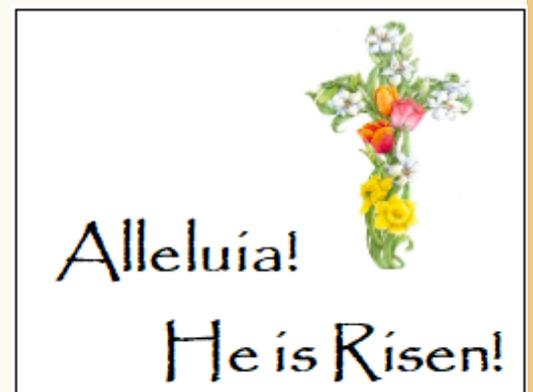
12:00 Noon Good Friday (Holy Eucharist)

### Saturday April 4

7:30 pm Easter Vigil & Holy Eucharist

### Sunday April 5 - Easter Sunday

7:30 am Holy Eucharist  
8:45 am Holy Eucharist  
10:00 am Easter Egg Hunt  
11:00 am Holy Eucharist



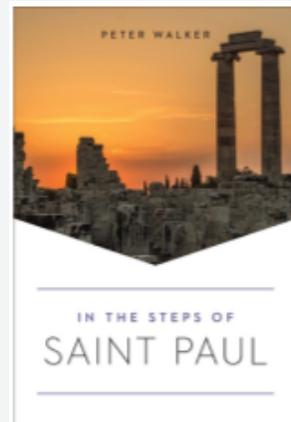
## Sunday Christian Formation

Sundays Christian Formation Classes are at 10 AM.

### Adult Christian Formation

In the Steps of St. Paul, 10 AM, Otey Hall

The Apostle Paul is often considered the greatest influencer, after Jesus, in the history of Christianity. Using Peter Walker's book, *In the Steps of Saint Paul*, along with other resources, we will explore and discuss St. Paul's wide-ranging travels. We will not only dig deeper into the places and the people, but also look at what motivated Paul to continue his missions.



Grab a cup of coffee, a biscuit, and a friend, and come join us on Sunday Mornings at 10:00 am in Otey for the Adult Christian Formation class to learn more about our parish namesake – St. Paul.

### Adult Book Study

*What's So Amazing About Grace?* 10 AM, Conference Room - 2nd Floor

Join us at St. Paul's Episcopal Church for a Christian formation book study of *What's So Amazing About Grace?* Together we'll explore how grace challenges, comforts, and transforms our lives and faith. We'll meet during the Formation Hour at 10:00 a.m. in the Conference on the 2nd floor—all are welcome.

### Youth Formation

Sundays, 10:00 AM, Barnabas



### Godly Play

Sundays, 10 AM, Godly Play Room, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
3rd-5th Grade

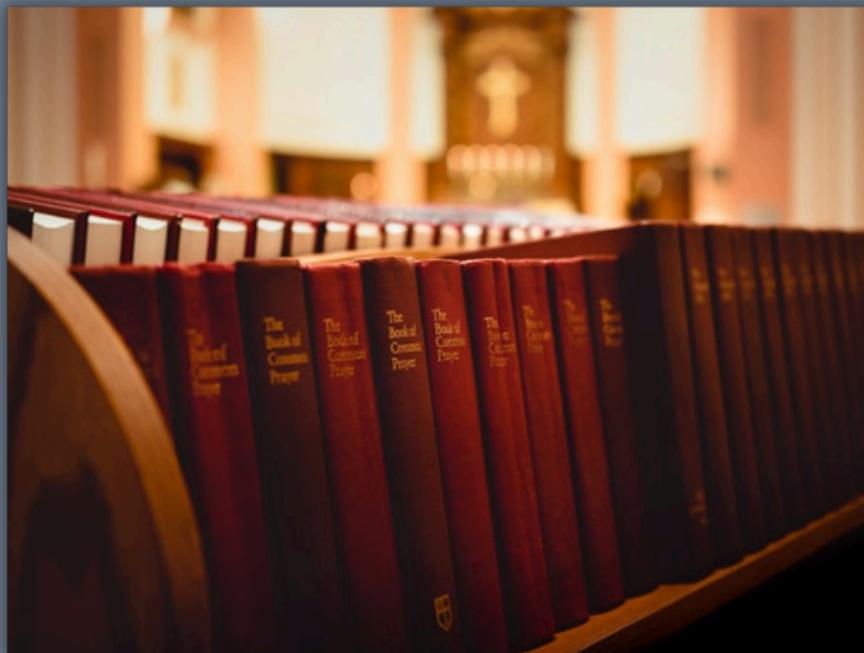
## Seekers Class 2026

Beginning Sunday, February 15 our annual "Seekers" Class will begin. This is the class traditionally offered for those adults who wish to join the church through Confirmation or Reception. However, please know that all are welcome, especially current congregants of St. Paul's who would like a refresher course. We will look at church subjects such as worship, church history, and Episcopal theology.

The course will last for eight sessions, with a couple Sundays off for various reasons. Our last class will be on April 19. The diocesan bishop will then make his annual visit to St. Paul's for Confirmation on May 17.

We will meet each Sunday at 10:00 in one of our new adult learning rooms on the second floor of the main church building (specific room tbd).

If you have any questions please contact Rusty via email: [rusty@stpaulsfranklin.com](mailto:rusty@stpaulsfranklin.com) or by phone 615-790-0527.



## WITS - Women in Theological Study

For the Thursdays in March, WITS – (Women in Theological Study) will offer Lenten focused gatherings.

On March 5, 12, and April 2, we will have the study entitled *Growing Up In Christ* Bishop Rob Wright, of Atlanta wrote, “[Everyone and every place], all will be better when we decide, with new resolve, to Grow up in Christ.

On March 19, Phyllis Thompson will offer *Proximity to the Mysteries of God*. She presented this at the Women’s retreat, and it was so well received. Phyllis shows how sacred things of the church are beautifully braided in beauty, order, and mystery.

Come join us for any or all of the weeks that WITS will explore ways that we can Grow up in Christ.

WITS meets these Dates: Mar 5 - Growing Up in Christ – Lenten Study  
March 12 - Growing Up in Christ – Lenten Study  
March 19 – Proximity to the Mysteries of God (Founders)  
March 26 - No WITS: Spring Street  
April 2 - Growing Up in Christ – Lenten Study

WITS meets on Thursdays from 9:30 -11:00 am - in Meeting Room #205 on the 2nd floor, except for March 19 when we meet in Founders. If you have any questions please contact Monna Mayhall at [monna@stpaulsfranklin.com](mailto:monna@stpaulsfranklin.com) or 615-790-0527.



## Coffee Club

Men’s Coffee Club is on Wednesdays, 6:45 - 7:45 AM, Barnabas

## DOK - Daughters of the King

St. Paul's has an active Chapter of Daughters of the King and would love to welcome new members. We plan to start a 12 week discernment program in January. We already have several women who are planning to discern.

Women interested in information are invited to contact Karen Austin [KSAustin@bellsouth.net](mailto:KSAustin@bellsouth.net) or Beth Woodruff [woodruffbeth96@gmail.com](mailto:woodruffbeth96@gmail.com).

We are strengthened through the discipline of a Rule of Life, a focus on prayer, service and evangelism, and are supported through the companionship of our sisters.



Women of St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
You are cordially invited to attend  
St. Paul's Kitchen Shower  
Friday, March 20, 6 PM  
We ask you to shower  
our wonderful new kitchen  
in Otey Hall.

Bring a snack to share  
and/or a beverage of choice!  
Our Hostess for the evening will be  
our very own Melissa Montero!

You can purchase an item off the  
Amazon wish list here:  
<https://bit.ly/SP-kitchen>

See you soon!



The St. Paul's Cookbook Committee met in February and tested 11 recipes in Meats and Seafood, and a few desserts. Our next meeting is Wednesday, April 8, at Noon in Otey Hall.

Please reach out to any of us if you would like to make a recipe to bring to our meeting or try at a convenient time. Feel free to stop by and taste as well!

The St. Paul's Cookbook Committee: Heather Creel, Gwen McKee, Jackie King, Cindy Thomsen, Mindy Boggs, Becky Grimes, Kathy Ulezelski, Catherine Mayhew, Susan Miller

The Outreach Committee of St. Paul's Church functions to serve non profit organizations Its vision is to share God's Grace with those in need in Williamson County. The mission of the Outreach Committee is to embrace community services in Williamson County dedicated to encouraging and advancing development of all people towards their fullest potential, and it is the intent of the committee to assist our church community in sharing God's grace outward into our wider community, participating, donating and encouraging people and the organizations addressing their needs. We intend to promote existing initiatives in our church and continue the conversation with our own church community on what we can do for our neighbors in the fulfillment of our Christian duty.

The Outreach Committee would like to thank the parishioners of St. Paul's for entrusting us with such a labor of love. Your financial support is making a difference in the lives of so many people. You are the only reason we can do this, thank you!

This month we were able to assist four organizations that we have helped previously and are near and dear to our hearts.



We granted \$7,000 to WAVES. WAVES is a nonprofit which serves to develop and build skills for those with developmental disabilities, from birth to senior citizens. Our donation will go to help not only their Saddle Up program, but also fund developmental therapy for those under 5 and teaching CPR to parents and family of participants.



The NOOK is a program begun by parents at Franklin Special School District to help students with essential items needed for school. The Outreach Committee awarded the NOOK \$4,000 to help purchase supply needs such as underwear, joggers and feminine hygiene products.



We assisted our friends at The Gentry Foundation with \$5,000. As you may know, Gentry's offers afterschool tutoring and assistance to students who are at risk. The money we gave will help with tutoring, educational supplies and enrichment for students this Spring and through the summer.



Lastly, we gave \$1,000 to the Williamson County Homeless Alliance to sponsor their annual fundraiser, a breakfast on March 31.

We would love to engage our St. Paul's family with the nonprofits we have helped along the way, so please check out the St Paul's website on the "Community Partners" on our Outreach page. There are many opportunities to volunteer or donate to help our friends and neighbors in Williamson county!

Lastly, we would like to thank the wonderful Will Boggs for his service on the Outreach Committee. Will leads with compassion, humility, and love, and we are better because of him. He has been a constant source of wisdom and curiosity, a unique combination that has provided a perspective that benefited all of us. We deeply appreciate all that he has done for our committee and St.Paul's—and just so he knows, he's always welcome to stop by our monthly Outreach meeting anytime his heart desires.

Our committee meets the third Tuesday of each month and is always eager to learn from church members about groups in Williamson County that can use our church's extra hand up. Our best nonprofits are found through our parish! If you have any thoughts or suggestions about organizations, please contact Monna Mayhall at [monna@stpauls.com](mailto:monna@stpauls.com) or any other members of the

Committee: Mark Rohde, Judy Stockton, Fred Warner, Sheila Morreale, Spencer Dibble, Mark Tumblin and Cindy Tumblin.



# Outreach - Spring Street



In February, we celebrated beautiful friends with Valentine decorations and bingo. Thank you to all the volunteers who made a great lunch and joined in the fun!



This month we will celebrate Spring by making flower decorated votive candle holders or tea cup bird feeders.

We need donations of vintage teacups and saucers and small glass jars. Please let me know if you can help and deliver to the church reception desk by Thursday March 19.

We will also have an early Easter brunch menu



Sign up here:

<https://bit.ly/SpringSt-March2026>

## Birthday Outreach Ministry

If you like a party, and if you have a heart for visiting people, then we have an opportunity for you that combines the two. On the 2nd Tuesday of every month, join with parishioners to visit Charter Senior Living of Franklin, to celebrate the birthdays of the Charter residents for that month. We will plan to meet there from 12:30-1:30 pm giving us a chance to visit with residents, and eat cake too!



If you are interested, contact Monna Mayhall at [monna@stpaulsfranklin.com](mailto:monna@stpaulsfranklin.com) or 615-790-0527.

## Meals on Wheels

Meals on Wheels January delivery dates are Wednesday, March 18 and Friday, March 20. Contact Kathy Berry for more information.

## Grief Support Group at St. Paul's

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 offers a Grief Support Group on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays. In March, they will meet on the 4th and 18th, from 10-11 am in Founders.

Questions: Contact Monna Mayhall at [monna@stpaulsfranklin.com](mailto:monna@stpaulsfranklin.com).

## 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.

If you feel called to support our outreach efforts through this ministry, there are many ways you can help: grocery shopping, food preparation, assembling ToGo bags, serving food at Holy Trinity, and providing clothing as needed. If you have questions or want more information, please contact Ellen Kirk 615-545-8820/[ellenvkirk@gmail.com](mailto:ellenvkirk@gmail.com) or Gerald Hancock 615-604-9635/[gwhancock44@gmail.com](mailto:gwhancock44@gmail.com).

## **Needs for Care That Stephen Ministers Can Meet**

- Those who are grieving the loss of a loved one
- People who are hospitalized
- People being treated for cancer -- and members of their families
- Individuals who are terminally ill -- and members of their families
- People who are experiencing divorce (before, during, and after)
- Parents who have children leaving home for the military, college, marriage, or work in another geographical area
- New congregation or community members who are experiencing transition difficulties
- Parents and families with children who have disabilities
- People recovering at home or in a rehabilitation facility after an illness or injury
- Those who are homebound or reside in an assisted living facility or a nursing care center
- Family members of someone (nearby or far away) who is homebound or resides in an assisted living facility or a nursing care center
- People with a chronic illness or a long-term disability-and their primary caregivers
- People facing birth-related issues such as infertility, adoption, an unplanned pregnancy, or the birth of a child
- People who have lost their jobs or had some other significant financial setback
- People experiencing significant job-related stress
- Family members of deployed military personnel
- People in the process of downsizing to a smaller home, moving into an assisted living situation, or changing their living arrangements in some other way
- People who are preparing to retire, who have recently retired, or who have been forced to retire early
- People affected by disasters or violence
- People experiencing spiritual crisis
- People with other critical needs or major life transitions that you know about

## Bicentennial Society

### *Honoring St. Paul's 200th Anniversary*

Our St. Paul's Episcopal Church was founded on August 25th, 1827, in a room of the Hiram Masonic Lodge #7 in Franklin when those persons "friendly to the formation of an Episcopal church in the area" met under the leadership of Reverend James Hervey Otey. Honored as the "Mother Church of the Diocese of Tennessee," St. Paul's led the way for Episcopal congregations to bloom throughout our state.

Today, there are three organizations committed to preserving the legacy of St. Paul's.

- **The Historic Committee** focuses on preserving our past and securing our future by supporting various projects and events that are not provided for in St. Paul's annual budget.
- **The Bicentennial Committee**, which is overseen by The Historic Committee, is responsible for planning and executing activities connected with the Bicentennial in 2027.
- **The Bicentennial Society** is a fundraising entity dedicated to providing financial support for the work of both the Historic and Bicentennial Committees.

Examples of projects that have been funded by the Bicentennial Society include:

**Education:** We are hosting several historic symposiums on Franklin's early churches and their role in sowing the seeds that helped make Franklin a vibrant, growing community. These events are open to the public and focused on both educating and uniting our local faith communities. We were also instrumental in creating the beautiful history panels on display in Otey Hall and the self-guided tour brochures for our historic Church.

## Bicentennial Society

### *Honoring St. Paul's 200th Anniversary*

**Preservation:** The Bicentennial Society has supported cataloguing of our historic documents and photographs and restored the broken tombstone of Bishop Otey's son just outside the front entrance of the Church. We also contributed to the repair of the historic wooden louvers above the front doors of St. Paul's, improving both form and function.

**Celebration:** Each year we host a festive birthday party for the parish, counting down the years to our Bicentennial in 2027.

One of the primary goals of the Bicentennial Society is to raise funds to support related church-wide and community events without straining our annual operating budget. If you'd like to take part in this unique historic undertaking, please consider joining the Bicentennial Society and play an important role in the education, preservation, and celebration of St. Paul's. Your \$1,000 pledge—due in 2027—can be paid over time by visiting [stpaulsfranklin.com/give](http://stpaulsfranklin.com/give).

To learn more, please contact any member of the Historic and Bicentennial Committees:

Greer Carlisle, Virginia Callicott, Jay Fahey, Gale Haddock, Colbi Layne Hogan, Pam Horne, Melanie Lampertz, Rev. Rusty McCown, Pat McCracken, Libby Sullivan, Cindy Thomsen, Cindy Tumblin, Kathy Ulezelski, and Mike Wesson.



## Join St. Paul's Bicentennial Society

With only four years left until St. Paul's 200th birthday, please consider joining the Bicentennial Society by making a donation of \$1,000, payable on a schedule of your choosing between now and 2027.

Funding from the Bicentennial Society supports our mission of preserving our past, and securing our future by supporting various projects and events that are not provided for in St. Paul's annual budget. As a member, you will play an important role in these endeavors.

**Education:** St. Paul's recently hosted a History Symposium on the establishment of the early churches in the city of Franklin. This symposium, open to the entire community, was the first of a series of events to both educate and unite our local faith communities. The Bicentennial Society has also helped create the history panels on display in Otey Hall and the self-guided tour brochures of our historic nave.

**Preservation:** The Bicentennial Society has helped catalogue our historic documents and photographs now maintained at the Williamson County Archives, and will soon undertake the restoration of the broken tombstone of Bishop Otey's son at the front entrance of the church.

Presently, the society is helping with the repair of the historic wooded louvers above the front doors of St. Paul's. Keeping the historic parts of our church in good repair is a key goal for the Bicentennial Society.

**Celebration:** Your membership will also support the many events currently in the planning stages for 2027. When the Bicentennial Society was established in 2017, one of the primary goals was to raise funds to support church-wide and community celebrations without straining the annual operating budget of the church.

Please consider joining the Bicentennial Society and play an important role in the Education, Preservation, and Celebration of St. Paul's.

Gratefully,

Jay Fahey and Libby Sullivan, Bicentennial Co-chairs

# The Corner Shop

The Corner Shop is open again and is now located behind the reception desk. We have a few new items such as the Limited Edition St. Paul's sweatshirt for \$30. Remember all of the proceeds from the gift shop support various ministries and outreach at St. Paul's.



## Ushers For All Services Needed

If you are interested in being an usher for one of our Sunday services, please let us know by contacting the office (shannon@stpaulsfranklin.com). A training class will be offered on what to expect and how to handle each situation.

## Holy Eucharistic Visits

If you would like Holy Communion brought to you, please let us know, and we can schedule a time for someone to visit you. For questions or if you would like to schedule a Eucharistic Visit, you can contact Monna Mayhall at monna@stpaulsfranklin.com or 615-790-0527.



## Altar Flower Sign-Ups

If you would like to sign-up to memorialize, honor, celebrate or thank a special person(s) with Altar Flowers, please sign up on the date of your preference by signing up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0c48abad2fa0f58-altar>. We will also have a list hanging on the Church Bulletin board if you prefer to sign up that way.

## The Lord's Lift

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 will need a ride. If you can offer a ride to someone to church on Sunday, contact the church office to be placed on a Sunday Rotation Schedule. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Shannon at 615-790-0527 or shannon@stpaulsfranklin.com.

## Recycling



We need the help of parishioners who would be willing to take a blue bag with them to recycle with their own household recyclables when they come to church. Paper is collected in the large, gray bin in the workroom next to Shannon's office and there is a large, green bin for glass in Otey kitchen. For more information, please contact Shannon or any member of the recycling committee. St. Paul's and the environment are grateful for your help.

## Financial Performance for the Month of January 2026

**January Summary:** One month into the fiscal year and the parish is exactly where it should be.

**Revenues:** Cash-in-plate started the year were higher than anticipated while pledging came very close to expectations. January is always a high month for pledges as Prepaid pledges are recorded to start the year.

**Expenses:** Expenses were significantly lower than anticipated for the first month (12.9% lower). Personnel costs were almost right were they were forecast to be. Operations were slightly lower but had higher expenses than anticipated in Office Equipment, Electric use and Banking Fees. Utility estimates for Water and Gas were as expected. Limited Outreach monies were dispersed, contributing most to the lower expenses.

**Overall:** No Non-Operating report is available for the month of January. It will be again in February. Overall, the parish started the year \$128,405 to the good.



Item	A	B	C (A-B)	D (A/B-1)	E	F	G (E-F)	H (E/F-1)
	January 2026				Year to Date to January 2026			
	Actual	Budget	Monthly Variance - Positive / (Negative)		Actual YTD	Budget YTD	YTD Variance - Positive / (Negative)	
<b>Revenues</b>								
Pledges & Cash in Plate	\$219,275	\$221,051	(\$1,776)	-0.8%	\$219,275	\$221,051	(\$1,776)	-0.8%
Other Income	\$3,169	\$42	\$3,127	7505.3%	\$3,169	\$42	\$3,127	100.0%
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$222,444</b>	<b>\$221,092</b>	<b>\$1,351</b>	<b>0.6%</b>	<b>\$222,444</b>	<b>\$221,092</b>	<b>\$1,351</b>	<b>0.6%</b>
<b>Expenses</b>								
Personnel	\$59,341	\$59,085	\$256	0.4%	\$59,341	\$59,085	\$256	0.4%
Operating Expenses	\$34,698	\$48,893	(\$14,195)	-29.0%	\$34,698	\$48,893	(\$14,195)	-29.0%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$94,039</b>	<b>\$107,977</b>	<b>(\$13,939)</b>	<b>-12.9%</b>	<b>\$94,039</b>	<b>\$107,977</b>	<b>(\$13,939)</b>	<b>-12.9%</b>
<b>Net Operating Income</b>	<b>\$128,405</b>	<b>\$113,115</b>	<b>\$15,289</b>		<b>\$128,405</b>	<b>\$113,115</b>	<b>\$15,289</b>	

# March Birthdays

- 1 Sarah Robinson, Mary Virginia Robinson, Jordan Brown, Vivian Page
- 2 Randy Cox, Joyce Little, Bryn Shoureshi
- 3 Suzy Johnson, Tina Morgan, Brandon Sullivan, Natalie Pratt,  
Kim Poole, Jamie Taylor
- 4 Stephen Vance, Marion Price
- 5 Charlie Crumpton, Susan Looney
- 6 Andrea Hyssong
- 7 Jim Gray, Elizabeth Marshall, Tom Love, Katherine Harris
- 8 Jeff Cost, Sandy Gibson
- 9 Joy Craig
- 10 Reed Loeffel, Ben Nance, Burns Rogers, Kathryn Johnson
- 11 Alexis Miniati, Steve Thompson, Tim Chew
- 12 Peggy Goss, Rowan Benson
- 13 Vanessa Bryan, Sharon Crumpton, Mark Paris, Julia Foote
- 14 Joseph Hallett, Kristin Chew
- 15 John Philip Cost, Judy Alexander, Ginny Brewer, Sam McBrayer,  
Andy Larsen
- 16 Kristin Schmitter-Webster
- 17 Pat McCracken, Will Loeffel, Jeff Williams
- 18 Cooper Morreale
- 19 Ruth Campbell
- 20 Darrell Harris
- 21 Bill Heard
- 22 Bob Van Dervoort, Chris Paris, Ben Butler, Holly Spain, Dee Rainey,  
Johnny Dibble, Isla Werner
- 23 Janet Carroll, Peyton Brandon, Nora Myers, Dash Anderson
- 24 Charlie Curtiss, Knightly Max, Linda Roebuck
- 25 Cam Kinnard, Janet Keith, Loren Robicheaux
- 26 Sophie Spain, Adele Revere
- 27 Ellen More, Karen Martin, Katy Johnson
- 28 Scott Gain, Doug Little, Barb Green, Shelby Medlin, Sarah Aldrich
- 30 Melissa Crain
- 31 Monna Mayhall, Ellen Clark, Maury Sumja

## March Anniversaries

- 8 Bob & Jean Larson
- 10 Rick & Frank Osteen
- 14 Jared & Caroline Sullivan
- 19 Justin & Lori Jones
- 20 Wallace & Liz Lilly
- 21 Iain & Peggy Macpherson
- 27 Bob & Ann Van Dervoort
- 27 Granville & Mimi Grant

## Births

Charles O'Neil Johnson, son of Zach and Katy Johnson

## Baptisms

Samantha Rose Sheridan, daughter of Jay and Kay Sheridan

# Condolences to

- Friends and family of Steve Nifong

