

The Epistle



DECEMBER 2024

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
Rick Jackson, Organist
Libby Sullivan, Children's Minister
Brett Smith, Youth Minister
Shannon Buttrey, Parish Administrator
Kristy Moore, Financial Administrator
Paula Sherman, Communications Manager

Vestry

Pam Horne, Senior Warden
 Finance, Stewardship, Long Range Planning
Ron Howes, Junior Warden
 Building and Grounds
Mindy Boggs
 Clerk and Parish Life
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Dr. Larry Whitlock
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 Christian Formation
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Bruce Theobald
 Pastoral Care
Rob Curwen
 Long-Range Planning
Holly Spain
 Youth and Children's Ministries
Michael Walters Young
 Treasurer

FIND US:

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 (615) 790-0527
 WWW.STPAULSFRANKLIN.COM**



**FIND US ON FACEBOOK
 @STPAULSFRANKLINTN**

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December 2024 Office Hours:

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

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

**Office Closed: December 25 and
 January 1**

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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Holy Hikes

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 and we will make sure it gets to the right publication.

[Deadline for the January newsletter is Friday, December 27, 2024](#)

Upcoming Events

December 5

Gathering for Good - Advent
Wreath Making

December 7

Families with Children
Christmas Parade Watch

December 8

Lessons and Carols

December 11

Grief Support Group

December 15

Caroling Down Main St.

December 24

Children's Christmas Pageant

December 24

Christmas Eve Services

December 25

Dinner at Bethlehem



St. Paul's Sophie Spain and Alaina Smith were Be Nice Ambassadors in the Veteran's Day Parade.

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/>

Our Stewardship Campaign is ending...

But it is definitely not too late to pledge to St. Paul's. We are approaching our financial goal and could easily achieve it with 30-40 more pledges.

Remember, every gift matters, no matter the size. Do not think that your contributions won't be "enough", because they absolutely will.

By now you have seen and heard how this parish allows inreach and outreach to carry out our mission: To proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ, and to care for all.

If you have been putting it off, take a moment to pledge on the website or grab a card on Sunday when you come to church. If you need an electronic assist, Kristy Moore is your gal!

Thank you for your generosity and leadership.

Therefore, be imitators of God, as beloved children,
and walk in love as Christ loved us and gave himself
up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to
God.

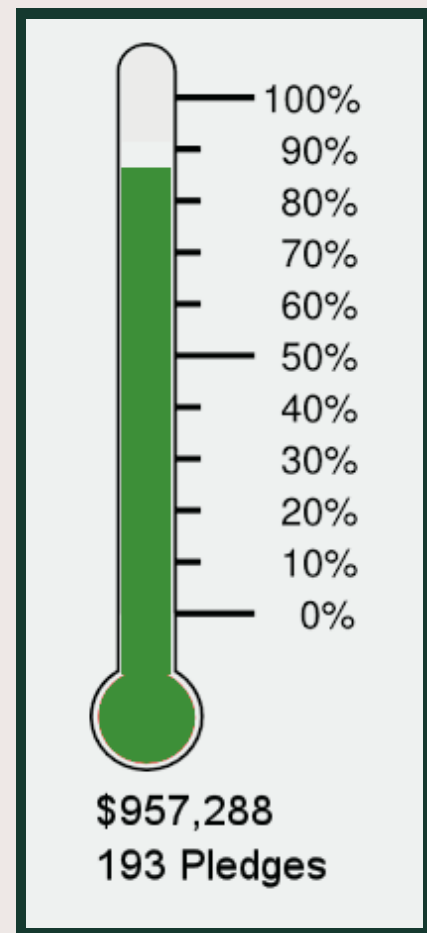
-Ephesians 5:1-2

There are no better words to remind us of what we are doing when we pledge to this Christian community.

Thank you for your commitment of time and treasure. Let's continue the good walk together in 2025.

Gratefully,
The Stewardship Committee

Stewardship Commitment Form: <https://bit.ly/stewardship-2024>



Building Project Update

Demolition of the corridor is still in process. Otey Hall will be demoed soon. The temporary insulated wall has been constructed leading from Founders Hall to the functioning restrooms. However, the restroom closest to Founders will be demolished this week and a new footing will be installed to support the future second story. So we will only be able to use the double stalled restroom during the following months, until the new restrooms are installed. Please knock before entering the restroom!! The restroom will obviously function as a unisex restroom.

The pecan tree in the courtyard has been protected as per our arborist / forrester instructions. A chain link fence was installed several weeks ago and this week 6" of mulch and plywood sheets have been installed over the exposed entrance of the courtyard. This area will be where contractors will haul building items into the new construction area. Please continue to enter the facility through the ramp into Founders Hall and don't venture into the construction zone as it is dangerous.

Also this week, we are tracing some plumbing issues in the Sacristy and a few lights in Founders Hall and also in the choir section. Hopefully this will be resolved by Sunday, but if not, thank you for your patience. Old buildings sometimes will have curious problems but we have full confidence in our contractors.

We are currently 35% complete in the demolition process and 3% complete with the total project. We have a little way to go until we have a new space finished ready to enjoy. Thank you for your curiosity and patience.

Thank you for your continued enthusiasm and patience.

Susan Miller

Building Project Update



Welcome Holli

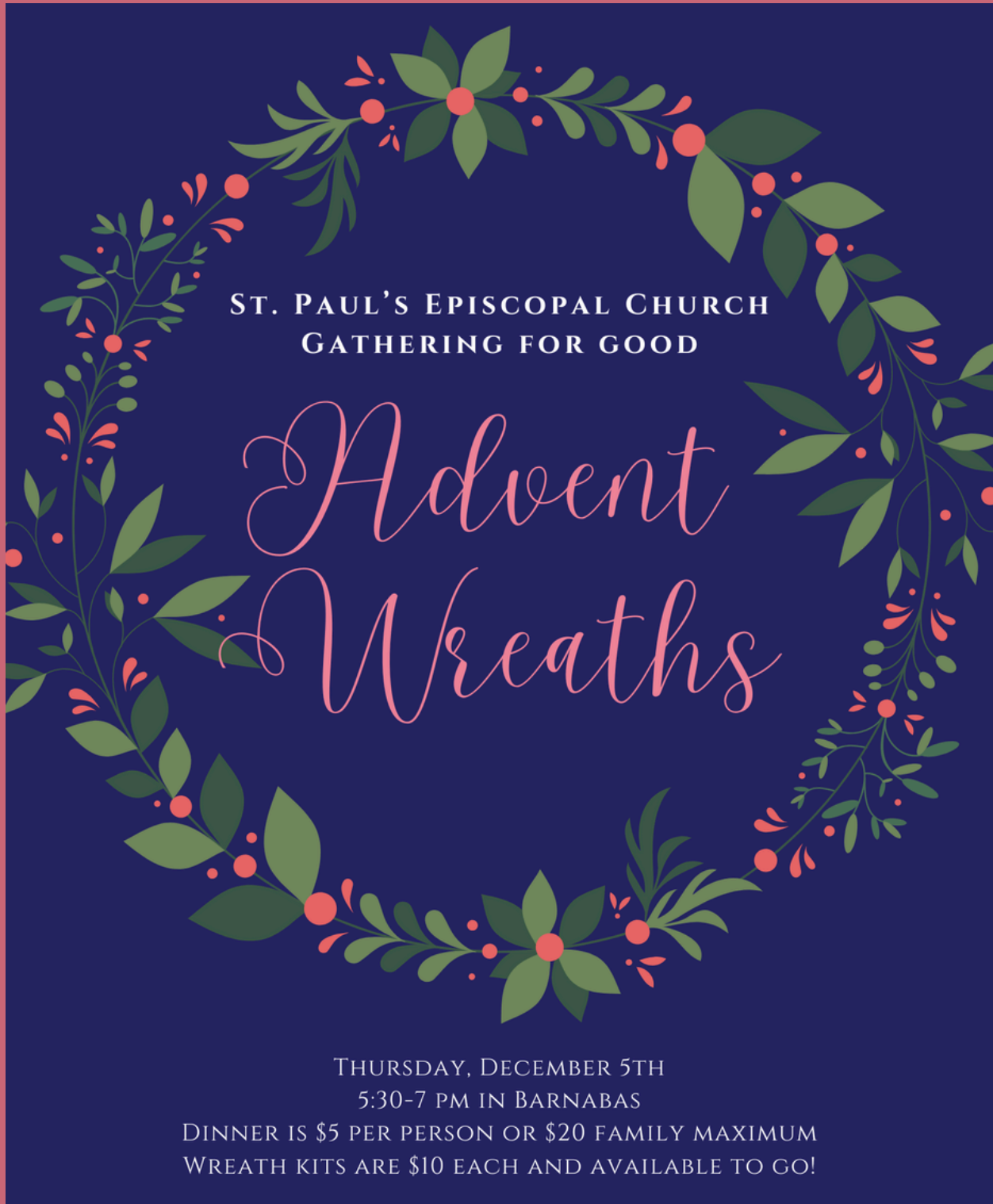




The Men of St. Paul's volunteered again this year to support the efforts of the Natchez community center to prepare approximately 300 Thanksgiving meals.

Social Graces





Join us Thursday, December 5th from 5:30-7pm in Barnabas for our annual Advent Wreath event. Wreath kits will be available for \$10, and include all you need to create a beautiful, one-of-a-kind wreath for your home. Dinner is \$5 per person or \$20 family maximum. If you'd like to take your wreath kit to go, that option is available. Be on the lookout for a sign-up email soon. We hope to see you there!

St. Paul's Families Christmas Parade Watch Party

Families! Join us this Saturday, December 7th to watch the Franklin Christmas parade! We will gather at Barnabas and have a hot chocolate bar set up where you can hang out or take a break during the parade. We plan to watch it on the back side of Barnabas, where the parade route begins on Hwy 96. The parade begins at 1:00 pm, so plan to come early to snag a parking spot at Barnabas!



St. Paul's Episcopal Church

ADVENT
LESSONS AND
CAROLS

Sunday, December 8

6:00 pm



Join us as we prepare
for the birth of Jesus
with readings from holy
scripture, hymns, and
seasonal choral music
proclaiming the coming
of the Promised One.



We are delighted to invite you to our annual

CAROLING DOWN MAIN STREET

Sunday, December 15th

**Starting at 5:00 pm in Founders Hall
and ending with Hot Chocolate and Cookies**

Song Books will be provided.



The Children's Christmas Pageant

The Children's Christmas Pageant is a St. Paul's Christmas Eve Tradition. The pageant will look a little different this year but will still bring the maximum amount of Christmas joy! Due to the lack of space for overflow seating, the pageant will take place twice on Christmas Eve.

The first pageant is at 4 pm, and parishioners with last names beginning with A-N are encouraged to attend.

At 4:30, the pageant will be presented for a second time for audience members with last names beginning with O-Z.

Questions? Email libby@stpaulsfranklin.com.



Dinner at Bethlehem - Christmas Day Luncheon

Come enjoy the day with friends and church family.

When: Christmas Day, Dec. 25, 2024

Time: 11:30 am – 1:30 pm

Where: Barnabas (building behind the church)

DINNER AT BETHLEHEM LUNCHEON

DECEMBER **25** AT 11:30 AM

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
IN BARNABAS ANNEX

SCAN THE QR CODE TO BRING A DISH IF YOU WANT, BUT NOT REQUIRED!

PLEASE NOTE THAT WE DO NOT HAVE OVENS IN BARNABAS. ALL DISHES WILL NEED TO BE BROUGHT HOT!

What do I need to do? Just let us know you are coming and bring a dish to share if you can. Call or text Kathy Ulezelski (615) 512-1592 or Donna Stokes-Rogers (615) 481-5144 to let us know how many are coming!

Church is providing ham, rolls, and tea. Follow the QR code to the sign-up list if you want to bring a dish.

Remember the church does not have an oven, so all dishes will need to be brought hot.

<https://bit.ly/bethlehem-dinner-2024>



Outreach Christmas Food Bags

Each month, volunteers from St. Paul's Spring Street Outreach Ministry offer a program of music or activities and a hot meal at the church for senior citizens. Most of these guests live in the public housing neighborhoods surrounding downtown Franklin. At the December gathering, we would like to provide each senior with two bags of food – one with items to help make a holiday meal and the other with some pantry staples.

Here's how you can help...

- Beginning November 26th, RED and GREEN re-usable grocery bags will be available at the church for you to take. A shopping list for that bag, will be attached to the bag.
- Take a bag to the grocery store.
- Purchase the items on the list.
- Return the filled bag back to St. Paul's no earlier than Sunday December 15th, and no later than Wednesday morning December 18.

Any extras will be used to stock the St. Paul's Food Pantry.

If you have any questions, please call the church office at 615-790-0527 or contact Jackie King at momking2nd@yahoo.com.



Advent Devotions

Advent is the liturgical time in our Church calendar when we focus on waiting and preparing our hearts for the coming of the Jesus, the Christ child. You are invited to use this season of Advent as a time of reflecting and drawing closer to God through the daily reflections and prayers inspired by Scripture and the spiritual writings of Henri Nouwen. *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*, Advent Devotion booklets can be found in the Narthex, in Founders, or inside the church office on Fair Street.



WAVES

It's that time of year again! Waves is a non-profit organization in Williamson County whose mission is empowering individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to progress toward their full potential. St. Paul's has 60 Angel ornaments this year, and each ornament has an item written on it (Walmart gift card, Target gift card, etc.). An amount of \$25-50 per card is recommended. The gift items will benefit the Adult Clients of Waves.

This year will be a little different since not all parishioners will walk through Founders where we keep the Christmas tree and ornaments.

Here's how you can help:

- 1) Sign-up for an ornament here and/or pick-up an ornament in Founders.
- 2) Purchase the item written on the ornament/SignUp Genius.
<https://bit.ly/WAVES2024>
- 3) Bring/Mail the item, to St. Paul's, and we will match it with the ornament and drop it off to Waves.

You can drop the gift card in our mailbox with your name (in front of the Main St. courtyard-it's locked and there is a slot you can safely drop it in) or with someone at the Barnabas church office BY Tuesday, December 17th. Questions: email Shannon in the church office at shannon@stpaulsfranklin.com.

THANK YOU!



Christmas Memorials and Thanksgivings

"Tis the festive season!" Soon our church will be festooned with glorious flowers and resound with music in celebration of Christ's birth!

If you would like to offer a thanksgiving or memorial for a loved one on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, please sign up by Tuesday, December 14. Please specify whether you would like your donation to go toward flowers or music and include wording. If you send a check, please include flower fund or music fund in the memo line.

Sign-up here or contact the office: https://bit.ly/Floral_ChoralOfferings



Bad Girls Book Club

The Bad Girls Book Club does not meet in December, so there is plenty of time to read January's book, *Iona Iverson's Rules for Commuting: a Novel* by Clare Pooley.

We will meet again on January 28th in Barnabas from 6:30 PM to approximately 8:00 PM. Please bring a light appetizer and/or a drink to share.



December

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

DEC. 5 ADVENT WREATH MAKING AND FAMILY DINNER 5:30 PM

DEC. 8 ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS 6:00 PM

DEC. 15 CAROLING DOWN MAIN STREET 5:00 PM

DEC. 24

CHILDREN'S PAGEANT: FIRST SERVICE FOR PARISHIONERS WITH LAST NAMES STARTING WITH A-N 4:00 PM

CHILDREN'S PAGEANT: SECOND SERVICE FOR PARISHIONERS WITH LAST NAMES STARTING O-Z 4:30 PM

FESTIVE EUCHARIST WITH CAROL SING-A-LONG PRELUDE 7:30 PM

FESTIVE EUCHARIST WITH CHORAL PRELUDE 11:00 PM

DEC. 25

CHRISTMAS DAY EUCHARIST 10:00 AM

DINNER AT BETHLEHEM COMMUNITY MEAL 11:30 AM

DEC. 29

SUNDAY MORNING EUCHARIST 8 AM AND 10 AM

JAN. 5

REGULAR SUNDAY MORNING EUCHARIST SCHEDULE WITH 10:00 AM POTLUCK BRUNCH IN BARNABAS

**THE ALL SAINTS'
CHORAL OFFERINGS
ARE GIVEN
TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND:**

In loving memory of Huba Nagy
*by Lois, Timothy, Liz, Philip, Allison
and grandchildren Peter, Matthew
and Anna*

In loving memory of her husband,
Gene Brown
by Margaret B. Brown

In loving memory of Beau Huber,
Charles S. McKendrick, Jr., and Frank
M. McRight, Jr.
by Janeth McKendrick

In loving memory of David Medlin,
whose love, light, and faith fill and
guide us still
by Laura, Piper, Deacon and Shelby

In loving memory of Betty Ray and
Scootie
by Sarah and Marty Karpie

In loving memory of my brother
William who kept us laughing!
by Sarah and Marty Karpie

In loving memory of Alan Brass
by Phyllis and Jim Gray

**THE ALL SAINTS'
ALTAR FLOWERS
ARE GIVEN
TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND:**

In loving memory of
Linda Linnby
by Phyllis and Jim Gray

In loving memory of
Harry and Carrie Clarke
and Jenö and Ida Nagy
by Lois Nagy

In loving memory of our parents –
Walter and Joyce Scholten and
Cedric and Irma Woodruff
by Woody and Beth Woodruff

In loving memory of
Nick Radford
our fun-loving, nature boy!
by Marty and Sarah Karpie

In loving memory of
Anne and Joe Karpie
by Marty and Sarah Karpie

In loving memory of my mother, Del
Sumja
by Tim Sumja

THE ALL SAINTS' EVENSONG

Scott MacLellan
Merlin Horne
William "Bill" Rainey
Francis Trabue Haynes
Betty Roebuck
Lavelle Leopard
Lance Saylor
Carol Beckett
Scott Denson
Tyler Rainey
Winn Peebles
Patrick Rhea
Bob Kinsley
Mary Susan Kennedy
Marion Silbernagel

Bettie Ann Shepherd
Donald Robert Hughes
Mildred Stahlman
Deborah Bell
Huba Nagy
Rodger Minner
Jamie Van Dervoort
Earl Phillips
Tony Springman
Gladys Marie Adams
Floyd Craig
Jerry Morris Larson
Scott Lee Faulkner
Ruth Rohde





Between Mind the Gap and Children's Chapel, parishioners of all ages contributed to All Saints banners, recognizing the saints in our lives who have impacted us!





We had perfect weather for a Holy Hike and a picnic at Marcella Vivrette Smith Park!



The youth helped to build and stain part of the new Children's Christmas Pageant set, designed by Donna Stokes-Rogers!



Mountain Top

St. Paul's will be attending Mountain TOP from July 13-19, 2025! Adults and youth please fill out a registration form (bit.ly/MTOP) to reserve your spot. The registration deadline is January 31.

The cost this year is \$405 for youth. Youth who participate in fundraisers will earn credits toward this fee. Payment will be due in full on May 15, after our final Main Street Festival carpark fundraiser. Information on how to make payments will be provided in 2025. If cost is a concern, please reach out to Brett (brett@stpaulsfranklin.com) to discuss scholarship opportunities. The church will cover the cost of adult chaperones.

Per MTOP requirements, participants must attend training sessions to review camp expectations and some construction skills. These training sessions will be scheduled this spring.

Due Dates

Registration Deadline: January 31, 2025

Final payment due: May 15, 2025



December 21 Winter Lock-In.

Deadline to register is December 18!

Sign up here: <https://bit.ly/EYGLockIn>

Young Adults

Click on the calendar for more information about December's events. All college students and young adults in their 20s and 30s are welcome!

Email brett@stpaulsfranklin.com for more information!

December							2024
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
1	2	3 • Trivia Night at Neighbors at 7:00	4	5 • Advent Wreath Making at 5:30	6	7	
8 • Walk at Pinkerton Park at 3:00	9	10	11	12	13	14 • Lotz House Ghost Tour at 6:00	
15 • Caroling down Main Street at 5:00	16	17	18	19	20	21	
22 • Walk at Park at Harlinsdale at 3:00	23	24	25	26	27	28	
29	30 • Magic of Eric Eaton at Zanies at 7:00	31					

<https://www.stpaulsfranklin.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/YA-11-24.pdf>



St. Paul's
COLLEGE
Social

Happy winter break, college students! Come share stories and connect with friends, old and new over dinner and hot chocolate! Weather permitting we'll have a bonfire, so bring a lawn chair and a friend!

20 | 6pm
December 301 Megan Ct
Franklin
RSVP to brett@stpaulsfranklin.com

College Social

December 20th 6 PM
301 Megan Court, Franklin, TN
RSVP to brett@stpaulsfranklin.com

Happy Winter Break College Students! Come share stories and connect with friends, old and new over dinner and hot chocolate! Weather permitting we'll have a bonfire, so bring a lawn chair and a friend!

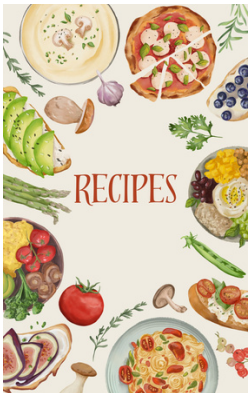
WSP - Women of St. Paul's

Social

The December 13th social will be a Holiday gathering held at the home of Pam Leet, 1979 Championship Boulevard in Westhaven. We hope you will be willing to participate in bringing a \$25 gift card from Walmart to give to the children in the Natchez Area. Many of these children have few opportunities to go and pick out a toy, so providing these gift cards will give them a chance to do so. As always, bring a bottle or a snack to share on this festive holiday occasion. See you soon!



Cookbook Project - Testers Needed!

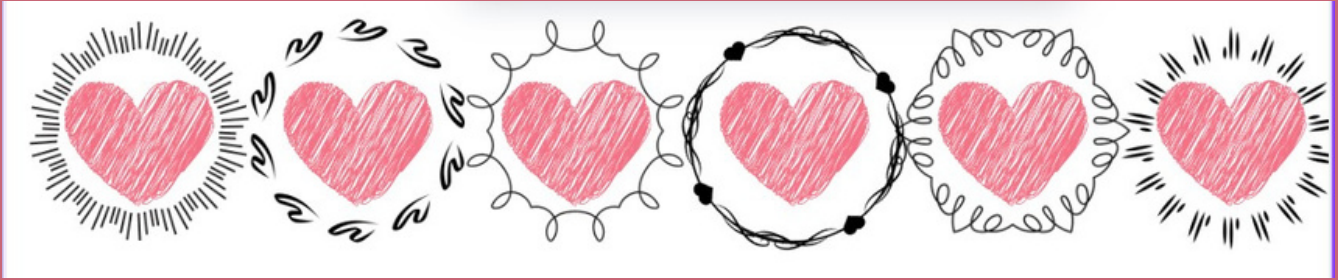


Thank you all for the bounty of your wonderful recipes! We are now in the process of editing them. We are looking for testers to try recipes and give us feedback. If you are interested in testing a recipe, please contact one of us. We can be found in the St. Paul's directory.

Heather Creel, Gwen McKee, Catherine Mayhew, Becky Grimes, Jackie King, Cindy Thompson, Mindy Boggs, Kathy Ulezelski, and Susan Miller



WSP - Women of St. Paul's



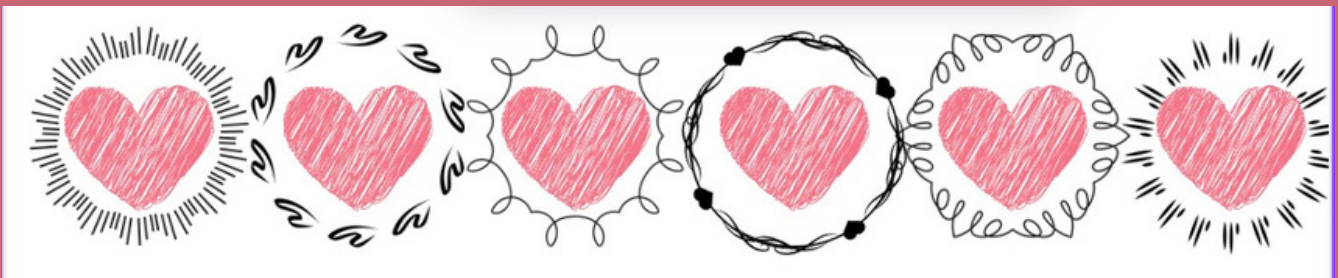
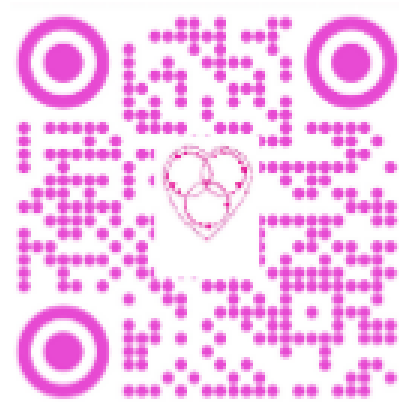
heART & Soul Retreat

Circle of Love
February 7-9
Montgomery Bell State Park

Register before December 20. After that date, the rooms will be released, and you will need to make your own arrangement with Montgomery Bell and possibly pay an updated room rate.

All Women of St. Paul's are invited to the annual heArt & Soul Retreat, a sacred time to nourish your creative spirit, your soul, and your body as a child of God. The weekend will be a time for fun and fellowship, with optional enrichment classes in arts/creativity, spiritual growth, physical activity and more, shared meals, worship and lots of free time to relax and re-create.

Scan the QR code or [click here for more information](#) and to register!





heArt & Soul Retreat

Circles of Love

The Lodge Montgomery Bell

Saturday - Class Options



We invite ALL WOMEN of St. Paul's to come enjoy this sacred time to nourish and love your creative spirit, your soul, and your body as a child of God. The weekend will include:

- Opportunities to gather for fun and fellowship
- Morning Prayer and Compline services as well as Sunday morning Eucharist
- Enrichment class sessions on Saturday (participation is optional)
- Time to relax in 3 different parlor spaces on Friday and Saturday night with activities such as board games, puzzles, card games, storytelling, or other group interests
- Hiking/walking in the park
- Social hours in the parlor rooms (BYO drinks)
- Wonderful participant goodies donated by our ladies
- An optional early start on Thursday evening (extra fee)

Base price includes hotel room for Friday and Saturday, five meals, and all class supplies. Saturday only option also available!!! Our mum sale has helped to cover the costs of the community use areas to help offset costs for the 2025 heArt and Soul Retreat.

Weekend Schedule

Friday, February 7

- 4:00—6:30 Check-In/Get Settled
 - 5:30 – 6:30 Explore Parlors and Meeting Spaces
 - 6:30 – 8:00 Welcome, Dinner, and Compline
 - 8:00 - ??? Fun & Fellowship in the Suite Parlors
- Saturday, February 8
- 7:30 – 8:00 Morning Prayer in Parlor (optional)
 - 8:00 – 8:45 Hot Breakfast
 - 9:00 – 10:15 Session I or Free Time
 - 10:30-11:45 Session II or Free Time
 - 12:00 – 1:15 Boxed Lunch and Group Picture
 - 1:30 – 2:45 Session III or Free Time
 - 3:00 – 5:00 Explore Montgomery Bell or Free Time
 - 5:15- 6:15 Social Hour in Parlors
 - 6:30 – 8:00 Dinner and Compline
 - 8:00 - ??? Fun & Fellowship in the Suite Parlors

Sunday, February 9

- 8:00 – 9:00 Enjoy Continental Breakfast
- 9:30 – 10:30 Eucharist

Registration cannot be processed until forms and payment (or arrangements) are received. Rooms are assigned in the order of completed registration!

Registration is open until December 20.

Deadlines are firm to guarantee a room. The room block will be released after December 20. After that date, you will have to make your own arrangements unless someone cancels freeing a space in our reserved block. Montgomery Bell will try to accommodate late registrations.

Cancellations made prior to 12/20 will be refunded minus \$25 fee. No refund for cancellations after December 20, though you may find someone to assume your spot.

Confidential scholarships are available!

Do not let money be the reason you miss the retreat!

Contact Monna Mayhall for information!

monna@stpaulsfranklin.com

If you have questions about the weekend, contact us!

Cassy Gilchrist at cassygilchrist@gmail.com (615-957-7020)

2024 Retreat Planning Committee Members
Katie Faulkner & Cassy Gilchrist - Co-Chairs
Vicki Carlisle, Becky Gengler, Lucinda Harshey,
Cindy Howes, Kathy Ulezelski, and Sarah Webster



heArt & Soul Retreat

Circles of Love

The Lodge Montgomery Bell
Saturday - Class Options



Love Your Body:

- Stretch and Recover with Mary Emilie Ackden -You can even do this in a chair! Wear comfy pants. If you have a yoga mat, bring it. If not, a towel will do. Chairs will be available.
- Dancing with Maggie Gilchrist - Come learn a dance combination, a fun easy way to get your body moving and learn some basic dance steps!
- A Walk in the Park with Karen Austin - A "get the blood flowing" walk of about 2-3 miles to enjoy the outdoors and use some muscles. All levels welcome, and we will be in appropriate groups.



Love Your Creative Spirit:

- Reverse Coloring with Marida Stearns -Come, relax and enjoy. Draw lines inside or simply around the already colored shapes, and let your creative juices flow.
- Paper Cranes with Ginny Brewer - Learn the history and symbolism of the origami crane, then learn to make them for yourself.
- Multimedia Mandalas with Katie Faulkner and Cassy Gilchrist - Create your own uniquely beautiful Mandala (a Sanskrit word meaning circle) through use of watercolor paint or watercolor pencils and paper overlays.



Love Your Soul:

- Holy Hike with Monna Mayhall - A progressive outdoor Eucharist along an easy, accessible trail, providing a way to worship God in the beauty of God's creation, in what John Muir called "God's first temples."
- Living in the Miraculous with Elizabeth Power - Explore where we see Jesus in tiny interactions, his presence in our midst whether we are happy, sad, or mad. The smallest gesture may be His hand on our heart: do we see or feel it? How do we respond?
- Circle Wisdom with Cyndy Howes - Let's study the circle of women in the New Testament!

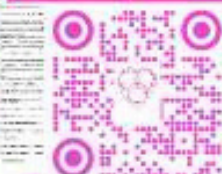


More Love Practices:

- Emotional Intelligence and the Enneagram with Donna Stokes-Rogers - Everyone is searching for their balanced sense of self. Using the Enneagram and a "feelings wheel", we will talk about identifying emotions and how to return to a peaceful center. All class participants will determine their type before coming to the retreat.
- Cooking with Love with Melissa Montero -Get your meals out of a rut and love what you eat.
- Photo Organizing and Editing with Mindy Boggs - Make your photos look their best and organize them too!



Love Your:	Session 1	Session 2	Session 3
Body	Stretch and Recover	Dancing	Walk in the Park
Creative Spirit	Reverse Coloring	Paper Cranes	Multimedia Mandalas
Soul	Holy Hike	Living in the Miraculous	Circle Wisdom
Self	EQ & the Enneagram	Cooking with Love	Photo Organizing & Editing



Use the QR Code or the link below to register!

Registration is open from
October 1 - December 20, 2024

<https://forms.gle/bo9pW8nqM8fi5yMz7>

Questions? Contact
Cassy Gilchrist

615-957-7020 or cassygilchrist@gmail

Scan me!



In the Episcopal Church, Advent is the first season of the church year. It begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas (on December 1st this year) and ends at midnight the day before Christmas (on December 24th every year). The name comes from the Latin word for “coming.” Advent is a time of waiting and preparation for both the celebration of Christmas, and the return of Jesus in the second coming. During the season of Advent we are called to reflect on the meaning of both the 1st and 2nd comings of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to consider what those mean for our lives. While we start seeing Christmas decorations and hearing Christmas music earlier every year, the season of Advent in the Church calls us to wait. For many people, the concept of “Advent” as a separate season from Christmas can seem somewhat odd at first. In a way, Advent is to Christmas as Lent is to Easter: a penitential time in preparation for a great celebration.

Living Advent Liturgically – Sights, Sounds, Smells

The Color of Advent in the Church

The liturgical color of the season is blue. The color blue represents royalty, the coming of the King, Jesus Christ. Clergy vestments and Sanctuary hangings (altar frontal, pulpit hangings, and lectern hangings) will be blue.

Advent Wreath

During the season of Advent, many churches have a large wreath of greenery, with four candles around the wreath – 3 blue and 1 pink - that represent the four Sundays of the season of Advent. A candle is lit as each new Sunday is celebrated in Advent. Some Advent wreaths include a white candle in the center known as the “Christ Candle,” which is lit on Christmas Eve. The Advent Wreath will remain in the church throughout the Christmas Season, ending January 6th, the beginning of the Epiphany Season.

Music

Since Advent is separate from Christmas in our tradition you will not hear Christmas Carols played or sung in church during the Advent season. However, as Episcopalians, we are lucky that we have a wealth of good Advent hymns. Hymns such as “Come, O Long Expected Jesus” and “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” express the Advent themes well. Again, maybe in some sense, Christmas hymns are another thing we wait for.

Altar Greenery Instead of Altar Flowers

Since Advent is more of a quiet and penitential time, only greenery is used for the altar, rather flowers. In some sense, it is another thing we wait for...we wait for flowers to adorn the altar once again!

Advent Resources:

Here are a variety of some Advent resources to help you find meaning during this season.

You are invited to use this season of Advent as a time of reflecting and drawing closer to God through the daily reflections and prayers inspired by Scripture and the spiritual writings of Henri Nouwen. "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel," Advent Devotion booklets can be found in the Narthex, in Founders, or inside the church office on Fair Street. If you prefer daily online reflections, go to this link <https://d365.org/> to access a free daily online Advent Devotional Guide, "Following the Star," through the Episcopal Church's website.



AdventWord is an effort to create a global, ecumenical Advent calendar, sparked by a daily word, meditation, and visual image. Participants are invited to share their own reflections on each of the daily words and meditations.

Each day, AdventWord presents a meditation on a specific word, in both written and in podcast form. You are encouraged to think about the word of the day, meditate on it, pray on it, even engage with it creatively. Share your insights and/or art about the word on social media using #adventword.

[Sign up for the daily email, view videos and listen to audio here.](#)

Ephesians - Brown Bag Bible Study

January 12 - March 4, 2025
Barnabas Board Room
12:30 - 1:30 pm

Join us for an 8-week session to dive into the book of Ephesians using a study book entitled "Included in Christ; Living a New Story from Ephesians." The study was written by Heather Holleman, PhD (Professor of Composition and Advanced Writing at Penn State), published by Moody Publishing, 2017.

We will meet weekly from Sunday, January 12 to March 4, 12:30 to 1:30 in the Barnabas Board Room, on Sundays. Bringing your own "brown bag lunch" is optional.

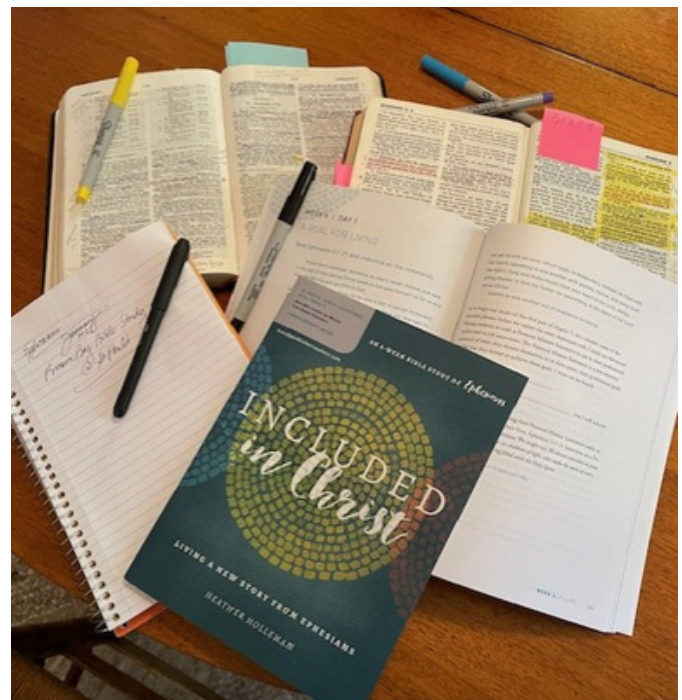
Each week, we will review our individual studies (1 per day each week), which present us:

- Opportunities to interact with the biblical text
- Reflections on key verbs, phrases, and ideas in Ephesians
- Ways to help connect the old self w/the new

An opportunity to grow in fellowship as we consider new ways to apply God's word to our daily lives, this class is open to all ages, high school and up, boys, girls, men and women. Class size is limited to 15 people (and no fewer than 6 people).

I'm looking forward to experiencing this walk through Ephesians with you and to growing in our faith walk together.

-- Ann Denson



Sign up here: <https://bit.ly/BrownBagBibleStudy>

The Outreach Committee of St. Paul's Church functions to serve nonprofit 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 in 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 within our 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 only the reason we can do this, thank you! And, to that effect, we would like to make all aware of exactly who you are helping in our community. So, each month, we would like to share a few of them so you might be able to see and support these organizations.



Alive Hospice is the only nonprofit hospice care in Middle Tennessee. Their branch in Franklin serves all of Williamson county, providing not only palliative care for the end of life, but also caregiver support, counseling, grief camps for kids, education and remembrance events. The Outreach Committee donated \$4,000 to cover the cost of two children attending Camp Forget Me Not and two families to attend their annual Family Retreat. If you are interested in volunteering or learning more about Alive Hospice they are located online at alivehospice.org.

Last, but not least, we have made donations of \$500 to our St. Paul's Food Pantry and \$1,500 each to the Discretionary Accounts of our beloved Rusty and Monna.

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 and the "[Community Partners](#)" on our [Outreach page](#). There are many opportunities to volunteer or donate to help our friends in Williamson County!

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 or any other members on the committee: Will Boggs, Jim Miller, Judy Stockton, Fred Warner, Sheila Morreale, Spencer Dibble and Angela Lassiter.

On behalf of the Well Outreach, I wanted to say "thank you" for making a difference in the lives of local families in need this year!

Our Well Outreach family is so grateful for your family this Thanksgiving season!

Thank you!

Shelly Sassen, CEO

December Gathering

We will have a Christmas music program, visit with friends and share a festive lunch.

Please review the available slots below and click on the button to sign up.
Thank you!

<https://bit.ly/spring-street-december-2024>



Volunteers Needed for St. Paul's Little Free Pantry Ministry

*"For as the body apart from the spirit is dead,
so faith apart from works is dead." - James 2:26*

Perhaps God is calling you to help others, if so, please consider volunteering to restock St. Paul's Little Free Pantry. The Little Free Pantry, located in front of Barnabas, provides food and personal items 24/7. Those who come to the Little Free Pantry for assistance do not need to sign-up or show an ID to receive urgent and immediate help. People in need just walk up and take what they need for the day.

Volunteers are given an opportunity each month to take one week and restock the Little Free Pantry twice in the week that they sign-up. Volunteers restock the Little Free Pantry whenever it is convenient for their schedule so it's very flexible and training is provided. Typically, volunteers restock the Little Free Pantry in 30 – 45 minutes twice a week per month. If you cannot restock it one month, that is fine too.

If you don't have 1-2 hours per month to do this ministry, then please consider donating goods to the Little Free Pantry.

If interested, please call or text Ginna Campbell at 615-294-7024 or email her at ginnacampbell@gmail.com.

God Bless!

The Little Free Pantry needs small individual, shelf-stable food items such as:

- Macaroni and cheese
- Snack crackers
- Oatmeal packets
- Water bottles
- Fruit cups
- Individual/travel size personal care items



Going into cooler months, new items such as gloves, socks and warm caps for all ages are needed.

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

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

Historic Committee Products

Stop by the Corner Gift Shop to pick up some items from the historic committee.



Corner Gift Shop



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



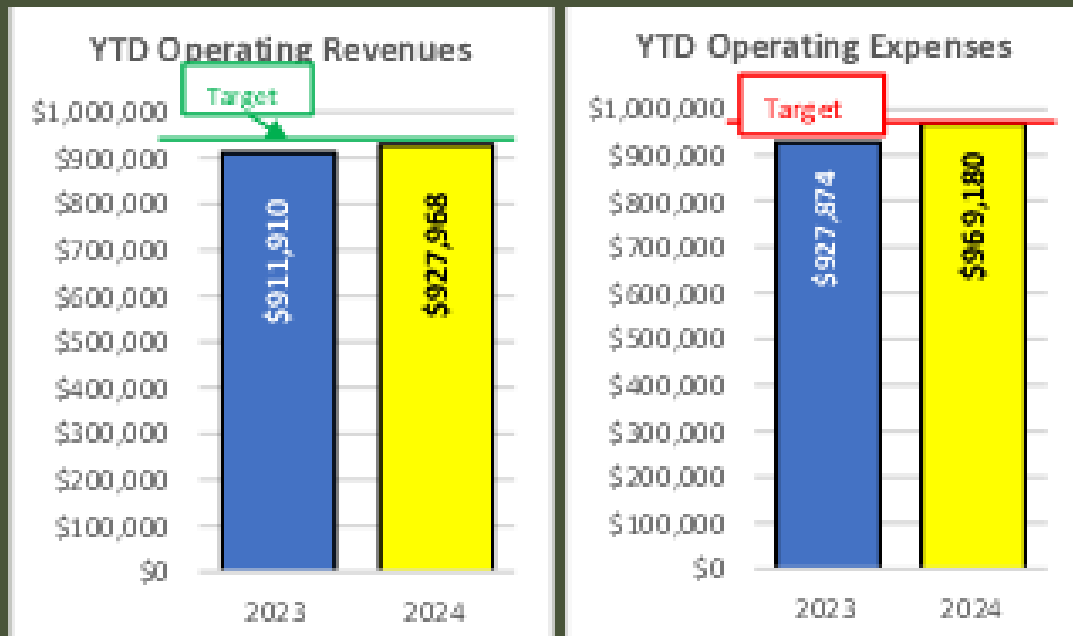
We need the help of parishioners who would be willing to take a blue bag with them to recycle with their own household recyclables when they come to church. Paper is collected in the large, gray bin in the workroom next to Shannon's office and there is a large, green bin for glass in Otey kitchen. For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

October Summary: 10 months into the fiscal year and the parish had a rough month in terms of inflows vs outflows, but remains very much within budget.

Revenues: The positive experiences in September revenue collections did not continue into October. Both Cash-In-Plate and Pledging were lower than forecast for the month, but for the year are 0.8% ahead of collections budget-to-date.

Expenses: Expenses were 9.6% above budget - led by several months of invoicing for services billed at once (Sexton, Computer Maintenance) a new computer for the Finance Computer in Office Equipment, Rally Day and Halloween expenses in Parish Life, Payment for Organist in Music and various Office Supplies

Overall: The parish through ten months is meeting budgeted expectations. Should pledging come in as expected, the parish is looking good to end the year in a positive balance.



Item	October 2024				Year to Date to October 2024			
	A Actual	B Budget	C (A-B) Monthly Variance - Positive / (Negative)	D (A/B-1)	E Actual YTD	F Budget YTD	G (E-F) YTD Variance - Positive / (Negative)	H (E/F-1)
Revenues								
Pledges & Cash in Plate	\$65,079	\$81,055	(\$15,976)	-19.7%	\$924,826	\$916,113	\$8,713	1.0%
Other Income	(\$6)	\$42	(\$48)	-114.1%	\$3,142	\$4,417	(\$1,275)	100.0%
Total Revenues	\$65,073	\$81,097	(\$16,023)	-19.8%	\$927,968	\$920,529	\$7,439	0.8%
Expenses								
Personnel	\$54,178	\$55,350	(\$1,172)	-2.1%	\$564,291	\$560,508	\$3,783	0.7%
Operating Expenses	\$49,800	\$39,502	\$10,298	26.1%	\$404,889	\$406,362	(\$1,473)	-0.4%
Total Expenses	\$103,979	\$94,852	\$9,126	9.6%	\$969,180	\$966,870	\$2,310	0.2%
Net Operating Income	(\$38,906)	(\$13,756)	(\$25,150)		(\$41,212)	(\$46,340)	\$5,129	
Non-Budgeted Rev. & Exp.(Net)	\$7,046				\$11,117			



December Birthdays

- 1 Adam Hughes, Carolyn Seabrooks
- 2 Avery Beck, Jeep Garner
- 3 Mike Gengler, Sean Patterson
- 4 David Roth, Patsy Carter
- 5 Fred Loeffel, Barbara Roth, Zak Bryan, Jim Messina
- 6 Kathleen Greathouse, Emma Haddon
- 7 Deacon Medlin, Angela Tabor
- 8 Angela Lassiter, Ann Denson, Janet Flanagan, Henry Masnik
- 9 Kaye Carlisle, Elizabeth Tyer
- 10 Ed McCormick, Libby Sullivan, Carolyn Cooke, Bill Brandon, Molly Newlon
- 11 Jack Honeycutt, Katy Nickerson, Logan Hall, Scott Watkins
- 12 Ginna Campbell
- 13 David Ingram, Laurie Gearhart, Brett Hamorsky
- 14 Lauren Jordan, Houston Veile
- 15 Carol Waters, Victoria Clausi
- 16 Adria Veile, Emmy Veile, Katie Dees, Nick Montero
- 17 Ashley Whitten
- 18 John Russell
- 19 Patrick Whitlock
- 21 Doug Johnson
- 22 Sharmila Patel
- 24 Maggie Lee
- 25 Joe Baugh
- 26 Lauren Pratt, Katy Miller
- 28 Hunter Humphreys, Pam Hamorsky, Amanda Max
- 30 Dannie Latture, Sharon Collins, Zaida Butters
- 31 Gains Humphreys



December Anniversaries

- 5 Michael & Sarah Aldrich
- 10 Carla & Rocky Myers
- 16 Jordan & Rebekah Brown
- 17 Alexa & Trevor Hyssong
- 17 Anthony & Suzy Johnson
- 18 Brett & Josh Smith
- 19 Brooke & Fred Newell
- 19 Cassy & Rudy Gilchrist
- 20 Greer & Kaye Carlisle
- 20 Sharmila Patel & Philip Phillips
- 27 Kay & Rod Heller
- 29 Christy & Sam Hilley
- 29 Carrie & Chris McBrayer
- 29 Duncan & Virginia Callicott
- 29 John & Mandy Nickerson
- 30 Donna Stokes-Rogers & Burns Rogers
- 31 Jay & Kayla Sheridan

Births

- Hugh Wallace Hart son of Ellen and Mason Hart and little brother to Paul.



Condolences to

- Kent Burnside in the death of his mother, Sandy Helgeson
- Devon Anderson in the death of her grandmother, Mary Burnette
- James Karst in the death of his mother, Barbara Karst

