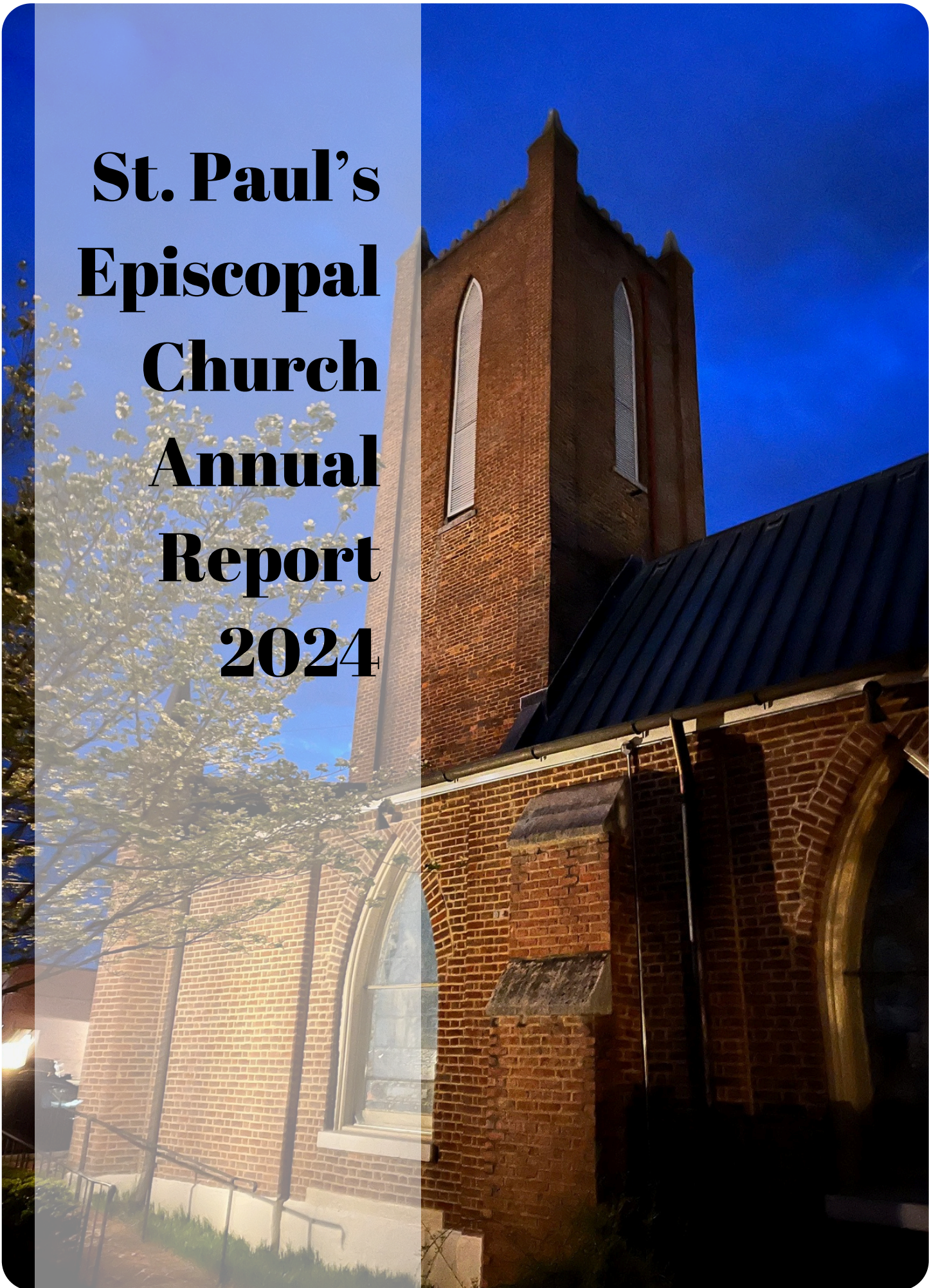


**St. Paul's  
Episcopal  
Church  
Annual  
Report  
2024**





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

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

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

St. Paul's is a church where:

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

# St. Paul's Staff and Vestry

## CLERGY AND STAFF

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

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

## VESTRY

### Serving through 2024

Mary Emilie Acklen  
Rob Curwen  
Pam Horne  
Ron Howes

### Serving through 2025

Mindy Boggs  
Paul Hannah  
Holly Spain  
Bruce Theobald

### Serving through 2026

Ann Denson  
Angela Lassiter  
Chris Oberholtzer  
Larry Whitlock

### Treasurer

Michael Walters Young



# Report From The Rector



2024 was an exciting and challenging year for St. Paul's. In the midst of various changes happening, there has always been the constant goal and mission of the church—serving Jesus Christ and others in our community.

Certainly, the major topic of this past year has been the new construction project. After years of discussion and fundraising we finally began the first steps to create new ways, through our facilities, to bring others to Christ when we gather as a family. On March 10, the parish came together to talk about where we have come and where we might choose to go, given an increase in construction costs. It became quite apparent that those in attendance thought the project should move forward even with the added obligations. The vestry unanimously voted to proceed with the original design.

And so, in early December the project started. It is scheduled to be completed this fall, hopefully October. During 2025 we will need to reach out to the church community for financial support as we, joyfully, finish the project as initially intended.

But even with the disruption of the construction project, I have witnessed our church family working in harmony as we continue to provide all the ministries we have to offer. Each of us have had to work together to make sure none of our valuable offerings are omitted or ignored even though the physical capacities are limited. The body of Christ is always at work, even in the midst of upheaval.

This year, I was afforded the opportunity to take my first (and only) sabbatical. It was a time of refreshment and revitalization. I want to thank our church leadership, especially Pam Horne and Monna Mayhall, for stepping up in my absence. The church never missed a beat, while they had to make some difficult decisions on behalf of the parish. Again, thank you all for allowing me this gracious time away.

This past year I was honored to partner with others in a few outside ministries that have been completed. Namely, I finished my three-year term serving on the Church Pension Fund Client Council and have concluded the bulk of my work as a member of the Accreditation Committee for the School of Theology at Sewanee. I continue to serve on the Williamson County Homeless Alliance Board and assist with Clinical Pastoral Education Committee For Vanderbilt.

But most of my enriching service is here at the church. I receive so much from preaching, teaching, pastoring, and simply being a part of this blessed church community. I was reminded of this the first day I returned from my sabbatical. Being with you all is a feeling like no other.

And now on to 2025. It is my hope and prayer that when I address you with this letter next year we will be in our new facility, bringing together everyone in the name of Jesus Christ in new and exciting ways. No doubt there will be some bumps in that road but I am convinced more than ever that we are on the right path and a great future lies ahead.

I am so grateful and humbled to be your rector, serving alongside a loving group of apostles and disciples as we bring Christ to the world, a world that needs Him more than ever. May God bless you in this ministry and may God bless our beloved church home, St. Paul's.

Peace-Rusty+

The Rev. W. R. "Rusty" McCown

# Report from the Senior Warden



The planned and unplanned events of 2024 provided our St. Paul's family with tremendous opportunities for spiritual, physical, and financial growth. Thanks be to God!

Throughout the year, I witnessed Rev. Rusty McCown and Rev. Monna Mayhall shepherd St. Paul's Episcopal Church with focused, compassionate, and faithful hearts. I have a new appreciation for the commitment they both offer each day to the mission of sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

It has been a privilege to serve on the Vestry alongside very thoughtful and committed parishioners – Ron Howes, Mary Emilie Acklen, Rob Curwen, Mindy Boggs, Paul Hannah, Bruce Theobald, Holly Spain, Chris Oberholtzer, Ann Denson, Angela Lassiter, and Larry Whitlock.

The continuity in our finance ministry, through the work of Michael Walters Young and Kristy Moore, provided Vestry and Finance Committee members with the critical data needed to make wise decisions. Even in an uncertain economy, the presence of an accurate and detailed financial report is and continues to be a huge blessing.

From my perspective, the mission of St. Paul's moved forward this year in several important ways.

First, an unprecedented winter freeze in mid-January created an opportunity to do some renovation on our Barnabas property following damage from a burst pipe from our water heater. As a result, the Fair Street property gained much needed improvements, just in time for the spring relocation of all staff offices, the nursery, and parish meeting space.

Second, the Vestry held its annual retreat in February at Henry Horton State Park in Chapel Hill. It was a time of welcoming newly elected members, but also a time of learning and development. In preparation for Rev. Rusty's sabbatical, Rev. Dr. Molly Dale Smith led us in an important Mutual Ministry Review exercise. The respectful sharing of ideas, concerns, and hopes for St. Paul's future among members was a valuable part of our Vestry's time away together.

Third, in preparing for construction a significant undertaking began in earnest thanks to Laura McCown, Carol Waters, and Debbie Whitlock. Weeks of coordinating with staff, packing, and labeling boxes meant the move could be managed in-house with minimal confusion. This allowed for an all-volunteer parishioner moving brigade that literally had men, women, and children carrying load after load through the front doors of Barnabas.

Fourth, the diligent work of our Renovation and Expansion Committee, with support from Solomon Builders and 906 Studio Architects, allowed for the successful execution of our construction contract. At the same time, Rusty, Michael Walters Young, and I began interfacing with the Diocese in earnest in the spring. On two separate occasions the Bishop and Council of the Diocese of Tennessee considered our plans formally. Ultimately, the Vestry was given the authority to move forward in late summer with construction and financing plans. It was a proud moment when Michael and I were able to represent the Vestry and Parish at our loan closing in December after months of preparation with the help of numerous individuals. Ironically, an awesome young attorney with the firm of Stites and Harbison (our neighbors), handled the requisite legal and financial transaction. We are particularly grateful to Diocesan Treasurer Pete Stringer, whose careful guidance gave us tremendous support to secure needed canonical approvals that led to a

partnership with our longtime financial institution, First Horizon Bank, formerly First Tennessee Bank. Michael and Kristy, with support from former treasurer Mark Hyssong and others, are now managing the financial payment schedule for the Project.

We also gained the support of Susan Miller, a member of the Building and Renovation Committee, who accepted the responsibility of being our Owner's Rep. This position is a volunteer endeavor that allows the Parish staff to focus on the day-to-day operations of the church during the duration of the project. Susan has been a critical communication link between our builder and architect and our Parish. I am especially grateful for the work she and Ron Howes undertook this summer. They stayed keenly attentive to pre-construction needs in all our facilities, which was a great support to Monna and me during Rusty's important sabbatical.

Fifth, new folks joined our staff and team, including Brett Smith, one of our own parishioners, who is now our Youth Minister. Brett is leading EYG and many more enriching programs focused on the spiritual growth of our youth. We are grateful for the extended work of Maddie Rogers who graciously served as interim until Brett joined us..

It was with deep sadness that we witnessed the passing of our beloved Rick Jackson. I am amazed at the resilience of Donna Stokes Rogers and particularly how she pressed forward in the search for an organist who could join our incredible music ministry. Holli Scholz is a gracious and giving musician. Thanks be to God for Rick's life and ministry and for bringing us Holli!

We also welcomed the addition of parishioner Rachel Shoaf to assist in our nursery. Thank you Libby Sullivan for continuing to lead our Children's Ministry. Just as staff settled into a year-long assignment working out of Fair Street's Barnabas, the Men and Women of St. Paul's debuted the first churchwide BBQ held in that amazing parking lot in pouring rain! It was a huge success because all hands joined together. Also, the McCown's graciously allowed the Rectory to be used for various events throughout the summer and fall, which was a game-changer..

The footprint of St. Paul's is compact, but the creative talents of many, including those parishioners serving in our Altar Guild, Choir, Flower Guild, Hospitality, Christian Formation, Ushers and many more ensure the mission is always central to the service at hand.

In closing, personally speaking, this year highlighted the incredible commitment of our clergy and staff, and also gave me a chance to meet Rev. Rick Britton, an impactful assisting priest in our Diocese. Seemingly, there is never a good time for a parish to send a rector on sabbatical. When Rev. Rusty asked me to serve as Senior Warden, there were many questions, namely about how the Renovation and Expansion Project would move forward. Honestly, doubt was always a temptation for me, and sometimes it was difficult to see that God would provide an answer every time I became discouraged. God showed me once again that very little is in our control, despite all our attempts to plan for the best outcomes. Thanks be to God for being our never ending source of strength.

Though I know what we are doing is very hard and requires a deep trust in God's provision daily, it is another thing altogether to press forward in something new. Only with one another, hand-in-hand, do we do so, proclaiming God's love and mercy with every step.

Even after 197 years of worship on West Main Street, the people of St. Paul's Episcopal Church cannot rest on the blessings experienced by those who came before us. Together, we can press forward, and I prayerfully ask each of you to consider how God wants you to help further the mission of St. Paul's in 2025.

In Christ's love,  
Pam Horne, Senior Warden

# Report from the Junior Warden



The Restoration of Barnabas after the burst water heater pipe in January 2024 continued through the spring. This turned out to be good timing since Barnabas needed to be reconfigured for the Church offices and Staff.

A major movement of Church furniture and office equipment happened in June. The existing Office and classroom space was vacated and Our Church operations moved to Barnabas.

Our fire alarm system failed in August. Several false alarms were sent to the Franklin Fire Dept. The old system had to be shut down. For a few weeks we were on "Fire Watch" Volunteers had to log hourly inspections of the Church building whenever it was occupied. Thankfully this didn't last long. We now have a new state of the art system which will be used for the new building.

The highlight of the year was the beginning of the demolition and building process in November. We all look forward to watching this progress. We are truly seeing the future of St. Paul's appear before our very eyes!

Thanks to Rusty and the Vestry for all their help. It has been truly an honor to serve as your Jr. Warden for the last 2 years.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ron Howes  
Junior Warden



# Building Project Update

Our Building Project is continuing to progress on schedule! The first preparatory work began last fall by installing a fence barrier around our very large pecan tree and adding 6 inches of mulch, then laying down plywood to protect the roots from damage by the large and heavy machinery used by our contractors. This plan was confirmed by an arborist working with our contractor. In the coming months we will need to do some pruning of the branches to allow for the new second story. The tree will only be pruned where absolutely necessary and will be discussed with the arborist to ensure best practices are being used. After construction is complete, the contractor's arborist will come do a final review of the tree and will provide input on any additional pruning/maintenance of the tree to ensure it's health.

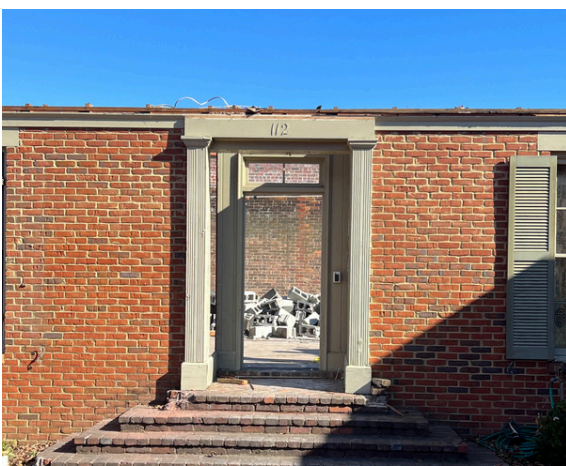
Beginning in November of last year, demolition began by tearing down interior walls while leaving the supported exterior brick facade facing 6th Avenue. Solomon, our General Contractor, and 906 Architects carefully demoed the entire hall and roof over the entire corridor. The existing roof over Otey Hall will remain, however our architects are still working on the engineering design to support that roof while planning the new second floor where Rusty's and Monna's new offices will be located. Temporary beams have been installed to support the roof right now.

A newly designed corridor will be constructed outside the existing brick facade and will have its own windows on the 6th Avenue side. The existing brick facade will keep the existing windows and shutters. This corridor will be a slight ramp downward toward Otey Hall with plenty of windows to provide much desired natural light for the interior Classrooms and Nursery. The long corridor will replace the need for any stairs in the hallway. Our new Classroom Hall will have plenty of natural light and will be free of mold and mildew due to a sufficient system of water barriers. The entire campus will be barrier free and comply with current ADA standards.



A new foundation has been installed along the neighboring building, the concrete was poured last week before the cold snap. The new concrete blocks will be laid when the weather gets above 40 degrees. Our neighboring building owner, Mr. Bill Powell, had a great opportunity to inspect his own brick wall and was able to tuck and point, pressure wash and water seal his building wall. I'm sure he appreciated the chance to make improvements on his property.

Our contractor has worked on a plan to keep one of our existing restrooms in service for as long as possible. At some point we should be prepared to use alternate restrooms during the construction process in order to not slow down the construction progress, but we will provide ample notice when that time comes. The new fabulous restrooms will come along soon enough!



Thank you for your patience, support, enthusiasm, and curiosity in our Building Project! Be assured we are in excellent and capable hands with 906 Architects and Solomon Builders. We had considerable time to plan this endeavor due to the hindrance of Covid. The scheduled date of completion is slated for October / November 2025! Be assured our new Kitchen, Otey Hall, Classroom and Office Corridor has been extremely well planned and designed to benefit St. Paul's people to "Go and do the work God has given us to do, to love and serve the Lord."

-Susan Miller



# Christian Formation

## Adults

These Christian Formation classes were offered to Adults in 2024 on Sunday morning.

1) An Adult Christian Formation Class was held on Sundays in Otey Hall throughout the program year.

From January – May, we offered teachings on St. Paul: His Life and Writings. We learned more about our parish namesake, and explored why the Apostle Paul's ministry and faithful Christian journey is a holy foundation of our faith. The Rev. Rusty McCown, the Rev. Monna Mayhall, and Jean Larson served as presenters for these Sundays.

From September – December, we offered 4 different teaching series:

1. Praying with Passion, Precision, and Promise: 3-Week Study on Effective and Meaningful Prayer led by Dr. Jon Roebuck. We examined several passages that offer insight and encouragement in our discipline of prayer.
2. The Prophetic Imagination: 3-Week Study based on "The Prophetic Imagination" by Walter Brueggemann, led by Jean Larson. We studied the prophets of old called to speak on God's behalf.
3. Stories of Faith: Exploring the Parables: 2-Week Study led by The Rev. Bob Abstein. We explored some of the parables that Jesus taught, looking at their meaning and their significance.
4. Season of Advent: 2-week series learning about the traditions and origins of Advent, and then diving deeper into the meaning behind the Readings of Advent. The Rev. Rusty McCown and the Rev. Monna Mayhall led these Sundays.

In addition to the Sunday study topics above, we also offered 2 opportunities for intergenerational conversations, and a chance to learn from one another. Mind the Gap: Intergenerational Formation gatherings were facilitated by Brett Smith and Monna Mayhall.

2) Our Rector, Rev. Rusty McCown taught a Seekers Class in the Spring of 2024 in person. This class was offered for those who wished to join the church through Confirmation or Reception. It was also offered as a refresher course for anyone. Bishop Bauerschmidt came in the Spring for his annual visit and Confirmation.

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

## The Tuesday Morning Lectionary Bible Study

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

## The Coffee Club

Coffee Club is a men's Bible study, meeting each Wednesday at 6:45 in the Barnabas conference room. Our time together lasts about one hour. We generally check in with each other, read the gospel lesson for the upcoming Sunday and discuss what the passage meant to those hearing it a long time ago and what it means for us today. We usually take the summer off but this past year we read the book *Simply Jesus* by N.T. Wright. Coffee Club is a low key Bible study that simply is attempting to read and understand better God's holy Word and how we can take it out to the world. Please join us. For more information, contact Rev. Rusty McCown at [Rusty@stpaulsfranklin.com](mailto:Rusty@stpaulsfranklin.com) or 615-790-0527.

## WITS

WITS (Women in Theological Study) met on Thursday mornings this past year from 9:30-11:00 a.m. in-person. We met in parks, in the church courtyard, in Barnabas, in Otey, Bicentennial Park, and at Healing Housing. WITS donated much needed items for NOOK (Needs of Our Kids in the Williamson County Schools). In 2024, WITS covered a variety of topics throughout the year, including:

- Epiphany-Palooza
- Presentation by Katrina Wilson on her book, "War, Love, & Redemption"
- Praying with an Anglican Rosary, incorporating the book, "We Are Beloved: A Lenten Journey with Protestant Prayer Beads," by Kristen E. Vincent.
- Stations of the Cross
- Book Swap
- Sharing of our Favorite Children's Books
- Healing Housing Field Trip
- St. Mary's Conference Center and Convent – Field Trip to Sewanee including Noon Day Prayer with the Nuns at St. Mary's
- Series based on the book "Glad Reunion: Meeting Ourselves in the Lives of Biblical Men and Women" by John Claypool.
- Series on the lives of some women in the Bible who helped shape Christianity
- Church Volunteer time
- Series exploring Jewish Holidays/Traditions/Spiritual Practices
- Visit to Congregation Micah Synagogue
- Series on "The Book of Forgiving" by Desmond Tutu and Mfpo Tutu
- Holiday Hoopla with Food, Fun and Games
- Selected Sermons by Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, Rt. Rev. Gene Robinson, Padraig O'Tuama, Nadia Boltz-Weber, and many others

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



## Education for Ministry (EFM)

St. Paul's has an active Education for Ministry (EfM) seminar group, comprised of 10 participants and two mentors this year. EfM is an international adult formation program administered by The University of the South. One participant completed the four-year program last summer and two members joined in the fall of 2024.



We meet weekly on Tuesday evenings, from September to May, to study Hebrew Scripture, the New Testament, Church History and Theology, in a small group setting. We also share spiritual autobiographies and work on theological reflections. In 2024 we met in person with the option to Zoom in. If you are interested in EfM please contact Jean Larson ([jam.larson@gmail.com](mailto:jam.larson@gmail.com)) or Kelly Pitsenberger ([pitz@bellsouth.net](mailto:pitz@bellsouth.net)).

# Youth - EYG

The St. Paul's Youth Ministry is a special community for students in 6th to 12th grade to cultivate meaningful friendships through fellowship and deepen their faith through prayer, study, and service. My prayer for this ministry is that students get to experience what it means to follow Jesus in a healthy and supportive environment so that, by the time they graduate, they can remember their time in EYG as a formative path on their lifelong journey as Christians. Below are highlights of activities that EYG participated in this past year!

EYG (Episcopal Youth Group): EYG is the core of our youth experience! We meet most Sunday nights from 5-7 to share a meal together, play games, and end our time with compline. Spring EYG was led by Maddie Rogers and summer and fall EYG was led by Brett Smith. Each week a volunteer, often a parent, brings dinner and another volunteer, often a young adult, serves as a chaperone. This fall we averaged 15 youth attending our EYG meetings and events.



Youth Christian Formation: Youth Christian Formation meets on Sunday mornings from 10:00am-11:00am. In the spring of 2024, Maddie Rogers and Rebecca Percy led a discussion-based class focused on each week's Gospel lesson. Formation classes this fall were led by Brett Smith and opened with a common question about God and faith, which we explored together using scripture. Ann Denson led a couple of classes this fall also, discussing faith and praying scripture.

Mind the Gap Intergenerational Formation: This fall the youth participated in two Christian formation classes geared toward youth and adults in a special environment which encouraged discussion between old and new friends from each generation. Through discussion, activities, and prayer we considered All Saints Day and Thanksgiving.

Youth Confirmation: In 2024, Confirmation Class was led by Jay Fahey and 10 youth were confirmed! The youth had a great experience with Jay, and he will lead the class again this year.

## **SPECIAL YOUTH EVENTS IN 2023**

Pancake Supper: In February 2024, the youth held our annual Pancake Supper to raise money for Mountain T.O.P. Thank you to all the volunteers who made the night a success!

Youth Sunday: On Mother's Day 2024, the youth led two of our Sunday morning services, servings as readers, ushers, and acolytes. Two of our seven 2024 graduating seniors, Eliza Tyer and Mimi Bushnell, gave beautiful sermons. They each reflected on their time in high school, asking the question raised in Esther 4:14, what if you are here for a time such as this?



Mountain T.O.P: A summer mission trip to Mountain Tennessee Outreach Project (Mountain T.O.P.) is a 30 year St. Paul's tradition. For a week in July 2024, 16 youth and 6 adults served families in Grundy County, one of the most impoverished counties in Tennessee, through home repair projects and day camps for children ages 6-11.

Youth Pilgrimage: In June of 2024, 6 juniors and seniors and 4 adult leaders journeyed to Iona, Scotland, the Holy Island of Lindisfarne, and York, England. This impactful trip gave our Pilgrims the opportunity to walk the same paths of Saints. This trip was a significant time of Christian formation for our youth and adults alike and we hope to take a similar Pilgrimage again in 2026.



Vacation Bible School: We are always so grateful for the youth who make up the bulk of the volunteer team at VBS. 20 youth and college volunteers helped with every part of our BEEautiful Week of Wonder this year, including games, crafts, snacks, and leading groups. We celebrated our youth volunteers with a pizza lunch and water balloon fight one day after camp!

Car Parks: This fall we held car parks to coincide with downtown Franklin events, like Pumpkifest, the Christmas Tree lighting, and Dickens of a Christmas. By charging cars to park in our parking lot behind Barnabas, we were able to raise over \$2,500 to go toward youth tuition for MTOP, MTOP travel expenses, and the Capital Campaign.

Winter Lock-In: 13 youth and 3 adult chaperones had a blast at our winter lock-in! We played board games, Grog, decorated cookies, and watched a Christmas movie. A huge thank you to the Men of St. Paul's who donated dinner! We ended our evening with Compline and lighting the fourth advent candle at midnight.



**THANK YOU ALL!**

I would like to thank you all for your graciousness this year as I've transitioned into the role of Youth Minister! Maddie Rogers has been invaluable and did an excellent job carrying the youth through the spring and summer, including the enormous tasks of leading Pilgrimage and MTOP! Thank you, also, to the parents and adults serving on the Youth Committee and MTOP Committee! Your insight and guidance are so helpful to shaping this ministry!

## 2025 EYG CALENDAR

February 2: Confirmation Class starts at 10 am in Barnabas

February 27 - March 4: Shrove Tuesday Youth Fundraiser

April 4 – 6: Spring Youth Retreat in Olmstead, KY

May 11: Youth Sunday/Mother's Day

May 25: Confirmation Sunday with Bishop Bauerschmidt

July 13 – 19: Mountain T.O.P.

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

-Brett Smith, Youth Minister



# Children With Families

## Sunday Christian Formation

We continued to use Godly Play for our Sunday Formation for Children in 2024. From January through May we had two circles: one for preschool and kindergarten, and a circle of 1st through 3rd graders. We continued to offer Godly Talk for 4th and 5th graders. In Godly Talk, we expanded the discussion on the Godly Play stories the children have heard so many times and dove deeper into the sacred stories from the Old Testament, the Liturgical Action stories, and the Parables. The summer brought a move to Barnabas and the end to our Godly Play rooms as we have known them. After Rally Day, all of our children have combined to form one circle in the Lounge of Barnabas. We have added an extra volunteer each week to manage this large number of children in our temporary space, and it is working well considering the limited space and materials that are scattered around the church for storage. Being at Barnabas is a great location to continue our work in the Free Little Pantry each week. They have taken a lot of ownership and have brought in their donations to contribute to this important ministry. We are really looking forward to the completion of the building, which will have two new rooms for Godly Play with plenty of space and storage!

## Children's Chapel

Children's Chapel was available for 8:45 and 11 am services, except for the summer when we only had one service at 10 am. There was an average of 12-20 children who attended each Sunday. During Children's Chapel, we share the Gospel story in child-inclusive language and share a picture book with a similar theme. Afterwards we share a lively discussion and say our version of prayers of the people before we exchange the peace and head back to the service to join our families. In November and December, we extended the traditional Children's Chapel time to include time for Children's Choir. The children shared a song they had rehearsed during Children's Chapel at Advent Lessons and Carols, and sang "Go Tell it on the Mountain" at the pageants on Christmas Eve.



## Week of Wonder

Week of Wonder was held off-site at Jim Warren Park screened pavilion for the second year. Thirty-three participants and 39 youth and adult volunteers made it a memorable week as we explored how bees and flowers work together in God's creation. The Women of St. Paul's were gracious enough to pass on many of their decorations from the women's retreat, and we even had a real beekeeper come to speak to us about her bees! We had a great turn-out for the wrap up party Thursday night, and the Men of St. Paul's provided the fried chicken for a potluck supper. The participants wore their t-shirts to church on Sunday to share a song with the congregation. Many thanks to everyone who made this wonderful week possible!



## Nursery

The nursery has been a busy place this year! We were so lucky to have Eliza Tyer work in our nursery for so many years, and we were sad to see her go after graduating in May. She continues to fill in when she is on breaks from school, and we are grateful to her. Like all operations at St. Paul's, the nursery moved to Barnabas at the end of June. Each Sunday, the Middle Room is converted to a nursery for small children to enjoy. In the Fall, we hired Rachel Shoaf to coordinate the nursery on Sunday mornings. We are grateful to Rachel and to her helpers Sophie Spain, Bonnie Sullivan, Isabelle Bardaus, Gina Grande, and Elizabeth Webster who make the nursery fun and safe for our children!

## Blessing of the Backpacks

This fun event was held in person once again in August. Students chose pins they could use on their backpacks and our teachers were blessed as they began their school year as well.



## Rally Day

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

## Children's Service

The Children's Service took place at both 8:45 and 11 am again this year. On September 29th, children stepped up to usher, greet, read, and share in a wonderful service that is "understandable for children and enlightening for adults."



## St. Paul's Families Group

This vibrant group met for some fun social outings in 2024. In February, the Armstrong family hosted a Mardi Gras potluck dinner at their house. In March, we met at Pins Mechanical in Nashville for an afternoon of bowling and arcade games. In April, we had a potluck brunch at the church during the Main Street Festival. In December, we met at Barnabas for a Hot Chocolate Bar during the Christmas Parade. If you have any ideas or would like to help plan events for this group, please let me know!

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





## Intergenerational Activities

Gathering for Good continues to be very popular, and a fun way for parishioners to get together and enjoy social time outside of Sundays. Highlights from this year's Gathering for Good events were the Talent Show, Jambalaya and Jeopardy, Nashville Sounds Baseball game, Chicken and Pickin' at the Park, Halloween Carnival, and Advent Wreath Making. It was so nice to have good weather for all the outdoor activities again this year.

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

-Libby Sullivan, Children's Ministry Coordinator



# Music and Creative Ministries at St. Paul's

Creative Ministries at St. Paul's had a less structured year in 2024. Our regular Maker's Table Tuesday morphed into meeting when we could, crafting where we were able, and grabbing lunches on the fly. Creativity is always alive and well within these walls, and although the ideas and moments of beauty continued without the regular meetings, we recently decided it wasn't enough. This year will see a revitalized Maker's Table Ministry with regular "Make-It Days" starting in February on the first two Tuesdays of each month in preparation for the new Christmas Bazaar. If you are someone who loves to sew, knit, crochet, paint, or make jewelry, we would love to have you join us. Do you have another talent not mentioned here? Come teach us! Everyone is welcome in this safe place of exploration and fun, with no judgements or criticisms. We love to gather and walk in the footsteps of our Creator, making beauty whenever we can.



For our musicians, 2024 was a year of extremes and of change. February saw the return of Souper Bowl Sunday, one of the choir's few fundraisers. Thank you for all those purchases, and we hoped you enjoyed our soups. Hopefully with a new kitchen, the Souper Bowl will return in 2026. In March, our Chamber Choir was invited to the Cathedral in Nashville to sing the Absalom Jones Service. It is always an honor and pleasure to sing at this event where we get to sing some of our favorite Spirituals and represent St. Paul's in a meaningful tribute to Rev. Jones and all the clergy of color that came after him. The celebration of Holy Week and Easter in March is the most intense and busy time for our musicians, with a total of seven services and extra rehearsals. I am always grateful for our hard-working crew, who commit time and effort into making those services so powerful. Our April Talent Show was the BEST EVER, with artists, quilters, crocheters, and seamstresses, joining our host of singers and songwriters for an evening of heavenly enchantment. In April, we also offered a Taizé service with the Daughters of the King at the helm, and with Kent Burnside and Rebecca Percy leading music.



Summer is always lively at St. Paul's. Joy is found at all our summer services, but most especially on Bluegrass and Stained-Glass Sundays. Thanks to all our BGSB musicians: Rick leading the pack, along with Derek and Kent, and the addition of Charles Butler on banjo and Jeremy Holt on mandolin. This year, our choir participated more than ever with much harmonizing and energy.

The Sunday after Week of Wonder has our children singing in church, and this year's musical offering was as beautiful as always, with Father Rusty accompanying.

The Fall saw the return of our Adult Choir, Chamber Choir, and Handbell Choir. You may have noticed the soft ethereal sounds of our new hand chimes after church each Sunday as the Handbell choir shifted to rehearsing there due to construction. Two of our fall Gathering for Good events had special music, with our Bluegrass Musicians at Jim Warren Park in September and John and Derek Pell, our dynamic Father and Son duo, at our Halloween Carnival.



The St. Cecilia choir was not able to find a time during the week to practice due to the busy schedules of our families, so we took the battle to them! Libby carved out time each week for me to work with all our kids during Children's Chapel. I think it was quite successful! They all had the opportunity to sing in church this year and got to experience singing in a choir, some for the first time. We are going to continue this approach in 2025.



Due to his rapidly declining health, Rick retired in September and thus began the search for a new organist. We had a total of twelve weeks of substitute organists and pianists, not just on Sundays, but on Wednesdays as well. New faces, various skill levels, and approaching every week with folks who were seeing our music for the first time was challenging. Our choirs maintained their high standards of singing and helped hold our program together during a very difficult time. In fact, the choir GREW! We welcomed four new members this last fall: Jess Fitzpatrick, John Russell, Emily Williams, and Cindy Painter. We are so thankful for the addition of their amazing voices and commitment to our ministry. We offered a beautiful All Saints Evensong in November. Thank you to our Chamber Choir and Bryan Jepson, our guest organist, for making that service so special.

December was our toughest month. We sang, played, and cried many tears. Rick Jackson's passing was a leveling event for us all. We had said goodbye on a surface level, but none were ready for that final moment. St. Paul's had a musical powerhouse in our midst for more than twelve years. Rick brought not only talent and artistry, but also his extraordinary work ethic and dedication to us week after week. He deeply loved St. Paul's. It was this love that kept him playing, composing, and arranging long after his initial diagnosis of Pulmonary Fibrosis seven years ago. He was told he had two to three years to live. He rocked through the next seven years, with a smile on his face each week, making music that made us weep. His impact was profound, and we are blessed by his continued influence on our music each week.

December also brought joy. Joy in the form of our new organist Holli Scholz. She is heaven sent and just what we needed. I encourage you to get to know this funny, gracious, and talented woman. She stepped in when we needed her most and has supported our ministry in new and exciting ways. I personally am thrilled to have not only a new partner, but also a new friend. I look forward to making beautiful music with her for a long time.

The musicians of St. Paul's are always saying how grateful we are to have the support of this amazing congregation. You are so generous with your compliments and with your monetary memorials and praise. I personally feel like that I won the lottery when I accepted this position as Minister of Music almost twenty years ago. Never in my wildest dreams could I have imagined the enormity of amazing music I would help make or the first-class musicians I would work with. St. Paul's, my friends, is heaven on earth, with the most dedicated clergy and supporting staff of any church ANYWHERE, a group of singers and instrumentalists that return every week with a smile on their face and joy in the hearts, and with a congregation that taps their feet and hands and sends love and appreciation in every smile they give us. Heaven indeed.

If you are interested in joining any part of the creative or musical ministry at St. Paul's, please give me a call. The opportunity is always there for anyone wanting to try something new, sing a new song, and be a part of a dream team.

Faithfully submitted,

Donna Stokes-Rogers



# Worship

## Ushers

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

## Oblationers

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

## Chalice Bearers

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



## Readers/Intercessors

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

## Altar Guild

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



## Eucharistic Visitors

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

## Weekly Bible Readings

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

## The Contemplative Groups

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### LECTIO, also known as Contemplative Prayer

LECTIO meets the second and fourth Friday of each month at 2:00 pm in Barnabas. We read scripture, discuss it, pray and conclude with a meditation. The meetings last about one hour.

SCOTT FAULKNER, our dear friend and Lectio leader for many years, led and attended our weekly meetings until very near his passing last October. We miss his leadership and guidance and are now attempting to keep the group active while church construction continues by meeting in Barnabas twice monthly.

Anyone wishing to join is always welcome to attend meetings. For more information, please contact Peggy Macpherson at [pmacpherson@comcast.net](mailto:pmacpherson@comcast.net), or you can phone or text her at 615-308-2215.



## Daughters of the King – DOK

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



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

The Mary Magdalene Chapter of St. Paul's Episcopal Church has 43 senior members and in 2024 admitted four young women as Junior Daughters, forming the first Junior Daughters' Chapter in the Diocese of Tennessee.

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

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

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

Our Daughters continue to be involved in Diocesan and National DOK events. Members attended Spring Assembly and Fall Assembly in the Diocese as well as Triennial (worldwide gathering of Daughters) in Louisville this past summer.

Our Chapter mourned the loss of Daughter Bettie Shepherd this year.

Our Chapter's officers are:  
Karen Austin - President  
Beth Woodruff - Vice President  
Nancy Boring - Treasurer  
Rita Sue Warner - Secretary.

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



## St. Paul's Young Adults

The Young Adults ministry serves college students and young adults in their 20s and 30s. The group has had a significant growth this year! 10 new young adults have joined and have been active in finding ways to connect, including volunteering and social events. Madeline Murphy took on a leadership role for the young adults this fall, creating calendars each month with events and volunteer opportunities. This year the young adults have gathered for a lunch party, many trivia nights, a haunted tour of Franklin, and walks in the park. Goals for the upcoming year include a young adults Christian Formation class and retreat!

One 2024 goal for the young adult group was to offer special events for college students attending St. Paul's and visiting home during breaks. In December, we held a College Social dinner which served as a reunion for some of our EYG alumni!

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

Brett Smith, Youth Minister



## Heart Notes

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

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## Men Of St. Paul's

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

The MOSP had a busy and gratifying 2024. We cooked at Holy Trinity for CITY (Church in the Yard) four times to help the homeless. We cooked for community organization throughout the year. Some highlights are: multiple times at Freedom Reigns Ranch, special events for Both Hands Foundation, High Hopes, Saddle Up, and 21st District Court, enough food for a weekend for the Boys and Girls Club of Franklin, supporting the homeless children at Bethany Christian Services, partnering with the Love Thy Neighbor women at Franklin Elementary School, and supported the local Natchez Community Center and Spring Street.

At home we served our young children and teens with meals for Vacation Bible School (Week of Wonder) Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, Mountain Top, and a Holiday Lock-in. The Annual BBQ this past year was held on the fourth (4th) weekend in September. Although it was a rain-soaked weekend, the event was a welcome break from the hot July temperatures. The rain did give us some relief on Saturday which brought out the welcoming support by the parish and the community.

We are grateful to so many people. What an opportunity to enjoy time with you as we reach out to the community in so many positive ways. The MOSP teams are grateful for the time when we can meet and greet the families, friends, young children, and teens we share a meal with. Our hope is that you have found enjoyment and comfort in the form of your giving of time, talent, and support in 2024 and will continue the same in whatever ways you are able in 2025.

2024 was a spectacular year and we expect 2025 to follow in the same footsteps. Again, what you are doing for the Men of St. Paul's is recognized and appreciated by so many. If you interested in MOSP, reach out to one of the key men listed below or any of the other active members. If you are not on the MOSP communication list, send your email address to [fredhwarner@gmail.com](mailto:fredhwarner@gmail.com).

Greer Carlisle – President

Joe Horne – Past President

Mike Wesson – Treasurer

Fred Warner – Calendar of Events Coordinator

Jim Miller – Church of the City (CITY) Coordinator

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



## Women of St. Paul's

The Women of St. Paul's is a multi-generational group of women whose focus is service through fellowship. We dedicate our time and energy to fellowship as well as fundraising to support in-reach, outreach, and Church preservation. Every adult woman of St. Paul's is invited to join us for any WSP function. There is no minimum commitment to join us and come as you are; we are informal. WSP meets throughout the year, both for pure fellowship, and to work on big annual projects. You will also find the Women of St. Paul's volunteering in all areas of the church. Here is a listing of highlights and activities from this past year.

### Board meetings

Our board meetings have been held primarily at the church. With the construction underway, our board meetings are being held for the most part off the church campus. Meeting Dates: January 17, March 5, April 12, May 7, July 12, August 14, September 13, October 17, November 15

### Events

February 2-4 Approximately 70 women attended the heArt & Soul Retreat at Henry Horton State Park

### 2024 Financial Activity

February	\$500 each donation to Maggie Gilchrist and Elizabeth Tyler-Mountain TOP
March	\$1,000 Youth Pilgrimage Trip
April 20	Flower basket and Fern basket fundraiser
June	Sabbatical Donation
August	Donation to Men's Barbecue
September	Bake Sale at Men's Barbecue
October	\$10,000 donation for Church Outreach and In-reach

Current Financial: \$5,449.09

### 2024 Board

President – Jackie King  
Vice-President – Cyndy Howes  
Secretary – Kathy Berry  
Treasurer – Pat McCracken  
At Large – Susan Miller, Suzanne Dibble, Mindy Boggs, Cassy Gilchrist, Becky Grimes

### Socials

April 12 - Home of Susan Myers  
July 12 - Home of Mindy Boggs  
September 13 - Home of Pat McCracken  
November 15 - Home of Jackie King  
December 13 - Home of Pam Leet



### 2025 Board

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



Activities for WSP are posted in the monthly Epistle, weekly News from the Pews, and the Church bulletin take out. We also have a private Facebook page. Just ask one of the officers or the Parish administrators to get added to the list.

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

## The Bad Girls Book Club

The Bad Girls Book Club read, reviewed and discussed a varied line up of titles in 2024; our email list grew to 80+; our meeting attendance fluctuates each month; and we continue to thrive within a growing parish congregation. Thank you all for your continued interest!

We welcome all to join us, this isn't a women-only group, do not let our moniker throw you a curve. We meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month (except for December), from 6:00 to 8:00 in Founders Hall and in Barnabas (as of June, 2024), unless planned otherwise.

Our list of titles for 2024 included:

February - *Mr. & Mrs. American Pie* by Juliet McDaniel, March - *Beautiful Day* by Elin Hilderbrand, April - *Dreamland: a Novel* by Nicholas Sparks, May - *Winter Garden* by Kristen Hannah, June - *Tom Lake* by Anne Patchett, July - *The Covenant of Water* by Abraham Verghese, August - *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo* by Taylor Jenkins Reid, September - *The Secret Book of Flora Lea* by Patti Callahan (Henry), October - *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver, November - *Folly Beach* by Dorothea Benton Frank

Big deal evenings for us were:

"An Evening with Ann VanDervoort" in January, to kick off our year. An interview with Ann about her new book/memoir, *Feasting on Crumbs*, was facilitated by Dr. Robert Collins and the evening was introduced by our own Pam Horne. We heard about Ann's journey toward becoming an ordained Episcopal priest and a book-signing followed. (Ann's book is available at St. Paul's in the Corner Store area of Founders Hall.)

And...



"An Evening with Patti Callahan Henry" in September, to review her NYT Best-Selling book, *The Secret Book of Flora Lea*. Her joining us that evening was a surprise for the Book Club, however I announced it in August. The night we met was a stormy and rainy one and I appreciate all who attended. We had 12-15, as I recall, and Patti was a wonderful guest, taking us on many journeys in her writing approach and in her story-telling! Many may recall her visit with St. Paul 's in 2018, three days before her book tour for *Becoming Mrs. Lewis* began in September of that year.

Upcoming Bad Girls Book Club titles for 2025 will appear in the Sunday bulletin insert - the 'Take Out', and in our weekly St. Paul's emails - "News from the Pews."

In closing, my continued appreciation goes to Kathy Berry and to Virginia Callicott for their behind-the-scenes support to me on our Book Club meeting nights. Thanks much to you both! Hope to see new faces in 2025 to join in with our "regulars."

Submitted by Ann Denson (densonannm@gmail.com)

## Social Graces

Social Graces is a ministry geared and designed mostly with people 55 years of age and older in mind. This past year, Social Graces was able to provide programs and lunch gatherings. We offered a few catered lunches followed by musical entertainment. If you want to find out more about Social Graces, please contact Monna Mayhall at 615-790-0527 or [monna@stpaulsfranklin.com](mailto:monna@stpaulsfranklin.com).



## Prayer Shawl Ministry

Prayer Shawl knitters did not meet in person this past year. People however continued to knit or crochet on their own. If you have questions or want more information, contact Donna Stokes Rogers at [donna@stpaulsfranklin.com](mailto:donna@stpaulsfranklin.com)

## Feed My Sheep/Meal Baby

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

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

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

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

## Pastoral Visitors

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

## Kairos

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

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

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

If you're interested in joining Kairos, or just want to learn more about what we do, please contact Peggy Macpherson at [pmacpherson@comcast.net](mailto:pmacpherson@comcast.net).

## St. Paul's Small Groups

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

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

At the beginning of 2024, there was one adult small group meeting bi-weekly

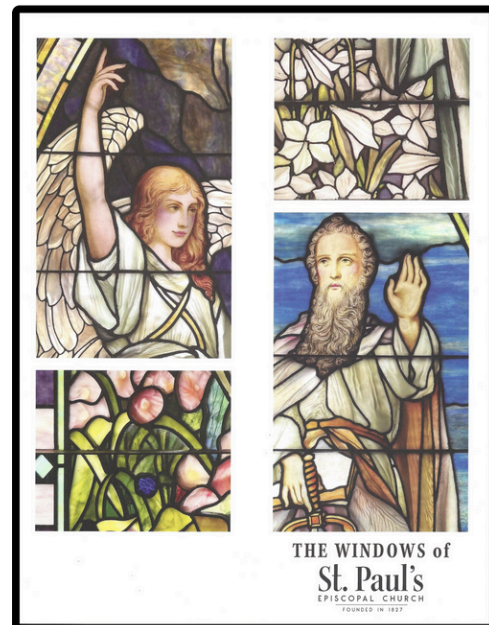


# Historic Committee

St. Paul's Historic Committee had an outstanding 2024!

A beautiful new brochure about our stained glass windows was created by Cindy Thomsen and Currier Stevens. Currier took all new photos of the windows and designed the lovely brochure. We are grateful for Currier's talent and expertise that she shares with St. Paul's Historic Committee.

The Historic Preservation Committee was established. Colbi Layne Hogan, Gale Haddock and Cindy Tumblin will maintain an inventory of the historic areas of our church including the nave, narthex, Founders Hall and the room in between. They will work closely with the Vestry Junior Warden to establish general cleaning and maintenance as needed. Additionally, they will develop a list of items that need special attention in preparation for the Bicentennial Celebration in August 2027.



Ongoing cataloguing of historic documents and photographs – a time consuming, costly task, but essential to preserve for future generations. These are housed at the Williamson County Archives. This year we added two more boxes to our archive collection. The office clean out in preparation for the construction project brought forth some treasures for our archives including the lovely brass plaque Cochrane Hall. This was displayed as Founders Hall was previously Cochrane Hall. The name was changed during the tenure of Rev. Robert Cowperthwaite.

Visit with Fairfax Segner, a descendant of Hardin Perkins Cochrane – Fairfax and her daughter came to visit St. Paul's and see Cochrane Hall. We had a lovely visit and she enjoyed the beautiful windows as one of the windows had be given in memory of the Perkins family. She was thrilled to see Founders Hall as it is today. On her previous visits she was unable to see Founders Hall.

The Education Committee – submitted several articles to the Epistle during the year about St. John's Colored Episcopal Church and the story of Cochrane Flats.



The 197 Birthday Celebration – On Sunday, August 25, 2024, we celebrated the 197th birthday of St. Paul's. It was graciously held at the Williamson County Archives Building following the 10:00 a.m. service. So many of our parishioners had never visited the archives, it was a lovely community day! The archives leadership does not allow organizations or community groups to hold functions in the space due to the beautiful historic displays. They made this one-time exception for St. Paul's due to the fact St. Paul's archives are housed in the building per an agreement with the St. Paul's Vestry. Additionally, The Historic Committee holds our monthly meetings there during the construction project of St. Paul's.

The Bicentennial Day Chairmen – Each day of the Bicentennial Celebration will have a chairperson for events of that day, beginning on Wednesday, August 25, 2027 and concluding on Sunday, August 29, 2027. Each day will feature a different event.

### **Education**

### **Preservation**

### **Celebration**

The Bicentennial Society, funding partner of the St. Paul's Historic Committee, currently has 87 members. The Historic Committee is continuing to work alongside the Bicentennial Day Chairmen to create plans for our many events and worship services leading up to our 200-year anniversary in 2027. We hope you will consider joining other parishioners in the Bicentennial Society to be a contributing part of this special time in our history. As the Mother Church of the Diocese of Tennessee, we were the first to be established and to begin the spiritual work that continues here today.

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

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

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

#### Historic Committee Members

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

#### Bicentennial Committee Co-Chairmen

Libby Sullivan, Jay Fahey, Mike Wesson



## Offering Compassionate Care

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

### Mission and Services

Fred Warner and Monna Mayhall are responsible for establishing Stephen Ministry at St. Paul's in 2019. Fred developed the ministers for many years with dedication, faith and great care. In early 2024, Fred decided to step down from his leadership role to focus on other ministries of interest. We can't thank Fred enough for his years of service! He was truly a mentor to us all.



Stephen Ministry at St. Paul's continues to evolve and grow, serving not only our parishioners but also individuals beyond our church community who are experiencing difficulties. We offer someone to talk to confidentially, during times of hardship, meeting through various methods of communication to suit the care receiver's schedule and geographic location. Our primary goal is to help through listening, being present, and showing compassion and understanding to the hurting. The Care Receiver's personal information and details of their difficulties are held in strict confidence. Our job is to walk beside you in your time of need.

### Our Caregivers

Currently, we have 14 trained caregivers in our Stephen Ministry group. These dedicated individuals use their skills, gained through extensive training, to provide support. Skills such as listening, being assertive, and drawing out care receivers' concerns are central to our caregiving approach.

### Supervision and Support

Our group meets twice a month for supervision sessions, where we confidentially discuss the effectiveness and challenges each Stephen Minister faces, both with their care receivers and in their own lives. This regular supervision ensures that our caregivers can provide the best possible support.

### Referrals

We are grateful for the referrals we receive from the clergy and parishioners of our church, as well as from outside our congregation. We are especially grateful for Monna for her support and guidance.

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

Our current Stephen Ministers include:

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





## Beloved Community at St. Paul's

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

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

This past year, Beloved Community at St. Paul's continued to participate in the Beloved Community of the Diocese of TN. Some activities are organized by the diocese such as the Absalom Jones service at Christ Church Cathedral in February and a day-long anti-racism training led by the Beloved Community Commission. This fall, the Rev, Rick Britton, our Interim Assistant, facilitated a book study via Zoom, on "How To Fight Racism: Courageous Christianity and the Journey toward Racial Justice" by Dr. Jemar Tisby.



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

## Recycling at St. Paul's

The City of Franklin does not remove recycling for commercial business. Recycling and trash are combined into one pick-up. Three years ago, several people in the parish felt the need to formally begin recycling. They placed recycling bins throughout the Church buildings, requested the help of parishioners, and formally began a weekly pick-up. During the construction period, recycling has been modified to be able to continue throughout the facility.

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

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

For those who are helping with the recycling, thank you. You are appreciated. We have several open spots on our schedule that we would like to fill. Please feel free to reach out to any of the people currently participating in the recycling to add you to the schedule and/or to ask us for further information. Those people are: Tim Armstrong, Will Boggs, Gerald Hancock, Ellen Kirk, Doug Mayhall, Justin Pitt, Fred Warner, and Jon Webster. For more information, please contact Fred Warner at [fredwarner@gmail.com](mailto:fredwarner@gmail.com).

## Lord's Lift

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

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

If you need a ride to church on Sunday...Contact the church office before 4:00 pm on the Thursday before the Sunday that you need a ride to church. Provide our Parish administrator with your name, address, contact information, your preference of Sunday Service time, and if you use a walker or wheelchair. The Lord's Lift driver will contact you to finalize transportation. For more information, please contact Shannon Buttrey at [shannon@stpaulsfranklin.com](mailto:shannon@stpaulsfranklin.com)

## Holy Hikes – Middle Tennessee

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

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

### QUICK POINTS

Holy Hikes...

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



### Holy Hiking 2024:

February - Women of St. Paul's at Henry Horton State Park

March – Preservation Park in Thompson's Station

April – Owl Creek in Brentwood

November - Marcella Vivrette Smith Park in Brentwood

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

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

## St. Paul's Food Pantry

We are fixing between 6-8 bags weekly. Around 300 for the year. That does not include what the staff hands out. We have food for anyone that comes to the church in need, and we try to provide food ready to eat and bags of food to be prepared.

St. Paul's always amaze me with all their contributions! I've never seen such a small church make such a big difference in the community!

You can leave non-perishable food donations in the bin outside the church office, or inside in the church office building. Most needed items are posted each week in the Takeout. We are looking for more people to help in the making and the delivering of the bags. To find out more information or to volunteer, contact Larry and Debbie Whitlock at 901-277-5909 or email Vandyman1@aol.com.

## Little Free Pantry

The Little Free Pantry continues to faithfully serve the Franklin community since becoming operational in August 2022. The Little Free Pantry provides easy to eat and access individual servings of food, beverages and personal care items on a 24 hours / 7 days per week basis.

Church members volunteer their time to restock the Little Free Pantry twice per week each month. Currently there are 8 volunteers who assist with the restocking. Children participating in Godly Play volunteer to restock the Little Free Pantry each Sunday that they attend under the direction of Libby Sullivan.

### 2024 Highlights:

- January 2024 – Prayer for the Poor & Neglected from Prayer Book added to restocking process
- January 2024 – New Volunteer Training Handout created with history and restocking process
- February 2024 – Little Free Pantry supplies are moved and reorganized in the main undercroft area allowing both the Main St. Paul's Pantry and the Little Free Pantry and more space
- February 2024 – JoAnn Scalf is trained as a new volunteer
- February 2024 – Devotional Booklets are added to the Little Free Pantry
- February 2024 – Compostable bags for those taking food away are added
- April 2024 – Maria McPherson is trained as a new volunteer
- April 2024 – X-treme Window Tint in Franklin placed solar/heat protection film on the Little Free Pantry at no charge (Owner is Landon Cammilleri)
- April 2024 – Added inside sign directing people who need larger amounts of food to obtain a bag of food from the main pantry in hopes of helping those in need of larger amounts of food
- October – A wooden cross is added to the outside of the Little Free Pantry as a symbol of God's love and mercy thanks to Ron Howes
- November 2024 – Jessica Fitzpatrick is trained as a new volunteer (She expressed interest during Rally Day)
- December 2024 – New reflective Little Free Pantry Sign installed outside the Little Free Pantry
- December 2024 – New Process for Little Free Pantry restocking is implemented during construction and Volunteer Training Handout up-dated

For more information, please contact Ginna Campbell at [ginnacampbell@gmail.com](mailto:ginnacampbell@gmail.com).

## CITY - Church In The Yard

St. Paul's has many outreach programs that focus on a variety of needs in the local community and the greater community. CITY (Church In The Yard) is an outreach program to the poor and homeless in and around the center of Nashville. The ministry is anchored by Fr. Bill Denler at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church. St. Paul's has been working with Fr. Bill for over 15 years. Weather permitting, the homeless gather in the side yard of Holy Trinity on Sunday around noon. Fr. Bill offers a full communion service followed by a meal. St. Paul's provides the food and staffs the cafeteria style serving line. Clothes and other donated articles are passed out, such as jackets, Khaki pants, toothpaste and brushes, etc. We continue to provide food on the 3rd Sunday of each month.

Every Thursday, men from St. Paul's drive the church van to the Sanctuary NPO and pick up several hundred lbs. of fresh food collected from Trader Joe's and deliver it to the Natchez Street Community Center where it is distributed to the needy of that community. Everywhere you turn, St. Paul's is living the Gospel through our outreach programs.



CITY Contact:

Gerald Hancock [gwhancock44@gmail.com](mailto:gwhancock44@gmail.com), 615-604-9635

Ellen Kirk [ellenvkirk@gmail.com](mailto:ellenvkirk@gmail.com), 615-545-8820

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



## Meals on Wheels

Meals On Wheels ...Thirty St Paul's parishioners continue to deliver Meals On Wheels to the Franklin community, about 120 meals, on the third Wednesday and Friday of every month. The meals are prepared at Franklin First United Methodist Church where we pick them up and deliver them to those in need. St. Paul's has been an active participant in this community outreach for at least the past 40 years. If anyone ever wants to join us please contact Kathy Berry at 615-419-4548.

## Spring Street Outreach

A dedicated group of St. Paul's volunteers gather monthly with our older friends and neighbors from the Spring Street and Hard Bargain neighborhoods. This is a much anticipated social opportunity that has been a part of St. Paul's outreach for many years. Each month volunteers provide a delicious lunch, and plan an activity such as a music performance, craft, or game. We meet September through May and normally have from 25 - 35 guests. We made the move to Barnabas in September and it has worked out just fine.

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



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

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

## Local Outreach

St. Paul's Outreach Committee's mission is to do what it can for our Williamson County neighbors in need by showing them love and helping them where possible. The committee works with non-profit organizations in the county that are supporting adults and/or children needing assistance. 100% of the monies entrusted to this committee in 2024 by St. Paul's vestry, the Women of St. Paul's, and donations by individuals wanting to help with our mission was spent to help improve the lives of those in need.

The Local Outreach also provided Kroger gift cards for Spring Street Ministry, and helped with the collection of 60 gift cards for the Waves Angel Tree, and provided Mountain TOP Mission Funds for the Youth of St. Paul's.

These non-profits were financially helped in 2024:

- |                                      |   |                          |
|--------------------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| Meals On Wheels                      | Boys and Girls Club of Middle Tennessee | Gigi's Playhouse         |
| Healing Housing                      | Turning Point                           | Davis House              |
| Oak Cottage                          | High Hopes Development Center           | GraceWorks               |
| Door Step Project                    | 21st District Recovery Court            | Tucker's House           |
| St. Paul's Food Pantry               | Gentry's Educational Foundation         | Franktown Open Hearts    |
| The Well Outreach                    | Kindred Spirits Farm                    | Closer To Home           |
| Alive Hospice                        | Mercy Health Services                   | NOOK (Needs of Our Kids) |
| CASA                                 | Freedom Reigns Ranch                    |                          |
| Clergy Discretionary – Rusty McCown  |   |                          |
| Clergy Discretionary – Monna Mayhall |   |                          |

The Outreach Committee Members:

- |                       |                                  |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Judy Stockton (chair) | Sheila Morreale                  |
| Monna Mayhall         | Fred Warner                      |
| Will Boggs            | Spencer Dibble                   |
| Jim Miller            | Angela Lassiter (Vestry Liaison) |

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



## Do you know about these ministries?

### Moses Basket

When there is a new birth in the parish family, to be celebrated, a baby blanket along with various gifts are gathered for the newborn and the family. All the gifts are placed in a basket and delivered to the family. For more information, contact Fran Osteen at [fwosteen@comcast.net](mailto:fwosteen@comcast.net)



### Flower Power

After most all Sunday services are over, the beautiful altar flowers are far from over. On Monday mornings, Fran Osteen along with a couple of helpers, put together several vases of flowers from the altar flowers, to be delivered to people on our parish prayer list. A tag is attached to the vase that reads, "A Gift for You from St. Paul's Episcopal Church – These Flowers were on our Altar this past Sunday." For more information, contact Fran Osteen at [fwosteen@comcast.net](mailto:fwosteen@comcast.net)



## NEW in 2024!

### Grief Support Group

Loss comes in all shapes and sizes. Grief of any kind can feel very lonely, even when you have loved ones around. Sharing your sorrow with others who have experienced similar losses can help. The pain of grief can often cause you to want to withdraw from others and retreat into your shell. But having the face-to-face support of other people is vital to healing from loss. The key is not to isolate yourself. St. Paul's began offering a morning Grief Support Group, as well as an evening one, beginning in December 2024. For more information contact Monna Mayhall at [monna@stpaulsfranklin.com](mailto:monna@stpaulsfranklin.com) or 615-79-0527.

