

**St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Franklin, TN**  
**Vestry Minutes**  
**Vestry Retreat-Henry Horton State Park**  
**March 1, 2025**

**Attendees:** Ann Denson, Larry Whitlock, Bruce Theobald, Angela Lassiter, Holly Spain, Jim Miller, Paul Hannah, Spencer Dibble, Jonathan Webster, Rusty McCown, Monna Mayhall, Michael Walters Young

**Call to Order:** 8:20 am

**Opening Prayer:** Rusty McCown

**Approval of Minutes:** January minutes approved as written

Rusty asked for nominations for Senior Warden.

Spencer Dibble nominated Paul Hannah.

Larry Whitlock seconded.

**Paul Hannah elected by acclamation.**

Rusty asked for nominations for Junior Warden.

Holly Spain nominated Jim Miller

Angela Lassiter seconded.

**Jim Miller was elected by acclamation.**

Rusty reported that **Mindy Boggs has agreed to continue as Clerk** for this year.

**Financial:** *Michael Walters Young*

Michael gave recap of Budget Process - how the Finance Committee does their work preparing the Budget for the coming year:

**Budget Planning & Process**

**2024**

November      Initial Meetings with Rector and others to discuss outline of 2025 budgeting and stewardship efforts

Rector solicits staff for budget requests

December      Treasurer & Financial Manager work to build aspects of initial 2025 budget

Staff returns requests to Rector; he finalizes and submits to Finance Officers

Finance Committee reviews initial information and makes broad-level suggestions/modifications based on Stewardship and organizational needs/concerns

## **2025**

January            Finance Committee reviews final budget requests and makes formal recommendation to Vestry

Vestry votes 2025 Budget

Finance Officers report out 2025 budget to parish at Annual Meeting

March            Vestry amends 2025 budget with realized pledge numbers

After a thorough grinding of the numbers, the Finance Committee gives recommendations to the Vestry for Financial Decisions.

It will be March before the Budget is actually set in place.

### **January Financials:**

**January Summary:** One month into the fiscal year and the parish is where it wants to be - in an incredibly strong financial position.

**Revenues:** Technically, pledges were severely below where we would have anticipated they be...but that is not really the truth as we had nearly a quarter of a million dollars worth of prepaid pledges received ahead of the start of the year and recognized in January. Taking into account the regular monthly pledges received, the parish has actually raised 30% of all of its expected income for the year - in one month.

**Expenses:** Expenses were \$8 (8!) over budget. Within the expense budget, Health Insurance was higher due to funding an employee's HSA account for 6 months, the Rectors Entertainment line had the Vestry and Staff Christmas party, the Property Maintenance line had costs for the crane that was needed to fix light fixtures at Barnabas and the Sexton line had two reissued for two invoices for 2024.

**Overall:** The parish starts the year nearly \$244,000 to the good.

- Revenues - Pledges and discussion of prepaid pledges.
- Expenses - \$8 over Budget!
- Capital Campaign –  
    Overall Financing of the Capital Campaign –  
    Maintain Cash on Hand to cover 3-6 months operating expenses

Rusty asked Vestry to increase internal parish gift to the Capital Campaign by \$500,000 (total would then be \$1,500,000).

Discussion – Loan to First Horizon was negotiated 1-1 for debt service (\$250,000)

### **VOTE – Motion to increase passed unanimously**

Michael discussed Cyber Liability – discussion that Church Insurance Corporation

    Increase coverage from \$250,000 to \$1,000,000

    Increase in the bill would be \$700 (\$25,000 to \$25,700)

Larry Whitlock made motion to increase Cyber Liability.

VOTE - Motion to increase passed unanimously.

## **Staff Reports:**

### Music: Donna Stokes-Rogers

- Blind Date with a Book Fundraiser is a hit! We started at the Women's Retreat and then moved the books into Founder's Hall. We have sold over 30 books. Maker's Table ladies have another wrapping day for more books on Tuesday, March 6.
- Maker's Table has begun work on crafts for our Christmas Bazaar to benefit the Music Fund. Folks are knitting, crocheting, painting, and weaving on their own now. In March we begin group work on Macrame projects.



- Handbell Choir began rehearsing last Sunday and plans to play on Sunday, April 6.
- Children will start rehearsing during Children's Chapel on March 9 and will sing on Palm Sunday at 8:45 service.
- Our Adult Choir and Chamber Choir have had a wonderful January and February with most of the choir staying well. We have had great numbers at rehearsal and on Sundays.

### Youth Ministry-Brett Smith

#### **EYG**

This month the youth had a wide variety of events! We made Valentine's cards for teachers at Franklin Elementary School, attempted to play human foosball in the rain (we will try again at retreat!), played Heads Up!, and prepared over 30 hashbrown casseroles to serve and sell for the Pancake Supper.

We hope all of you can join us for our Pancake Supper fundraiser this Tuesday! There will be two seatings, at 5:30 or 6:30! We are also selling homemade King Cake, take and bake hashbrown casseroles, and a wonderful beignet mix!

The spring youth retreat is April 4-6. We are going to Olmstead, KY and our theme is Friendship! We'll be looking at what it means have a friend in Jesus, to be a friend to one another, and to the world. Registration is open and will only cost participants \$25!

### **Formation**

Confirmation Class has 8 students this semester and the classes are going well! The youth formation classes have not been heavily attended this month, but we've still had meaningful discussions in our Got Questions series.

### **Keep/Watch**

On February 2 we hosted a diocesan-wide suicide prevention training led by Holli Tubbs. This was a beautifully done workshop which handled a difficult topic with a ton of grace.

### **Young Adults**

In addition to trivia nights, Josh and I hosted 16 young adults at our home for a dinner party on February 21. We had a great time getting to know one another better!

### **Children and Families -Libby Sullivan**

We will begin collecting plastic Easter eggs (new or used) and candy to fill them beginning April 1st.

Week of Wonder is confirmed for June 9-12th from 9 am until noon at Jim Warren Park. Sign ups for participants and volunteers will be available on the website in April.

Our next Gathering for Good is Wednesday, May 7<sup>th</sup> to see the Nashville Sounds. Tickets are \$20 each. Email Libby to reserve your ticket!

Our last Sunday of Godly Play is Sunday, May 4th, and it will be a service day. We are looking for service projects appropriate for children ages 4-11. If you have any ideas, please contact Libby.

Associate Rector: Monna Mayhall

### **PASTORAL CARE**

#### **Stephen Ministry**

**Stephen Ministry meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of the month, with the 2 different groups - a morning group and a late afternoon group. We have 15 Active Stephen Ministers, with 12 of them currently having Care Receivers.**

#### **Grief Support Group at St. Paul's**

Loss comes in all shapes and sizes. Grief of any kind, can feel very lonely, even when you have loved ones around. Sharing your sorrow with others who have experienced similar losses can help. The pain of grief can often cause you to want to withdraw from others and retreat into your shell. But

having the face-to-face support of other people is vital to healing from loss. Even if you're not comfortable talking about your feelings under normal circumstances, it's important to express them when you're grieving. Comfort can also come from just being around others who care about you. The key is not to isolate yourself.

There are 8 people who will continue to help rotate as facilitators with the Grief Group at St. Paul's. We had a good turnout for the first February Grief Group, and we continue to still receive positive feedback. We did not meet for a 2<sup>nd</sup> time in February due to the weather, however, for March, the Grief Group will meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of the month, still offering a morning group and an evening group.

### **PARISH LIFE**

#### **WITS**

For January/February, WITS (Women in Theological Study) is offering a series on the book *"Prayer in the Night: For Those Who Work, or Watch, or Weep"* by Tish Harrison Warren. We are exploring themes of human vulnerability, suffering, and God's seeming absence, using a prayer from the Service of Compline to ease anxiety and find God in the darkness.

In December, WITS collected and donated some necessary items for the NOOK (Needs of Our Kids – Williamson County Schools).

### **PARISH LIFE**

#### **Holy Hikes**

Holy Hikes-Middle Tennessee is hiking at Preservation Park in Thompson Station on Saturday, March 22 at 9:00 am - weather permitting.

### **OUTREACH**

#### **Spring Street**

January Spring Street was great with Bingo. This past Thursday, a few men of St. Paul's were cooking and providing Barbeque Pork Butts for the meal. Jackie King and her crew continue to do a great job of navigating new space and coordinating all things.

#### **Birthday Outreach Ministry**

If you like a party, and if you have a heart for visiting people, then we have an opportunity for you that combines the two. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month, join with parishioners to visit Charter Senior Living of Franklin, to celebrate the birthdays of the Charter residents for that month. We will plan to meet there from 12:40-1:30 pm giving us a chance to visit with residents, and eat cake too! It has been a great event for Charter, and for the St. Paul's Volunteers as well. We had our first "party" last Tuesday with 5 volunteers from St. Paul's.

#### **Outreach Committee**

Listing of Funds recently distributed:

<b>Williamson County Homeless Alliance</b>	<b>\$4000</b>
<b>Meals on Wheels (Qtrly)</b>	<b>\$1500</b>
<b>Bridges</b>	<b>\$3000</b>
<b>St. Paul's Food Pantry (Qtrly)</b>	<b>\$500</b>

**Rector's Report:** *Rusty McCown*  
**Convention**  
**Seekers**

<b>Dates to remember</b> – March 4	Pancake Supper / Shrove Tuesday
March 11	Lenten Series – Stations of the Cross - 5:00 pm Simple Supper / Lenten Program – 5:30 pm
March 20	Thursday – CC Informational meeting – 5:30 pm Barnabas

### **Vestry Liaison Positions –**

Rusty reported on the assigned Vestry Liaison positions, asking if anyone had any questions.

They are as follows:

Senior Warden: Paul Hannah

Junior Warden: Jim Miller

Clerk and Parish Life: Mindy Boggs

Outreach: Angela Lassiter

Stewardship: Jonathan Webster

Christian Formation: Chris Oberholtzer

Hospitality: Melissa Montero

Finance: Spencer Dibble

Communications: Ann Denson

Pastoral Care: Bruce Theobald

Senior Ministries: Larry Whitlock

Youth and Children Ministries: Holly Spain

### **Parochial Report –**

Rusty discussed the Parochial Report. Needs vote by the vestry to approve (must be submitted to Diocese by March 1)

Paul Hannah made a motion to approve the Parochial Report. Bruce Theobald seconded. Motion passed.

### **Rusty discussed Clergy Housing Allowance**

- Monna's Housing allowance \$48,000  
Bruce Theobald made motion to approve  
Jim Miller seconded. Motion passed.
- Rusty's Housing Allowance \$30,000  
Spencer Dibble made motion to approve.  
Larry Whitlock seconded. Motion passed.

### **Rusty discussed the HVAC Systems**

Barnabas has one that is not working.

There was discussion on replacing 2 units in Barnabas – Quotes from Roscoe Brown.

There was discussion of Insight Counseling Center -

Motion was approved to authorize Rusty up to \$50,000 to replace 2 HVAC units in Barnabas.

### **Committee Reports**

Ann Denson reported about success of Brown Bag Ephesians Study wrapping up tomorrow (Sunday March 2).

Rusty reported that Jon Roebuck and Bob Abstein are each leading a 3 week series for Adult Christian Formation.

### **Old Business**

Communications Policy – discussion tabled until next month.

### **Changes to Normal Vestry Meetings**

March Vestry Meeting to Monday March 24, 2025 at 5:30 pm

April Vestry Meeting to Tuesday April 22, 2025 at 5:30 pm

Meeting closed with Lord's Prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 10:40 am.

\*Thank you to Monna for filling in as Clerk for this session!