

ST. PAUL'S
Episcopal
CHURCH



2023 Annual Parish Report



Generous Community

•

Enduring Worship

•

Gracious Welcome

January 28, 2024

VITAL STATISTICS:

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Baptized members	158	130	119	148	153
Baptisms	3	0	0	3	2
Confirmations/Receptions	0	0	0	12*	2
Transfers in	4	0	5	0	18
Transfers out	0	0	1	0	12
Weddings	2	0	0	0	0
Burials	4	1	6	4	5
Average Sunday Attendance	81	N/A	N/A	N/A	62

INDEX PAGE

	Page
I. Agenda	3
II. 2023 Financial Report	4
III. 2024 Budget	5
IV. Priest-in-Charge Report	8
V. Annual Report of the Vestry	9
VI. Senior Warden's Report	10
VII. Junior Warden Report	11
VIII. Ministry Reports.	11
IX. Necrology	18

AGENDA FOR THE 165th ANNUAL MEETING

of

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Leavenworth, Kansas

January 28, 2024

1. Call to order and opening prayer
2. Appointment of secretary
3. Commissioning of parish ministries
4. Approval of last year's minutes
5. Election of vestry members
6. Recognition of off-going vestry members
7. Church Foundation report and election
8. 2023 financial report and 2024 budget
9. Priest in Charge's report
10. Diocesan Strategic Plan introduction by Beth
11. AED overview by Lisa Masterson
12. Other business and reports
13. The naming of parish members who have died since last Annual Meeting
14. The Doxology and Adjournment

Financial Report – 2024 Budget

2024 Budget

Line item	Category	2024 Budget
Income		
4.10.010	Pledges	\$236,790
4.10.020	Plate	\$2,000
4.10.025	First Sunday Plate - Loose Cash to Rector Disc. Fund	\$600
4.10.030	Regular Plate	\$10,000
4.10.040	Special Offerings	\$1,000
	Special Offering: Christmas	\$100
	Special Offering: Easter	\$100
	Other Special Offerings	\$100
4.10.050	Parish House Rental	\$60
4.10.060	Special Events	\$0
4.30.100 Projects		
4.30.110	Chili Supper Income	\$2,225
4.30.120	Pancake Supper Income	\$1,800
4.30.130	Flower Sale Income	\$250
4.30.140	Other Projects (e.g. tag sale)	\$780
Total Income		\$255,805
Expenses		
5.10.100 Priest Salary & Benefits		
5.10.110	Priest Salary	\$2,000
5.10.120	Priest Benefits	\$18,000
5.10.130	Priest Housing	\$60,000
5.10.140	Priest Professional Fund	\$500
5.10.150	Priest Mileage Allowance	\$1,500
	Priest Cell Phone Allowance	\$720
5.10.200 Parish Admin Salary & Benefits		
5.10.210	Parish Admin Salary	\$22,464
5.10.220	Parish Admin Benefits	\$0
5.10.300 Music Director Salary & Benefits		
5.10.310	Music Dir Salary	\$13,906
5.10.320	Music Dir Benefits	\$0
5.10.330	Music Director Substitute	\$875
5.10.400 Nursery Attendant Salary & Benefits		
5.10.410	Nursery Att. Salary (2x\$50/wk)	\$4,160
5.10.420	Nursery Att. Benefits	\$0
5.10.500	Sunday school Special Needs Attendant Salary & Benefits	\$0
5.10.700	Ministry Supplies	\$60
5.10.900	Supply Priest	\$800
5.10.920	FICA & Medicare	\$4,572
5.10.940	Leavenworth County Taxes	\$2,000

<i>5.20.100</i>	<i>Facilities</i>	
5.20.110	Cleaning (Parish Hall only) I don't know what QoC clean	\$8,400
5.20.120	Maintenance	\$3,500
5.20.121	Snow Removal	\$1,200
5.20.122	Lawn care	\$6,000
5.20.123		
5.20.124	HVAC Maint Contract	\$1,800
5.20.125	Fire Extinguisher Checks	\$500
5.20.130	Real Property Insurance	\$25,000
5.20.131	Workman's Compensation	\$90
5.20.200	Miscellaneous Repairs	\$2,000

<i>5.30.100</i>	<i>Services/Utilities</i>	
5.30.111	Electric Church	\$3,500
5.30.112	Electric Parish Hall	\$5,500
5.30.121	Gas Church	\$5,000
5.30.122	Gas Parish Hall	\$5,000
5.30.131	Water Church	\$400
5.30.132	Water Parish Hall	\$400
5.30.140	Telephone	\$0
5.30.150	Web Hosting	\$50
5.30.151	Internet Parish Hall	\$2,000
5.30.152	Internet Church	\$1,200
5.30.160	Trash	\$240
5.30.170	Copier Lease	\$1,200
5.30.190	Office Operations	\$3,185
5.30.191	Office IT Maintenance	\$800

<i>5.40.000</i>	<i>Supplies</i>	
5.40.100	Office Supplies	\$1,200
5.40.200	Cleaning Supplies	\$100
5.40.300	Kitchen Supplies	\$500
5.40.400	Copier usage	\$150

Christian Education		
5.40.501	Sunday School	\$300
5.40.502	Seminary Support	\$0
5.40.502	Bible Study	\$0
5.40.503	Youth Camp Scholarship	\$0

Fellowship expenses		
5.40.600	1st Wednesday Supplies	\$600
5.40.601	Welcome expenses	\$500

Worship Expenses		
5.40.700	Choir Supplies	\$275
5.40.701	Organ Maintenance	\$800
5.40.702	Worship supplies and literature (Alter Guild)	\$375
5.40.703	Stewardship Expenses	\$60
5.40.704	Flowers	\$0

<i>5.50.000</i>	<i>Diocesan Support</i>	
5.50.100	Diocesan Apportionment	\$37,284
5.50.200	Diocesan Convention	\$1,400

5.60.000		
<i>Projects</i>		
5.60.100	Chili Supper	\$800
5.60.200	Pancake Supper	\$200
5.60.300	Flower Sale	\$0
5.60.400	Tag, Book, Bake Sale	\$200
	PAIR Day	\$375
	Christmas Cards	\$350
5.70.000	Program Expenses	
5.70.200	Youth Camp Support	\$250
5.70.300	Vestry Development/training	\$200
5.75.00	Contingency	\$1,364
Total Expenses		\$255,805
Difference (Income - Expenses)		\$0

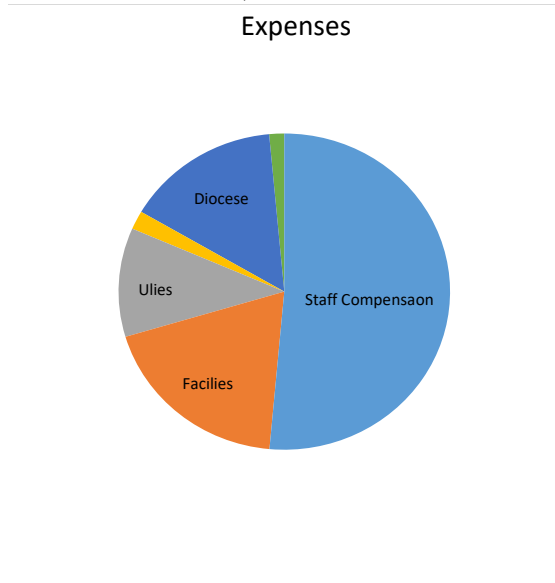
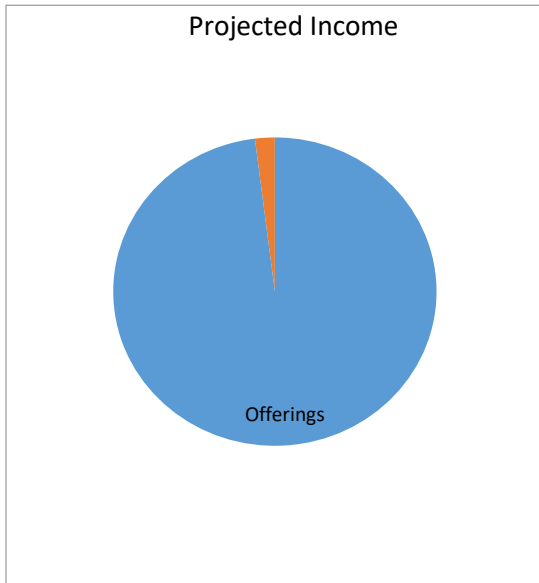
2024 Approved St. Paul's Budget

Projected Income

Offerings	\$250,750
Projects	\$5,055
Total	\$255,805

Expenses

Staff Compensation	\$131,557
Facilities	\$48,490
Utilities	\$28,475
Supplies	\$4,860
Diocese	\$38,684
Projects	\$3,739
Total	\$255,805



2023 PRIEST-IN-CHARGE REPORT

Let me begin by saying how grateful Ruth, Caitlin and I are to have made Leavenworth our new homeport! Thirty-six years ago, when I was discerning a call to the priesthood the model of ministry that most intrigued me was that of the “English Country Parson.” A model of ministry that was not building-centric but people-centric and looked at a whole piece of geography as “mine for ministry.” Thirty years ago, when Ruth and I were discerning our next adventure in ministry and ended up responding to the Navy’s call, we had said to ourselves, “Rural and small-town churches will always need priests.” Happily, the Navy loved the people-centric approach I brought to ministry with sea service personnel and their families. Even more happily rural and small-town churches still need priests! We have come full-circle to Northeast Kansas and Northwest Missouri where I can look at the people as those who belong to St. Paul’s and those-who-do-not-yet belong to St. Paul’s!

I’m also incredibly grateful to The Very Reverend Steve Liscomb and his lovely bride, Christine. Although this is my thirty third year of being a priest, I know next to nothing about facilities, grounds, buildings, and capital campaigns. Look around you at all you accomplished under his leadership! Feel a little bit of justified pride! Gracious welcome, generous community, and enduring worship are possible today and for the foreseeable future because of Fr. Steve’s leadership and your energetic response. As he wrote in last year’s report, “Our taking care of all the ... maintenance and building care needs should allow you and your new priest to focus on other ministries and programs geared toward church growth and service to God’s people.” Amen and amen!!!

More gratitude flows to our bishop. Bishop Bascom, who I knew in seminary as Cathy, but is now Plus-Cathleen, actively recruited me to come to you. Ruth and I were involved in nine search processes as our adventure in the Navy drew to a close. Exactly one had an engaged and visible bishop who was an active part. As you know I’m 80% here and 20% on her staff looking after St. Thomas in Holton. Between your excellent search committee and a bishop with her thumb on the scale, it was so easy for us to say “Yes” to God’s call to Leavenworth.

That was all five months ago. How quickly time flies! In that time, we have seen our Sunday church attendance numbers start to climb, both in person and on-line. We have started several new things, reintroduced some old things, and re-invigorated ongoing things.

Grandparents at Prayer—the brainchild of Amy Masters and Anthea Brosnan—has provided a space for spiritual engagement on behalf of young people. First Wednesdays is a way for us gather for fellowship, food, and faith formation in our fabulous parish hall.

We were all over the larger community this year as we had a table at the Fort for their fall welcome and over at the ball fields for the Trunk or Treat. St. Paul’s was the centerpiece this year for the annual Leavenworth Homes Tour. Fantastic work by Candy Dials, Jeff

Leser, Judy Moorehead, Joy Kromer and so many, many others showcased St. Paul's gracious welcome.

We have a fledgling Saturday men's prayer breakfast to supplement our long-established men's Wednesday fellowship. Our women's book club gathered faithfully to explore tomes new and old and to ponder meaning and purpose. We've added to our pastoral care capacity, already very strong thanks to our pastoral care committee, led by Jan Hubbard, by re-starting our Eucharistic home visitor program, enabling sacramental worship for some of our community who cannot join us on Sunday mornings. Our outreach committee, whose amazing exploits you can read about elsewhere in this report, enriched the lives of many people of all ages this fall and winter. We also partnered with the Leavenworth Animal Welfare folks to hold the first post-COVID blessing of the animals in downtown Leavenworth. Why, thanks to Beth Fitz Gibbon, I even got to be in one of my favorite magazines, Horse and Hound, errr...I mean The Harvest, with the annual blessing of the hounds.

My great thanks to Deacon Allen and to Mark for their worship and pastoral leadership with me, and to Michelle our outgoing senior warden, Candy our outgoing junior warden, Jeff our treasurer and Ms. Mary Kamm our parish administrator for their day-to-day assistance in parish operations. Thanks to the vestry for their engaged and visible activity in our common labor of being the Episcopal Branch of the Jesus Movement. For the worship leadership exercised by the choir, the Altar Guild, and all our Sunday ministers. Sunday school teachers, under the able leadership of Jennifer Turner, lead Godly Play to help our young members thrive. Friends in Service to St. Paul's, acolytes, Minster activities...there is so much going on around this place!!

There are so many firsts to our time together as well: first baptism, first funeral, first stewardship campaign, first Advent, first Christmas and this, the first annual meeting. There will be more "firsts" to come as we journey together, "further up and further in" on the adventure to which God is calling us here at St. Paul's! May God continue to so richly bless us in our common joys and labors! Now, there is much for us to do, so, let's be about it!

Fr. Jere Hinson

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE VESTRY

To the Priest and Parishioners of St. Paul's Episcopal Church:

The Vestry of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, by evidence of this letter and the financial statements contained in the Annual Parish Report, does hereby certify that the temporal state of the parish is sound and good. All property and buildings held in trust for the Diocese of Kansas by the parish have been properly maintained and are in good repair. The parish is financially solvent; all our financial obligations have been met and all bills are paid. A complete financial report is available upon request and may be obtained from the church office.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Vestry,
Michelle Garcia, Senior Warden

SENIOR WARDEN REPORT 2023

I offer the Senior Warden report for 2023 to the parishioners of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Leavenworth, KS. As I look back at 2023, I am amazed at our accomplishments and grateful for the time, talent, and treasure you all provided to make them possible. In a year of much change, we were truly blessed by the grace of God to embrace the changes without fear. In part this was due to outstanding support from the Diocese and frequent communication with Bishop Bascom.

In January of 2023 we elected two new members to the Vestry, Beth Fitz-Gibbon and Weldon Elrod, and elected Gwyneth Hawk to a second 3-year term. The Vestry members for 2023 were: Michelle Garcia, Candy Dials, Carol Hunt, Kathy Meyer, Brian Hodges, Jane Belanus, Beth Fitz-Gibbon, Gwyneth Hawk, and Weldon Elrod. Allen Ohlstein offered to continue his service as our Deacon and Bishop Bascom approved the renewal of his Ministry Covenant. Jeff Leser continues to serve as our treasurer. Also in January, the Search Committee, led by Elizabeth Hoffman, began reviewing applications for our next Priest.

Fr. Steve and Christine led us through a Spring of continued improvements, both spiritually and physically. We renewed our Lenten ministry in person and enjoyed an interfaith discussion and meal in Atchison hosted by Trinity Episcopal Church, our minister partner. This gave us time to complete the interior renovations in the Parish Hall and Church in time for our Easter celebrations and farewell for the Lipscombs. They put so much of their own time and talents into the renovations it was only fitting to celebrate their time with us in the Parish Hall. Thank you to everyone for making the celebration a wonderful memory for Fr. Steve and Christine and a fitting tribute to all they did for St. Paul's.

By April the Search Committee presented their recommendation for our next Priest to the Vestry. After a visit where you all made Fr. Jere, Ruth Ann, and Caitlin feel welcome, Fr. Jere accepted our offer to be our next Priest-in-Charge. To ease the transition, the Vestry secured Mother Mary Breese to be our regular supply priest from June to August. Your kindness and support made her feel welcome and appreciated as she cared for our spiritual needs over the summer. Continuing to have a regular service maintained the growth of the Parish we saw during Fr. Lipscomb's tenure.

We welcomed Fr. Jere, Ruth Ann, and Caitlin to their new home at St. Paul's in August. Within weeks Fr. Jere was part of our community outreach at PAIR Day, Relay for Life, and Trunk-or-Treat. He and Ruth Ann have started new ministries to add to the ways we can come together, support each other, and grow as a congregation. As we moved into the Season of Advent we were able to share our beautiful Church and congregation with the community. Thank you to all of you who planned and hosted hundreds of people from our community. The lunch in the Parish Hall and the tour of the Church as part of the Vintage Homes Tour would not have been possible without you all. A special shout out to Candy Dials for her leadership of this project and Jeff and Marge Leser for providing the history boards.

2023 was a year of transition, renovation, and growth. I'm confident we will continue to grow in our size and impact on the community thanks to the wealth, works, and wisdom you all have pledged to St. Paul's in 2024. I truly appreciate your love and support these last five years as your senior warden.

Many Blessings, Michelle Garcia

JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT 2023

Last year was a busy year for St. Paul's. In the spring we started the kitchen renovation, the project that converted the old office into a conference room, the new lights and carpeting in the main room of the Parish Hall. The downstairs bathroom was totally gutted and renovated. This fall we had the roof of the Parish Hall totally replaced. The church walls were repaired with new plaster and paint which lead to repair and cleaning of the lights. We had the curb on the east side of 7 th Street repaired. We also had a sinkhole in the parking lot repaired. We have entered into new contracts for lawn maintenance and snow removal. We will be having the stump removed from in front of the Parish Hall as soon as the weather clears up.

Candy Dials
Junior Warden

Pastoral Care Committee Report

The Pastoral Care Committee (PCC) was developed in 2018 by Father Steve and is only spiritually richer by having Father Jere as our leader. We cannot imagine a better Shepherd for our Flock.

In 2023, we met once a month. There is always room for more caregivers. We invite you to join our group that meets the first Monday of the month at 10:00. Our meetings finish about 11:00 and then have a light lunch. Our mission and passion is to help parishioners in need, to share information, help organize events, and be an extension of Father Jere's masterful and contagious loving ways.

Categories under PCC include, but are not limited to:

Card Ministry – 182 cards were mailed in 2023, mostly handmade by Candy Dials

Welcome Packets – Mary Kamm, developed by Candy Dials

Funeral and funeral luncheon organization – Nancy Martin and Pam Simpson

Many thanks to our committee and others for their time and compassion that is evident with everything done for the needs of our Parish and extended families. Those on the committee are Sue Porter, Jane Belanus, Candy Dials, Gwyneth Hawk, our new members of 2023; Pam Simpson, Beth Pracht, and Nancy Martin. Laura Alexander helped us by sending Easter and Thanksgiving cards to those homebound, past members, and those in need of a little TLC. We also thank Allen Ohlstein for his "behind-the-scenes" work visiting and sharing Communion with those not able to make it to church. Another thank you to Sarah McLeod, our honorary member who spreads God's love with such grace.

The PCC relies on good communication and your help to make us a successful entity that live our-faith for the good of St. Paul's. Thank you to the rest of the parish not mentioned, who are always willing to help and give care and compassion, whenever needed.

Jan Hubbard, Chairman, Pastoral Care Committee

St Paul's Outreach for 2023

Each month St Paul's people have an opportunity to support, through monetary donations, a designated outreach offering. In 2023 your generosity has helped many in Leavenworth, KS.

LAWS (Leavenworth Animal Welfare Society)

This non-profit organization has been working for the benefit of animals in LV County Kansas since 1991. Your donations allow LAWS to continue to address the pet overpopulation crisis in Leavenworth. LAWS relies solely on donations for their spay neuter program. This program also helps with pet adoptions. St Paul's generously supported this organization.

The Community Meal

St Paul's members, along with volunteers from The Protestant Main Post Chapel, Ft Leavenworth, have provided meals for anyone in the community needing nourishment and fellowship. Our meals have been take out in 2023, and we look forward to having meals served in our Parish House in 2024. Your generous support, through three designated monthly offerings, makes it possible to provide delicious healthy meals.

Leavenworth Interfaith Community of Hope

Serving Our Community In Times of Hardship Leavenworth Interfaith Community of Hope works as a team to bring resources and funding to provide emergency services to those in need. The shelter serves 50-100 warm, nutritious meals each day, Sunday-Friday. During pandemic times, they serve three meals a day, every day. St Paul's people have donated to the shelter through two designated monthly donations, thank you.

Meals on Wheels(Leavenworth Council on Aging)

The Meals on Wheels program delivers a nutritionally-balanced, hot meal to homebound individuals throughout Leavenworth County. This program ensures family members that their loved ones will have healthy, nutritious meals delivered to their homes, five days per week. The program also provides an opportunity for daily contact with one of their staff members or a Meals on Wheels volunteer. Seniors who are over the age of 60, have difficulty preparing meals or have no one available to prepare a noon-day meals, and are homebound are eligible for the program. St Paul's people supported this agency through two designated offerings, thank you.

Parents as Teachers

The goal of this organization is to promote the optimal early development, learning and health of children by supporting and engaging their parents and caregivers.

They seek out diverse experiences and perspectives that enrich their products, services and support. They intentionally listen to, value and learn from each other's experiences and needs. They foster an empowering environment where everyone is able to identify and develop their skills and talents. They are dedicated to advancing equity in the rich and vibrant communities they are a part of. Thanks, St Paul's, for supporting this worthy organization.

Attainable Housing

This program has four pillars: Finance, health, community and housing. They have a financial advocate that works with each resident; they make sure the residents have health care with a private physician at St. Vincent's clinic and that they have needed mental health care at the Guidance Center; they work on building community by bringing our residents together for a gathering once a month and encourage them to participate in various

city events; the fourth pillar is the house itself. Their Housing Support Specialist meets with them each week in the home to be sure things are going well and that the house is being maintained.

Sr. Vicky Perkins, our guest speaker at a first Wednesday potluck, gave us an inspirational and informative talk about Attainable Housing in Leavenworth. Thank you for supporting this charity through our October Outreach Offering.

St Vincent's Clinic

Founded on the belief that health care is a basic human right, the clinics provide services to low income patients, regardless of religious affiliation, with an emphasis on the values of compassion, respect of personal dignity, and a sensitivity to human suffering.

We are grateful for the opportunity to support St Vincent's Clinic through the December Outreach Offering.

All of the special Outreach offerings of 2023, netted a total of \$2,935.00. They provided support for the charities described above.

Our generous community also provided support to the following projects.

St. Paul's People adopted 25 foster children for Christmas! The Outreach Committee met with CASA director Deborah Liles. The gifts were delivered by the Outreach Committee to CASA on Monday 4 December.

Gently used hats, gloves, scarfs and coats were collected and delivered to the women's shelter, Annie's Cottage, an organization that supports homeless veterans, and the homeless shelter.

New and gently used clothing was collected to start a community closet for children in foster care.

Church Endowment Foundation

St. Paul's Episcopal Church Endowment Foundation begins its seventh year in 2024. Over the past two years the Foundation continues to grow with the support of parishioners' contributions and the accumulation of interest earnings on several certificates of deposit (CDs). Year end 2023 financials are shown below:

Account balance	\$10,221.58
CD's (4) at Country Club Bank	35,126.89
CD at Exchange Bank	15,477.37
Total cash assets	60,825.84
Mt Muncie grave sites (4, est value \$900 each)	3,600.00
Total assets	64,425.84

Additionally a few parishioners have included bequests to the Foundation in their estate plans for some \$150,000. Should you have any questions on how to begin regular contributions or including the Foundation in your estate planning, please contact Tom Dials or Steve Meyer.

The Foundation's charter requires that all amendments to that document be approved by a 2/3rds vote of the Endowment Committee and a 2/3rds vote of the parish at two successive parish meetings. This is the second parish meeting since the IRS review of our charter required changes to the purposes: "The Endowment is organized exclusively for charitable, religious and educational purposes including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations described under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code." and dissolution provisions:

“Should The Endowment be dissolved, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government or a state or local government for a public purpose.” contained in that document. The Endowment Committee recommends approval of these changes. Parishioners will note that, as a result of the 2022 IRS review, the Foundation has been redesignated a 509(a)(3) (‘fully integrated supporting organization of an existing 501(c)(3)’, St. Paul’s Episcopal Church and its tax exempt status retained.

2023 marks the completion of the terms of Jeff Leser and Steve Meyer on the Executive Committee. Steve has decided to stand for reelection to a second term, while Jeff will focus on his duties as parish treasurer and other activities in support of the parish. The Executive Committee nominates Steve Meyer for a second term and Anthea Brosnan to replace Jeff Leser on the committee. Our heartfelt thanks to Jeff for his long and faithful service.

Annual Report for Parish Life Committee

The Parish Life Committee encompasses many groups and activities at St. Paul’s. These various groups/activities are open to all parish members. They include: Ushers, Altar Guild, Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers, Christian Education (both adult and children), Pastoral Care – receptions and care of members, Women’s Book Club, Men’s Breakfast group, Coffee Hour Hosts, First Wednesday Supper Hosts, Special Projects such as the Chili Supper, Pancake Supper, Flower Sale, Tag and Rummage Sale, etc. No special talents are required to participate, just the joy of service and fellowship.

T.A.M.E.

Thanks to everyone that has donated to our building campaign, TAME, over the last 15 years! We paid off the mortgage in the summer of 2022. Everyone who had pledges remaining was asked if they would continue their payments so we could get some other improvements made. These included the carpeting and bathroom renovations in the basement of the parish hall. Now that these have been accomplished, the vestry voted to end the TAME capital campaign at the end of this year.

Community Meal

On the Second Saturday of each month, 10 members from St Paul’s with the assistance of 10 members from the Post Chapel, provide a free community meal to Leavenworth in the parish hall from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Volunteers from St Paul’s and Post Chapel provide the food, cook, set up, serve, cleanup and many other tasks.

Started prior to 2013

Totals for 2023

Guest Served - 632

Meals Served - 3472

Volunteered Hours - 1,193

Reminder 2023 was carry out only.

January 2024 we are resuming dine in meals.

Altar Guild

The Altar Guild is a volunteer group of the parish whose ministry is to care for the altar, vessels, and altar linens. Altar Guild members prepare the sanctuary for services and clean up afterwards. We consist of 18 members on 3 teams. Teams serve for a two week period. Members from all teams meet twice a year to prepare for the Easter and Advent seasons. Serving on the Altar Guild is a beautiful way to serve the Lord, learn more about the church traditions, and experience fellowship with others.

Acolyte Ministry Report, 2023

An acolyte is defined as one who serves a priest in preparing for the conduct of the Eucharist. By tradition, acolyte ministry involves younger members of the Parish, both male and female.

Acolyte ministry is a means by which younger Parish members can become active participants in serving at the Altar. Traditional acolyte duties include carrying the processional cross and processional torches, receiving alms basins from the congregation, lighting and extinguishing altar candles, and assisting the priest and deacon. Prior to the pandemic, we had a formal acolyte training program; at present our acolyte training is mostly “on the job” coaching by the Priest, Deacon, and Acolyte leader.

The COVID-19 pandemic’s enforced restrictions limited much of our previously customary worship, including acolyte ministry. This three-year interruption is beginning to recede, and we are beginning to return to these activities, including the acolyte ministry. We currently have three young ladies serving as acolytes: Isie and Ele Haberland, and Lilla Bouchette. They are doing an outstanding job in assisting this congregation’s worship.

Gary Hobin
The Acolyte Guy

St. Paul’s Flower Fund

The flowers on the altar each week are provided by a flower fund which is separate from the church operating funds. Those who request flowers in memory of loved ones or in thanksgiving for family and friends pay for these requests. The current cost is \$30. Any member interested in donating altar flowers can contact the church office or a member of the Flower Fund Committee.

In 2023, parish members donated 35 lilies to decorate the church for Easter as well as 35 poinsettias for Christmas services. Palms are used in place of altar flowers on Palm Sunday. The Flower Fund is managed by Sue Porter and Pam Jordan.

Sunday School

St. Paul's Sunday School classes take place during the first portion of the 9:30 church service every Sunday. It averages anywhere from 2 to 8 students each week. We currently have three teaching teams: Jennifer Turner/ Carol Hunt, Candy Dials/ Deena Gardner, and Anthea Brosnan/Sophie Nance. We follow the Godly Play model during the school year and summer sessions will focus on teaching the children about "big people church" and lots of extra craft time.

Thank you,
Jenn Turner

Annual Report: Friends in Service to St. Paul's (FIST)

St. Paul's Episcopal Parish, like many others, relies on volunteer efforts by members of the Parish who step forward to take on things that need doing, but are beyond the immediate capacity of Priest or Parish Administrator. It might be a small maintenance task, like replacing the float valve in a toilet, or larger tasks like raking the annual crop of fallen leaves around the Church and Parish House. In this Parish, we have had an informal organization to handle these and similar tasks: the FIST Group "Friends in Service to St. Paul's," the FIST group, comprises all members of St. Paul's Parish, whether actively engaged in monthly activities, or available only to assist with larger efforts.

FIST restricted its activities during the COVID pandemic but has resumed its normal schedule. We meet on the first Saturday each month at about 0830, share a pot-luck breakfast, and after that set about the day's tasks to keep the Parish operating smoothly.

The FIST group provides the Junior Warden a pool of workers to undertake functions such as weeding garden spaces, replacing burned-out lightbulbs, cleaning up wind-blown trash that collects around the grounds, and other similar minor repairs as well. Of special note, this year the FIST group planned and executed the Parish's first participation in Leavenworth's annual "Relay for Life" event in support of the local American Cancer Society.

While the focus of the FIST group is on the building and grounds of the Parish, what may be overlooked are actions of FIST in other areas. Whenever members of St. Paul's Parish take a few moments to help a neighbor by shoveling a driveway or sidewalk, or helping rake a neighbor's yard, FIST is in action. Because we all are "Friends in Service to St. Paul's" in the community.

Gary Hobin
The FIST Guy

Missouri River Minster Report 2023

Bishop Cathleen Bascom directed parishes in the Diocese to establish regional minsters in the Spring of 2021. Minsters unite neighboring parishes to share resources and plan joint functions to expand their communities. The Missouri River Minster initially involved St. Paul's and Trinity in Atchison. Subsequently, the Minster expanded to include St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Falls City, NE; although Falls City is not part of the Diocese of Kansas, an agreement between the Diocese of Kansas and the Diocese of Nebraska made this possible. The Episcopal congregation in Holton has recently joined our Minster.

The Minster normally meets on the first Tuesday of each month but has taken a "summer break" from June to August. Meeting location has rotated between Leavenworth and Atchison, but with the addition of Falls City, meetings have aligned on Atchison as being more centrally located.

The Minster hosts two main events during the year: a joint picnic in October to celebrate the Feast of St. Francis, and an event during Holy Week. We have held three joint picnics; Holy Week events have included a Seder led by a Rabbi from St. Joseph, MO, and a discussion comparing the Islamic Ramadan traditions and Christian traditions of Lent. The Minster has scheduled our next Holy Week event for 27 March, to be hosted by Trinity Episcopal Church in Atchison. Fr. Jere and Deacon Allan represent St. Paul's at the Minster, with Gwyneth Hawk, Carol Hunt, and Gary Hobin as additional members.

Leavenworth County Relay for Life, 2023

St. Paul's Episcopal Church participated for the first time as an organization in the Leavenworth County Relay for Life in support of the American Cancer Society in August 2023.

Mr. Tom Dials challenged the Parish at the 2022 Annual Meeting to consider organizing a Parish team to represent St. Paul's at the Relay for Life as a means of increasing our presence in the Leavenworth community. Members of the Parish had participated in previous Relays for Life, but this would be the first time the Parish had fielded a team. We accepted the challenge and as the summer began, enrolled as a participating organization.

"Friends in Service to St. Paul's" (the FIST Group) led the effort. We pledged to raise \$1000.00 for the American Cancer Society, a goal we were sure we could surpass – which we did. During one of the monthly FIST meetings prior to the Relay for Life, we assembled the Parish-owned canopy as practice for the August event. This was itself a significant event, as the assembly instructions had long since disappeared!

On the afternoon of 26 August, a dozen members of the Parish arrived at St. Mary University's football field, the site for the Relay for Life. We assembled the canopy and for the next hours proved to be among the most lively of the organizations! Although we were one of the smaller organizations participating, we understand we had one of the largest contingents of folks at the event.

To quote one of the participants, "It was a hoot!"

GRANDPARENTS @PRAYER

Grandparents @Prayer meets in the Parish Hall on the second Monday of the month from 5:30 to 6:30pm. We are studying the book “ Grandparenting with a Purpose” to help us practice intentional grandparenting with focused prayer. Our group is growing. For more information please contact Amy Masters at 913 240 3823 or Anthea Brosnan at 913 680 4481.

2023 ST. PAUL’S MEMORIALS AND GIFTS FUND

Beginning Balance 1/1/23 \$10,107.71
Memorial and gift deposits during the year 2023 8,936.08
Subtotal of income \$19,043.79

Expenses

Conference Room Table and Chairs \$ 1,330.00
PH Entry Table 1,200.00
Electric Fireplace 2,314.25
Table cloth for urn credence table 106.08
Funds to Organ Fund, Endowment Fund, & Kitchen Renovation 667.50
Miscellaneous Supplied and Brass Plaques 354.13
Subtotal of Expenses \$5,971.96
Ending Balance 12/31/23 \$13,071.83

A detailed balance sheet showing each memorial is available from the church office.

The Memorial and Gift Fund receives memorial gifts donated to St. Paul’s. All financial contributions made as memorials to St. Paul’s are placed in a common fund known as the St. Paul’s Memorial Fund; a record will be kept showing the amount of the gift, the honoree and the contributor. Unless instructed otherwise, an acknowledgement will be sent to the honoree’s family (including the contributor’s name).

A list of items needed by St. Paul’s will be kept by the Vestry. The various ministries of St. Paul’s may suggest needed items to be included on this list. If the family wishes to give a gift not on the list of needed items—and sufficient funds are available—the request of the family will be considered by the Vestry. However, the Vestry reserves the right to reject requests if the proposed Memorial item is viewed as inconsistent with the current needs of St. Paul’s.

In general, Memorials will be of a more permanent nature and will not be items needed for the general work of St. Paul’s. However, when memorial items no longer serve a useful purpose, because of wear or needs, they will be disposed of in a reverent manner. If memorial items are in good and usable condition but are no longer needed at St. Paul’s, they will be offered to other congregations who can use them. If the memorial item in question is of substantial value but no longer serves the needs of the parish, then, at the Vestry’s discretion, the item may be offered for sale and the proceeds used to further the work and ministry of St. Paul’s.

If a family has not made a recommendation to the Committee or designated the funds for a particular item on the needs list within six months of the death of the honoree, their memorial gift will become a part of the general Memorial Fund and may be used to satisfy the needs of the parish as determined by the Vestry.

Memorials (with the family’s consent) will be recorded in a book showing the honoree, the gift and the donor or source. If requested, and with the approval of the Vestry and Rector, certain items may have attached or near them a metal ribbon with an inscription naming the honoree (i.e., In memory of..., In thanksgiving for...etc.)

Any questions or suggestions, please contact Amy Masters or Jan Hubbard, Memorial Fund Coordinators.

NECROLOGY

St. Paul's members who have died since last year's Annual Meeting.

Rebecca Johnson

Jim Wardlow

Darlene Lautherbach

Norman McLeod

Ann Boyd

Jo Anne Jones

Debra Rimmey

Father of all, we pray to you for these, our sisters and brothers, and for all those we love but see no longer. Grant to them your peace and eternal rest: let light perpetual shine upon them; and in your perfect love, may they rejoice in your kingdom, where all tears are wiped away, and where we will sing your praises for ever and ever; through Christ our Lord. ***Amen***