



St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Annual Parish Meeting January 28, 2024

AGENDA

- I Opening Prayer and Call to Order
- II Appointment of Meeting Secretary
- III Election of New Vestry Members
- IV Vestry Election Results
- V Treasurer's Report
- VI Congregational Assessment Tool (CAT) Survey Results
- VII Brief Q&A
- VIII Closing Prayer and Adjournment

This Annual Meeting Document also includes the following reports.

Rector's Report
Vestry Wardens' Reports
Stewardship Report
Staff, Vestry, and Ministry Reports

OPENING PRAYER

From The Book of Common Prayer, p. 280

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light:
look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery;
by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation;
let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up,
and things which had grown old are being made new,
and that all things are being brought to their perfection
by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord;
who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

2024 Vestry Election

Who May Vote ?

All confirmed communicants in good standing not less than sixteen years of age. Those voters so qualified and being present at the meeting shall constitute a quorum.

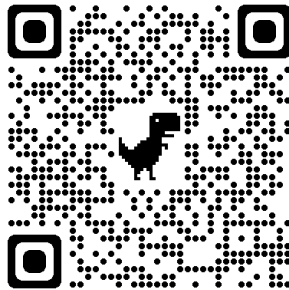
Requirements to serve on the Vestry are:

- Be a confirmed member of the Episcopal Church enrolled as a member of the parish, 18 years of age or older.
- Have been regularly in attendance at the services of the church in the year preceding the election. Made and maintained a financial commitment to the parish, known to the treasurer, in the year preceding the election.

These are qualifications not only for election but for continued service on the vestry. A vestry member should lead the way in participation in the worship life and financial support of the parish. The term of a vestry member is for three years, and a vestry member is not eligible for re-election in the year following the expiration of his or her term, unless the member is serving less than half a term left vacant by the resignation of a vestry member. In this case, the member may stand for a full term in the next election.

Voting for Vestry Members

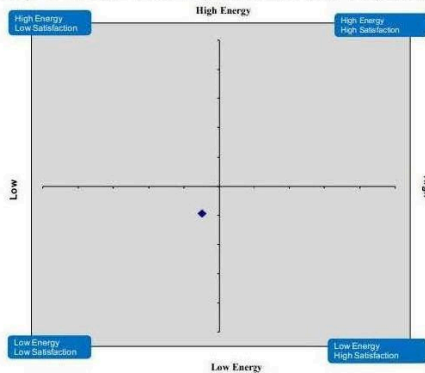
There is a slate of three (3) nominees to fill the three (3) vacant positions. If there is a nomination for a Vestry member made from the floor during the meeting, please use the QR code below to cast your votes. Otherwise, voting will be by acclamation.



Congregational Assessment Tool (CAT) Report Summary for St. Paul's Newnan

Where are we? Energy-Satisfaction Map

Knowing where you want to go without knowing where you are is the operational definition of being lost. You can't map a course unless you know where you are.



- St. Paul's is in the upper part of the Low Energy-Low Satisfaction quadrant, meaning members' experience of "shalom" (wholeness, fulfillment, peace) is average compared to experiences at other churches, and members' experience of energy (purpose/passion with intention) is also average. This part of the quadrant is known as the transition zone, because there is so much potential to easily move into another quadrant, especially if key items related to satisfaction are addressed.
- One thing this means is that there are some internal things that need to be tended to before turning outward to accomplishing a strategic mission. Most churches find themselves in this quadrant at some point in their lifecycle, and some dissatisfaction can be a good and necessary motivating factor for change. This may point to a need to revisit the vision and purpose, and to discern together God's call in the next phase of the congregation's life together.

The main tasks of churches who find themselves in the Low Energy-Low Satisfaction quadrant are clarification of purpose, spiritual formation, equipping leaders, shifting (after some internal work to shore up the basics) to an external focus, and increasing flexibility. In short, do a few basic things well and shore up that foundation.

What Drives Member Satisfaction and Energy at St. Paul's?

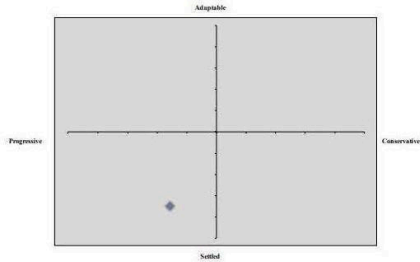
When members think about their overall satisfaction (their experience of "shalom"/contentment/wholeness), they tend to focus on these areas: whether there's a spirit of involvement in the congregation, whether worship is excellent, whether the church prepares and supports people for ministry, providing opportunities for them to use their gifts, and whether there's a clear and compelling vision. If respondents viewed these things more positively, they tended to feel more positively about their church experience overall. These are the things that appear to be important to St. Paul's members having a satisfying experience while being a part of the life of the church.

Because of the focus on readiness for ministry (helping people discover and use their gifts in ministry, both to the church and to the world), one thing that will help the system become more healthy is a concerted effort toward empowering lay ministry, building mutual ministry between clergy and laity, and shared vision and leadership. The congregation needs to become a mutual partner when there may be a temptation to expect/let clergy do everything. Open and transparent governance will also help in this system.

Where do we want to go? Priorities for the Future

St. Paul's says that **reaching new people**, especially families with children and youth, and providing **formation opportunities** for them are top priorities where they would like to focus additional energy in the future. It is important to explore *why* the congregation wants new people and *why* in particular it wants those with youth and children. Being able to articulate the sense of call to minister to that demographic, and what is unique about St. Paul's that can be offered in ministry and in relationships with those newcomers, will be key in accomplishing this priority effectively. A revisioning process may further help the congregation to discern its gifts for that type of ministry and to clarify the call to ministry with newcomers, particularly those families with youth and children.

Additionally, providing more intentional and structured opportunities for people to form **meaningful relationships** and an increased focus on **reaching out to the community** in ministry were also high priorities AND those are things that will significantly impact the health of your church system, as well as a driver for member satisfaction. There was also a higher than average (compared to other churches) focus on improving the **pastoral response** to those in need (which lay people can and should be empowered to do. In a congregation this size, pastoral care cannot solely rest on the priest).



What is our Culture? Descriptive Map

St. Paul's is a progressive-settled church, a cultural style referred to as "Paraclete" which enjoys more structured faith practices. Paracletes often talk about faith in terms of spiritual and emotional growth, are compassionate, and emphasize the Gospel's power to transform, are warm and hospitable, and can be a haven for those who need healing. The shadow side of Paracletes are that they have a tendency to overcommit and can lose their missional focus (doing everything instead of a few things well). They also may need to be pushed to be more flexible in how they accomplish their mission.

Because the top priorities at St. Paul's had to do with adding new people, increased flexibility in the culture will be necessary to support the changes needed for growth to happen. If growth is really the top priority, and there is also a high desire for pastoral care, there may be tension between the NEED for strategic leadership in the next Rector (if the parish really desires growth) and the DESIRE for that person to provide pastoral care. Churches who are growing focus on strategic leadership, empowering lay ministry and delegating much of the pastoral care to the church community, allowing the priest to focus on leadership. There may be some dissonance in St. Paul's stated priorities (reaching new people), and the cultural context of wanting to be settled/remain the same. Practicing flexibility will help accomplish the parish's stated top priority of reaching and incorporating new people.

How's it Going? Performance Indices

Most indices measured are solidly average, **a firm foundation to build on**, with the Worship experience reported as exceptional. While things are going well, there were a few things that could be shored up: Readiness for Ministry, particularly helping each person discover their gifts and use them in the mission of the church to make a difference in the world, Education, and Open Governance.

What's Next? Recommendations

- Prepare for Growth
 - Create a pastoral care plan that focuses on lay ministry, so that you're able to care not only for each other, but also so that when visitors come, you are ready to welcome and care for them.
 - Provide structured opportunities for creating meaningful relationships, so that current members and newcomers can be incorporated into the relational fabric of the parish with ease.
 - Increase flexibility and the ability to change in order to accommodate growth, new people, and new perspectives.
- Explore WHY you want to grow
 - Gain Clarity of Purpose through a Re-visioning Process: Who are you that is unique in all the world, and how can you offer that to others? Who are your neighbors, and how can you be in relationship with them? What is God calling you to now, in this next phase of your life? Better knowing yourselves, your gifts, and your calling will help you become a good mutual partner to the next Rector, and it will help you extend your best invitation to the person who can help partner with you to live out your call.
 - Consider the Cost: What are you willing to give up in order to grow? You can't grow and stay the same; as soon as the first new person walks in the door, you are different than you were. Explore what changes are necessary to accommodate new people, and if the congregation is willing to make them.
- Empower laity for ministry of all kinds! Help each person discover and use their gifts! Consider outward facing ministries for people to be part of that help them have an impact in the world.
- Continue to build trust in the system through open governance and transparency, as well as relational opportunities.

Summary by Sally Ulrey, CAT Interpreter, sulrey@episcopalatlanta.org

Rector's Report for 2023

Submitted by The Rev. Canon C. John Thompson-Quarthey

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you” [1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18]

These words of encouragement from the letter to the Church in Thessalonica, could be written to the people of St. Paul's because in the short time I have been among you, I am delighted to learn that St. Paul's is a praying Church. Whether we are speaking about our Prayer Intercessors, the Daughters of the King, or the Men's Group, I have met people at St. Paul's who just love to pray! And as I said in my first sermon here, “Prayer changes things, and prayer changes us.”

It is surprising to me that I have only been among you for six months as your interim rector, because it feels like I have known you for much longer. Your generous hospitality and warm welcome have caused me to feel like an old friend. It is clear to me that a core value of St. Paul's is generous hospitality, and I have been the beneficiary of such generosity; thank you!

A key function of the Interim Priest is to facilitate the congregation's sense of renewal and to re-energize the membership in working towards its mission, which at St. Paul's, is: “Seeking to See and Serve Christ in all Persons.” Living into our mission requires us to be open to welcoming the stranger and creating a space of belonging for them. In my experience, you have modeled that, time and time again.

Another focus of the interim period is to prepare to welcome your next rector by strengthening all the ministries that make St. Paul's a vibrant faith community. I have spent the past six months getting to know the various ministry leaders and providing them with resources to encourage and support them. Sometimes, the resource has been just my presence among them during meetings. I have also spent some time reconnecting with our elderly parishioners in their homes and visiting home-bound members as well as long-standing members who haven't been active at St. Paul's. In all my visits, I have left with a renewed confidence that these members love St. Paul's, and they consider themselves blessed to be part of this loving and caring community.

My work with the vestry in building strong relationships, establishing clear processes, and focusing on SMART goals has also been very rewarding, and I cannot wait to bring the three new members up to speed in our effort to be a Vital Team.

Overall, I feel confident that we will be ready to welcome our next Rector into a

strong, vibrant, and faithful community of believers. And this makes my heart sing!

Faithfully,

JTQ

Senior Warden Report

Submitted by Marianne Lawhead

Two Sundays ago, in his sermon, Canon John reminded us that God doesn't call us when it's most convenient for us. He isn't waiting for us to be ready, willing, and able -- sitting on ready; waiting on go. As I listened, I felt the message hit me at my core. This past year wasn't about me and what I was ready to do and when. It was about answering a call to serve as Senior Warden when it was the absolute farthest thing from my mind. And, most certainly, it was not part of my plan for retirement!

Yet here we are! The year seems to have flown by despite my worries about my readiness and doubts about my abilities. And what a year it was! We began the year with our annual Epiphany party at Abide Brewery. It turned out to set the tone for a year of renewed parish life and our transition to the interim period.

We began to prepare for Rev. Hazel's retirement. . . our first priest to retire while serving at St. Paul's. Many meetings were scheduled to organize passing along duties during the interim period. A committee was formed to plan Hazel's retirement bash. The vestry selected a nominating committee. And while all of that was happening, our stalwart ministry heads and their volunteers carried on with the regular day-to-day tasks that help keep St. Paul's running.

And then, we welcomed Canon John. What a blessing he has been for us. His leadership, energy, and pastoral care, not to mention engaging sermons, have been inspiring to our longtime members, as well as new members who joined St. Paul's this past year. Engagement in formation, parish life, and ministry participation has been steadily on the rise.

What a bonus that as Nicole Walters' mentor and teacher, Canon John was able to have Nicole stay with us as our Seminarian! How lucky are we to witness Nicole's journey from parishioner to the path to priesthood?

As you read through the reports from the members of the Vestry, you will get a glimpse into the hard work they have undertaken in the past year. I could not imagine working with a more dedicated group. I am grateful for each one of them. I thank Mark Levan, Virginia Williams, and Frankey Henderson for their service as

they complete their vestry terms.

It's also important to note that I could not do the work of the Senior Warden without Nicole Edwards, Parish Administrator, and Renee Powell, our Treasurer. These women go above and beyond in everything they do. Their support and guidance as I made my way as Senior Warden this past year was everything. All of us at St. Paul's benefit tremendously from their dedication.

In addition, I thank our staff members Dawn Harrison, Rhett Barnwell, Geoff Mattera, Cole Hankins, and our bookkeeper Kim Stokes for their help to me and their contributions toward St. Paul's vitality as a parish.

It is my honor and privilege to stay on as Senior Warden for 2024. I have been humbled by your kind words and support this past year. You all make St. Paul's a wonderful church home. As such, I am filled with excitement about what lies ahead for St. Paul's this year.

Marianne Lawhead
Senior Warden

Junior Warden Report
Submitted by Mark LeVan

With 2024 beginning, my term on the Vestry is ending. 2023 was a good year with a few surprises. I want to thank John Crow, Jennifer Thomasson, and Bill Tudor for going above and beyond with all the time and energy they contributed to the repair and improvement of the church building and grounds.

Accomplishments:

- Completion of Scotts Garden in the back of the church. (Some additional Spring planting may be in store)
- Lights and power at the BBQ Area.
- The old oven in the kitchen was replaced as well as the breaker and wiring for the oven.
- We had work done on two HVAC heating units. (Parish Hall and Library)
- We added an HVAC drop to the Sexton closet to help prolong the life of the church camera and WFI systems.
- We replaced the cleaning service we were using around mid-year due to a lack of response and support.
- We replaced the main control board on the elevator after a power outage.
- Roy Reynolds spearheaded work on helping to further secure our parish. After several months of planning, we contracted with a vendor to replace our

Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) system throughout our church campus. This system enables our staff to view the church campus, including the playground, ensuring a safe and secure environment for all our members and visitors. In the future, additional cameras will be added.

Ongoing projects:

Liam Bulford is doing his Eagle Project to support St. Paul's. He is reworking the entrance sign and area around it as well as installing three benches for seating in the new playground area. Liam could use your help to defray some of the costs. An Eagle Project teaches leadership and planning skills, **it is not supposed to be self-funded.**

All but three of the HVAC units in the church have been replaced. The two supplying the Nave are over 20 years old and on borrowed time. They no longer make the units we have. We got quotes for replacement costs and I have requested a fund be established and money set aside annually so that when the units fail, the church is able to replace the units without asking for donations.

The Nave lighting is starting to fail. Scott Seiler has been keeping the control units working but the lamp systems are starting to fail and the bulbs are no longer made. The present system will not support LEDs.

Thank you everyone for your help and encouragement these last three years.

Mark LeVan
Junior Warden

Treasurer's Report

*Submitted by Renee Powell, Treasurer
Brother Massenburg, Finance Committee Chairman*

2023 End-of-Year Financial Report

Although we budgeted for a \$15,000 loss for 2023, our financial year ended positively. We received additional pledges after our Annual Meeting and our Open Plate Offerings were well above the amount budgeted.

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Open Plate Offerings	\$93,956.40	\$75,000.00
Pledged Offerings	\$536,557.60	\$445,865.00

While anticipated revenues were substantially higher than budgeted, so were expenses. Expenses exceeded budgeted amounts in these areas:

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Total Personnel Expenses	\$355,977.89	\$343,591.41
Total Operations Expenses	\$137,652.90	\$114,000.00

Operations expenses were significantly over budget in these areas:

Property Expenses (janitorial & bldg/equip):

\$ 66,883.99	\$ 61,600.00
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Communication Expenses (website design/maint):

\$ 4,654.97	\$ 00.00
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Office Exp/Utilities/Audit (all except utilities):

\$ 66,094.52	\$ 51,700.00
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Total Vestry/Stewardship/Council:

\$ 4,398.71	\$ 00.00
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Total Worship Expenses:

\$ 13,333.85	\$ 9,900.00
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Expenses were at or below budgeted amounts for Parish Life/Evangelism (special events were covered by donor-designated contributions), Christian Formation/Youth/VBS, Health & Healing/Outreach.

Our Diocesan Commitment was paid in full.

The year ended with an actual gain of \$102,820.38. The Vestry voted to transfer amounts to be determined at the Vestry Retreat to the Reserve Operating account, the Building Reserve account (in anticipation of replacing the 2 HVAC units for the Nave/Narthex in the near future), and the Vestry Reserve account. Good stewardship includes maintaining adequate reserves to protect the church in times of unforeseen negative circumstances.

2024 Budget

Although we have a leasing contract for the copier, we are otherwise debt free as a parish. A meeting will be held on Sunday, February 11th to present, discuss, and take questions regarding the 2024 budget. The meeting will be in the Parish Library immediately following the 10:30 am service. We welcome all to attend.

Brother Massenburg & Renee Powell

Stewardship Report

Submitted by Virginia Williams

As a parish, we continue to support our graduating youth. The Mary Kate Parks Mason fund awarded 5 scholarships - Mary Tucker Howell, Julia Howell, Mikayla Pape, Meredith Brown, and Jude Henderson. We further refined the qualifications to ensure that high school seniors going on to non-college/university education (trade and tech schools, professional apprenticeships) are not excluded from consideration.

We are so proud that more parishioners are giving. Ninety-five (95) pledges have been received so far. With the continuing challenges of inflation impacting prices and the costs associated with the rector search, finding the gratitude in giving is especially important for St. Paul's in 2024. We have wonderful programs and ministries to fund, in addition to worship and operations, and we want to be as financially sound as possible to accomplish all of these. You can pledge and give anytime during 2024!

Thanks

Virginia Williams
Stewardship

Year	Number of Pledges	Average Pledged Amount	Total Pledged Amount
2012	118	\$3,186.56	\$376,014.63
2013	131	\$3,316.24	\$434,426.92
2014	130	\$3,555.53	\$462,218.80
2015	160	\$3,246.96	\$519,512.92

2016	148	\$3,275.69	\$484,802.40
2017	118	\$3,702.32	\$436,873.96
2018	112	\$4,468.89	\$500,515.96
2019	106	\$5,028.41	\$533,011.12
2020	93	\$5,455.48	\$507,360.00
2021	76	\$5,753.42	\$437,260.00
2022	84	\$5,534.60	\$464,906.00
2023	76	\$6,339.54	\$481,805.00
2024	95	\$4,854.29	\$461,158.00

Organist and Choirmaster’s Report

Submitted by Rhett Barnwell

Having previously served at St. Paul’s from 2015 – 2016, it was certainly an honor to be called back to join the staff again in July of 2023. In 2016, the choir and the church were in a bit of a transition, with Allan Sandlin’s departure, and I was not entirely certain what to expect upon returning last year. I found that the church is indeed flourishing and growing, and my predecessor, Mason Copeland, did an outstanding job of building the choir up and developing an inspiring music program. In the past 6 months or so, the choir has continued to develop musically and has added a few new members to the fold. We have expanded the repertoire of the choir to encompass more a cappella singing, including new compositions, Taizé chants, and spirituals.

The Handbell Choir, which has been on hiatus for a while, resumed in the fall and presented several selections at the 11:00 pm Christmas Eve service. They will continue to rehearse and play in liturgies throughout the year.

Dawn Harrison has been doing an excellent job with the Children’s Choir program, not only preparing them to sing in worship, but also instructing them in music history, use of the hymnal, and Episcopal liturgical practices.

We look forward to continuing forward in the Church year by striving to give our best and developing our talents to be used for the glory of God and for the spiritual

edification of the St. Paul's church community.

Rhett Barnwell
Organist/Choirmaster

Music Associate Report
Submitted by Dawn Harrison

This year, because of transportation issues and time constraints I combined the two choirs, the Cherub Choir and the St. Cecelia Choir. They rehearse from 5:00 until 5:55 on Wednesdays and the choir season runs from August through Pentecost, usually the end of May. Almost all the participants then stay for Wednesday night supper. For the pageant last year, we expanded the story of the birth by including the arrival of the Wise Men and this year I decided to incorporate three adult men to play the parts of the Magi. While it is a children's pageant the Gospel is for children of all ages. My thanks to Tom Foust, Cole Hankins and Brandon Smith, the Wise Men, and to all the children who participated in the pageant. If you have a child or children who is in first grade or above, consider having them join the St. Cecelia Choir. Not only do we sing songs, we tell stories that help teach vocal techniques, and occasionally we tour the church and talk about Episcopal terminology. On Wednesdays we also learn about composers who have contributed to our hymnal and in the new year we will be discussing the prayer book and its contents.

The St. Cecilia Choir kids are: Cora Borders, Edda Borders, Elijah Edwards, James Edwards, Peyton Lawson, David Pape, Sydney Pape, Zachary Reynolds, PJ Saintilus, and Tallis Wieda. Most of these children do double ministries for our church, including being acolytes, so it is convenient for them to sing in the chapel transept when they sing for the service.

My thanks to all the children and parents for their help and faithfulness to the music program at St. Paul's.

Music is such an important part of worship and no matter your age or your ability to "carry a tune" you are welcome to join one of our choirs. God really doesn't care if you can "carry a tune" or not.

Dawn Harrison
Music Associate

Children's & Youth Ministry Report

Submitted by Polly Hopkins

Prior to the start of the 2023-2024 EYC season, the Children and Youth Director left to pursue other opportunities. I was asked and agreed to step into the role of supporting our EYC program. Below is EYC activities.

- January 2023, three youth participated in DYC winter camp.
- The Easter Egg Hunt was another big children/youth turn out.
- During the summer of 2023 we had three youth participate in Camp Mikell Summer camp.
- VBS was enjoyed by those who participated. There were some logistical challenges and feedback suggests we need to make some changes. There is a subgroup led by Dawn Harrison to look more closely at the program, dates, and advertisement.
- Homecoming was exciting for children and youth and included a great game of 4 square.
- The youth assisted with the Animal Blessing. There was a huge turnout at Line Creek Brewery where the services were held. Special thanks to our high schoolers who handed out homemade treats (donated and made by Shepherd Center Teenagers) and St. Francis Medallions.
- Trunk or Treat and All Hallows Eve festival. Our middle and high school youth held a festival of games/treats and story time for the younger children.
- We traveled to the Newnan theater and watched Sydney Pape in Shrek. She was a star and the youth enjoyed supporting her in her theatrical role.
- Youth of St. Paul's participated in the 117 Annual Council and had the largest youth representation in the diocese.
- In November, we traveled to Peachtree City to participate as a team in The Escape Room. We had 10 participants and they mastered the puzzles and escaped.
- During the month of December, we had lots of fun making decorations, eating pizza (Thank you Cathy Sandlin) decorating our donated Christmas Tree (Thank you April & JR Roberts and Judy Aycock.) and donated decorations (Thank you Mary Scott). For our youth holiday gathering we had a Mario Kart competition. Mary Huskinson is the reigning champion. We also played other switch games while the adults enjoyed time in coffee hour. Some of us traveled to Tyrone to watch Mary Scott Fabrizi and Caroline Hawes perform in the nutcracker and enjoyed seeing the shine!

Sneak Peak of 2024 Activities

- We had two youths go to Camp Mikell in January and youth will be participating in the Spring New Beginnings and Happenings activities sponsored by the Diocese.
- Some will be joining up with the youth at the Shepherd Center to participate in the annual Shepherd Center Prom.
- There are plans for the children and youth to participate in the Hunger Walk in March.
- We are currently actively engaged in interviewing for our open Family/Youth/Children Director position. Our interview committee consists of staff, three parents, and two youth. We have two excellent candidates but are also still vetting additional applicants.

Polly Hopkins
Formation Vestry Liaison

Parish Administrator Report

Submitted by Nicole Ravenell Edwards

“As each has received a gift, employ it for one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace” [1 Peter 4:10]

The role of Parish Administrator is one that requires the gifts of other staff, volunteers, and parishioners. I've been focused on improving and developing processes to manage the work of the parish so that we as a church can do the work we are called to do - serving God's people. St. Paul's Vestry continued to support me in my role by approving different ways to manage our work, such as streamlining administrative processes. The Treasurer is responsive, and supportive and helps us to make sure that we can fund the work that must be completed. The staff are a talented, dedicated group who has continued to impress me with their innovative ways of getting the work done. Canon John, as Interim Rector, has supported and challenged staff to make sure we are doing the best that will connect us to the parishioners and the community.

Dawn Harrison who volunteers her time for administrative work like copying and developing service bulletins and other service support materials is invaluable to the role of Parish Administrator. Carolyn Masters also volunteers her time by helping to complete administrative tasks, such as preparing and distributing parish birthday cards.

In 2023, we have had more ministry leaders using Realm to manage their ministry schedules. By doing that, the time to put together the bulletins has been cut by at

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least 50%. I want to thank those who have made this change and encourage others to make the transition. I'm happy to provide any support that is needed.

The men of St. Paul's are a special group. From moving furniture and other items to coming over to open up the church for events to simply stopping by to ask if I need anything, they are appreciated. I couldn't do all I need to without their weekly support.

2024 is shaping up to be an even busier year and I'm grateful for all who lend their gifts to make St. Paul's a place where we are "Seeking to See and Serve Christ is all Persons."

Nicole Ravenell Edwards
Parish Administrator

Communications and Multimedia Report

Submitted by Geoff Mattera

Throughout 2023, St. Paul's has increased its outreach through the use of our digital platforms. Facebook (both our public and private page) has been consistently updated with news and announcements regarding our worship services, live-streaming, Wednesday Night Suppers, special events, youth group activities, and more. St. Paul's website has undergone revisions in order to simplify and enrich the experience of any user who browses our site. Our YouTube channel streams our Sunday morning worship services, as well as, other special services - Christmas Eve, Good Friday, etc. More episodes of "St. Paul's Revealed" were produced this year and can also be found on YouTube. While our presence on the the Internet has grown, and will continue to do so, it's important to remember that social media can never replace the blessings St. Paul's can offer *in person* to Coweta County and the surrounding community.

As our church enters 2024, the need for a robust communications department will be more pressing than ever. One of St. Paul's most important challenges of the year will be finding a new rector. In the meantime, we continue to reside in a liminal space. It is vital to the spirit of St. Paul's that our church family, as well as the public at large, be kept aware of the many good things happening at our church. While our social media, YouTube, and website serves dual constituents - both St. Paul's and the public, Realm is a tool that can help streamline and expedite communication for our members. The more our congregants become fluent with this app, the more cohesive and organized we will be as a church body. St. Paul's is blessed to have volunteers who are conversant with Realm and are willing to help those church members who have yet to sign up.

Finally, I want to say thank you to Canon John for his insightful and enthusiastic support over the past few months. I extend my gratitude also to those folks (both staff and volunteers) who contributed their time and efforts in 2023 to help St. Paul's communicate effectively, in particular: Nicole Edwards, Cole Hankins, Roy Reynolds, Anne Graner, Scott Seiler, Adele Bulford, Mark Huskison, Mary Huskison, Kasey Yarborough, Mindy Benefield, and Philip Hand.

Geoff Mattera
Communications Director

Vestry and Ministry Reports

Communications

Submitted by Roy Reynolds

I. Introduction

The St. Paul's Episcopal Communications Ministry has had a successful and eventful year. As a ministry, we strive to keep our church community connected and informed and to share the spirit and teachings of the Episcopal Church with our broader community. This past year, we are proud to announce the establishment of a six-member team, the completion of our CCTV installation system, the upgrading of wireless internet services, and progress on our website refresh project.

II. Establishment of Communications Team

Earlier this year, we established a committed and experienced team of six individuals, Adele Bulford, Anne Graner, Mary Nieto, Scott Seiler, and Bill Tudor, to serve and support the Communications Ministry. Due to strong involvement on the Search Committee Bill Tudor decided to hand over his spot to Frank West. This diverse group has contributed to our success by bringing a variety of skills, ranging from technical support to administrative assistance, which have been valuable in achieving our goals. Through their dedication and spirited teamwork, we have successfully met and pursued various objectives.

III. Website Refresh Project

We are excited to announce that our team is actively working on refreshing the St. Paul's Episcopal website. A new and improved version of the website is scheduled for launch early in 2024. Our goal is to provide an enhanced online experience for

our congregation and visitors, making it easier to navigate, stay informed, get involved, and grow in faith.

IV. Improved Wireless Internet Services

In our ongoing efforts to provide a better experience for our parishioners, we have significantly improved the wireless internet services in the Parish Hall and Nave. Philip Hand worked with staff on this project. This has greatly helped in conducting virtual meetings, accessing online resources, and staying connected in a world that has become increasingly reliant on digital means of communication.

V. Conclusion

The St. Paul's Episcopal Communications Ministry remains committed to providing the highest level of service to our congregation and community. We are grateful for the hard work and dedication of our team and for the support of our parishioners. As we continue to make strides in our ministry, we look forward to another successful year of sharing the life and message of St. Paul's Episcopal Church with all who seek to find, know, and serve God.

Roy Reynolds
Communications

Formation

Submitted by Polly Hopkins

As Vestry Liaison for Christian Formation, I'm prayerfully focused on creating programming and activities to help shape our children, youth, and adults in the Episcopal Faith.

In 2023 we have gained a wonderful group of parent volunteers - Tammy Martin, Elizabeth Pape, and Haley Borders - who assist with Godly Play on Sunday mornings. We have three children who consistently attend this wonderful child formation program. We appreciate Tammy's, Elizabeth's, and Haley's dedication.

Children's Chapel is offered on Sundays during the 10:30 am service. It is led by Dawn Harrison and our Seminarian, Nicole Walters. We have a great, consistent turnout for Children's Chapel. On Sundays at 9:30 am, we offer EYC for our middle and high school students. This group is led by Canon John.

Adult Formation has been active. Classes are held on Sundays at 9:30 am and are led by our Seminarian, Nicole Walters. In addition to the classes, there are also special adult formation classes. The following are activities for the 2023-2024.

- We started off in 2023 reading CS Lewis' *Great Divorce*, the book of Ruth, and Madeline L'ingles *Walking on Water*.
- In the Fall, our adults studied the books of Mark and Jonah.
- Canon John and Nicole led the adults in a 3-hour contemplative prayer session. We had nine (9) adult participants.
- The adult formation group is delving more deeply into Contemplative prayer. With the guidance of Nicole and the book *ArmChair Mystic* by Mark Thibodeaux.
- We had eight (8) confirmed and two (2) were received in 2023 after taking Episcopal 101 led by Rev. Hazel Glover early in 2023 and Jeff Lawhead in the Fall.
- Jeff Lawhead also led us in a Wednesday Night Lenten study.
- A group of four (4) adults attended Folk School in October. Registration is currently open for the Spring session.

Polly Hopkins
Formation

Health and Healing Report

Submitted by Mary Frances Honea

We have begun to explore options for equipping lay people to provide pastoral care to the community of St Paul's. According to The Community of Hope, "pastoral care is when a person is being 'present' in a listening, compassionate, non-controlling manner to an individual or group for the purpose of consciously or unconsciously representing God to them and seeking to respond to their spiritual needs. Through ongoing spiritual formation and practical lessons on caregiving, members learn to match theological insights and spiritual practices with their experiences of ministering to others." This is a 14-week, 42-hour training provided by the Community of Hope International.

We have budgeted for this training in FY 24, so more to come on this topic.

If you or a fellow parishioner need assistance from the Health and Healing ministry, please complete the pastoral care card that can be found in the back of the pews or accessed online.

Blood Drives hosted by St. Paul's

Wendy Llosa and Virginia Williams, Ministry Leaders

In 2023 St. Paul's hosted 4 blood drives. The turnout was great for all three and we exceeded our unit goal each session. We currently have blood drives scheduled for 2024. For more information contact Virginia Williams via email vb_williams@yahoo.com or Wendy Llosa at wendy@llosacentral.com.

Daughters of the King

Jennifer Jones, Ministry Leader

DOK is an international organization for women of the Episcopal Church. Their mission is the extension of Christ's Kingdom through prayer, service, and evangelism. St. Brigid is the chapter name for the Daughters of the King at St. Paul's. Their mission is the extension of Christ's Kingdom through prayer, service, and evangelism. Our chapter currently has 16 members, with an additional candidate in training. The service projects for our chapter include providing Christmas baskets to our shut-ins, volunteering at One Roof Outreach, and hosting funeral receptions.

Grief Ministry

Alice Ann Massenburg, Ministry Leader

This ministry assists the people of St. Paul's who are grieving the loss of a close loved one. Four books and letters are sent to grieving parishioners upon the death of an immediate family member according to a recommended schedule.

Lay Eucharistic Visits

Bill Harrison, Ministry Leader

The Lay Eucharist Visits ministry has expanded its service at Wesley Woods to weekly Eucharist and Prayers on Thursday Mornings at 10:30 am. Three Eucharistic Ministers were recruited to assist. They continue to make regularly scheduled Eucharistic visits to St Paul's parishioners who are homebound.

Prayer Intercessors

Anne Graner, Ministry Leader

This ministry's name was changed from Healing Intercessors to Prayer Intercessors. The Healing Intercessors ministry's purpose is to support parishioners through prayer. All prayer requests are held in confidence and can be for specific needs, needs of others, or unspoken. This ministry has blossomed this year. Membership has grown which has allowed them to be present in the transept before the 10:30 am service, during communion, and after the 10:30 am service. Currently, the ministry is working to expand its ministry to make home visits to those requesting intercessory prayer at home. If you have a prayer request, questions about the ministry, or would like to become a part of this ministry, please contact Anne Graner at (404) 444 - 6015.

Mary Frances Honea
Health and Healing

Outreach Report

Submitted by Marge Bass

“Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.” [Acts 20:28]

St. Paul’s was active in the area of outreach in 2023. The grants committee was provided the following assistance to worthy groups as follows:

Angel’s House (\$500)

Angel’s House is a group foster home and emergency shelter for teen girls in the Department of Family and Child Services (DFCS) custody. The grant was given to assist with the building of a multi-purpose recreation area.

Backpack Buddies (\$2,000)

Backpack Buddies exists to supply economically disadvantaged children in Coweta County with food for the weekend. The grant was given to assist their summer lunch program for disadvantaged children in the Coweta County School System.

Corral (\$2,500)

The Coweta Organization for Riding, Rehabilitation and Learning provides therapy support using horses. St. Paul’s is sponsoring Maxx, a 14-year-old quarter.

Hope Revisited (\$5,000)

Hope Revisited was established in February of 2021 with a goal of reintegrating families that have been separated, into healthy sustainable family units and creating strong family bonds that will last for generations to come.

One Roof (\$5,000)

St. Paul’s is one of the early supporters of One Roof. One Roof provides food, clothing, and financial assistance to those in need, as well as shelter to women and children at The Lodge. They also run a thrift store to help support their non-profit mission. Serving over 6000 families per year, One Roof helps lift up those in need through material and spiritual support.

The Men’s Club continues to spearhead food donations for the Salvation Army. These food items are distributed to Coweta County families. Carrie Wendelburg

leads our Angel Tree efforts during Christmas where St. Paul's helped adults and children with gifts for the holiday. Josh Weida leads Work of Our Hands ministry where he collaborates with One Roof to recruit volunteers to staff the homeless shelter, The Nest, during nights when there are freezing temperatures.

Donations were raised for Abby's Closet for the distribution of school supplies. There is an Abby's Closet in every Coweta County School where the local teachers are aware of their students' needs. St. Paul's also raised donations for the First Night Foster Care Bags program as a part of the youth activities of the 117 Annual Council. The bags are given to children who are removed from their families because of abuse or neglect.

St. Paul's rector discretionary funds have been used to assist families in the community with housing, utility, medical, and food assistance. In 2023 we assisted 23 families which resulted in more than 60 people receiving assistance through this fund.

St. Paul's allows AA to host their support group meeting here three times a week and a Girls Scout troop meets at the church every 1st and 3rd Saturday. The parish was also used for a sports banquet for Newnan High School.

St. Paul's is known for community generosity and support of all God's people. We have many opportunities to continue this vital work in 2024, so please be on the lookout for ways to get involved.

Marge Bass
Outreach Liaison

Parish Life Report

Submitted by Frankey Henderson

The purpose of the Parish Life ministries is to provide opportunities within our parish for fellowship, spiritual growth, and celebration of special Holy Days of the liturgical calendar. The ministries that were active during 2023 are Men's Club, Men's Retreat, Special Events and Receptions, Wednesday Night Supper, and Parish Library. A major special event that was held in the Spring of 2023 was the retirement celebration for Rev. Hazel Glover. The event was very well attended by Hazel's friends, family, and parishioners. If you are interested in participating in any of these ministries and would like more information please contact the Vestry Liaison and/or the ministry leader.

Men's Club

Bob Heaberlin, Ministry Leader

The Men's Club has been active since 2023. We have a great number of members who are consistently active and participating in activities. The members met in the parish hall on Sunday evenings about once a month for fellowship. In November, the Men's Club had a pork butt fundraiser that was well received. A Christmas dinner was also held. Plans are for the ministry to continue to meet and we welcome anyone who would like to participate.

Men's Retreat

Frank West, Ministry Leader

The Men's Retreat was a huge success in 2023. We met August 18-20 at Camp Mikell and was facilitated by Rev. Mark Johnson. The time together was one of fellowship and spiritual renewal.

Parish Library

Jennifer Jones, Parish Librarian

The mission of the library is to make books and other materials readily available to all St Paul's parishioners and to provide support for church education programs. The library strives to make materials available that provide inspiration and knowledge to help individuals grow in their faith and to promote spiritual development. In 2024, we hope to continue to expand the collection with an emphasis on subjects like Adult Formation and prayer for studying. The library's collection is available online.

Wednesday Night Suppers

Carolyn Groover, Ministry Leader

Carolyn Groover coordinates rotating teams that plan, prepare, and serve either home-cooked or restaurant-catered meals to church members and guests. Wednesday Night Suppers are a time to relax and take a night off cooking while enjoying the fellowship of others. People come not only to be in fellowship but also to use this as a time to relax during the busy Wednesday night church programming. Volunteers can either be reimbursed or you can donate the meal.

Frankey Henderson

Parish Life Liaison

Worship

Submitted by Tony King

The early months of 2023 saw preparation for Holy Week services along with

Hazel's last service with us on Pentecost Sunday. Our efforts immediately transitioned to supporting the worship team and supply priests during at the beginning of the interim period. Upon Canon John's arrival, our efforts moved to providing orientation regarding our service practices and coordinating adjustments in the practices of the worship team to make our 10:30 am service and, in particular, communion run a bit smoother. On October 10, worship team leaders met with Canon John to plan and discuss All Saints, Advent, and Christmas services. A second meeting of this team was held on December 12 to plan and discuss 2024 Holy Week and Pentecost services.

Acolytes

Kasey Bulford, Ministry Manager

The acolyte ministry trains our children to serve during worship and at the altar. The acolytes gain experience with the liturgy, the priests, and other members of the worship ministries as they grow as individuals. One issue that we dealt with in 2023 is the dwindling number of acolytes that are available to serve on Sunday mornings. Acolyte training sessions were held in the fall of 2023 to enhance the training of current acolytes and train new recruits. There was also a YouTube video created about acolyting. We are pleased that Frankey Henderson has agreed to serve as acolyte master at the conclusion of his service on the vestry in February of this year. His primary focus going forward will be on training and recruitment.

Altar Guild

Kathy Ellison & Renee Powell, Ministry Leaders

The purpose of the Altar Guild at Saint Paul's is the care and preparation of the sanctuary and altar, vestments, vessels, linens, and supplies that are used in our liturgy. The objective of the Altar Guild is always "care, beauty and traditional correctness attended upon the worship of Almighty God." Altar Guild members are responsible for the setup and clean up after all worship services, as well as weddings and funerals. They wash and iron all small linens and fair linens used in the services. Other responsibilities include polishing silver vessels and brass items during the year and changing the frontal colors according to the season. If you are interested in participating in the Altar Guild, please contact Renee Powell or Kathy Ellison.

Eucharistic Minister

Amy Jones, Ministry Leader

The term "Eucharistic Minister", or more properly a Lay Eucharistic Minister (LEM), is a lay person who assists the priest in administering the elements of Holy Communion, the consecrated bread and wine. In 2023 we have gained a couple of new LEMs. For 2024, we are looking to have more volunteers, so please consider serving.

Flower Guild

Louise Howard, Ministry Leader

Members of the Flower Guild create fresh flower arrangements that are placed in the sanctuary each Sunday except during Lent and Advent and decorate the church for Christmas and Easter. They prepare additional flower arrangements for weddings, funerals, and baptisms. At the start of the year, Flower Guild members sign up for 5 or 6 Sundays to arrange flowers. Members purchase flowers from local sources or if large quantities are needed from Atlanta floral wholesalers and are reimbursed from the Flower Guild fund. Monetary donations are sought from the congregation.

After a three-year hiatus, last November the Annual Flower Festival and Tea came back to St. Paul's! The church was filled with beautiful flower arrangements inspired by stories and events from the bible. Over eighty guests from St. Paul's and the surrounding community attended the ticketed event for an afternoon of music, flower arranging, arts and crafts, and delicious food. The Flower Festival and Tea was entirely funded by ticket sales and any profits are incorporated into the Flower Guild account to be used for future events.

A new method of signing up to donate Sunday flowers was posted on the board in the fellowship hallway. Donations supplement the amount designated for Church Flowers in the budget and allow the Flower Guild to continue to create beautiful arrangements to adorn the sanctuary of St. Paul's.

Lectors

Dean Eelman, Ministry Leader

Lectors read the Liturgy of the Word for the 10:30 am service and special services. The word consists of the Old Testament, Psalm, Epistle, and the Prayers of the People. In 2024, a focus will be to recruit an additional ministry leader and readers to participate in the Liturgy of the Word at the 8:30 am service. If you are interested in serving, please contact the Parish Administrator.

Ushers

Bob Heaberlin, Ministry Leader

The Usher ministry is a vital part of the worship service. Its purpose is to ensure that all visitors are made to feel welcome at St. Paul's. This ministry provides usher services for both Sunday Services, Holy Week, Christmas Services, Funerals, and Memorial Services. This totals out to approximately 120 services annually. The ushers also see that parishioners' needs are met, that portions of the service (offering and Eucharist) flow smoothly, and that the church is left in good condition for the next service. In addition, the ushers also provide a sense of security for the church during the services.

Vergers

Tony King, Ministry Leader

A lay minister who assists the clergy in the conduct of worship, especially in the marshaling of processions. Vergers usually serve for the 10:30 am Sunday Services, Holy Week, Christmas Services, Funerals, Memorial Services, and other special services.

Respectfully submitted,

Tony King
Worship Liaison

Welcoming Report

Welcoming had some significant accomplishments in 2023. First, our new visitor pew cards were finalized. These new cards have a QR code that allows visitors to enter their contact information directly into Realm using their cell phone. The new cards were used by about 15 families representing 42 individuals; 31 of whom transitioned into being members. We are still fine tuning our Welcoming pathway in Realm to help assist in following up and connecting with our guests. In addition, a welcoming brunch was held in the Spring during coffee hour to meet new members and their families.

Plans for 2024 is to create a strong Newcomer environment that includes follow up and fellowship. A special thank you to Marianne Lawhead, Wendy LeVan, and Virginia Williams for their work on this ministry during 2023.

Coffee Hour

Nikki Henderson, Ministry Leader

Coffee hour continues to provide our members refreshments during our fellowship time with our members and visitors following the 10:30 Sunday service. While operating well in 2023, Coffee Hour needs more volunteers. Coffee Hour's 2024 goal is to add 5 new members. Last year, scheduling was moved to Realm for 2024.

Greeters

Marianne Lawhead, Ministry Leader

Our Greeters team is up and running through Realm. This ministry continues to be a vital first point of contact for visitors and our current members on Sunday mornings. More team members would be welcomed. Our goal is to add 4-5 new members in 2024.

Java Crew

Mindy Benefield, Ministry Leader

Java Crew puts the coffee in a coffee hour! This ministry group sets up our coffee service area and sees that fresh coffee is brewed and refilled during our coffee hour. Java Crew's goal for 2024 is to add 5 new members.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

576 Roscoe Road, Newnan, GA 30263 • Phone: (770) 253-4264 • www.stpaulsnewnan.org

CLERGY AND Staff

Rev. Canon C. John Thompson-Quartey, Interim Rector; **Nicole Walters**, Seminarian; **Rhett Barnwell**, Organist/Choirmaster; **Dawn Harrison**, Music Associate; **Geoff Mattera**, Communications Director; **Cole Hankins**, Multimedia Associate; **Nicole Edwards**, Parish Administrator; **Kimberly Stokes**, Financial Administrator.

VESTRY

Marianne Lawhead, Senior Warden; **Mark LeVan**, Junior Warden; **Marge Bass**, Outreach; **Frankey Henderson**, Parish Life; **Mary Frances Honea**, Health & Healing; **Polly Hopkins**, Formation; **Tony King**, Worship; **Roy Reynolds**, Communications; **Virginia Williams**, Stewardship.