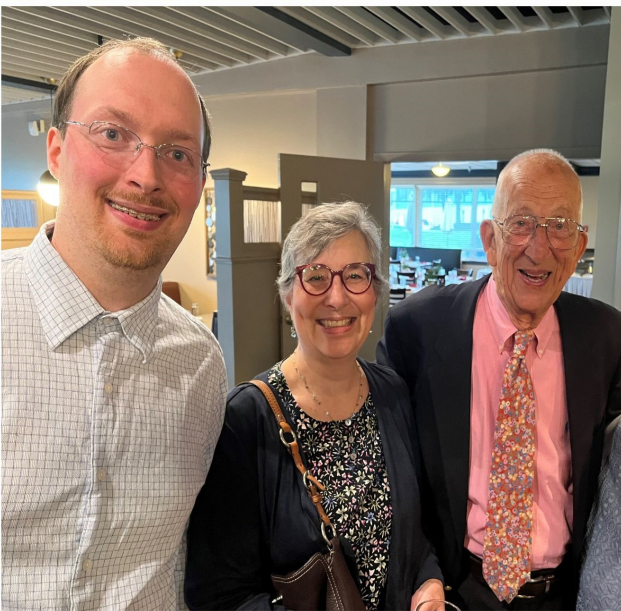
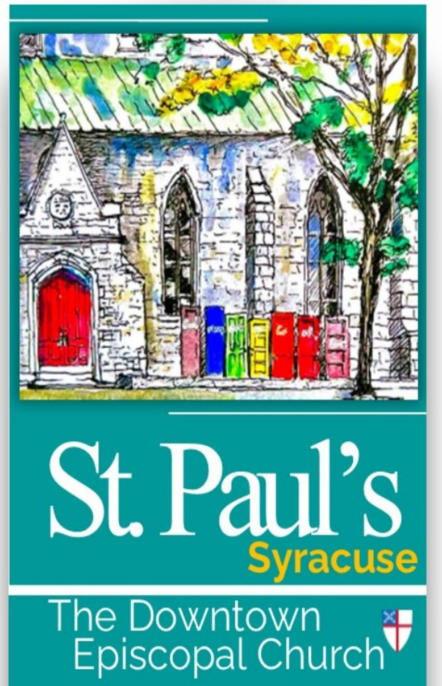


stpaulsyr.org

2022 Annual Report



St. Paul's is People...Caring



St. Paul's Syracuse

OPEN DOORS CELEBRATION



OPEN DOORS
Preparing for Our Third Century
of Ministry in Downtown Syracuse



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Agenda

Agenda for Annual Meeting Sunday January 29, 2023

All activities will be held in the nave of St. Paul's and will be presented on the live stream. Voting and participation in discussions at the annual meeting are limited to those who are present in the building.

9:30 Worship

10:30 Annual Meeting: Part I

- The Annual Meeting is called to order.
- The officers of the meeting are announced: Betsy Barker, parliamentarian, Julia Fine, clerk, Dick Pilgrim, co-chair of the nominating committee, the Rev. Philip Major, presider, Bill Pitcher and Michael Mach, tellers.
- Approve minutes of January, 2022 Annual Meeting.
- Nominations committee report
- Call for nominations from the floor
- Balloting begins. By NY State law, ballots may be cast up to an hour after the beginning of voting.

10:45 Refreshments & fellowship time

11:00 Annual Meeting: Part II

- Rector's Report
- Treasurer's Report
- Open Doors Report
- Election Results
- Closing Prayer and Adjournment of Annual Meeting

Minutes of the January 2022 Annual Meeting

Call to Order

The annual meeting of St. Paul's was held on January 30, 2022 and was called to order by Father Philip at 10:30 a.m. Father Philip welcomed attendees, including 40 persons present in the building, plus many attending through St. Paul's livestream channel. He referred them to the "Annual Report 2021" that all members had been sent or they could pick up this morning in the front of the sanctuary, which provided directions and agenda for the meeting.

Officers of the Meeting

The Reverend Philip Major, presider

Betsy Barker, parliamentarian (attending remotely)

Jenifer Breyer, clerk of the Vestry

Dick Pilgrim, chair of the nominating committee

Mary Hastings and David Webb, tellers

In addition, DJ Igelsrud and Tiffany Miner served as telephone operators for this meeting in order to allow members to participate in the voting by phone.

Approval of Minutes of January 31, 2021 Annual Meeting

Motion: Liz Belden-Handler moved approval of the minutes as presented; DJ Igelsrud seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with a voice vote of those present.

Report from the Nominations Committee

Dick Pilgrim, chair of the nominating committee, named the members of the nominating committee and the slate of candidates for wardens and Vestry. He then put forward the following names in nomination for the related open positions: Rebecca Livengood for the one open warden position, and then Tom Cantwell, Marion Greenhalgh, and David Morgan – each for one of the three open Vestry positions.

There being no further nominations from the floor, David Webb moved that we cast a single unanimous vote for Rebecca Livengood for warden. Tiffany Miner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

With no further nominations from the floor, David Webb moved and Mary Hastings seconded to cast a single unanimous vote to elect David Morgan, Marion Greenhalgh, and Tom Cantwell to the Vestry. The motion passed unanimously.

Rector's Report

Father Philip spoke of the uncertainty resulting from the pandemic over the last two years. He congratulated attendees, saying, "You have endured, even thrived. You have learned new ways to do things, even welcomed some new members. You have taken charge of the church parking lot, reached out to those in need including the food pantry, and opened your arms to newly-arrived refugees. You have taken giant steps with the Open Doors project. Together we will make our way out of the shadow of death that has threatened us in these recent days."

Treasurer's Report

Assistant Treasurer Doug Mouncey presented the Treasurer's report, referring to pages 14 and 15 in the "Annual Report 2021". He thanked members for pledges above expectations and invited questions.

Open Doors/Capital Campaign Report

Cathy Wolff reported on the capital campaign, referring to Page 16 in the Annual Report 2021. She thanked David Ridings for his campaign challenge, noting that 85% of St. Paul's members have pledged their support. She reviewed the organizational support of the Open Doors steering committee and various task forces detailed on Page 18 of the report. Rebecca Livengood told of progress made towards seeking bids for work to take place (Page 17) saying, if bids come in timely, project awards could be made and construction initiated in May.

Warden's Report

Senior Warden Dick Pilgrim referred to Father Philip's upcoming sabbatical leave in 2022 and 2023. In that context he announced that the church would be having its own "congregational sabbatical".

Election Results and Words of Gratitude

Father Philip confirmed results of the elections (which included votes of those who participated via telephone). He shared words of gratitude for the work of many within St. Paul's who stepped up this year, assuming additional duties in order to keep the business of the church on track. Among these persons is Jim Potts, whose anniversary will be celebrated in April. Mary Hastings and David Webb were acknowledged for their many hours of work as they leave the Vestry and DJ Igelsrud for her "constant and steady hand" as she served as warden for the last eighteen months. Father Philip made note of the many additional tasks Doug Mouncey has taken on this year, as office support and in the role of Assistant Treasurer. He announced a gift in Doug's honor of \$1,500 to *Cristosal*, one of the causes Doug has been devoted to over many years. Father Philip invited St. Paul's members to join the vestry in acknowledging Doug, similarly if and as they are able and willing to do so.

Memorials

Father Philip offered prayer in honor of two beloved persons we lost this year, long-time member Susan Schueler and Sexton, John Pizzi.

The meeting adjourned at 11:38 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenifer Breyer,
Clerk of the Vestry



Doug Mouncey receiving a gift to Cristosal made in his honor.

Matthieu van der Meer

Nomination for Vestry

Born and raised in the Netherlands, I moved with my German husband Albrecht to Syracuse in 2007.

It took a while for me to rewire my spiritual life and find a community - ten years, actually. I started to more frequently visit St. Paul's in 2017 and, encouraged by Tom Cantwell, became a member of the community in December that year.

I am honored to be asked to join the Vestry, something that answers to my desire to become more involved with our parish and do something in return for the gift of God's presence in our worship, mission, and community. I cannot claim to have served on committees, but many people will know me from the coffee hour or my occasional helping out at the Samaritan Center.

I work at SU as associate teaching professor of Classics and am in the board of directors of Syracuse Friends of Chamber Music.



Joe Moorman

Nomination for Vestry

Joe Moorman is a long-standing member of the bass section in the St. Paul's choir where he helps to enhance worship services for the congregation.

He is retired from the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance after a 36 year career in the property tax and assessment administration field. In retirement he has published poetry and is an aspiring novelist. He is married to Catherine Gerard who sings in the soprano section of the choir.



Barbara Bell

Nomination for Vestry

I am a Syracuse native raised on the East Side, and graduated from college in Saratoga Springs. I married and moved to the north shore of Boston where I raised my two sons and two stepsons, and lived there for 27 years. After my husband passed away, I moved back to Syracuse in 1997. I remarried in 2000 and moved to Alaska for a year before returning here. My second husband died in 2009.

In addition to full time work as a secretary during those years, I volunteered for many organizations, serving on boards of directors for non-profits such as the housing co-op we lived in, arts organizations, and my church. I taught Sunday school and sang in the church choir there for many years.

After moving back to Syracuse I joined several organizations, especially the Syracuse Sounds of Music Association and Oasis. I joined St. Paul's in 2017 to my great joy and have tried to serve here as well. I hope to continue as a member of the Vestry to serve you, my friends and family, and God.



Marion Greenhalgh

Nomination for Warden

I have been a life-long member of St. Paul's. Retired from NRG Energy, formerly Niagara Mohawk, as an Environmental Compliance Coordinator at the Oswego Steam Station, I now have more time to enjoy some of my other passions. These passions include traveling, fishing, downhill skiing, boating, gardening, nature, jigsaw puzzles, needlepoint, and family, especially my daughter Lexie, currently serving in the Navy. I live by Otisco Lake and have lived most of my life around the Syracuse area, except for the few years in Texas and Colorado. The Ag and Life Sciences College at Cornell University is where I got my BS in Natural Resources-Environmental Conservation.



My activities at St. Paul's include over 25 years in the choir, past Warden of the Vestry, past Chair of the Buildings and Grounds Committee, Co-Chair of the Flower Guild, past President of the Women of St. Paul's, and Diaspora Chair for Open Doors. What's most important to me is to promote St. Paul's and see it grow. Also, to see Open Doors through to fruition, and our partnership with Tiny Homes for Good to be successful. I would love to see our congregation grow with hopes of more participation in our numerous programs.

Nominations Committee Report

—By: Dick Pilgrim & Rebecca Livengood, Wardens and Co-Chairs of this committee

Upon special request the Vestry approved the use of both wardens in chairing this committee this year as co-chairs. Additional members included Tom Cantwell, Betsy Elkins, DJ Igelsrud, and Doug Mouncey.

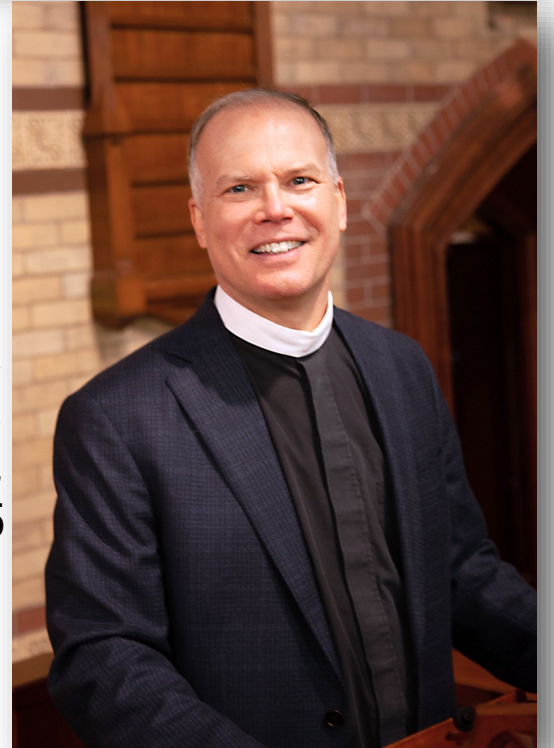
The committee met several times in November and early December—collecting recommended names of people for the three open Vestry membership positions and the one open warden's position, and sifting through those names to put together the best slate to put up for election at the next Annual Meeting (Jan. 29, 2023). That slate, which was then reported to the Vestry at its Dec. 13 meeting, included Marion Greenhalgh for Junior Warden, and Barbara Bell, Matthieu van der Meer, and Joe Moorman for the three members' positions. We look forward to their election to these positions at the Annual Meeting, and to welcoming them onto the Vestry.



Rector's Report

—By The Rev. Philip Major

*I give you a new commandment, that you love one another.
By this everyone will know that you are my disciples,
if you have love for one another.*
John 13:34-35



Dear people of St. Paul's,

In the past year, I have come to see that almost everything we do at St. Paul's is in pursuit of Christ's new commandment for us to love one another. Here are a few examples:

- * several dozen members visited and supported Beverly Bolton, one hundred years old, in the last months of her life. For the last forty years of her life, we were Beverly's family.
- * our Vestry is working with *A Tiny Home for Good* to use the second floor of the Parish House to provide safe, dignified housing for people who have experienced homelessness.
- * a member calls one of our elders each Sunday at 10 a.m. The caregiver plays the Livestream broadcast of the service over the telephone and makes sure that the elder has a supply of consecrated communion wafers so she can participate in communion.
- * many members make home visits to those who are sick or who are not able to get to St. Paul's for worship.
- * members check in with each other over the phone, or with a text message.
- * members invite others to join them for a meal.
- * a dozen members take turns filling *The Open Pantry* each week. Many others make contributions of cash or food to fill the pantry.

Much of this could be considered to be 'pastoral care'. As time goes by, I see more and more of the work and activities of St. Paul's as some sort of pastoral care:

- * ushers graciously welcome people into worship.
- * experienced members encourage new members and visitors to participate in Sunday morning fellowship.
- * some part inside of us is made whole as we listen to the anthem sung by the choir, participate in singing the hymns, or listen to the organ prelude.
- * during a week which is already chock full with an extra service, Jim, organist and choirmaster, carefully, lovingly, creates the funeral leaflet for a member who has died and plays the music for the funeral.
- * every Sunday, Mark, technical engineer, operates the equipment to record and broadcast the service through our YouTube channel.
- * three skilled, faithful teachers welcome our children to church and into the *Godly Play* room every Sunday morning.
- * the Finance Committee, Building and Grounds Committee and many others give their attention to the details that keep St. Paul's working effectively and faithfully.
- * members of our Altar Guild and Flower Guild prepare the sanctuary for worship each weekend, and they clean up while the rest of us are enjoying fellowship time in the Brewster Room.
- * each time a member dies, Judy, operations manager, writes to the family and offers to send photos of their loved one.

Continued on the following page

* our *Open Doors* leaders and steering committee continue to take each important step, one by one, to bring the project to fruition, ensuring that generations of future members will find St. Paul's to be a welcoming, beautiful place.

In each of these activities, and almost everything else we do at St. Paul's, we are taking care of others. This is what love looks like.

As 2022 has gone by, I have become more sure in my conviction that God is bringing more love to the world through the people of St. Paul's. Our task is to dwell each day in God's love. Our challenge is to trust that the gifts we are bringing and the love we are giving are sufficient, resting in the knowledge that Christ asks us to do just one thing, which is to love one another.

Phig +

A Note About St. Paul's Staff in 2022

In 2020 and 2021 St. Paul's Vestry was grappling with several challenges. One of our challenges was that we had decided we no longer had enough work to justify having a full time sexton, yet we weren't sure what our next step should be. In these years we also lost our part time bookkeeper, which shifted more responsibility onto our Operations Manager, Judy McAdoo-Pelton. The changes and challenges of the pandemic added more uncertainty to our situation.

By 2022 we had hired a cleaning service to handle our custodial needs, but without a sexton and a bookkeeper there was lots of extra work to be done around the church. In the Spring of 2022 we attempted to hire an extra person to help with bookkeeping and other needs around the office. It turns out that our expectations are very high, and we were not able to hire a qualified person.

In August of 2022 it was clear that we were still left with about 15 extra hours of work to be done each week, and no staff person hired to do it. So I talked with the three people who have been doing all of the extra work:

- Judy McAdoo-Pelton (operations manager)
- Jim Potts (organist, choir master, creator of our worship leaflets, and all around overseer of the building and contractors)
- Doug Mouncey (treasurer and all-around behind the scenes person at St. Paul's Church)

Judy, Jim and Doug, individually, each agreed to continue doing all the work they have been doing, which includes quite a bit more than is stated in any job description, with no extra pay, for the coming year, on the condition that the other two were still part of the team. Their faithfulness, close teamwork, and dedication is a special gift to St. Paul's.

But Doug's gift to St. Paul's is more than anything I could ever hope for, more than I have ever seen before. That's because Doug is a volunteer. Doug Mouncey has given freely, abundantly of his skills and energy to St. Paul's for many years, but especially during these past three years. Doug is often helping out, usually behind the scenes with no one watching, five or six days a week. This is a tremendous gift of love and faithfulness.

THANK YOU DOUG MOUNCEY!

Rebecca Livengood

Junior Warden's Report



Thanks to our Senior Warden Dick Pilgrim for sharing some of my Junior Warden duties this year so that I could spend time on the Open Doors Project. The Vestry Nominations Committee work went smoothly in his capable hands.

During the spring and summer I was able to lead some of the Congregational Sabbatical activities. The in-person meetings succeeded in helping parishioners stay connected with each other and the church. The Executive Ministry Team was instrumental in coordinating these activities.

Dick Pilgrim

Senior Warden's Report



Far and away the most significant part of my work for 2022 was to help ensure that the “congregational sabbatical” that was to operate during the absence of our rector for his sabbatical leave went smoothly. This meant establishing and training the leadership for the sabbatical small groups, creating the small groups made up of members of the parish, seeing that these groups met to share and report out their stories of ‘deep gladness’, and – with those group leaders – coming together to collate and interpret the findings. It now remains for work in 2023 to see how we use those findings to not only fine-tune our current ministries, but perhaps imagine new ministries as well. In the meantime, we like to think that getting people together during the rector’s absence in the relative downtime of the summer months helped our parishioners stay connected both to each other and to the church.

A number of other relevant activities also took place during the year, including continued work on updating our Bylaws and other rules and regulations, providing leadership for such formation activities as “SPC Readers”, helping with the nominations process, working closely with the rector to help set agendas for the Vestry and the church more generally, and filling in where needed for our absent rector during the summer.

Executive Ministry Team

—By: The Rev. Philip Major, Rector

About twelve years ago St. Paul’s created a team of representative leaders to supplement and support the leadership of the Vestry. It’s called the *Executive Ministry Team (EMT)*. By fall of 2022 the *Executive Ministry Team* included Dick Pilgrim (Sr. Warden), Rebecca Livengood (Jr. Warden), Doug Mouncey (Treasurer), Jeanne Avery (Formation Team Convener), David Morgan (Worship Ministry Team Convener), Betsy Elkins (Mission and Service Team Convener), Liz Belden-Handler (Community Fellowship Team Convener), Kira Dirghalli (Pastoral Care Team Leader), and the rector.

The primary task for the *Executive Ministry Team* in 2022 was to guide our congregation through our Congregational Sabbatical. The EMT had a role in planning and organizing the small group discussions that were held in May, June and July, and evaluating the results of those conversations.

Vestry

—By The Rev. Philip Major

Each month during 2022 our Vestry met to guide St. Paul's through many challenges and changes. Liz Belden-Handler, Tom Cantwell, Kira Dirghalli, Marion Greenhalgh, Carolyn Grieb, Michael Mach, Tiffany Miner, David Morgan, and Bill Pitcher served as members of the vestry in 2022. Rebecca Livengood and Dick Pilgrim led our vestry as wardens. Doug Mouncey served as Treasurer. Jenifer Breyer served as Clerk of the Vestry.

Each year our Vestry has a long list of duties:

- a. appointing members to serve in critical positions, such as convention delegates.
- b. approving bids for contracted services and repairs to the church
- c. overseeing the development and execution of church programs
- d. creating a budget for the following year.

During 2022 the Vestry began the process of entering into a ministry partnership with A Tiny Home for Good (ATHFG). The mission of A Tiny Home for Good is to end homelessness in Syracuse by providing safe, dignified, affordable housing to persons who have experienced homelessness. In March the Vestry created a task force of four persons to work with staff and board members of ATHFG. The task force met regularly through the spring and summer to develop a proposal for ATHFG to build, manage and provide resident services for ten single occupancy, efficiency apartments, a community room, kitchen, and offices on the second floor of the parish house. The Vestry approved a conceptual proposal presented by the joint task force at its September meeting.

The purpose of this partnership is to serve those in greatest need through wise use of our building. The project would occupy the entire second floor of the Parish House, with access provided by the elevator to be installed in the Open Doors project. St. Paul's would not be able to do this sort of project on our own.

A few sentences from the proposal approved by the Vestry give a fuller picture: We covenant in a joint mission to house and be in community with individuals who had experienced housing insecurity. Through this covenant, we will respond to the needs of our city with prophetic leadership and ground-breaking solutions. We commit to these values: equal dignity for all, hospitality, stability, and long-term relationships.

In this, and in many other ways, our Vestry leads St. Paul's in seeking and serving Christ in the people of our community.

St. Paul's Church
January - December 2022 (unreconciled; unaudited)

| | Actual | Budget | Variance from Budget | % of Budget | Comments |
|--|----------|----------|----------------------|-------------|---|
| <u>INCOME</u> | | | | | |
| Total Pledge & Plate Income | 147,606 | 141,204 | 6,402 | 104.53% | |
| Total Miscellaneous Donations | 17,616 | 5,000 | 12,616 | 352.32% | Memorials, FOM, Clergy Discretionary Fund, etc. |
| Total Program Donations | 15,822 | 1,200 | 14,622 | 1318.50% | Nan Dorr Fund, YMCA, Open Pantry, Cristosal |
| Total Earned Revenues | 33,559 | 22,385 | 11,174 | 149.92% | Rentals incl. Parking Lot |
| Total Other Income | 0 | 8,000 | -8,000 | 0.00% | Sanford Trust |
| Total Income | 214,603 | 177,789 | 36,814 | 120.71% | |
| <u>EXPENSES</u> | | | | | |
| Total Salaries & Related Expenses | 196,430 | 216,275 | -19,845 | 90.82% | part-time budgeted position was not filled |
| Total Pension Plan Contributions | 24,144 | 24,143 | 1 | 100.00% | |
| Total Employee Benefits | 25,959 | 29,932 | -3,973 | 86.73% | |
| Total Payroll Taxes | 11,350 | 13,674 | -2,324 | 83.00% | |
| Total Other Personnel Expenses | 9,079 | 7,500 | 1,579 | 121.05% | software, internet, accountants |
| Total Non Personnel Expenses | 14,373 | 12,200 | 2,173 | 117.81% | banking, altar, flowers, etc. |
| Total Copier Expenses | 5,514 | 5,500 | 14 | 100.25% | |
| Total Occupancy Expenses | 73,566 | 83,259 | -9,693 | 88.36% | utilities, insurance, taxes |
| Total Buildings & Grounds Expenses | 60,112 | 82,060 | -21,948 | 73.25% | contracted services, church repairs |
| Total Travel & Meetings Expense | 616 | 400 | 216 | 154.00% | |
| Total General Expenses | 49,535 | 49,535 | 0 | 100.00% | Diocesan assessment/support |
| Total Education Expenses | 234 | 3,000 | -2,766 | 7.80% | |
| Total Music Expenses | 2,324 | 3,776 | -1,452 | 61.55% | |
| Total Outreach Expenses | 8,516 | 1,100 | 7,416 | 774.18% | YMCA, Open Pantry, Cristosal, InterFaith Works |
| Total Pastoral Care Expenses | 36 | 300 | -264 | 12.00% | |
| Total Friends of Music Expenses | 4,727 | 0 | 4,727 | | |
| Total South Sudanese Expenses | 0 | 500 | -500 | 0.00% | |
| Total Clergy Discretionary Fund Expenses | 4,973 | 2,500 | 2,473 | 198.92% | |
| Total WOSP Expenses | 0 | 500 | -500 | 0.00% | |
| Total Advertising Expense | 75 | 0 | 75 | | |
| Total Expenses | 491,563 | 536,154 | -44,591 | 91.68% | |
| Net Operating Income | -276,960 | -358,365 | 81,405 | 77.28% | |
| Transfers from Endowment Fund | 225,000 | 364,284 | -139,284 | 61.76% | |

Financial Report for the Year 2022

—By: Doug Mouncey, Treasurer



Finance Committee David Ridings, Chair; Doug Mouncey, Treasurer; Jeff Averill, Tom Cantwell, Ron Ferguson, Rebecca Livengood, Dick Pilgrim; also attending Fr. Philip Major and Judy McAdoo-Pelton

Audit Committee Tom Cantwell, Chair; Jeff Averill, Carolyn Grieb, Susan Hawks (member of Plymouth Church), Tim Simmons; also attending Judy McAdoo-Pelton, Doug Mouncey

Early in 2022, we were saddened by the death of former Treasurer, Walley Francis. Walley's deep love for St. Paul's and wisdom that he brought to our financial discussions is deeply missed.

Adjacent to this narrative report is a summary of our income and expenses compared to our budget for the year.

INCOME

- We are grateful for the support of our members: Pledge & Plate income exceeded the budgeted amount.
- **Miscellaneous Donations:** for example, "loose plate" contributions on the first Sunday of each month, coupled with additional contributions, to the Clergy Discretionary Fund provide support of unique needs of individuals
- **Program Donations:** in addition to the generous support of individuals, kudos to Jim Doyle, Betsy Elkins, Doug Mouncey and Dick Pilgrim for preparing grant applications to support our Outreach programs such as the Open Pantry, Cristosal, and activities related to our small group gatherings and the work of our consultant during Fr. Philip's sabbatical
- **Earned Revenues:** undertaking the management of our parking lot proved to be the right decision... perhaps having parking available on Sunday mornings and when parishioners came for meetings and social events was as important as the favorable financial implications. These funds also reflect the increased use of St. Paul's by groups such as the Syracuse Friends of Chamber Music, Symphoria, and others
- **Other Income:** funds generated by the Sanford Trust are scheduled to be distributed to St. Paul's in early 2023

EXPENSES

- **Total Salaries & Related Expenses:** the anticipated part-time bookkeeper position was not filled. Staff members have assumed additional tasks and we are blessed with many parishioners who volunteer countless hours in the operations of St. Paul's. For example, we have wonderful "educational/formation" activities for children and adults, without any paid staff. And this is true across all facets of our parish life.
- **Buildings & Grounds Expenses:** there was a significant savings due to a decision to replace heating pipes in the church as needed rather than a complete replacement of the very old system
- **Total Outreach Expenses:** these expenses relate to designated gifts by parishioners (YMCA and Open Pantry) and grants received from Musicians for Mission (for the Open Pantry) and the Episcopal Diocese of Central New York (Open Pantry and Cristosal). Grant funds, in support of the Open Pantry, received through the federal Emergency Food & Shelter Program were paid directly to the grocery store. In-kind contributions of food and other items by our parishioners and members of the broader community serve as the most significant part of our Open Pantry work... it is not possible to put a dollar amount on that!

Continued on page 14

Treasurer's Report Continued from page 13

- **Transfers from Endowment Fund:** the Net Operating shortfall of approximately \$277,000 was covered by the Transfer from our Endowment Fund and funds that had accumulated in prior years in our checking account

In summary, the efforts of Judy McAdoo-Pelton and members of the Finance Committee continue to provide the highest quality of stewardship and oversight of our parish resources.

In closing, thank you to all our members for their continued support: financial, hours of volunteering, and, working on new avenues of support such as grants and partnerships with other organizations.

Respectfully submitted,
Douglas W. Mouncey, Treasurer



Leadership Retreat



Our Church Picnic, Blessing of the Animals & More



Coffee Hour Fun

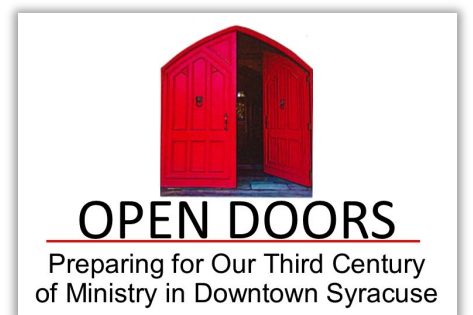


Open Doors Capital Campaign

—By Cathy Wolff

Last year I reported that, thanks to the generosity of so many members of St. Paul's, but most especially to David Ridings and the late Nancy Ridings for their challenge grant, as of December 29, 2021, the members of St. Paul's had donated or pledged a total of \$928,508 to the Open Doors Campaign!

At the start of 2022, we were looking forward to the final phases of the Capital Campaign – hosting the public launch of Open Doors at an in-person invitation only event on January 13th, sending solicitation letters to over 100 former members who make up St. Paul's Diaspora, and applying for additional grants.



The Diaspora letters were sent in January and raised \$24,325. Research provided by Partners for Sacred Places led to a couple of additional grant applications, neither of which was successful.

Thanks to the omicron variant of covid, the public launch had to be postponed yet again, this time until April 7th. The third time was the charm, and our guests, including leaders of arts organizations, funders, diocesan representatives, business people, Mayor Ben Walsh and other politicians, were suitably impressed. Tours were offered to small groups of guests as they arrived, with a rotating group of tour guides including Cathy Wolff, Betsy Elkins, Tom Cantwell and David Morgan. The Community Fellowship Ministry Team offered delicious refreshments, setting up small tables at the front of the nave. A brief formal presentation featured remarks from David Ridings, the Rev. Philip Major and Cathy Wolff, followed by the Open Doors video. Special thanks goes to Ieva Doyle for coordinating and managing the event.

Most of the over 30 St. Paul's volunteers who have worked tirelessly on the Open Doors Capital Campaign gathered in person for the very first time to celebrate the success of our internal campaign on May 16th at Drumlin's Bistro 1926. Our internal campaign has raised far more than was projected – \$982,300 as of December 31st. This is due to the collective work of all our volunteers who served on the Steering Committee and seven task forces. All were recognized for their efforts that evening and enjoyed each other's company and the opportunity to break bread together.

Follow through with the guests of the public launch event has been put on hold, pending receipt of bids from contractors that will give us a better idea of how much we need to complete the project. Unfortunately, the bid phase has been delayed (see Rebecca Livengood's Project Management Report).

Meanwhile, much preparation work has been organized to clear the way for construction when it is ready to begin. This has also provided some unexpected fundraising opportunities. In March, Betsy Elkins headed up an effort to raise money from furniture and kitchen items that needed to be moved out in preparation for construction. The pop-up rummage sale and silent auction brought in \$1,393. A rather moth-eaten rug brought us a surprising \$8,000 at an external auction. The Bill Elkins "Lost My Lease" Painting Sale in November was a huge success – and provided a most generous donation of \$4,296 to Open Doors. We owe Bill and his "agent" Betsy a huge thank you!

As of December 31, 2022, St. Paul's has raised a total of over \$1.83 million for Open Doors! We eagerly await the receipt of contractor bids to know if more work needs to be done to cover the real costs of construction.

Open Doors Project Management

—By Rebecca Livengood and Beth Crawford, Crawford & Stearns



The Project Management Task Force is charged with planning and administering the construction phase of the project. While the Task Force has accomplished a lot in the past year, we are just now about to go out to bid to find a general contractor for the project. Here is what we have been up to:

Resubdivision: Approval from the City of Syracuse Planning Commission to combine the parking lot, Parish House, and Church into one lot.

Landmark Preservation Board: Approval of the work on the exterior of the Parish House. A second approval was required when we added replacement window work for several non-historic windows on the west side of the building.

Bidding: To insure quality work and meet the requirements of several of our funders we will advertise our project publicly and by invitation. Bidders will receive the Bid Documents (see below), be able to tour the building, and have opportunities to have their questions answered. There will be a deadline for submission and a public opening of the proposals. The lowest price from a responsible general contractor will be selected in consultation with our consultants and our NYS grants representative.

Bid Documents: Prepared by Crawford & Stearns, our architect, the Contract Documents and Project Manual has everything a general contractor will need to make a competitive bid: detailed drawings, technical specifications, and our insurance requirements.

HazMat: The Hazardous Materials specifications to identify areas needing removal have now been completed by our consultant and will be including in the Bid Documents. The actual HazMat removals will be part of the construction contract.

Legal: We engaged a lawyer to review and prepare contracts, and work with us on the necessary insurance requirements that protect the church's interests.

Clearing out: The Task Force identified excess furniture, equipment and materials for disposal or sale, to be approved by the vestry. This process will continue through the whole project.

Finances: Once we have accepted the bids and signed a contract for construction the Task Force will work with the Finance Committee to prepare a final budget for the project. If needed we will secure a bridge loan and manage incremental advances from our funders based on construction work completed.

At this time last year we thought that we would be finished by now, but Covid-19 and circumstances out of our control intervened. As we move forward, we now anticipate to be out to bid in January 2023 and shortly thereafter we'll host a pre-bid walk through with bidders. With a five-week bid period, the bids would be due the end of February. The Task Force will then prepare a comparative bid tally, review the bids, consult with NYS Parks, check references, submit the bidder's MWBE utilization plan to NYS for approval, and finally make a recommendation of a contractor to the Vestry. If all that goes smoothly then we anticipate that the execution of a construction contract between the Church and the selected contractor can be complete in March and construction could commence in April. We will work with the selected contractor on a construction phase schedule anticipating completion in the early fall. The construction period will be based on the contractor's staffing and labor, availability of materials, etc. The Task Force will then work on project close-out paperwork and final grant reimbursements in October and November 2023.

Mission and Service Ministry Team

—By Betsy Elkins, Convener

Many Mission and Service activities continued as usual this year. While the Caring Place continued to be paused, we hope that it may be resumed when we secure more volunteers. We regularly offered food to our downtown neighbors through the Open Pantry. Our relationship with our neighbors at the YMCA continues. We continued our support of the work of Interfaith Works. We provided a meal at the Samaritan Center 3 times this year and several St. Paul's people volunteer regularly (Kira Dirghalli, Carolyn Grieb, Doug Mouncey and Betsy Elkins.) Look for other mission related articles in this annual report.

Some additional highlights of our Mission and Service work this year included:

- Offering suggestions to our parishioners for how we could help Ukraine.
- Participating in the Sacred Spaces Open House sponsored by the NY Landmarks Conservancy in July.
- Receiving a Global Ministry grant from the Diocese in support of our work with Cristosal.
- Embarking on an exciting partnership with A Tiny Home for Good. We will eventually provide the second floor of the parish house to this group to build and manage tiny apartments for those seeking dignified affordable housing.

Members of the Mission and Service Ministry Team which oversees all these activities related to ministry of mission and service include Doug Mouncey, Kira Dirghalli, David Morgan, Jeanne Avery, Jim Doyle, Debbie Bogan and Betsy Elkins, convener. We welcome additional members and energy as we seek to serve others and care for God's creation. Consider this quote from Anne Lamott in relation to the mission and service work at St. Paul's: "...pray, take care of people, be actively grateful for your blessings, give away your money..."



Earth Day Clean Up



YMCA Ministry



Serving at the Samaritan Center



Our Open Pantry



The Caring Place and Open Pantry

—By Jim Doyle

“Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink?’ (Matthew 25:37)

THE CARING PLACE

C OVID-19 and its variants continue to have significant impacts on our world, on members of St. Paul’s and our Downtown Neighbors. The continuing threat from COVID-19 variants meant that since the Spring of 2020, The Caring Place remains suspended for the health and safety of everyone. We are also trying to balance the impacts of the expected Open Doors construction on our ministry. In the meantime, members of The Caring Place and our Downtown neighbors are serving Christ in our neighbor through The Open Pantry.

THE OPEN PANTRY

The Open Pantry is an outdoor “cabinet” that is open to passers-by on a 24/7 basis to Downtown neighbors who are in need of non-perishable food items. It is located east of the Fayette Street Church Entrance. The Open Pantry was opened in August 2020 as a way to keep connected with our downtown neighbors that we met through The Caring Place. Since the first day it was stocked with its first food, The Open Pantry was an immediate success with our Downtown neighbors. Here’s some numbers to consider today... 22, 9 and 2.



22 – Each day, 22 downtown neighbors visit The Open Pantry. That’s right, every day more than 22 of our downtown neighbors come to The Open Pantry seeking food and/or personal hygiene items.

9 – Each day, more than 9 households receive basic food and/or personal items offered by The Open Pantry.

2 – Each day, more than 2 of our downtown neighbors donate to The Open Pantry by placing their items directly in The Open Pantry cabinet. Sometimes, these donors will place an unneeded item into The Open Pantry and then receive a needed item.

Thank you to all who are helping to serve Christ in our neighbors through The Open Pantry. Since The Open Pantry began, YOU have fed our downtown neighbors every day. The Open Pantry has real and meaningful impacts on our Downtown residents.

The Open Pantry would not be possible without the persistence, planning and execution of Betsy Elkins. Thank you, Betsy, for your faithfulness.

The Open Pantry is open every day because of daily restocking. Thank you, everyone who daily restocks the shelves of The Open Pantry including: Kira Dirghalli, Fr. Philip, Barbara Bell, Liz Belden-Handler, David Webb, Dick Pilgrim, Carolyn Grieb, Jeanne Chu, Doug Mouncey, Betsy Elkins, David Morgan and Sue Wright.

Wanted: Can you help The Open Pantry by serving as a shelf restocker? Please consider helping The Open Pantry in this way. Betsy Elkins is the coordinator of the re-stocker schedule. Please contact me or Betsy to express your interest. I have found it's a real blessing to restock the shelves.

What comes next? Recently, The Open Pantry has experimented with hanging an article of clothing on the line outside of the cabinet. So, far, this has been well received by our downtown neighbors.

The Open Pantry is a way that we can faithfully respond to Jesus' call to Mission in Matthew 25 to provide food and drink to Christ in our neighbor. St. Paul's members AND our downtown neighbors are only just beginning to find ways to serve Christ in our neighbor!

YMCA Ministry

—By Debbie Bogan, Parish Liaison

St. Paul's YMCA ministry was started by Deacon Chuck Stewart in 2015. We began this venture serving a Christmas holiday lunch to the YMCA senior residents. The ministry evolved into other areas, and we became close friends with our downtown YMCA neighbors.

Continuing activities with the thirty senior residents include:

- Birthday and get well cards.
- December season greetings, Valentine and Easter cards made by St Paul's Sunday school.
- Delivery of plants at Easter and Christmas.
- Lunch, ice cream and coffee socials at Downtown Syracuse restaurants.
- Gathering of cleaning supplies and bedding for the residents of the men's residence.
- St. Paul's Little House Open Pantry has been a source of supplemental food for some of the YMCA residents.



YMCA Social at Recess Coffee

Based on the cards of thanks that we receive, we know that our relationship with these individuals is extremely important to them.

Participants (Volunteers and Financial Donors): George and Marcia Anderson, Anonymous Angels, Jeanne Avery and the St. Paul's Sunday School children and volunteers, Betsy Barker, Debbie Bogan, Ruth Brown, Kira Dirghalli, Betsy Elkins, Mike Goins, Sophie Harris, DJ Igelsrud, Charlie and Maisie Johnson, Mary Hastings, David Morgan, Doug Mouncey, Barry and Mary Pickard, Neva and Richard Pilgrim, Joan Sammons and Chet W.

The Parish Choir and Music Program

—By Jim Potts, Organist & Choirmaster

Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, the full choir was not in residence the entire year. During that time the quartet included Macie Eighmey, Cassidy Chappini, Adam Beckwith and Tyler Eighmey. The quartet sang Evensong for the First Sunday of Lent and a recital was presented by Glenn Kime and Christopher Dranchek following the service.

The full choir was finally able to regroup and returned Palm Sunday (fully masked) and sang until Trinity Sunday and then went on holiday until September.

We hosted and streamed the Arthur Poister Competition in Organ Playing in June.

We presented Choral Evensong for All Saints' followed by an Organ Recital presented by members of the American Guild of Organists, Syracuse Chapter.

I am, especially, thankful for the support and encouragement of our parishoners of the music program during this difficult time, and one of transition.



Lessons and Carols

Friends of Music

—By Jim Potts, Organist & Choirmaster

The kind and generous contributions to this fund have again allowed us to enrich our liturgies and musical events, though truncated, again this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

This fund contributed to Evensongs and the recitals that followed. The Friends of Music also contributed to guest instrumentalists throughout the year.

A number of choir members led by Marion Greenhalgh offered our annual Christmas wreath sale to benefit the Friends of Music – our thanks to Marion for leading this endeavor in this tough year! Our thanks to parishioners and friends who supported the sale.

Contributions to this fund in support of our musical offerings are always greatly appreciated.



A group of choir members spent the months before resumption of choir playing handbells, and made this musical offering at Palm Sunday.

The Worship Ministry Team

—By David Morgan, Convener

The Worship Ministry Team has continued to ensure that an experience of praise and worship remains a mainstay of St. Paul's. While we all continued to respond to the COVID pandemic, this past year we rejoiced that our chancel choir returned and we all were freed from mandatory face masks. (Of course, we will continue to follow county and diocesan guidelines as they evolve.) We also have learned that the ability to stream our 10 o'clock service online has enabled us to stay connected to current St. Paul's members, and new members. We are excited to open our sanctuary once again to outside musical groups who recognize what we offer to them, us and our region.

As a Ministry Team, we have made an intentional effort to collaborate with all the different ministries of St. Paul's that inform and enhance our worship and that has proved to be helpful in terms of planning and communication.



Christmas Eve Service

Pastoral Care

—By Kira Dirghalli

It has been a busy year with many pastoral duties. I am grateful for the phone calls people made directly to me about their health issues or on behalf of a family member or personal friend. I reach out to each person who shares a concern, pray for that person and keep in touch by phone, text, Email or snail mail. I rely on God's guidance for his wisdom to give me the words and thoughts I need to bring comfort.



Father Philip and I work closely together. We plan the pastoral care meetings and hold them every 2-3 months. I communicate with each member of the pastoral care team about an upcoming meetings. Most of the members of the pastoral care team have been members of the St. Paul family for many years. I seek their advice and more often ask them to be in touch with those requesting prayers. One of our relatively new projects is to share sending birthday cards to members of our parish family. We take turns on a monthly bases.

Prayer always starts and ends our meetings. The following is a message of hope:

We seek, when facing life's inevitable storms, protection and reassurance. We turn to our faith to sustain us, to ease our fears and worries. The year ahead will contain storms for sure, as well as blessings we can only imagine. Through it all, a God of comfort and assurance, will guide us and always love us.

Flower Guild

—By Marion Greenhalgh & Jim Potts, co-chairs

The Flower Guild, a subset of the Altar Guild, selects, purchases and arranges flowers primarily for St. Paul's high altar; and for various other altars, locations, as needed, throughout the year. Special requests for memorials, weddings, funerals, etc., can be made as we arrange flowers to honor loved ones and their special events. We are also grateful for the added individuals who assist the Guild in decorating the church for our special Easter and Christmas services. This help makes it possible to celebrate these special liturgies in great beauty!



For funds we partially depend on donations given in thanksgiving for family and friends for special events, or in memory of loved ones.

The Guild usually uses weekly rotating teams of 1 to 2 people to select, purchase and make the flower arrangements throughout the year. Flowers are usually purchased at Best in Bloom off Thompson Road, or at a grocery store, such as Wegmans. For the big holidays we embellish our supply with flowers/plants from Chuck Hafner's and/or other local nurseries/farms.

If you are interested in helping us with this very rewarding ministry, please join us! We will be glad to work with you, and desperately need new members. Our current members are:

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| Harriet Averill | Betsy Elkins |
| Marion Greenhalgh, Co-Chair | Liz Belden-Handler |

Usher Ministry

—By Ieva Doyle & Mary Hastings

Those who greet and welcome people as they join us for worship services at St. Paul's every Sunday and on other special occasions often are the first to interact with members, friends, visitors and guests who come through our doors.

A big thank-you to the following people who have graciously served as ushers over the past year and been such faithful witnesses to God's welcoming presence among us!

Jenifer Breyer
Philip Buffham
Willson Cummer
Ieva Doyle (head usher, 10 a.m. services)
Jim Doyle
David Garvey
Carolyn Grieb
Ellyn Hass
Mary Hastings (head usher, 8 a.m. services)
DJ Igelsrud
Harry Lambright
Tiffany Miner
Doug Mouncey
David Ridings
Derina Samuel
Tim Simmons
Jean Stanton
Roy Thomas
Greg Tuttle

Altar Guild—Behind the Scenes

—By Julia Fine, Director of the Altar Guild

On the morning of December 10, six people ventured out of their cozy warm beds to brave a very cold weather of 22 degrees. Their mission: to participate in the annual cleanup of the Altar Guild.

Every year, we spruce up the chancel and sanctuary areas, clean and polish the brass and silver utensils. I often receive compliments about how beautiful the Altar looks. I would confess to them that there are six people involved in the maintenance and set up of the Altar; they are "The Unsung Heroes". The changes to the colors of the frontals each season is a predetermined process which I follow. In his weekly column, Father Philip wrote about the reasoning for the purple color during Advent.



The Altar Guild ministry is not for the faint of heart. It entails a detailed process; and luckily, our members possess that unique ability to work through the details. Ruth Brown said it best *"I like serving on the Altar Guild because I feel like I am doing God's work"*. I couldn't have said it better.

The Altar Guild functions behind the scenes of every worship service; whether we are celebrating Christmas, New Year's Eve, Easter, Weddings or celebrating the life of a dearly departed, if there is a Eucharist, the Altar Guild is involved.

Our current Altar Guild Members are: Ruth Brown, DJ Igelsrud, Nancy Lambright, Harry Lambright, David Morgan, Julia Fine. If you are interested in being a member of the Altar Guild, feel free to contact me or Father Philip. If you enjoy a detailed process, you will fit right in.

South Sudanese Congregation at St. Paul's

—By Michael Yuot Mach

Our Sudanese members began worshipping at St. Paul's in 2004. The original members of the congregation were called "The Lost Boys", as we were all young men and teenagers who had come to Syracuse as refugees from the civil war in Sudan. Prior to our arrival, we had lived in the refugee camp at Kakuma, Kenya for five years or more.

Our Sudanese members are led in worship by two lay leaders, John Mawut Ayor and Moses Koor Joh. We are represented on our vestry by Michael Yuot Mach who leads the Sudanese Congregation Council with Angeth Marial Rong. The five families that are the core of the worshipping congregation host one or two community events for the broader Sudanese community each year. In January, we hosted a New Year's Party for the community. This is an especially important event in the Sudanese community. At New Year's we also celebrate the birthdays of our members who were born in Sudan, since precise records were not kept at the time of their birth.

Our other primary work during 2022 was to engage in conversations with other Sudanese from the Episcopal tradition in order to seek reconciliation. In support of the reconciliation of divisions in our community, our Vestry signed a letter at its October meeting affirming that St. Paul's welcomes all Sudanese to worship and participate in activities at St. Paul's.

Buildings and Grounds

—By William Pitcher, Chairman of Buildings & Grounds

With the Open Doors project focused on Parish House repairs and improvements, B&G committee has focused on operations and maintenance outside of the OD construction area.



- In the choir room, a new heat pump unit was funded by the Nan Dorr grant to provide air conditioning and heating. Previously it was very difficult to control temperatures during choir rehearsals.
- The main boiler of the church required maintenance. To improve steam flow in the system, rust was flushed from the condensate lines, and operating temperatures of the boiler were adjusted. This work was less expensive than the contractor's previous proposal to replace all of the condensate piping. As a result, we now have adequate steam flow to all radiators, better temperature control, and improved energy efficiency.
- The small roof between the church's bell tower and the chancel roof was replaced. A roof leak had caused some plaster deterioration of the interior wall. We are waiting to see if this ends the falling plaster dust, or if in the future, it will be necessary to repair of the plaster and gold-leaf.
- During Fall Clean Up, in anticipation of reduced storage space after Open Doors construction, various groups cleanout their items that were no longer useful. The wooden rainbow doors were brought in for winter storage, and, with the aid of a motorized lift, dead branches were trimmed from the trees along E. Fayette Street.
- In anticipation of Open Doors changes, new storage shelves to the Open Pantry were installed in the church vestibule.

For next fiscal year, 2023, two projects recommended by B&G have been approved by the Finance Committee:

- The south aisle of the church has had a slow leak over the baptismal font area. The copper roof was damaged by falling ice many years ago, and the holes were patched with asphalt. But that hasn't stopped the leak. The proposed repairs will remove the damaged section of copper roof and install a new copper panel.



Some of the hard working crew from our church clean up day

- Recent changes in the Onondaga County Plumbing code require all building owners to install backflow-preventer valves. These valves prevent contamination of the public water supply, when the water main loses pressure during water main break.

Work is proceeding on converting one of the offices on the first floor of the Parish House into an archive room for church documents.

Community Fellowship Ministry Team

—By *Liz Belden-Handler*

The Community Fellowship Ministry Team shall, in consultation with Father Philip and other relevant staff, help plan, implement, and oversee all activities related to internal and external community matters such as, fellowship/hospitality, community-building, welcoming, and receptions. This past year has again had us limiting our ministry due to Covid19, but we have been able to resume coffee hours after the 8:00 and 10:00 services, provide funeral receptions, and even have a few potluck dinners. We are hoping to be able to have receptions and parish dinners in the coming year, interrupted by our Open Doors renovation, but started back up afterwards! We'd love to have you join us.

Our members are: Elizabeth Belden Handler and Tiffany Miner, co-chairs, Margaret Sherwin, Marcia Anderson, Jeanne Chu, Julia Fine, Laurie Sanderson, Barbara Bell, Betsy Elkins, and Sophie Harris.

Communications Committee

—By *Marion Greenhalgh, Chair*

The St. Paul's Communication Committee was formed to help spread our word externally and to improve communication internally. Ideas and input are always welcome.

Father Philip and Judy send out weekly EBlasts to member emails to keep everyone informed and to provide information on services. Included in the Eblast is an initial informative paragraph, followed by connections to the Service Leaflet, Readings, Sermons, the Courier, and any other document pertinent to the week or month. St. Paul's is also on social media with Facebook and YouTube accounts. Please check them out and share with friends and neighbors! Judy has developed many helpful forms in order to notify all of our people/committees involved in upcoming events, especially special events/services, and what responsibilities need to be addressed.

Judy developed a 'Welcome' package to be handed out by our Ushers to potential new parishioners. Banners have been made and hung outside to attract people walking or driving by. Because of COVID, our services are now live-streamed and accessible through our website or YouTube account.

Barbara Bell is our external correspondent. She has done a great job getting press releases out to the papers, radio stations, Diocese, social media and television stations. If you have a church event you want advertised or need a press release for, please contact Barbara.

Members of the Communication Committee are: Father Philip, Judy McAdoo-Pelton, Marion Greenhalgh, Barbara Bell, Betsy Elkins, Mark King, and Roy Thomas. Anyone interested in joining our Committee would be most welcome, especially anyone from the 8 am and/or the Sudanese services. Please talk to any committee member. We meet sporadically, or as needed. Any suggestions are welcome.

Formation Ministry Team

—By Jeanne Avery, Formation Ministry Team Convener

Bible Study at Café Kubal; Centering Prayer; SPC Readers, Feminist Theology, and our Children's Ministry are ongoing programs of the Formation Ministry Team. The website plus the monthly calendar has additional information.

The Kiosk at the Fayette St entrance is devoting one section to the programs of the Spiritual Renewal Center. The Center is a gift in our community and welcomes all to participate in their programs. As new promotional material is printed, St. Paul's will be displaying it.

In 2023, we will have several day retreats. There will be occasional short presentations on society concerns during Sunday morning fellowship.

Please check the website, the Courier and our weekly newsletter for more information.

Bible Study

—By The Rev. Philip Major

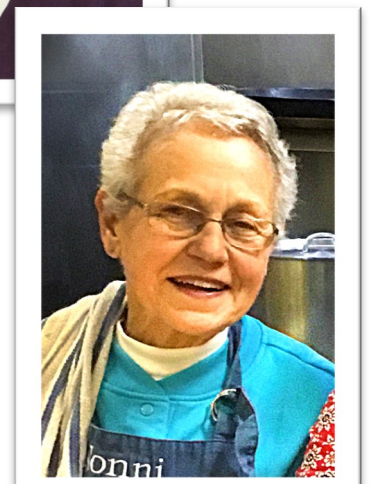
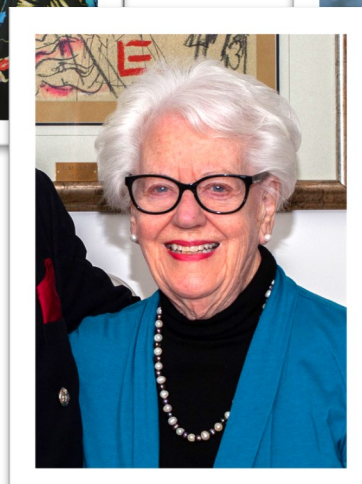
St. Paul's Bible Study meets weekly during the Fall, Winter, and Spring. In 2022 we met via Zoom through the Winter and Spring. In September we returned to meeting in person. It is good to be able to be together again, and to share some time for fellowship. Several new members have joined the group.

Visitors and occasional attenders are always welcome. No preparation is needed and all materials are provided. We meet most Mondays at noon at Café Kubal on South Salina Street, two blocks from St. Paul's.

Office Volunteers

We are so thankful to Liz Handler, Kira Dirghalli and Carolyn Grieb who assist with various mailings. Wendy Jones writes thank you notes for special donations.

We couldn't do what we do without them all!



Feminist Theology

—By Laurie Sanderson

Feminist Theology is in its 23rd year! Since Covid time we continue to meet via Zoom and we are grateful to Derina Samuel for being our Zoom operator. A plus to this is people who have moved away are able to join, such as Barbara Shaffer and Marilyn Sharron. Our meetings are usually the third Tuesday of the month with some flexibility, and we explore books, articles, and sometimes guest speakers. We continue to welcome new members, from within St. Paul's and the greater community.

Children's Formation

—By Jeanne Avery and Ellie Major



The Godly Play program held in the Chapel has been in place for 16 months. We have not increased our number of children from day 1 but neither have we decreased. We struggle with weekly attendance but the doors are open with a lesson planned for each week. We are using Godly Play and supplementing with the lectionary based curriculum Whole People of God. We had an Advent event of December 4. Focusing and decorating the symbols of Peace and the Jesse Tree. We had seven children and five adults- busy every minute. The props of Old Testament stories that have a symbol in the Jesse Tree were placed on the altar rail cushions. (Creation-Ten Commandments- the Arc- People of God etc). Connor showed the children each one saying what it was and “this is what we learn about in Sunday School. It warmed our hearts.

We are anxiously awaiting the return of Carolyn Grieb to the Chapel. Besides loving her she is our “go to person” in making everything run smoothly each Sunday.



In Memory of Those We Lost in 2022



Walley Francis



Beverly Bolton



Harold Brown Jr.



Sue Hoffman



Goody Cooke



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Syracuse

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