



St. Paul's Brookfield

242nd Annual Parish Meeting
Brookfield, Connecticut

February 1, 2026

2025
Annual
Report

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<u>Current Vestry</u>		<u>Term expires, January of</u>
Warden	Lois Hunt	2026
Warden (<i>Acting</i>)	Dan Bacon	2027 *
Clerk	David Williams	2026 *
Treasurer	Chuck Allen	2026 *
Vestry Member	Beth Beck	2026
Vestry Member	Bill Bennett	2026
Vestry Member	Bob Picheco	2026
Vestry Member	JoAnn Hornak	2027
Vestry Member	Mike Kirner	2027
Vestry Member	Ned Marcalus	2027
Vestry Member	Bill Schrull	2027
Vestry Member	Jeff Chowanec	2028
Vestry Member	Geoff Dent	2028
Vestry Member	Diane Peterson	2028
Delegate to Convention	Cathy Schrull	2026 *
Delegate to Convention	Joe Bernardo	2027 *
Alternate Del. to Convention	Dorothy Crocker	2025 *
Alternate Del. to Convention	David Szen	2028 *

**AGENDA FOR SAINT PAUL’S ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
FEBRUARY 1, 2026**

PRAYER

READING OF THE ROLL OF MEMBERS ENTITLED TO VOTE - By the Parish Clerk
(Unless it shall be voted to dispense with the reading)

**DECLARATION OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING AS BEING ORGANIZED
FOR BUSINESS**

**MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 28,
2024**

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND VESTRY CHAIRPERSONS

1. Warden – Term of Two Years through January, 2028
2. Warden – Term of One Years through January, 2027
3. Parish Clerk – Term of One Year through January, 2027
4. Treasurer – Term of One Year through January, 2027
5. Three Vestry Persons – Term of Three Years Each through January, 2029
6. Delegate to Convention - Term of Three Years through January, 2029

APPOINTMENTS BY THE PRIEST-IN-CHARGE

1. Collector – Carol Gurski (Record and Deposit Weekly Offerings)
2. Financial Secretaries – Carol Gurski, Linda Bennett, Diane Simone (Keeps Records of Parishioners’ Support)

APPOINTMENTS BY THE PRIEST-IN-CHARGE

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1. Acolytes | - | Grady Anrico, Bill Bennett, Joe Bernardo, Jim Castronova, JoAnn Hornak, Mike Kirner, Emily Perry (verger), Lilly Perry, Taylor Sarver, Joanne Siergiej, Polly Sorrentino, Pam Szen |
| 2. Auditor | - | Richard Mercado, CPA |
| 3. Adult Christian Education Coordinators | - | Dan Bacon, Dorothy Crocker, David Williams |
| 4. Carillonneur | - | David Szen |
| 5. Coffee Hour | - | Beth Beck (Coordinator),
Ann & Dave Allen, Mary & Chuck Allen, Gretchen & Vito Barbieri, |

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**AGENDA FOR SAINT PAUL'S ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
FEBRUARY 1, 2026**

(Continued from page 3)

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|-----|--|---|--|
| 6. | Director of Music, Organist and Choirmaster- | - | Beth & John Beck, Linda & Bill Bennett, George & Eve Blass, Amy Bondeson-Boyce, Sandra Chadwick, Dot & Darin Crocker, Heidi & Bob Duckett, Mary Beth & John Durkin, Monique Gordon, Karen & Rob Greeley, JoAnn Hornak, Tim Huber, Pam Koniecki, Kagan & Max Kronberg, Raegan LaBrake, Cindy Maier, Brittany & Ned Marcalus, Heather Melody, Jim Miller, Vivian Namale, Emily Perry, Nancy Rekart, Marilyn & Joe Roginski, Joyce & John Sarver, Joanne Siergiej, Alice & Bruce Simon, Polly Sorrentino, Laura & Ron Switzer, Pam & David Szen, Mary & Lyndon Thomas, Amy, Sophia & Tim Tilford, Brian White with Boy Scout Troop #5 |
| 7. | Fellowship and Hospitality Coordinator | - | Kirsten Peterson |
| 8. | Greeters / Ushers | - | Beth Beck |
| 9. | Historian | - | Pam and David Szen, Coordinators Ann & Dave Allen, Vito Barbieri, Bill Bennett, Jeff Chowanec, Mike Kirner, Cindy Maier, Brittany & Ned Marcalus, Joyce & John Sarver, Ron Switzer. |
| 10. | Lay Readers | - | David Szen |
| 11. | Lectors/Intercessors | - | Joe Bernardo, Jim Castronova, Michael Chengeri, Jeff Chowanec, Dorothy Crocker, JoAnn Hornak, Tim Huber, Mike Kirner, Lisa Richardson, Joanne Siergiej, Bruce Simon, Pam Szen, Lyndon Thomas. Vito Barbieri, Bill Bennett, Joe Bernardo, Jim Castronova, Michael Chengeri, Jeff Chowanec, Maureen Costello, Larry Creagh, Dorothy Crocker, John Durkin, Toni Foster, Barbara Gallo, Monique Gordon, Deanne Hobson, Ray Hofbauer, Joann Hornak, Tim Huber, Michael |

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**AGENDA FOR SAINT PAUL’S ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
FEBRUARY 1, 2026**

(Continued from page 4)

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|-----|-------------------------------------|---|
| | | Kirner, Isa Kronberg, Cindy Maier, Ned Marcalus, Jim Miller, Emily Perry, Mary Perry, Diane Peterson, Bob Picheco, Lisa Richardson, Jack Roush, James Sarver, Joanne Siergiej, Bruce Simon, Mark Stirling, Pamela Szen, Lyndon Thomas, Emily Yurcisin. |
| 12. | Memorial Garden Financial Secretary | - Mary Beth Durkin |
| 13. | Mission Chairpersons | - Angela Haselwood, Donald Winkley |
| 14. | Prayer Chain Coordinator | - JoAnn Hornak, Walter Von Egidy |
| 15. | Prayer Servant Ministry | - JoAnn Hornak, Coordinator.
Bill Bennett, Joan Boehm, Jim Castronova, Jeff Chowanec, Darin Crocker, Dot Crocker, Chris Goodman, Carol Gurski, Brittany Marcalus, Jim Miller, Barbara Mullen, Mary Perry, Helen Picheco, Bill Schrull, Kathy Whipple, and David Williams |
| 16. | Sunday School Administrator | - Kagan Kronberg |

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE – (Note: The Budget for 2026 is set by action of the Vestry; therefore, no action is required at the Annual Parish Meeting.)

REPORTS OF THE WARDENS

SPECIAL REPORTS

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

REPORT OF THE PRIEST-IN-CHARGE

NEXT ANNUAL PARISH MEETING DATE – January 24, 2027

ADJOURNMENT – (Requires a motion to adjourn; followed by a definite vote.)

**MINUTES OF
SAINT PAUL'S CHURCH ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
JANUARY 26, 2025**

OPENING AND PRAYER – The 241st Annual Parish Meeting of Saint Paul's Church, Brookfield, was held in the church sanctuary and opened with prayer by Lois Hunt at 9:20 am. George Stowell opened the meeting with welcoming comments and led the meeting (Warden).

READING OF THE ROLL OF MEMBERS ENTITLED TO VOTE – A motion was made, seconded and approved to dispense with the reading of the roll of members entitled to vote.

DECLARATION OF THE 241st ANNUAL PARISH MEETING AS BEING ORGANIZED FOR BUSINESS – So declared by David Williams, Clerk of the Annual Parish Meeting.

MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 28th 2024 – A motion was made and seconded to approve but not read aloud said Minutes as circulated.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND VESTRY CHAIRPERSONS – Clerk David Williams presented the following slate from the nominating committee:

<u>Position</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>To Year</u>	<u>Nominee</u>
Warden	2 Years	2027	George Stowell
Clerk	1 Year	2026	David Williams
Treasurer	1 Year	2026	Chuck Allen
Three Vestry Persons	3 Years	2028	Jeff Chowanec
	3 Years	2028	Geoff Dent
	3 Years	2028	Diane Peterson
Alternate Delegate to Convention	3 Years	2028	Dorothy Crocker
Alternate Delegate to Convention	3 Years	2028	David Szen

Being no further nominations and nominations being closed, a motion was made, seconded and approved directing the clerk to cast one vote electing each nominee.

APPOINTMENTS BY THE PRIEST-IN-CHARGE

1. Almoner – Lois Hunt (Acts in the absence of the Priest)
2. Collector – Carol Gurski (Record and Deposit Weekly Offerings)
3. Financial Secretaries – Carol Gurski, Linda Bennett, Diane Simone (Keeps Records of Parishioners' Support)

APPOINTMENTS BY THE PRIEST-IN-CHARGE

1. Acolytes - Bill Bennett, Joe Bernardo, Jim Castronova, JoAnn Hornak, Mike Kirner, Taylor Sarver, Joanne Siergiej, Polly Sorrentino, Pam Szen
2. Auditor - Richard Mercado, CPA
3. Adult Christian Education Coordinators - Dan Bacon, Dorothy Crocker
4. Carillonneur - David Szen

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**MINUTES OF
SAINT PAUL'S CHURCH ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
JANUARY 26, 2025**

(Continued from page 6)

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 5. Coffee Hour | - | Mary & Chuck Allen
(Coordinators),
Ann & Dave Allen, Julie & Paul
Astbury, Gretchen & Vito Barbieri,
Beth & John Beck, Linda & Bill
Bennett, George & Eve Blass, Amy
Bondeson-Boyce, Pat Brought,
Sandra Chadwick, Jack Collins,
Dot & Darin Crocker, Heidi & Bob
Duckett, Mary Beth & John
Durkin, Monique Gordon, Karen &
Rob Greeley, Christine & Gordy
Hiltz, JoAnn Hornak, Tim Huber,
Pam Koniecki, Kagan & Max
Kronberg, Raegan LaBrake, Cindy
Maier, Chris MacMillan, Brittany
& Ned Marcalus, Heather Melody,
Jim Miller, Nancy Rekart, Marilyn
& Joe Roginski, Joyce & John
Sarver, Joanne Siergiej, Alice &
Bruce Simon, Polly Sorrentino,
Laura & Ron Switzer, Pam &
David Szen, Mary & Lyndon
Thomas, Brian White with
Boy Scout Troop #5 |
| 6. Director of Music, Organist and Choirmaster- | | Kirsten Peterson |
| 7. Fellowship and Hospitality Coordinator | | Mary Allen |
| 8. Greeters / Ushers | - | Pam and David Szen, Coordinators
Ann & Dave Allen, Vito Barbieri,
Bill Bennett, Jeff Chowanec, Mike
Kirner, Cindy Maier, Brittany &
Ned Marcalus, Joyce & John
Sarver, Ron Switzer. |
| 9. Historian | - | David Szen |
| 10. Lay Readers | - | Joe Bernardo, Jim Castronova,
Michael Chengeri, Jeff Chowanec,
Dorothy Crocker, JoAnn Hornak,
Tim Huber, Mike Kirner, Joanne
Siergiej, Bruce Simon, Pam Szen,
Lyndon Thomas. |
| 11. Lectors/Intercessors | - | Paul Astbury, Vito Barbieri, Bill |

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**MINUTES OF
SAINT PAUL'S CHURCH ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
JANUARY 26, 2025**

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- | | | |
|-----|-------------------------------------|---|
| | | Bennett, Joe Bernardo, Jim
Castronova, Michael Chengeri, Jeff
Chowanec, Maureen Costello,
Larry Creagh, Dorothy Crocker,
John Durkin, Barbara Gallo,
Monique Gordon, Gordy Hiltz,
Deanne Hobson, Ray Hofbauer,
Joann Hornak, Tim Huber, Michael
Kirner, Bri Lopez, Cindy Maier,
Ned Marcalus, Jim Miller, Diane
Peterson, Bob Picheco, Jack Roush,
James Sarver, Joanne Siergiej,
Bruce Simon, Pamela Szen, Lyndon
Thomas, Carol Wheeler |
| 12. | Memorial Garden Financial Secretary | - Mary Beth Durkin |
| 13. | Mission Chairpersons | - Angela Haselwood, Donald
Winkley |
| 14. | Prayer Chain Coordinator | - JoAnn Hornak, Walter Von Egidy |
| 15. | Prayer Servant Ministry | - Carol Wheeler, Coordinator.
Pam Altemus, Julie Astbury, Bill
Bennett, Joan Boehm, Pat Brought,
Jim Castronova, Jeff Chowanec,
Darin Crocker, Dot Crocker, Chris
Goodman, Carol Gurski, JoAnn
Hornak, Brittany Marcalus, Jim
Miller, Barbara Mullen, Helen
Picheco, Ingrid Pruss, Bill Schrull,
George Stowell, Fr. Jim Wheeler,
Kathy Whipple, and David
Williams |
| 16. | Sunday School Administrator | - Julie Astbury |

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Treasurer Chuck Allen referred to the financial statement on page 11-12 of the 2024 Annual Report. St. Paul's had a good year with income exceeding our expenses. Chuck identified four highlights for 2024:

1. St. Paul's paid all their bills in 2024.
2. St. Paul's has no debt.
3. The 2024 income has exceeded the 2024 expenses.
4. The Endowment Fund increased by 9% in 2024.

Total Income in 2024 was \$431K, down \$51K compared to 2023. We ended with a surplus of

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**MINUTES OF
SAINT PAUL’S CHURCH ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
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\$63K, up \$30K from 2023. The 2024 Missions budget was paid in full at \$52,200, with an additional \$11,000 collected for different causes throughout the year

REPORT OF THE WARDENS

Lois Hunt (Warden) *“For I know the plans I have for you.” Declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”* JEREMIAH 29:11

2024 was a year of challenge and change for St. Paul’s. As we went through the process of calling a Priest-in-Charge to our Parish, we discovered our many strengths here at St. Paul’s, and some areas in need of improvement. We have become an ever stronger, closer family, saying goodbye to beloved members who have gone on into the greater presence of our Lord Jesus Christ and welcoming others into our growing family.

During this time of transition our parish members have continued to powerfully stepped up to share the many aspects of our parish life, many times filling needs we didn’t even know we had. Too many to mention in fear of leaving someone out, parish members have worked tirelessly to keep St Paul’s functioning smoothly in love an service to all. Thank you to all of you faithful servants.

Our faith in our Lord Jesus has brought us closer to Him and closer to each other and carried us onward to our successful call to our new Priest-in-Charge. The Rev. Dr. Nathaniel Jung-Chul Lee began his ministry with us in October. We welcome Fr. Nate and his family in the certain knowledge that our loving God has brought Fr. Nate to us to be our spiritual leader, working together with us to continue to spread the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ crucified. God gives us hope and a future, just as he promised in Jeremiah.

George Stowell (Warden) As I looked back over my 2024 calendar, I did not see many notable accomplishments for which I could report to our parish. Reading the minutes from our 2023 annual report I saw several tangible deliverables that we secured for St. Paul’s: a new website, a new financial giving and accounting platform, and data collected from our parish-input meeting. As I paused to reflect on 2024, I realized that much of what we did was embedded in our search for a new PIC.

Let me first take a look back. I came to St. Paul’s ten years ago, and like many of you that I have spoken with, I was in need of healing and refreshment from our Lord Jesus Christ. I sat at the feet of our Lord and of our shepherd Father Joe, and allowed the Lord to mend and put me back together. Five years ago I retired, and four years ago I began service as your warden.

Full disclosure – If you are newly retired, they usually give you a year off before they put you to work.

So where did we begin in our transition at St. Paul’s? On Wednesday, 5/10/23 we celebrated Healing and Holy Communion at 10 am, and then Lois and I had a brief meeting with Father Joe and a ministry leader. At the close of the meeting, Father Joe asked Lois and I to stay for a moment. “I received a call,” he said. I thought, OK Father Joe, who called? Lois’ jaw dropped to the table. It was St. Mary’s Parish in Stuart, FL.

The protocol is for the Rector to first inform the wardens of their planned departure, and then vestry, and finally the congregation at large. This was done at the vestry meeting that evening, followed up by an email distribution to the congregation later that night.

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**MINUTES OF
SAINT PAUL'S CHURCH ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
JANUARY 26, 2025**

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The next day I realized that my life, and our lives together, had changed. Lois and I had no time to grieve over our loss, though the grief was significant. Instead, we hit the ground running frontloading all documents required by the diocese to ensure that we would get ahead of the bureaucratic curve in the search process for a new priest. Three months later in August of 2023 parishioners were asking us "where is our new priest?" It was not until Christmas 2023 that the diocese posted our position for a PIC.

As we transitioned into 2024 there were 18 leaders involved in the search process: 14 vestry members, including four new members, and 4 exiting vestry members that stayed on to complete the PIC search process.

Our task was to identify and articulate who we are as the people of God in this Brookfield Parish, and discern the Lord's mind in the selection of a spiritual leader.

Our primary focus was to identify the theological underpinnings that define St. Paul's, and then to develop the processes and evaluation matrices that we would use in discernment. There was no guide, we had to write the book. As you can imagine, whenever people are commissioned with such a task, opinions are plentiful, and forces, spiritual and human (foreign and domestic), are constantly at work to disrupt unity. With heartfelt prayers and many sleepless nights we navigated through complex obstacles and spiritual onslaughts. The battle was subtle one, driving us to our core beliefs and moving us to trust God, continually leaning on the everlasting arms of our heavenly Father.

Thanks to everyone who pitched in this past year and a half, our parish never missed a beat. Visitors came and went never knowing that we were in a search process and without a priest.

Today we celebrate and rejoice in our new priest Rev. Nate Lee. In this interim, your vestry and leadership team have served as your guardians of the faith, and carefully cared for you, the bride of Christ, beautifully adorned for our Lord Jesus Christ. May God now lead and anoint our new shepherd, and continue to stand watch over this place and build a dwelling for His name, and fill it with His glory.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business was discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

A motion was made, seconded and approved to empower the Vestry to borrow and spend funds in 2025.

Question: Are we planning on replacing the sexton and secretary?

Answer: No current plans but when and if we do proceed with new hiring of staff, it will come before your Vestry for approval.

Open Comments: None

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**MINUTES OF
SAINT PAUL'S CHURCH ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
JANUARY 26, 2025**

REPORT OF THE PRIEST-IN-CHARGE

Fr. Nate Lee, Priest-in-Charge

Annual meetings are a gift. They give us the chance to be together and to speak collaboratively about who we are - and who we are becoming - as a parish.

In that spirit, let me begin by naming a few exciting upcoming events:

- **February 9:** Gregg Garrett, author of more than 30 books, will preach and host a Talk Back after both Sunday services.
- **February 23:** The Rev. Dr. Todd Brewer, Managing Editor of *Mockingbird* magazine, will preach and host a Talk Back after both Sunday services.
- **January 29 (Wednesday):** The Rev. Canon Dr. Ashley Null, an internationally respected scholar of the English Reformation, will preach and host a Talk Back following the service.

The State of the Church 2024

Rather than simply reiterating what appears elsewhere in this report, I want to speak more broadly about where we are as a parish and where we are going. Going forward, I intend to use this time each year as a kind of "State of the Church" address.

This is a particularly interesting year to do that, as I have been at St. Paul's for only three and a half months. I have said more about this in my written report. Even so, it has been an incredibly full season.

1. Pause & Take Stock

Over these months, I have spent significant time meeting with parishioners - sharing meals, sitting one-on-one, and listening. In total, I have already had 39 such conversations, and I am very aware that I still have many more to go. If we have not yet met, I hope we will soon.

The purpose of all this has been simple: to LISTEN. Before I came to St. Paul's, I was asked, "What are you going to do when you arrive?" My honest answer was, "I don't know yet. I will learn that by listening - to the Holy Spirit and to you." That is what I have been doing.

Rick Warren once described healthy church growth as being like surfing: surfers do not create waves; they pay attention and catch them when they come. In the same way, priests do not create the movement of the Spirit - the Holy Spirit does. Our task is to attend carefully and step into what God is already doing. One of the clearest ways we hear the Holy Spirit is by listening to one another.

Based on these conversations, I have identified three mission priorities for the coming year.

2. Mission Priorities for 2025:

- A. **Foster the health of our organizational systems** This is not about imposing limits, but about creating structures that channel the energy and vitality already present in our parish. St. Paul's is blessed with deeply dedicated and capable lay leadership. With some modest improvements in organization, I believe we can amplify our impact significantly.

Think of this like the banks of a river. We do not want to block the flow with a dam, but without any structure at all, the water spreads into a flood - losing direction and power. Healthy systems allow life to move freely and fruitfully.

- B. **Develop programming for Family & Youth** In the coming year, I intend to place a central - and in some ways disproportionate - focus on revitalizing our Family and

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**MINUTES OF
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Youth ministries. This is not because these groups matter more than others, but because at this particular moment we face both unique challenges and unique opportunities. I want to be sure we meet them faithfully .

- C. **Strengthen the pastoral care of our church** The most important thing we do is care for one another. We are already a deeply caring parish, with many faithful servants engaged in ministries of care. Yet I am hearing consistently that people are not always accessing the help that is available to them. One goal for the coming year is to understand what stands between those who need care and those who are ready to offer it - and to close that gap. This begins with becoming more deeply connected across the whole life of our parish and strengthening our sense of belonging to one another. Which brings me to our guiding theme for the year

3. 2025 Mission: SAFE

A. What Safety Is NOT

- Safety is not the absence of risk, conflict, or difficulty .
- Safety is not the same as security. In fact, efforts to create security through force can be counterproductive. (History shows that approaches rooted in respect and relationship often reduce harm far more effectively than increased control.)
- Safety is not the same as vulnerability. Oversharing can sometimes function as a way of keeping others at a distance .

B. What Safety IS

Let me demonstrate what safety is through a few small, but powerful examples:

1. **A Simple Human Interaction** Studies show that when a stranger asks, “Can I borrow your phone?” the likelihood of help is low. But when they first say, “I’m sorry about the rain,” the response rate increases by more than 400%. Small signals of care radically change how people relate.
2. **Gregory Walton’s Postcard Study** In a study of 772 patients hospitalized after suicide attempts, half received brief postcards expressing care and openness to connection. That single gesture reduced repeat suicide attempts by 50%.
3. **Belonging and Identity** Research has also shown that simply reflecting on one’s ancestors can significantly improve cognitive performance—again demonstrating the power of belonging and connection.

C. Safety Is About Trust and Belonging

Each of these examples shows how subtle cues of trust and belonging can transform how people feel, relate, and act. This is exactly how Scripture describes the heart of Christian community.

As our patron St. Paul writes in Ephesians 4: “I beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit... one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all.”

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This passage also stands at the heart of our baptismal covenant, reminding us that unity in Christ is the foundation of everything else we do.

D. How We Will Build Safety in 2025

My Commitments:

- Regular sermon Talk Backs during Adult Education
- Quarterly Priest-in-Charge listening sessions

What I Ask of You:

- Attend a service you do not normally attend
- Make one new friend

Small, intentional acts of connection are how safety - and therefore life - takes root among us.

NEXT ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

We will hold the 242nd Annual Parish Meeting on January 25th, 2025 in the church sanctuary.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting, was seconded and approved. The 241st Annual Parish Meeting adjourned at 10:30 am.

Respectfully Submitted, David Williams
Clerk of the Annual Parish Meeting

INCOME & EXPENSE SUMMARY	<u>2025 FINANCIAL SUMMARY</u>		<u>% TOTAL EXPENSE</u>
	<u>\$(K)</u>	<u>YTY \$(k)</u>	
INCOME	423	-8	
EXPENSES			
MANPOWER	266		56%
BUILDING/SITE	72		15%
ADMIN	74		15%
MISSIONS/MINISTRY	65		14%
	-----	-----	-----
TOTAL EXPENSE	478	96	100%
HOUSING ALLOWANCE	48	34	
	-----	-----	
PROFIT	-7	-70	
 ASSETS	 <u>\$(K)</u>	 <u>YTY \$(k)</u>	
FRANKLIN FUNDS	2035	212	
RECTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND	5	1	
CHECKING ACCOUNT	101	-17	
	-----	-----	
TOTAL	2141	196	
 SHORT TERM LIABILITIES	 153	 -15	
 MISSION BUDGET			
F/Y PAYMENTS	52		

2025 ST PAUL'S INCOME & EXPENSE ACTUALS

	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	F/Y	YTY C/M	YTY YTD
INCOME							
WEEKLY COLLECTIONS/ OTHER	66730	83021	62210	81370	293331		
LARGE CONTRIBUTORS - +\$1K	6000	8550	6000	57000	77550		
INCOME FOR UNIQUE EXPENSE	7800	8271	9735	26400	52206		
TOTAL	80530	99842	77945	164770	423087	-8960	-8222
EXPENSES							
MANPOWER							
- SALARY & BENEFITS	37911	48292	48656	43717	178577		
- TAXES	7307	7380	7471	7728	29886		
- MEDICAL & LIFE INSUR	14098	14021	14021	14425	56564		
- PAYROLL EXPENSES	200	332	347	347	1226		
SUB TOTAL	59516	70025	70496	66217	266254		
BUILDING/ SITE EXPENSES							
- UTILITIES/ WATER/SUPPLIES	7837	6704	5835	6345	26721		
- OTHER	3570	2495	915	0	6980		
- MAINTENANCE	6386	2191	3568	21794	33939		
- MEMORIAL GARDEN EXPENSE	285	190	2825	1300	4600		
- CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS	0	0	0	0	0		
SUB TOTAL	18077	11580	13143	29439	72240		
ADMIN							
- OFFICE OPERATIONS	2085	1907	1536	1772	7299		
- INSURANCE	3896	3419	4566	4174	16056		
- DIOCESAN PLEDGE - 10%	7247	7247	7247	7247	28986		
- ALTAR GUILD	1509	2269	2718	3620	10115		
- BANK SERVICE CHARGES	0	0	128	59	187		
- ORGANIST SUPPLIES	0	0	0	0	0		
- CONTRACT SERVICES	0	314	3474	347	4135		
- DUES, SUBSCRIPTIONS& ADV	0	0	0	0	0		
- SUPPLY CLERGY / ORGANIST	932	1200	1353	1661	5146		
- VANCO/TITHELY FEE	556	511	496	518	2082		
SUB TOTAL	16224	16867	21518	19397	74006		
MINISTRY EXPENSES							
- MISSIONS	2200	6080	10282	10050	28612		
- LOCAL OUTREACH	0	0	0	0	0		
- YOUTH	0	0	150	288	438		
- TRAVEL/ MEETINGS	1263	3954	-2027	2544	5734		
- CONTINUING EDUCATION	392	1125	209	124	1851		
- EVANGELISM	2120	5206	298	2975	10600		
- ALPHA & ADULT EXPENSE	337	141	405	0	883		
- MUSIC	285	395	45	3609	4335		
- RECTOR DISCRETIONARY EXP	2000	250	450	2385	5085		
- SUNDAY SCHOOL	257	292	480	349	1378		
- WOMEN'S MINISTRY		0		0	0		
- HOPELINE		5771	525	0	6296		
- STEPHEN MINISTRY	0	0		0	0		
SUB TOTAL	8855	23215	10817	22325	65211		
TOTAL EXPENSES	102672	121687	115973	137379	477711		
NET INCOME	-22142	-21845	-38028	27391	-54624		
HOUSING ALLOWANCE/ INTEREST	12000	8000	16000	12000	48000		
SURPLUS / (LOSS)	-10142	-13845	-22028	39391	-6624	36159	-69646

PRIEST-IN-CHARGE REPORT

Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? ISAIAH 43:19

What a year.

Recently, I read a book where the author emphasized the importance of “firsts” - how every good work begins with a first step, and countless projects fail because they never start. “Firsts” are a bit like drawing a line in the sand - providing a benchmark, establishing direction, and laying a foundation for what’s to come.

2025 was our first full year together. Over the past twelve months, I’ve tried to lay a foundation that will guide us into 2026 and beyond. I did so in a few ways.

The first was a “**mission watchword**” for **2025: SAFE**. In our early months together, I came to see - and shared at last year’s annual meeting - that establishing safety was where our life together needed to begin. As I said then, “safety” doesn’t mean the *absence* of difficulty, risk, or even constructive disagreements - we’ve had some of that this past year. Instead, it means the *presence* of trust and belonging. In light of this, our defining goal in 2025 was to strengthen the bonds that connect and tie our lives together. As you heard me say repeatedly: The most important thing we do is care for one another.

In my conversations with you, it has become clear that we have been successful in this. The energy in the parish is extremely positive and hopeful, and, more importantly, mutually supportive.

Given this, I am setting before you a new “**mission watchword**” for **2026: VULNERABILITY**. We are not setting “safety” aside - the work of nurturing and protecting safety will always remain vital. Instead, we will continue to build safety *in order to* lay a lasting foundation for shared vulnerability.

“Vulnerability” can feel like a scary word, so let me clarify what I mean. Vulnerability doesn’t mean “helplessness” or “passivity.” Vulnerability literally means “the ability to be wounded,” which implies courage and strength - the capacity to face wounding and withstand it. It also doesn’t mean “spilling your guts” the way celebrities do on reality TV. In fact, oversharing like that can be a way of avoiding true vulnerability - a way of unloading all our problems on another person quickly from a distance, rather than walking together with them into genuine connection and understanding.

A better way to think about vulnerability is “**openness**” - having the courage to let down our walls enough to be authentic and transparent with and for each other. It’s less about exposure and more about honesty - being our real selves in a way that others can recognize, respond to, and share our lives.

Vulnerability is the most important next step for our community for two reasons. First, it will take the safety we’ve built and deepen it. Vulnerability is how safety reaches *all* of us - even the parts we’re afraid to show to the world. Second - and as we’ll explore more in coming years - it’s the necessary catalyst for shared mission. We can’t truly be who God has called us to be unless *all* of us bring all of us. That said, when our community is built from our shared depths, we can create a mission with the power to change the world.

In addition to building safety, we have made tremendous progress advancing the **three mission priorities** outlined at last year’s annual meeting:

1.) **Strengthen Pastoral Care**

The majority of my weekly time has been dedicated to relationship building and pastoral care. We’ve also made significant organizational improvements in how care is offered across the parish. Multiple listening sessions were conducted with our care ministries - including both prayer ministries, *Hearts to Hands*, and our Stephen Ministers - culminating in a **Pastoral Care Summit** last fall. Out of this work, a new model is emerging: parishioner care organized into support groups for mutual care. One new group - a chronic pain support group - has already been launched. Finally, we recently began an initiative to “elevate prayer” throughout our congregation, including a new prayer service on Wednesdays. This will remain a key pastoral focus in 2026.

(Continued on page 16)

(Continued from page 15)

PRIEST-IN-CHARGE REPORT

2.) **Programming for Family Life & Youth**

While pastoral care held most of my weekly attention, **Youth & Family Life** was the focus of long-term planning. A key planning milestone was the **Youth & Family Ministry Assessment** we held last fall through the Fuller Youth Institute, which clarified both our strengths and growth areas. Out of this work, we have already made meaningful programmatic changes, including:

- A redesigned **intergenerational worship service** at 10:30 am.
- A revamped and newly supported **Church School** program
- A Sunday morning **formation opportunity** dedicated young adults and young families

In addition to programmatic initiatives, we invested heavily in **relationship building** through regular fellowship events - monthly dinners, special events, and a hugely successful summer picnic. These opportunities have strengthened connections across generations and fostered deeper belonging.

3.) **Organizational Systems**

Meanwhile, we've been at work behind the scenes to improve **our systems** - policies, procedures, and structures - and unlock the full potential of our vibrant parish. This began with improvements to our **governance** structure, including refining Vestry selection, formalizing meeting protocols, introducing post-decision reviews, and holding monthly "**V.I.P. Meetings**" (Vestry Imagining & Planning) to address organizational questions strategically. We also introduced a variety of **new policies and procedures**, including a project proposal process for the Building & Grounds Committee and a few new financial documents (e.g. a Rector's Discretionary Fund policy). Our Technology Committee led significant work in 2025, producing two new policies - a Technology Policy and a Social Media Policy - while updating our phone and internet systems. They are currently working on database and file storage systems while also retrofitting the building with new equipment.

In addition to the three mission priorities laid out at last year's annual meeting, two new mission priorities emerged over the course of 2025:

4.) **Welcoming Newcomers**

The changes described will not only strengthen our parish but also make us more **welcoming to newcomers**. As new members join, we need to think intentionally about how to integrate them into our life together. This work began last month with our first **Newcomers Reception**, which was hugely successful, and continued this morning with our first **Newcomer Integration Course**. We are eager to see how these efforts grow and deepen in the years ahead.

5.) **Money**

After prayer and discernment, I declined the Finance Committee's recommendation to make a major stewardship push in 2025, choosing instead to focus on building safety. Instead, I said I would lead by example and increase my own annual giving by 50%, so that when we return to questions of money in 2026, you can trust I'm only asking that you "**follow me as I follow Christ**" (1 Cor. 11.1)

To say it again: **What a year.**

And we're only just beginning. From this beginning, we will step forward on the foundation of safety we've built together, and embrace the courage to be vulnerable. We enter 2026 strengthened by our shared mission, guided by priorities that shape our parish, and united in the belief that when all of us bring all of ourselves, there is no limit to what God can do.

WARDEN'S REPORTS

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." JEREMIAH 29:11

2025 was a year of excitement and looking forward as we moved into our first full year with Fr. Nate. It was a time of getting to know ourselves through Fr. Nate's eyes and a time of challenging old habits and embracing new ideas and ways of moving forward. With Fr. Nate's leadership, we began forging our way into our future. We sadly said goodbye to beloved members and welcomed new ones into the ever-changing family of St. Paul's with some tears and great joy as our Lord led us through another year together.

I am forever grateful to our Lord for all of you members who worked together so smoothly to create the wonderful, safe place St. Paul's is. My time as Warden has been blessed by all of you! I know that I leave the leadership of my beloved parish in good hands!

Rather than look back, I choose to look forward to the ever-increasing blessing St. Paul's is to all of us and to all we will reach as we continue to spread the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ crucified. God gives us hope and a future, just as He promised in Jeremiah.

Lois Hunt, Warden

2025 has been a year of transition and growth for St. Paul's. As we and our new Priest-in-Charge continue to adjust to one another, it has been encouraging to see how smoothly this season of change has unfolded. Much of the past year has been devoted to discerning who God is calling us to become under new leadership, and we have made meaningful progress in strengthening trust, safety, and unity within our parish community.

I continue to be impressed by the dedication and generosity of our congregation. St. Paul's truly has a "deep bench" of lay leadership, with many members ready and willing to serve. At the same time, it is clear that if we are to grow - particularly in rebuilding our youth and family ministries - we must build greater capacity. This will require investing in staff and, therefore, deepening our financial commitment as a parish.

I believe St. Paul's is on the cusp of new growth under God's direction, and that generous stewardship will be the catalyst for what God longs to do among us. Some time ago I read a fascinating book by John Oberg titled, *"If you want to walk on water, you have to get out of the boat."* We have to do more than talk and plan. At some point we are going to have to step out of the boat to see God do something special. The point being that God seems to be calling St. Paul's to go beyond the "business as usual" and to as Scripture reminds us, "Whoever sows generously will also reap generously."

Although my time as acting warden was intended to be interim, I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve this parish in leadership. Serving on vestry has given me a deeper appreciation for the work required to sustain and strengthen our shared ministry. Please pray for the new vestry members as they step into their roles, that they may be guided by God's Spirit and serve with joy and faithfulness.

Dan Bacon, Acting Warden

MISSION COMMITTEE

The Mission Committee continues to support Christian based missions at the local, national and global levels. A significant portion of St. Paul's budget goes toward mission. The Mission Committee reviews our budget annually and opens to parishioners the opportunity to submit requests for missions they would like to co-support.

The attached budget sheet represents what was adopted by the Vestry for the year 2025.

Biweekly, we continue to collect and deliver parishioner donated non-perishable food, along with food certificates to six local food banks and to Jericho.

We also coordinate the Salvation Army Kettle Campaign for the Northern Fairfield County Volunteer Unit. \$1,729 was raised for the 2025.

We have also adopted and provided food and gift certificates for local families administered through Brookfield Human Services. The Thanksgiving collection was \$4,350 and Christmas \$2,600. Our recipients appreciate gift cards which allows them greater shopping dignity and individual flexibility. (plus, it is much easier for our committee to administer!). Our Parish has been called a "Christmas Miracle" by the Brookfield Human Service Department. Thank you, Bonnie Wanzer for being our key facilitator.

Lake Tanganyika College, Bishop Okullo College and the Diocese of Bondo continue to be major recipients of our international activities. Canon Bill Schrull is our facilitator.

The McLaughlin family in Cambodia continue to receive our prayers and financial support. Dan Bacon is our facilitator through the Anglican Frontier Missions.

The Jericho Partnership (of which we are a founding member), receives our major ongoing prayer and financial support.

This year, we added "Operation Christmas Child," a Billy Graham ministry, and sent 27 boxes of gifts for boys and girls to Honduras and Madagascar. Thank you Pam Szen for your organizational skills.

In addition to the budgeted dollar amounts, please be aware that there are parishioners individually sponsoring each program.

Mission Committee meetings are generally held on the first Thursday monthly, 7 pm, in the Guild Room. We welcome you to join us! If there are additional mission ministries in which you personally have an interest, please let us know so that we might assist you in coordination, perhaps financially and with prayer.

Committee members are: Lois Hunt, Joyce Sarver, Bonnie Wanzer, Bill Schrull, Angela Haselwood, Pam Szen, Ron Switzer, Don Winkley. .

Angela Haselwood, Don Winkley, Coordinators

St Paul's Mission Committee 2025 Vestry Approved Budget

Mission to Unreached/Church Planting

AMF - McLaughlin	\$10,000	D. Bacon
B Japan via TEAM	5,000	D. Bacon

Humanitarian Needs/Disaster Relief

Emergency Mission	0	Committee/Vestry/Rector
Food Baskets and Certificates	\$ 7,200	J. Sarver
Giving Tree - Thanksgiving/Christmas	0	Committee/Volunteers
Hope Line	500	B. Wanzer
Jericho Partnership	6,500	A, Haselwood/ P. Szen
Salvation Army Kettle/Bell	0	D. Winkley
Salvation Army - National Disasters	7,000	L. Hunt/ D. Winkley
Samaritans Purse	5,000	D. Winkley
St.Paul's Ministries	0	Committee/Vestry/Rector
Brookfield Human Services	0	C. Allen/R. Baldelli
Underground Northeast	1,000	J.Chomanec, B. Schrull, P.S.

Church Development

Community of the Cross	\$2,500	C. Barrett
Jerusalem Peace Builders	1,000	D. Szen
Lake Tanganyika College	4,000	B.Schrull
Bishop Okullu College & Diocese of Bondo	3,000	B. Schrull
Diocese of Shyira, Rwanda	2,000	B. Schrull

Total \$54,700

MUSIC MINISTRY

Be joyful in the LORD, all you lands; serve the LORD with gladness, and come before his presence with a song. - PSALM 100

What We Do

The music ministry at St. Paul's regularly provides music for our three weekly services: 8:00, 10:30, and Wednesday morning. Music is also provided for special services such as Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, the Great Vigil of Easter, and Christmas Eve. Perhaps the largest music-led service we have is our annual Festival of Lessons and Carols, this past year held on December 14 and featuring a 26-voice choir, organ, piano, flute, guitar, and 3 directors! The 10:30 praise band and choir practice every week on Thursdays at 7:30 (except for summers!), and accompaniment comes from guitar, bass, and several church-owned instruments: a real pipe organ (1967 Möller, serviced twice a year by Foley-Baker), a Roland RD-2000 keyboard and a Roland TD50 electronic drum set.

Who We Are

Our rotating schedule of praise leaders includes Chris Barrett, Sandy Chadwick, and Bill Schroll (Bill and Chris also perform double duty by helping to run the soundboard each week, along with Dave Szen), and the Wednesday service thrives under the steady leadership of Tony Arcamone. Tony (bass) and Bobby Picheco (drums) also help keep us in line on Sunday mornings!

We have a small but dedicated choir of faithful singers. I think Heather and Larry Creagh easily win the perfect attendance award! They are joined by Deanne Hobson, Jack Collins, Fauthan Nkonge, Vivian Namale, and Maria Beck who help us all lift our voices each week.

Tony's Wednesday crew includes Kathy Whipple, Deanne Hobson, Rebecca Moshay, Diane Peterson, Brittany Marcalus, and Ray Hofbauer. Wow!

Besides our "regulars," I am extremely grateful for all the temporary participants that join us for our other special services throughout the year. In addition to those already mentioned, that includes Linda Bennett, Joe Bernardo, Amy Bondeson-Boyce, Sandy Chaleski, Jeff Chowanec, Debbie Delaventura, Geoff Dent, Barbara Gallo, Tim Huber, Kagan Kronberg, Ned Marcalus, Catherine Marsh, Dori McManus, Diane Meskill, Steve Peterson, Cathy Schroll, Polly Sorentino, Dan Visconti, and Marie Williams. I even remember seeing Isa Kronberg, Liam Namale and Jayden Namale in the choir a couple of times! And how great is it when Connor Richardson fills in on drums!

Where We're Headed

2025 was mostly a year of continuity for us. We learned much about what we do well while being open to ways in which we can improve. Having a foundation from which to build is especially important as we embark on some changes in 2026, most notably with the adjustments set for the 10:30 service. We look forward to exploring ways that our music can become even more impactful and engaging! Getting the youth involved in music is always on the table as well. If you want a singing church, you need to start with singing children.

Why it Matters

In an age where choirs are diminishing, organs are falling into disrepair, and music is provided only by a professional cantor, it always amazes me how much talent we have under our roof! That's what we should nurture, right? Our goal is to have a singing church, and we encourage everyone to use their voices to sing the hymns and praise songs...no matter how loud or soft, in-tune or out! May we ALL make a joyful noise in 2026!

Peace and blessings,
Kirsten Peterson
kirpeterson@comcast.net
Organist/Choir Master/Director of Music

PRAYER MINISTRY

The prayer ministry at Saint Paul's Brookfield has continued to be a vital and holy ministry that connects each one of us to our Lord and Savior and to each other. Individual and collective prayers are prominent in all aspects of our church life from our worship services to bible studies, Christian formation, Sunday School, and social events.

We were fortunate in August 2025 to go through an Advanced Prayer Minister Training led by Mary Perry. Mary guided us through an abundant amount of detailed materials that offered to deepen and enrich our prayer ministry service. Thank you, Mary.

Our faithful prayer ministers are present for every Wednesday Healing Service with a team of two prayer ministers and at our once a month Healing Sunday Service with two teams of two at both the 8:00 and 10:30 services. After receiving communion all are welcome to have prayers lifted up at the altar or at their pew. Our prayer ministers receive prayers with the upmost reverence and confidentiality. Deepest thanks to all who serve.

Our Intercessory Prayer Chain provides another way people can have their prayer needs known. A prayer request is submitted by email, text or through the website to JoAnn Hornak who then posts it to our Prayer Chain of twenty-three prayerful parishioners. Any prayer may be submitted this way which also provides when an urgent and immediate prayer need be addressed in a timely manner. In 2025 we received over 350 prayer requests. Many thanks to our dedicated Intercessory Prayer Chain participants.

It is with great honor and respect to be serving along side all who serve our Lord so faithfully in our prayer ministry. It is with joyful anticipation to see where God will lead this ministry in 2026 so to enrich and expand our service to Him.

Prayerfully submitted, JoAnn Hornak

ADULT CHRISTIAN FORMATION

This ministry provides adult parishioners and visitors the opportunity to deepen their understanding of the Christian faith, the Bible and to help them mature in their faith. Because we believe that Scripture can provide us with timeless wisdom that can reorient our lives - our minds, our hearts, and our actions - as we engage in our world, each Sunday morning we offered a variety of relevant topics for study and discussion and hopefully life application.

During 2025, special series on a variety of topics were covered including:

- Final Words from the Cross– Lenten series
- Why? Making Sense of God's Guidance series
- Finding Sanctuary – Book study in various small groups
- Living by Faith - Fall series
- Living Streams of the Christian Faith– Advent series

We are reminded by Scripture that spiritual growth isn't automatic, but requires effort and time on our part as well. Let's take heed to Peter's encouragement in 2 Peter 1:5-9:

“For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins. Therefore, my brothers and sisters, make every effort to confirm your calling and election. For if you do these things, you will never stumble, and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

Dan Bacon, Dot Crocker and David Williams

MEMORIAL GARDEN

Saint Paul's Memorial Garden, located at the rear of the church campus, is comprised of a curving stone wall complimented by mature trees, shrubs and seasonal plantings. It offers a peaceful and dignified resting place for the St. Paul's Church Family. An urn, containing the cremated remains of a loved one, is placed in a niche within the wall or buried in the ground. A simple brass marker provides the full Christian name and birth and death years of the person being remembered.

The garden is in bloom from the first crocuses in the spring to mums in the fall. A single hand-hewn granite cross stands at the highest point in the garden. Benches provide spots for peaceful reflection. The Memorial Garden is reminiscent of a time gone by, when a person could be buried in the same church yard where the parishioner worshiped during their lifetime. Perpetual care is provided for the garden.

In 2025 four niches were sold and five interments were lovingly held.

The garden, as gardens do, continues to evolve. The garden blends annuals, pollinators, herbs and full-sun favorites like peonies, daylilies and coneflowers with annuals and tropicals (dahlia, canna and elephant ear to name a few). Our goal is to always have something in bloom.

The stone wall was carefully reviewed and repaired as needed in 2023.

We give thanks to the Property Committee and all of the parishioners who continue to help maintain the garden.

The Memorial Garden Committee will continue to guide the care and maintenance of the site assisting parishioners with any needs.

A statement of policy, regarding pricing and interment practices is available. The financial accounting of the Memorial Garden assets and expenses can be found elsewhere in the Parish Annual Report.

Mary Beth Durkin

CAMPUS ENRICHMENT MINISTRY

The Campus Enrichment Ministry seeks to maintain and enhance our St. Paul's Church campus, inside and out. Comprised of volunteers, we keep a vigilant eye on all public spaces to create a welcoming, safe and approachable environment for everyone who comes to the Red Doors of St. Paul's Church.

We give thanks for all of the volunteers who continually make repairs around our campus buildings as well as those who set up before and clean up after all of our activities at St. Paul's.

The garden ministry cares for the gardens that surround our campus and works to ensure that something is always colorfully in bloom. We tied up daffodils, planted, weeded, trimmed and watered, with a priority placed on maintenance. We added tropicals like canna and elephant ears for drama and included annuals like pansies, dahlias, petunias, flowering vinca and mums. We guided the annual professional trimming of the shrubs and dogwoods.

This fall, once again we planted the bulbs from St. Paul's Easter altar flowers which we eagerly await come spring!

Mary Beth Durkin

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

ACTS 20:28

“Pay careful attention to yourselves and 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.”

2025 was a slow and steady year for the Property Committee with the bulk of our effort focusing on routine maintenance while sprinkling in a few eye-catching projects.

The unsung heroes of Dave Allen, Joe Bernardo, Jeff Chowanec, Darin Crocker, Jim Miller and Dave Szen (please forgive if we overlooked anyone) again carried the lion’s burden of fulfilling Sexton duties, assisting with Memorial Garden internments & maintenance, setting up and breaking down for events, liaison with multiple companies, commissions, and government inspectors among all the other chores which keep our Campus up and running.

Mary Beth Durkin and her Garden Angels once again worked their magic to keep the flower beds and Memorial Garden in pristine condition throughout the year, a very visible Ministry which really adds to the “Wow Factor” of entering St Paul’s.

As we begin a new year the Committee is very close to releasing the contract to replace our almost 90-year-old slate roof and to proceed with installing a 100% donation funded foundation base for the meeting pavilion in the meadow. Other projects completed include replacing the glass door closers at the rear of the Sanctuary, replacing the exterior light on the northside of the Sanctuary to increase the crispness of the interior effect and add the ability to control the light from the inside of the building, backfilling the potholes in the process portion of our rear exit road near the library, completing the Crocker Hall Storage closet refurbishment and maintaining the barn in the meadow.

The most visible projects completed this past year have to be highlighted by the completion of the outdoor chapel which emphasizes the beauty of our natural surroundings and repurposes our original Rectory entrance stone as the altar stone, clearing all the overgrown trees and brush behind the Sanctuary and south boundary tree line along the parking lot, being very grateful to the Scouts of Troop 5 who completed an awesome fall cleanup for us, and preparing to replace the end-of-life cycle entrance area landscaping which has become overgrown and hides some of our structure’s beautiful features, not to mention obstructing some of our exterior lighting fixtures.

Many of our projects are completed silently, in the background, by self-motivated individuals and funded through the generosity of our fellow Parishioners; we have been truly blessed again this year and would be remiss by not thanking all for their support.

Even though our committee is small in numbers we truly enjoy serving the Lord in our quiet manner. If you have any interest, or concerns, in our mission we encourage all to join us at 7:30 pm on the first Thursday of every month for great fellowship and a little bit of labor.

Mike Chengeri

COFFEE HOUR MINISTRY

Many thanks to all the generous people listed in the index of this Annual Meeting report who host one of the two Sunday Coffee Hours. These wonderful people take the time to bring in food items for their fellow parishioners on their assigned Sunday. We are always looking for more people to host. It's fun, easy and very rewarding. Hosting averages only THREE times a year out of 52 Sundays! If more people volunteer, that number will continue to go down even more. The assignment sheets are distributed online every four months which saves printing and mailing costs. They are also posted on the bulletin board in Crocker Hall and listed three weeks at a time in *Sword Points*. A huge thank you to Dave Szen for *Sword Points* postings and to Mike Kirner for bringing in the milk and cream EACH week! If your assigned day is not convenient for you, simply switch with someone on the list. Everyone in this ministry is very accommodating and willing to help. We have recently added something new. If there is a Sunday marked "OPEN TABLE," it means that no special person is assigned to that day's Coffee Hour and anyone from Saint Paul's is welcome to donate a food item and leave it on the table for that particular Coffee Hour. This addition has been well received and gives everyone a chance to donate. Also, Beth Beck will be taking over as Coffee Coordinator in 2026! We know that she will do a great job! Thank you all for the many years you have served with me. We look forward to a wonderful 2026.

Mary Allen, Coffee Hour Coordinator

LADIES' ZOOM EVENING BIBLE STUDY

In 2025 the Women's Evening Bible Study studied Paul's letter to the Ephesians, then concentrated on people of courage in the Old Testament, including Sarah, Hagar, Moses, Joshua, Hannah, David and Abigail, before ending with John the Baptist. .

This group is comfortable with asking questions and contributing to discussions. No homework is required. Because the group meets on Zoom, there are some women who join us from afar. All women are welcome.

For more information contact Kathy Whipple at kthyw49@gmail.com.

FOOD & CLOTHING MINISTRIES

“for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink...” - MATTHEW 20:35

By God's grace, the generosity of our parishioners and neighbors, and the faithfulness of willing volunteers, St. Paul's held its 150th bi-weekly food drive this past week. Every other Wednesday, volunteers load their cars with non-perishable food, paper products, and hygiene items that have been brought to church or to St. Paul's parking lot between 11:00 and noon, delivering half to Jericho Ministries in Danbury, and half to the following organizations on a rotating basis.

St. Paul's donations of non-perishable food, paper and hygiene items help to restock the Jericho pantry shelves and deliveries are made bi-weekly.

Long before the **Food Drives** began, St. Paul's collected and provided to the following pantries and deliveries continue to:

Bethel Community Food Pantry, St. Thomas
Brookfield Food Pantry - Brookfield Social Services
Christian Victory Center Food Pantry, Danbury
Daily Bread Food Pantry, St. James' - Danbury
F.A.I.T.H. Food Pantry of Newtown
Loaves & Fishes Hospitality House - New Milford

Volunteers include Ann and Dave Allen, Bill Bennett, Diane Peterson, Joe Roginski, and Angela Haselwood, who was also honored by Jericho Ministries as a Good Samaritan last spring for her dedicated service in their food ministries for the past 12 years.

As prices rise and food insecurity among our neighbors increases, we encourage all parishioners to keep this important ministry in mind as they shop, and know that every donation, large or small, is greatly appreciated by those in need

If you are interested in helping at the Jericho Food Pantry, please contact them directly at: Info@jerichopartnership.org. In addition, there are many volunteer opportunities and it is such a blessing to serve others.

During the colder months, you will notice a coat rack and a basket for collecting socks in the back of the church. The “Take a Hangar, Fill a Hangar” & Sock Collection began during a “12 Days of Christmas” event many years ago. It was such a success that we just continued to do it every year. And, boy, has it grown.

This year 130 jackets, 53 pairs of pants, sweaters and hoodies were collected along with winter hats, gloves, and boots. And over 450 pairs of socks! Well done St. Paul's.

Many thanks to Lin and Bill Bennett who deliver these items regularly to the shelter in Danbury. According to Bill, the shelter commented about the good condition of the jackets, many of which still had the sales tags on them.

Thank you all for your continued support and generosity to our Food & Clothing Ministries.

Diane Peterson & Pam Szen

LAY SERVERS

Currently active, we have 8 Acolytes, 1 Verger, 14 Greeters, 10 Lay Readers, 2 Officiants, and 34 Lectors/Intercessors. Several people do double-duty, i.e., greeters are intercessors, intercessors also are Lay Readers, etc.

We are very appreciative of everyone's commitment to the various lay server roles, filling in and covering the roles each service.

Anyone who is interested in any of these ministries should reach out. We are always looking to add to our ranks.

David Szen, Scheduler

SUNDAY SCHOOL

What's really good about Sunday School? .

We use a Bible-based curriculum from GROUP Publishing.

- We teach truth from the Bible. Our curriculum is Bible-based and helps the children apply God's word to their behavior and attitudes.
- We have teachers at each level who are both committed and enthusiastic;
LEVEL 1: preschoolers to Gr. 1; LEVEL 2: Gr. 2-5; MIDDLE SCHOOL: Gr. 6-8
- We have classes each Sunday during the first half of the 10:30 service during the school year.
- We have support people: a hallway monitor every Sunday
- Along with Sunday School, we provide nursery care during the first half of the 10:30 service every Sunday year-round.

What does our Sunday School need? more students.

- We lost families during the Covid shutdown who never returned, even though they have been contacted and invited back.
- Sunday morning sports are a big competitor to Sun. School, and that's something we at St. Paul's can't change.

If you know a family with children who are not already part of a church, invite them to St. Pauls! If you would like to volunteer to be on the teacher, hallway monitor, or nursery rotation, please talk with our Sunday School administrator.

Julie Astbury, Sunday School Administrator

ALTAR GUILD

St. Paul's Altar Guild is a lay ministry serving God in His house by preparing the Sanctuary for worship. Altar Guild Members prepare the altar for services and clean up afterwards. We maintain and care for the sacred vessels, altar linens and vestments, serving the clergy and the parish. We participate in seasonal decoration of the Sanctuary and ensure that we are supplied with all that is needed for weekly services.

We want to thank and acknowledge the volunteers who assist us in caring for our beautiful Sanctuary. We are grateful to those who keep all of our candles oiled and functioning, polish all of the beautiful brass and help keep our linens and vestments in good repair.

Thanks to several generous donations this year, we added a super frontal with matching pulpit/lectern hangings in green to our altar linen collection as well as a new intinction cup.

Our core group of ten ministry members welcomes anyone who would like to learn more about Altar Guild service. Please contact Mary Beth Durkin for information.

Mary Beth Durkin

WOMAN'S BIBLE STUDY, TUESDAY MORNINGS

Women have met at St. Paul's to study and discuss the Bible, supporting and encouraging each other in our faith journey for almost two decades. For the past several years we have expanded our in-person meeting to include Zoom participation, opening up our studies and discussions "Beyond the Red Door."

In 2025 our studies included:

- Paul's letter to the Ephesians
- The Gospel of John

During the summer months (June through August) when regular attendance can be a challenge, we read and discuss the appropriate meditation from Oswald Chamber's "*Our Utmost for His Highest.*"

All women are warmly invited!

Mary Beth Durkin

JOURNEYS INTO THE BIBLE

'Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.'

JEREMIAH 33:3

Back in 2011 Fr. Joe, Tara and Fr. Crocker went on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, walking in the footsteps of Jesus, visiting Bethlehem, Nazareth, Sea of Galilee, Dead Sea and Jerusalem.

Who knew that that trip would lead St. Paul's on more than a decade of biblical travel.

Their original Holy Land adventure set in motion a series of return pilgrimages by parishioners to Israel in 2012, '13, '14, '17, '18, '19, 22 and 2025.

In addition to Israel, in 2015 a journey to Turkey and Greece explored the seven churches of Revelations and followed in the footsteps of St. John and St. Paul. In 2018 we did an "Exodus" pilgrimage to Egypt, the land of the Pharaohs, Jacob, Joseph and Israel, cruising on the Nile River and exploring ancient Egyptian pyramids, culminating with a climb to the top of Mt. Sinai. Others then traveled on into Jordan and then we met up with many first time pilgrims in Israel. Our 2018 trip included two young people and also featured our first live baptism in the Jordan River.

In October, 2019 we went on an Anglican Heritage trip to England and Scotland, including a visit to Lambeth Palace, which is the official London residence of the Archbishop of Canterbury; London; Stonehenge; Windsor Palace; many cathedrals, and then on to Edinburgh and Aberdeen, Scotland where Samuel Seabury was consecrated as the first US Episcopal bishop.

COVID grounded our scheduled trips in 2020 & 2021, but we returned to Israel & Jordan in 2022.

Our 2020 journey to Germany for the Oberammergau Passion Play was also cancelled by COVID-19, but a dozen of us attended the rescheduled trip in September-October of 2022.

In October, 2023 we travelled to Malta and Italy, following the ministries of Saints Paul & Peter.

In September, 2025 a dozen pilgrims went forth from St. Paul's and were welcomed with open arms in Israel as their tourism industry begins to reopen.

There's a possibility of a return trip to the Holy Land later this summer and with plans for a special adventure trip to the Holy Land in 2027.

Over the past 15 years our inspirational biblical trips have been joined by more than 37 St. Paul's parishioners (many repeat travelers) along with a like number other explorers from other churches, family members, friends and others from as far away as Tasmania!

All of our trips are open to everyone. As we deepen our faith, we enjoy traveling with new friends.

Limited scholarship funding is available (see Fr. Nate).

Join us for all or part of any of these life changing journeys. Many options are available.

So, take a look. Consider. Pray on it. See if the Lord is calling you to venture forth. Join us.

'Blessed are those whose strength is in you, whose hearts are set on pilgrimage.' PSALM 84:5

David & Pam Szen

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

A small team of volunteers have joined with Fr. Nate, our current staff members and wardens to form an Administrative Team whose mission it is to direct the operation of St. Paul's Church including the services and worship each week, online and in-person.

We meet each week to discuss previous weeks services and/or events, events coming up, the next service needs, and connect the dots between the various ministries represented to maximize our efforts and to minimize potential disruption to the parish.

Members of this team are Fr. Nate, Kirsten Peterson, Mary Beth Durkin, Lois Hunt, and David Szen.

THE 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS & OTHER SPECIAL EVENTS

“But if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another.”

1 JOHN 1:7A

On the surface the “12 Days of Christmas” is a fun, whimsical, celebration of the Christmas season, reminding us that the season of the Nativity runs through the beginning of Epiphany. In reality, those 12 days were more about living out our daily lives in harmony and fellowship as Christians.

“How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!” - PSALM 133:1

In 2025-26, 123 people of all ages attended our 12 Day events, not including attendance at our Sunday and Wednesday services. As a church family, we watched Angel Studio’s movie “*David*,” we had a cooking lesson & a dinner party; hosted a Downton Abbey Tea Party and we watched “*Downton Abbey Grand Finale*,” saw Christmas lights ate hotdogs; went on a hike; shared a bowl of soup; blessed the White’s family home; went duck pin bowling; participated in a Zoom call with our Holy Land guide and trip pilgrims; had a pizza/game night; and in general, deepened our faith, laughed and made new friends.

“So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.” - ROMANS 14:19 ESV

Other events that fall in this category include our Super Bowl Party, Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, Parish Picnics (thank you Siergiej’s), and walked across the Hudson River. In 2026 watch for more community events and activities, including sporting events (definitely bowling), house blessings, game nights, movie nights, picnics, and a July 4th celebration with fireworks!

“So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God.” - EPHESIANS 2:19

Let us know your ideas and how you’d like to be involved. - Pam & David Szen

HEARTS TO HANDS MINISTRY

"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others."

PHILIPPIAANS 2:3-4

The leadership and volunteers of the Hearts to Hands Ministry continue to stand at the ready to help parishioners become aware of and meet the needs of our fellow parishioners within St. Paul’s Church Brookfield.

We are prepared to coordinate meal provision, transportation, and financial assistance to parishioners in need. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us if you or your family need assistance or if God is calling you to serve in this capacity.

Rides to doctor, lab, hospital appointments as well as church activities have been provided. The Bennet’s have also done shopping to grocery and drug stores as needed by our parishioners.

We have also provided meals for parishioners who have been convalescing at home after procedures.

The Hearts to Hands Ministry will continue to be available to help meet the needs of our St. Paul’s family. Thank you all for making it run so effortlessly. Words cannot even express how grateful we are for the many men and women of St. Paul’s who volunteer to help meet the needs of our fellow parishioners at every opportunity. We feel very blessed to be able to serve among you .

Hearts to Hands Leadership Team:

Bill Bennett, Lin Bennett, Dorothy Crocker

EVENT COORDINATION MINISTRY

The Events Ministry extends Christ's loving welcome, acceptance and compassion to all who approach the Red Doors of St. Paul's Church. We coordinate that welcome throughout St. Paul's Ministries to ensure that every event need is met, providing a point person for ease of planning, communication and access.

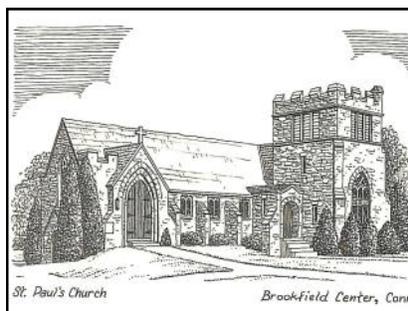
In 2025, often with hearts too full for words, we gathered to hold five funerals with interments in our Memorial Garden.

We witnessed two tender baptisms and one First Communion. We held our second (now annual!) Parish Thanksgiving luncheon and joined Jerusalem Church in their joy-filled Thanksgiving Harvest service and reception. We were fascinated and enlightened by three live performances of C.S. Lewis's Great Divorce. We held Lenten soup suppers, hosted two Red Cross Blood drives with the Brookfield VFW and provided a venue for the Brookfield Lions and Knights of Columbus to hold blood drives as well.

We are proud to be home base for troops of both Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts.

Memories, laughter and tears were shared (along with lots of good food!) savoring the ability to gather together in Christ's love. We eagerly await all that will bring us together in 2026.

Mary Beth Durkin



"Celebrating 241 years in the Spirit"

ST. PAUL'S SPONSORSHIP – CUB SCOUT PACK 135 AND BOY SCOUT TROOP 5

St. Paul's has been a sponsoring organization for the Boy Scouts since 1942. Sponsorship means, providing leadership and meeting facilities plus assuring that the National standards for the Boy Scouts of America are being met. Scouting has provided learning, adventure and leadership for hundreds of our community youth.

Currently, there are about 31 boys and girls and 11 leaders registered in Pack 135 and 37 boys and 28 leaders registered in Troop 5. Both units are among the strongest in the Connecticut Yankee Council.

Troop 5 is beginning its' 85th year in Brookfield. The Troop proudly displays a plaque in Crocker Hall listing the names of all 85 Eagle Scouts, with several more to be added soon.

The Troop performs many community services, well beyond the many Eagle Scout projects. This year, 600 American flags were placed on Veterans graves in Brookfield's 11 cemeteries; a fall yard cleanup for seniors and the St Paul's property; Town hiking trail maintenance; Christmas tree pickups; and Salvation Army bell ringing at the Brookfield Christmas tree lighting event.

During the year, the monthly campouts included wilderness survival, skiing, backpacking on the Appalachian Trail, shooting skills, a high ropes course, canoeing and kayaking, the Aquila District Camporee, Lime Rock Racetrack, the Winter Klondike and the Connecticut Yankee Council Jamboree. The Troop traveled to Boston for the annual 4-day historic trip. During the summer, 13 boys and 4 leaders spent a week at Camp Sequassen in New Hartford, CT. At about the same time, another 13 boys and 6 leaders traveled to the Scout Reservation in Philmont, NM to complete a high adventure trekking trip. The Troop has not missed a monthly camping adventure since February of 1964 – that is 62 years!

The Troop recognized Don Winkley for his commitment to the Troop over the past 65 years (and counting!) by funding and building a lean-to-shelter at the Loyalty Campsite at Camp Sequassen, a Scouting camp in New Hartford, CT. In November, the Troop officially dedicated the shelter to Don with 40 people in attendance including the current scouts and leaders, past scouts and leaders, and Don's daughter and son-in-law. Don continues to attend Troop meetings and events. His dedication and involvement with the Troop is a wonderful example of lifelong commitment and service to others and an inspiration for scouts as they move toward adulthood.

Scouting in Brookfield has been a proud tradition for many years. We have been blessed with excellent leadership and facilities as well as the many youth who have benefited from our program. Both scouting units thank St Paul's for their invaluable sponsorship! And we cordially invite your active participation in our youth activities.

The Scout Law: A Scout is: Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful. Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean and Reverent.

Rectors of Saint Paul's Parish 1785 - 2024

John Beach - Missionary, pre 1783	Ephraim Whitcome 1877-1906
Philo Perry 1787-1798	Clarence Mullikin 1907-1908
Daniel Burhans 1799-1812	William Robinson 1908-1911
Benjamin Benham 1812-1828	Herbert Stoddard 1912-1915
Joseph Covell 1829-1836	Charles Biggs 1915-1925
Richard Shimeall 1836-1837	Charles Carpenter 1925-1939
David Short 1838-1842	Robert Parkes 1939-1945
Edward Bull 1842-1842	Douglas Kennedy 1946-1947
Edward Ives 1842-1844	Richard Martin 1948-1954
Henry Noble 1844-1858	Arthur Middleton 1954-1960
Samuel Miller 1858-1859	Thomas Chappell 1961-1970
Henry Fitch 1859-1860	George Crocker 1970-2002
Jonathan Goodhue 1860-1869	Andrew Buchanan 2003-2009
Levi Stimson 1869-1872	Joseph Shepley 2009-2023
Frank Lewis 1872-1873	* Nathaniel Lee 2024-
Frederic Fiske 1873-1876	

** Priest-in-Charge*



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