

Annual Parish Meeting St. Paul's Episcopal Church

**Stockbridge, MA
The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany
February 5, 2023**



Our Mission

We believe in regular worship, the sacraments,
and teaching the Word of God
through scripture, preaching, education, and relationship.
We welcome all people into our Christian family.

A General Thanksgiving

Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love.

We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side.

We thank you for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us.

We thank you also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone.

Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for the truth of his Word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through which he overcame death; and for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom.

Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know Christ and make him known; and through him, at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things. *Amen.*

Prayer for Transition

Ever-present God, you have called us on a journey to a place we do not know. We are not where we started. We have not reached our destination. We are not quite sure where we are or who we are. This is not always a comfortable place. Be among us, we pray. Calm our fears, save us from discouragement, and help us stay on course. Open our hearts to your guidance so that our journey to this unknown place continues as a journey of trust. *Amen.*

Annual Meeting Agenda

Three Agenda Items will take place during the Holy Eucharist Service.

- Appointment of Clerk
- Special Recognition of Service to St. Paul's
- Interim Priest's Report/Sermon

After the Eucharist and a brief time of fellowship, the Business Meeting will begin.

- Call to Order
- Prayer
- Signing of the Annual Meeting Book
- Approval of Minutes from 2022
- Recognition of Vestry Members
- Nominations and Elections
- Wardens' Report
- Finance Report

Other Reports and Announcements

- Search Process

Benediction and Dismissal

Table of Contents

	Page Numbers
Agenda for Today's Annual Meeting.....	2
Minutes of 2022 Annual Meeting.....	4-6
Nominations Report.....	7
Interim Priest's Report.....	8
Wardens' Report.....	9
Volunteer Opportunities.....	10
Property Report.....	11
Worship Ministry.....	12-16
Priests & Worship Leaders	
Priest Associate's Report	
Verger's Report	
Sunday Worship	
Weekday Worship & Morning Prayer	
Holy Week, Easter, Christmas	
"From the Parish Register"	
Altar Guild	
Readers/Intercessors	
Ushers/Greeters	
Altar Flowers	
Fellowship	
Musicians	
Pastoral Care, Safe Church, & Welcoming.....	17-18
Outreach Ministry.....	19-23
St. Paul's Children's Center	
Lee Food Pantry	
Gideon's Garden	
Appalachian Trail Mini-Mission Trips	
Swords to Plowshares	
Christmas Family	
Outreach Ministry of the Week	
Cathedral of the Beloved	
Riverbrook Residence	
Prayer Basket	
Rector's Discretionary Fund	
Small Financial Donations	
Community Involvement and Collaborative Ministry.....	24-27
St. Paul's Creates	
Blessing of the Animals	
Community Thanksgiving	
Three Kings Celebration	
Church Tours	
Concerts	
Community Partnerships Project	
Holy Week Services	
Shared Staff	
Adult Christian Formation – Community in Faith	
Deanery and Diocese	
Profile and Search Process for New Rector.....	28-29
Staff and Communications.....	30-31
Stewardship Report and Treasurer's Report.....	32-36

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Minutes of the Annual Meeting (via Zoom due to COVID-19)
Sunday, January 30, 2022

The meeting was opened by Rector Sam Smith at 9:38 am. Sebastian Bonner was appointed clerk for the meeting. For the record, the physical location of this meeting is St. Paul's Church at 29 Main Street, Stockbridge, MA, where Sam hosted. Sam began by noting that current government regulations permit holding an annual meeting virtually and confirmed that with 15 people in physical attendance, a quorum was present. Sam introduced the agenda and led a prayer of thanks.

Minutes of the Previous Annual Meeting *(Please see the 2022 Annual Meeting packet)*

Sam called for a motion to accept the minutes of the February 14, 2021 meeting. Duncan Pollock so moved and Libby Wade seconded. Motion carried. Sam then asked that all votes from the 2021 meeting be ratified. Jorja Marsden so moved and Martha Bodine seconded. Motion carried. Sam then turned the meeting over to Jorja.

Nominating Committee Report delivered by Jorja Marsden *(please see the 2022 Annual Meeting packet)*

As Nominating Committee chair, Jorja presented Diane Dillon and Carl Sprague for re-election for three-year terms, and presented nominations for Vestry Officers and Delegates to the Diocesan Convention.

The slate of Vestry Members is:

Class of 2023

Diana French
Tom Skakel

Class of 2024

Chris Johnson
Duncan Pollock
Martha Bodine

Class of 2025

Diane Dillon
Carl Sprague

Jorja moved to accept the slate of Vestry Members. Martha Bodine seconded. Motion carried.

Vestry Officers:

Senior Warden:	Jorja Marsden
Junior Warden:	Martha Bodine
Treasurer:	John Davies
Clerk:	Sebastian Bonner

Sam offered a special thank you to Matt Fillio who was the first person to introduce him to St. Paul's. Matt has served as Senior Warden for 6 years. Although no longer in that role, Matt will continue to head the Property Committee. Sam presented Matt with a gift.

Jorja moved to accept the slate of Vestry Officers. Diane Dillon seconded. Motion carried.

Delegates to the Diocesan Convention:

Diana French
Jorja Marsden

Jorja moved to accept the slate of Delegates. Duncan Pollock seconded. Motion carried.

Finance Committee Report delivered by Jorja Marsden *(please see the 2022 Annual Meeting packet)*

- General Operating Fund – Total Revenue for the entire year 2021 (before the PPP Grant) was about \$6,000 over budget. This was due to payments of current pledges which were about \$5,700 over budget and building use fees which were about \$1,800 over budget. Total

Expenses (before the PPP Grant) were almost exactly on budget. These expenses do not include the Rectory Renovation. The General Operating Fund unrestricted cash account balance at the end of December was \$37,009.65.

- Parish members were wonderful about paying their pledges last year. We had pledges of \$107,000 and we received \$112,717. And again wonderful about pledging for 2022 – to date we have received pledges of \$115,000.
- Endowment Fund – As of the end of December 2021, total gain for 12 months was \$223,351.67, which constitutes a 14.28% gain for the 12 months before distribution of .06% for fees to State Street for their management of the fund.
- Rectory Renovation Fund – The total for the project was \$119,290.80. At the end of December, we had completely paid for the project and had a balance of \$4,106.36 within the fund.
- 2022 Budget – Our proposed budget is much the same as that for 2021, except that we have a new Organist/Music Director, Dillon Streifeneder, whose duties will include recruiting and training a choir of children and adults – as Covid permits. Toward that end, we have added a budget item of about \$2,000 for a rejuvenated Youth Ministry, again as Covid permits.
- A parishioner asked how will the garden be maintained. The parishioner was informed that some extra pruning had recently been performed and the budget for the garden had been increased to outsource some maintenance because the Godly Gardeners are aging.
- Jorja moved to accept the Finance Report and Peter Dillon seconded. Motion carried.

Property Committee Report delivered by Matt Fillio (*please see the 2022 Annual Meeting packet*)

Matt enumerated the major projects completed in 2021:

- Telecommunications and computer upgrades
- Rectory renovation
- Garden and walkway improvements, additional Adirondack chairs for the church yard
- Confirmatory survey of property lines
- Parish house improvements (power washing, oil tank removal)
- Lighting to illuminate the angels in the church eaves

Matt welcomed participation by any parishioner who has an interest in preserving these beautiful historic buildings and grounds.

Rector's Report delivered by the Rev. Sam Smith (*please see the 2022 Annual Meeting packet*)

Sam directed the parishioners' attention to our stained-glass window's depiction of St. Paul and began with scriptural readings pertaining to St. Paul's remarkable conversion. He then read from Ecclesiastes 3—"a time for every matter under heaven"—and reflected on how relevant this moment is to think about time. The pandemic has skewed our sense of time: we are all having difficulty remembering things that have just occurred or when they happened. Sam characterized this as a time of waiting, weeping, fear, and loss. He said that we have all shared a longing for normalcy since March of 2020.

This pandemic period has brought us all to think about what's important to us. Some of us have recalibrated our lives. Many of us are focusing on how to live our best lives, and it sometimes feels like paddling a rowboat on an ocean. Either we do a lot of stuff until we break apart, or we give ourselves to the water to be swept along, massaged, pummeled and finally beached where we were supposed to arrive. We realize that we have no control over what life throws at us.

At our annual meeting last year, Sam thought we were almost at the end. But we've had little control over the rough seas of life. Our timeline of 2021 shows how we made our way through and illustrates the different ways we worshipped—in the churchyard, trying to focus despite tourists, motorcycles, and 18 wheelers. We've exchanged the peace with waves instead of shaking hands and hugging. The Eucharist has been a simple wafer. We've kept up our traditions of music and our coffee hour after service.

This has been a time of adaptation and isolation. We're unsure what will happen next. That's what life is. We come to church to become better equipped to handle the wild nature of life, to learn

resiliency and practice hope. We pray that the time of pandemic will be over soon, or at least will transform into something easier to weather. We hope we will have grown, that there were valuable lessons that we are learning, that we will be more resilient.

Sam then announced that another change was coming. He has accepted the call to be the next Rector at All Saints Church in Worcester, Massachusetts. Sam read a letter he had prepared for the parish: "It was not an easy decision to pursue this call. Don and I have very much enjoyed our time at St. Paul's, and life is quite comfortable here in Stockbridge. But the Holy Spirit often blows in ways that are unexpected; as I began conversation with the people of All Saints, it became clear to me (and to them) that this should be the next step in my vocation.

"I am honored that, despite this potential for this new call, Matt Fillio and Jorja Marsden, Wardens at the time I began this exploration, agreed that I should be able to take two months of my contracted and overdue three-month sabbatical this February and March. As we announced earlier, Don and I will spend these months in Texas visiting family and friends. We will then return to Stockbridge for the month of April, to celebrate with you Holy Week and Easter and to say our goodbyes. We will move in the month of May, and my first Sunday at All Saints will be on June 5 – The Day of Pentecost.

"I leave St. Paul's proud of the work we have done together and warmed by your affection. While we will no longer be in a pastor/congregant relationship after April, I will carry you in my heart always—and because I will still be in this diocese, perhaps our paths will cross at diocesan functions. I certainly hope so.

"The wardens appointed at today's annual meeting (Jorja Marsden, Sr. Warden, and Martha Bodine, Jr. Warden), as well as the vestry, will begin work shortly with The Rev. Rich Simpson, Canon to the Ordinary, to consider possibilities for your next rector. I feel certain that the future for St. Paul's is bright: God holds you closely, as do I."

Sam ended by asking if there were any other reports or announcements. There being none, a parishioner led a round of applause and thanks to Sam.

Sam offered a blessing, paraphrasing a message from St. Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians.

Jean Rousseau moved to close the meeting and Matt Fillio seconded. Motion carried. The Annual Meeting concluded at 10:12 am.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sebastian Bonner, Clerk

NOMINATIONS REPORT

Each year we elect officers and at least two members to the Vestry for three-year terms. Any vacancies are also filled. The Vestry shares in leadership of the parish and is the corporate body which holds title to our corporate property and makes our major decisions. According to the Diocesan Canons, Vestry members are expected to be donors of record to the church and regular attendees at services, as well as active participants in church leadership. Duncan Pollock resigned in the fall of 2022 due to illness. He had one-year remaining on his term. Tom Skakel served for three years and declined to serve a second term. Thank you to both Duncan and Tom for their service, and thank you to continuing vestry members and officers.

We are pleased to present for three-year terms on the Vestry:

Diana French (her 2nd term)

Darryl Lafferty (his 1st term)

We are pleased to present for a one-year term on the Vestry, fulfilling Duncan Pollock's term.

Robert Maloney

We are pleased to present the following slate of officers:

Senior Warden: **Jorja Marsden**

Junior Warden: **Martha Bodine**

Treasurer: **John Davies**

Clerk: **Sebastian Bonner**

Summary of Vestry Terms

Class of 2024: Chris Johnson, Robert Maloney

Class of 2025: Diane Dillon, Carl Sprague

Class of 2026: Diana French, Darryl Lafferty

Nominees for Delegates to Diocesan Convention on Saturday, October 28, 2023

Diane Dillon Delegate

Martha Bodine Delegate

Diana French Alternate Delegate

At a meeting in the fall of 2022, the Vestry agreed to the following expectations of Vestry members:

Attend vestry meetings

Attend worship

Serve as Vestry of the Day 6-8 Sundays a year (an idea under development)

Pray regularly for the congregation

Make a financial commitment to parish

Be a legal representative of the parish regarding corporate property,
subject to Diocesan Canons and MA laws

Be responsible with the priest for promoting the spiritual welfare of the congregation

Be a Council of Advice for the Interim and Rector

Manage the fiscal affairs of the parish wisely

Exercise careful discernment in calling a new Rector

Set goals and future plans in relation to St. Paul's Mission Statement

Stay up to date on events and activities at St. Paul's

Take a leadership role in at least one project or area of the church's work

Be an enthusiastic communicator

REPORT FROM THE INTERIM PRIEST

2022 was both difficult and exciting. Above all, it was a year of transitions for St. Paul's in quite a few areas, including the Covid pandemic, staff changes, and the search process. As your Interim Priest, I am blessed to walk with you through this changing landscape of church life.

At last January's Annual Meeting, I heard the Rev. Sam Smith's announcement of his call to All Saints in Worcester with mixed feelings. As Jim's and my home parish since 2014, St. Paul's is dear to us. Sam's sabbatical began the day after that Annual Meeting, and he and Don moved to Worcester shortly after Easter. I had served as St. Paul's Interim in 2015 before Sam's arrival in Stockbridge. After discussions with the Diocese and the Vestry, we agreed that I would take on this role again as of July 1. While I fulfilled a commitment to another parish in the Spring, I also worked with St. Paul's and was supply priest on several Sundays. Since July, I've been $\frac{3}{4}$ -time Interim Priest, helping St. Paul's move through this transition time by continuing already well-established worship practices and other activities, searching for new staff, personally taking on some administrative and musical roles, working closely with the vestry and wardens, supporting the Profile Committee, and trying out new ways to engage people in the mission of this church. Our wardens, Jorja Marsden and Martha Bodine, are truly capable, insightful, and spiritually grounded people who are a joy to work with. We meet frequently in a spirit of collaborative leadership. By the end of 2022, we had made progress through an almost overwhelming pile of transitions, though there is certainly more work to be done!

This Annual Report Booklet is far longer and more detailed than is the norm for St. Paul's. It's meant to be a historical record and provide helpful information for a new Rector, but it's also intended to increase awareness throughout the parish of all the pieces of ministry that happen in and through this congregation. I hope you will take time to read it and consider where you fit into the picture.

You might also note what's missing from the picture. For instance, at present there is no youth ministry and very little adult education. It was exciting to baptize Anders Tierney and to see a number of children at Christmas Eve worship, but we still have no children or youth active in the regular life of the parish. In 2023, I hope we'll gradually offer more education and formation opportunities for adults. We'll certainly ramp up youth ministry whenever it seems possible. While our in-person attendance increased as the pandemic eased, we're still in a transition phase with the pandemic and that colors everything we do. We've grown in the breadth of our outreach ministries and community involvement, added new hands-on outreach, hosted several concerts, welcomed newcomers, and added new pledgers. Our in-person Sunday worship attendance is higher than the previous year, but still seriously low. We've returned to having fellowship on Sundays, and there is some energy around adding more opportunities for gathering around food at other times. I hope that will be more possible in 2023 than it has been during the pandemic. Improvements to the buildings and grounds, as well as responding to emergencies, takes a great deal of time and energy, particularly for our Sr. Warden. Much has been accomplished in 2022, but the Rectory Renovation Project is still in a state of flux and will need to be addressed in 2023.

We said goodbye to staff members Dillon Streifeneder and Jean Chapin in 2022. Both the musician position and the administrator position were re-designed and by the end of the year, we had welcomed Kyra Saltman as our new administrator with Jorja Marsden as accounting clerk, and we had settled into a regular rotation of Nancy King and David Smith as primary musicians with Doug Schmolze, Delana Thomsen, and Kyra Saltman adding their talents from time to time. The music team is phenomenal, though it's a transitional solution which a new Rector will need to address with an eye toward growing the music ministry of St. Paul's. In the realm of worship, our verger Darryl Lafferty and our Priest Associate Jane Tillman have remained constant and faithful. It is a distinct joy to work with each of these gifted people and to serve God with the people of St. Paul's Parish.

You've been part of the process followed by the Profile Committee and will continue to be informed of progress as the work of the Search Process continues into 2023. In the words of the "Prayer for Transition" printed on the cover of this booklet: "Be among us, O God. Calm our fears, save us from discouragement, and help us stay on course. Open our hearts to your guidance so that our journey...continues as a journey of trust. Amen."

--The Rev. Elizabeth (Libby) Wade

REPORT FROM THE WARDENS

As new wardens this year (Jorja Marsden, Senior Warden; Martha Bodine, Junior Warden), we have certainly been busy. The Interim time between priests is complex; so before we say what we've been doing, let us tell you how blessed our church has been to have Libby Wade as our Interim Priest. She jumped right in, scheduling musicians, finding our Parish Administrator, and offering our congregation the opportunity to grow in our ministries. We have not just been treading water, we are swimming strongly toward our goals. Thank you, Libby.

Winter 2022 was the time of our Rector Sam Smith's sabbatical and transitioning to his new call. Jorja helmed the administration of the church, watching over the empty rectory, interacting with Canon Rich Simpson who works with us in the process of finding a new rector, and beginning to finalize our membership rolls in anticipation of the congregational survey we completed in the summer.

In the Spring we said goodbye to Sam and Don with a lovely service and reception. Libby transitioned gradually from supply priest to $\frac{3}{4}$ -time Interim Priest (as of July 1). We moved our service outside when the weather warmed and discovered that our numbers grew in that beautiful setting. Our wonderful Godly Gardeners officially retired. "Well done, good and faithful servant(s)!" We are so grateful for your years of service and just how much work you did. We contracted with a new landscaping company and have been working with them to keep up our beautiful grounds.

Summer brought a ramping up of the search process. Jorja saw us through the Holy Cow Parish Survey that helped the Vestry see a clearer picture of our congregation and the work ahead of us. With the Rectory Renovation Committee, she also began to draw up a list of work to be done to the interior of the Rectory. The last major work to the interior was completed in the late 1950s and early 1960s! They continue to prioritize the needed tasks and get bids for the work. In August, Libby suggested that we open up part of the Rectory to share our congregation's artistic talents. The timing was coordinated with a Stockbridge Arts and Crafts Festival weekend.

Fall ushered in a move back inside the church for services and a renewed commitment to live-streaming services. That has not been a smooth road, as the network connections are "interesting." We continue to struggle to get it working consistently. We brought back the Blessing of the Animals. It was appreciated by the attendees (both human and animal), and we look forward to continuing the tradition. The vestry decided to expand our community presence by hosting four concerts in November and December. Members of our church graciously volunteered to be hosts to the groups who came in. The concerts were well attended. It has been proposed that future proceeds from concerts go toward outreach ministries chosen by St. Paul's. As we approached the whirlwind of Advent and the Christmas season, we also worked with our Treasurer on next year's budget and planning for 2023.

Covid remains a concern for everyone. We strongly encourage people to wear masks when moving about in the church, and we follow our bishop's instructions by not permitting intinction at communion. The vestry reconsiders our Covid precautions frequently.

The Wardens wish to give a huge "Thank You!" to so many. If we list them, we will forget some, but know that the church would not function without you. It is not the Priest's job to make everything work. It is not the wardens' or vestry's job to make everything work. It is the job of all of us. We are doing the job and go forward into 2023 to continue and even expand our life at St. Paul's.

--Martha Bodine, Junior Warden & Jorja Marsden, Senior Warden



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteering has been an active topic of discussion and action this year. In September we distributed a questionnaire about volunteering and parishioners' interests. We have been using the responses to that questionnaire to help guide us in what we offer and who we might ask to help. Since we have had new members join us since September, here is an abbreviated list of possibilities:

Church Service

Contact: The Rev. Libby Wade

Ushers/Greeters
Readers/Intercessors
Altar Guild
Crucifers
Goodie Providers for Fellowship
Setting up and running the live streaming system

Behind the Scenes

Contact: Jorja Marsden or Martha Bodine

Vestry member
Stewardship Committee
Pastoral Care team
Buildings and Grounds Committee
Special Events Committee
Concert Hosts

Lending Your Expertise

Contact: Martha Bodine

Do you write well, take photos, make art?
Do you have a special talent you wish to share?
Do you have a background in something about which we can consult you?
For ex.: plumbing, building, electrical work, architecture, finance, arts management, anything?

Ministries to the Community

Contact: The Rev. Libby Wade

Volunteer for our summer Appalachian Trail Angels Team
Help at Lee Food Pantry once a month
Be a gardener at Gideon's Garden in the summer
Attend a Sunday worship at Cathedral of the Beloved
Help with the Blessing of the Animals
Provide help for a family at Christmas



PROPERTY REPORT

St. Paul's property is situated within the historic Main Street designation of Stockbridge. Our property consists of three buildings (Church, Rectory, and Parish House), a Memorial Garden, a Playground, and beautiful lawns.

There is always maintenance and upkeep needed when you have a property. This year we had "Top to Bottom Tree Service" remove a total of eight dead trees from the property. We also installed a fence along the playground, sharing the cost with the Children's Center. Martha Bodine, Jr. Warden, and Jean Rousseau, Godly Gardener, created an RFP for the maintenance of the flower beds and lawn, which led to hiring a new gardening/mowing company. Matt Fillio supervised work on the parking lot and driveway and dealt with replacing our old sign with a beautiful new one in the church yard facing Main Street.

In the Church, as of mid-January 2023, the angels are now all lit, two ceiling fans have been installed for air circulation, and the electrical outlets are up to code. We are still waiting for the contractor to restore the stairs going down to the basement and up to the organ loft.

The Parish House received a new dishwasher and circulator, with costs shared between Church and Children's Center. While installing these items, a problem turning on the mixing valve led to the discovery that the piping is all old galvanized pipes that crumble over time. The plumber recommended taking care of this immediately. The Stockbridge Water Superintendent also noted that the main line from the street through the Rectory and into the Parish House is all old galvanized lines that need to be replaced. However, he felt we could wait until warmer weather in 2023 to do this major work. We will need to replace the water line from the street into our property and then replace the main line and all the water pipes in both buildings.

The Rectory received a new burner for the furnace, as there was no heat. The furnace is old, but should last between five and ten more years. The Vestry appointed a committee to renovate the Rectory prior to our new priest's arrival. The Committee of John Davies, Matt Fillio, Diana French, Rob Maloney, and Jorja Marsden prioritized what needs to be done. Since the last full renovation was done in the late 50s/60s, it was determined that an updated kitchen was needed, along with work in the pantry and two bathrooms, as well as sanding the wooden floors and painting throughout the Rectory. A new roof is needed within a year, and the chimneys need to be inspected and work done on them.

As we move into 2023, the restoration plans for the Rectory and new waterlines and new plumbing in both Rectory and Parish House are on the top of our list. It has been extremely difficult to find contractors willing to bid the Rectory project. These two major projects are extremely important for the upkeep of our building and property. We will need to do some fundraising to accomplish them. St. Paul's is OUR home and we can do the necessary work with all of us working together.

--Jorja Marsden, Senior Warden

WORSHIP MINISTRY

Priests & Worship Leaders Who Served at St. Paul's in 2022

In a year of sabbatical and transition, St. Paul's has been enriched by having a wide variety of clergy in the pulpit and at the altar. In addition, lay leadership of Morning Prayer has been an enormous gift to the parish's spiritual life. We've also been blessed to have Sunday visits from both our Bishop and Canon to the Ordinary.

Regular

The Rev. Samuel J. Smith (Sam) -- Rector January - April

The Rev. Jane G. Tillman -- Priest Associate all year

The Rev. Elizabeth T. Wade (Libby) -- Supply Priest February-June
Interim Priest July-December

Mr. Darryl Lafferty, Jr. -- Morning Prayer Officiant every Wednesday and one Sunday

Occasional Preachers and/or Celebrants (mostly during Sabbatical)

The Rev. Elizabeth Fisher (Betsy)

The Rev. Janet Zimmerman

The Rev. Valerie Bailey Fisher

The Rev. Jenny Gregg

The Rev. Peter Feltman-Mahan

The Rev. Canon Dr. Rich Simpson

The Rt. Rev. Douglas Fisher

Report of the Priest Associate

In April 2016, Father Sam Smith, in consultation with the vestry, appointed me as a non-stipendiary Priest Associate at St. Paul's. Non-stipendiary means without salary. Ordained in 2014, my primary call has been as a supply priest in Berkshire County, and becoming a priest associate at St. Paul's gave me a parish home. We negotiated an agreement in which I preside at the altar one Sunday a month, preach one Sunday a month, and occasionally provide pastoral care as needed. I also serve as a supply priest at other parishes when invited, and at St. Paul's when the Rector or Interim Priest is away.

As a bi-vocational priest, I have a fulltime (and then some) job which only permits a limited engagement in the many facets of St. Paul's. This past year I have provided pastoral care to several parishioners, presided over a funeral and a committal service, assisted at Sunday worship, preached and presided on various Sundays at St. Paul's and served as a supply priest on a very limited basis. I participate in online Diocesan Compline services Monday-Wednesday evenings, and lead that service when one of the bishops or other leaders are not available. In the diocese, I serve on the Board of Examining Chaplains, reviewing the results of the General Ordination Exam and meeting with candidates for ordination as vocational deacons. I give thanks for the people of St. Paul's and the faithful spiritual engagement members have maintained during this long season of COVID disruption.

--The Rev. Jane Tillman

WORSHIP MINISTRY, continued

Verger's Report

The purpose of this report is to provide an understanding of the vergers' ministry over the year 2022 at St. Paul's Stockbridge. The year began with the announcement of our Rector's call to another parish. Such an announcement was significant to the vergers' position because, "a vergers serves at the pleasure of the rector, priest in charge, or interim priest." Who would be the Interim Priest, and would they want the ministry of vergers to continue? These questions were quickly answered as Interim Priest, the Rev. Libby Wade, asked me to continue as vergers throughout the transition period, and I agreed.

While your vergers could have been seen performing certain duties on any given Sunday morning, those actions merely represented a few visible and mostly liturgical roles. Presiding Bishop Michael Curry summed up the vergers' role best when he said, "hospitality is at the core of what vergers do – to be witnesses." In addition to providing hospitality to all who entered our church or attended Morning Prayer virtually, the vergers ensured that "people and all things necessary to worship were present, properly prepared, and in the appropriate place at the right time." The priority was to ensure Altar Guild preparations were complete and readers present. Whenever needed, the vergers completed necessary arrangements and filled in vacant roles, such as acolyte.

Historical references reveal that the vergers' role was created to ensure safety after the murder of Thomas Becket at the altar in the year 1170. In keeping with the spirit of this traditional role, your vergers consistently maintained an awareness of surroundings with safety in mind during worship, and provided a "Safe Church" assessment to parish leadership.

Additional accomplishments in the past year included cleaning and organizing the sacristy and organ loft under the direction of the former Rector, as well as polishing the brass, assisting with livestreaming, and managing the sound system for our summer of outdoor worship. In addition to core vergers responsibilities and in the spirit of service, the vergers led weekly Morning Prayer and agreed to sit as chaplain on both the profile and search committees for a new Rector.

--Darryl R. Lafferty, Jr.

Wednesday Morning Prayer

An abbreviated form of morning prayer via the Zoom platform was created during the pandemic by then-Rector, Sam Smith. At the request of regular attendees, the weekly Wednesday morning service continued following a return to in-person Sunday worship. This group has evolved into a worshipping community, prayerfully caring for the needs of each other and the greater congregation.

I assumed the role of Morning Prayer worship leader in February 2022 to cover Fr. Sam while he was on sabbatical. Following Sam's call to another parish, I continued to lead Morning Prayer at the request of Interim Priest, Libby Wade.

With the agreement of regular attendees, I expanded the abbreviated weekly prayer service into a full Morning Prayer according to the *Book of Common Prayer*, Rite II, lasting about fifteen to twenty minutes. In 2022, attendance averaged six to seven people. The Daily Office Lectionary was used for appointed scripture readings, supplemented by commemorations found in *A Great Cloud of Witnesses*. Homilies, when included, were taken directly from *A Great Cloud of Witnesses*, or from James Keifer. At the end of 2022, I was formally licensed by the Diocese of Western Massachusetts as a Worship Leader.

In the late spring of 2022, a few members of the group requested a daily Morning Prayer service Monday to Friday. After prayerful meditation, consultation, and consideration, it was

WORSHIP MINISTRY, continued

decided to maintain the one Wednesday Morning Prayer service. I have joyously agreed to continue leading Wednesday Morning Prayer at the pleasure of the Interim Priest and new Rector, once he or she is called.

--Darryl R. Lafferty, Jr.

Sunday Worship

Our Sunday Worship Services were almost always Holy Eucharist, with Rite One at 8:00 a.m. and Rite Two at 10:00 a.m. during the academic year. We continued the practice begun before Covid of worshipping on the church lawn for part of the summer – July through early September in 2022. For those services, we used *Enriching Our Worship*. One Sunday in May was Morning Prayer led by our Verger with the Wardens speaking about the Search Process at sermon time. Several Sundays included a special focus:

- Outdoor Reception for the Rev. Sam Smith and Don Temples on Sam's last Sunday
- Blessing of the new Church Sign
- Bishop Fisher's Visitation Sunday
- Honoring our Graduates (including 17 from St. Paul's Children's Center) and Teachers
- Creation Season including the Sunday of the "St. Paul's Creates" art show and culminating with a Sunday afternoon Blessing of the Animals
- Remembering those who've gone before on All Saints Sunday
- Holy Baptism of Anders Michael Tierney in December
- Lessons and Carols for Holy Name Day on January 1, 2023

Communion was taken to a homebound parishioner by the Rev. Jane Tillman four times.

On the 2nd Sunday of each month from September – December, we had one Sunday service at 9:00 a.m. followed by "**Second Sunday – Something More**" special events.

- September – The Rev. Libby Wade led us in focusing on all the ways we might be involved at St. Paul's and 20+ questionnaires were turned in. This has helped Libby and the Vestry prioritize new events and know who to ask to volunteer for various roles and activities.
- October – Duncan Pollock and Rob Maloney led an open discussion of the "Four Pillars of St. Paul's" in development by the Profile Committee. This discussion helped guide further work of the committee.
- November – Focus was on the College Care Package project and stewardship
- December – The Profile Committee planned a meditative session using 12 questions to be answered for the Parish Profile.

Weekday Worship

- Ash Wednesday with Imposition of Ashes
- Wednesday Morning Prayer (described above by Darryl Lafferty)
- Compline and an Order of Worship for the Evening were each celebrated once.
- The Vestry and the Profile Committee always include an element of prayer or scripture reflection in their meetings.
- Community Thanksgiving Service was held on Thanksgiving Day at 1st Congregational Church in Stockbridge.
- There were ten funerals/memorial services or burials/committals in 2022.

WORSHIP MINISTRY, continued

Holy Week, Easter, and Christmas Worship

- Holy Week services were shared with other churches: Maundy Thursday at Christ Trinity in Sheffield; Good Friday at Grace in Gt. Barrington, Easter Vigil at Trinity in Lenox.
- Palm Sunday attendance – 34
- Easter Sunday attendance – 76
- Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist Family Service attendance– 90
- Christmas Eve Festival Holy Eucharist attendance– 40
- Christmas Day attendance – 27

Because of the Covid pandemic, this was the first year since 2019 that all three Christmas services had been held in person at St. Paul's. While the attendance was lower than pre-Covid, the services were glorious with many visitors in spite of a major winter storm that day. At the Family Service, a group of children helped Mother Libby build the creche as we told the story of the birth of Jesus. Joyful music for that service was provided by Kyra Saltman, cello, and Delana Thomsen, piano. Our Festival Eucharist at 10:30 p.m. was enhanced by special music by David Smith, organ, and Robin Steitz, soprano. Christmas Day was a simple service with carols accompanied by our Interim Priest.

From the Parish Register

Baptism: Anders Michael Tierney (12/11)

Membership Transfer to St. Paul's:
David and Ann Pearson

Deaths:

Cecilia Jones	Memorial Service 1/28 Committal 7/8
Edward Esko, Jr.	Memorial Service 3/20
Sarah Sedgwick Ginnocchio	Memorial Service and Burial 7/9
Annie Skerry	Memorial Service and Committal 7/13
Ronald Bill	Memorial Service 9/14
Clover Swann	Memorial Service 10/8
Helga Kaiser	Memorial Service 10/15



No Weddings, no Confirmations, no Receptions in 2022.

Average In-Person Sunday Attendance 2022 was 29.
We don't have an accurate count for those participating in live-streamed Sunday worship in 2022.

WORSHIP MINISTRY, continued

Many people are involved on a weekly basis in making our worship run smoothly and be meaningful for all. Clergy have been listed above and you've read reports from our Priest Associate and our Verger about their responsibilities. Here is a list of other groups involved.

Altar Guild

The Altar Guild is responsible for preparing the church for worship. This includes caring for the appointments, vessels, and vestments used in worship; keeping the sacristy organized and tidy; and maintaining adequate stock of required supplies. When requested, the Altar Guild also prepares the altar for baptisms, weddings, funerals, and memorial services. Parishioners interested in serving on the Altar Guild are always welcome. Contact: Tracy Johnson

Readers/Intercessors

These folks act as regular readers of scripture and lead the Prayers of the People. Those who enjoy reading in church and are able to project clearly using our sound system are welcome to join. Matt Fillio schedules the 10 a.m. Readers/Intercessors. The Rev. Libby Wade schedules the 8 a.m. Readers/Intercessors. To volunteer -- Contact: The Rev. Libby Wade or Verger Darryl Lafferty

Ushers/Greeters

In the fall of 2022, a one-page instruction sheet for ushers/greeters has been prepared. Basic responsibilities include arriving a bit early for the 10 a.m. service, making sure everyone has a service leaflet, greeting people as they arrive, and helping visitors to feel comfortable. At the offertory, the day's usher taps another person to help collect the offering and present it at the altar. After the service, responsibilities include helping pick up leaflets left in pews and encouraging visitors to stay for fellowship time. Matt Fillio schedules Ushers/Greeters. To volunteer -- Contact: Martha Bodine

Altar Flowers

Each week, except during Lent, there are two flower arrangements on the high altar. (When we're worshipping outside, it's one arrangement or living plant in front of the altar.). Diana French or Carl Sprague often arrange flowers for special occasions such as Christmas or Easter. For most Sundays, we offer the opportunity for folks to provide flowers in memory of or in thanksgiving for someone. They can provide the flowers themselves or our parish administrator can order them from a florist (\$60, if this option is chosen). There are still some open dates in 2023. Contact: Kyra Saltman, Parish Administrator

Fellowship

As Covid restrictions eased in 2022, we began having a fellowship time with special treats after the 10 a.m. Sunday worship service. St. Paul's provides coffee plus utensils and paper products, so when you host, all you have to do is bring and set up finger food and help clean up. To volunteer, Contact: Martha Bodine

Musicians

We've been blessed in 2022 with a cadre of great musicians following the departure of Music Director Dillon Streifeneder. Our regulars have been Doug Schmolze (classical guitar), Kyra Saltman (cello), Nancy King (organ/piano), and David Smith (organ/piano). Others who filled in occasionally were Eva Perri Maia, Ron Hanft, Tom Damrosch, Libby Wade, Tracy Wilson, Delana Thomsen, and Robin Steitz. There's also room for parishioners who play instruments to help with a worship service, as Virgil Stucker did with his native American flute last summer. If you'd like to play a prelude or offertory sometime, please contact the Rev. Libby Wade.

PASTORAL CARE AND WELCOMING

Pastoral Care

Pastoral Care often happens in a quiet, behind-the-scenes way with a parishioner making a phone call to check on a fellow parishioner, with the delivery of a casserole or plate of cookies to someone who is ill, or with a simple encouraging word during fellowship time after a worship service. Of course, our Prayer Lists are a form of pastoral care, as are the birthday/anniversary cards sent by our Interim Priest, and the College Care Boxes we mailed to students (see description in the Outreach Ministry section of this booklet). Any time there is a funeral or baptism or wedding, numerous people step up to help ease sorrow or share the joy. We had more funerals than usual in 2022 and one wonderful baptism. There were two interments in the St. Paul's Memorial Garden last summer. What marvelous gift that garden is to all of us, but especially to families who've lost a loved one. Though we haven't yet resumed regularly taking communion to people who are homebound, we hope to do so again in the future. I rely on parishioners to let me know when someone is ill or needs to talk. Please call or e-mail me or Jane Tillman if you or someone you know is in need of spiritual, physical, or emotional support.

--The Rev. Libby Wade, Interim Priest

Safe Church

As everyone knows, safety is an increasingly important topic in all our public places, including churches. The Episcopal Church provides a program called Safe Church to educate people and promote best practices. Our Diocese conducts Safe Church training sessions and has materials to help churches be safer. The training is required for Priests, Wardens, Vestry members, staff, and our Children's Center employees. Dates of these Safe Church Workshops in 2023 are available on the Diocesan Website (<https://www.diocesewma.org/resources-and-policies/safe-church>). The vestry has a list of action items that we are working on, including simple items like having a "to-do" list for ushers and greeters or making the locations of fire extinguishers known. Since we are committed to our church remaining open twenty-four hours a day, there are other concerns we will continue to investigate in 2023.

--Martha Bodine, Safe Church Minister

Welcoming

St. Paul's prides itself on being an open and inviting congregation. Here are a few of the ways we welcome travelers, visitors, and those interested in becoming members:

- Benches, rainbow Adirondack chairs, a United Way Little Book Box, well-manicured garden spaces, and signs inviting people to "Come sit awhile" or "Find peace here" all create a welcoming outdoor environment. Particularly during warmer months, individuals and families gravitate to this space for conversation, meals, contemplation, rest, or walking on our path. Our outdoor summer Sunday worship service and events such as the Blessing of the Animals provide non-threatening ways to join in worship and fellowship. A goal for 2023 is to enjoy some informal cookouts on the front lawn for parishioners and those who might pass by.
- Our 24-hours-a-day open door policy in the Church encourages people to explore our well-maintained indoor sacred space. On most days, you can find someone walking through admiring the architecture, stopping to sit quietly in a pew, or dropping a prayer in the prayer basket on the lower altar. Some sign one of the two guest registers, but most don't leave any information. When an e-mail address is given in the guest register, our Interim Priest contacts the visitor. People visit from all over the world, as well as from Stockbridge. Over the course of a year, hundreds of people pass through the church apart from a worship service, often commenting on the solace, beauty, and blessing of their experience. We provide a self-guided tour brochure, but on several occasions in 2022, we offered tour guides either formally as part

PASTORAL CARE AND WELCOMING

of an event or informally because a parishioner happened to be there when a visitor came in the door.

- In 2022, we began having volunteer parish hosts for concerts held in our space by outside groups. For at least one concert, we gave out a small gift bag with an invitation to worship with us. Some did come back to Christmas services as a result.
- When visitors join us for worship, we make an effort to meet them and invite them to enjoy treats with us after church. This is one of the usher/greeter duties, but we are all responsible for the work of welcoming and inviting. Several visitors have become regular participants in the congregation in the past year. The challenge then becomes building relationships and incorporating people solidly into the broader life of the congregation.
- In October 2022, we held a Newcomers Dessert Gathering in the empty Rectory, inviting about 15 people who had begun attending St. Paul's in the last couple of years. Six attended and all of those six are now active in the congregation. Six parishioners and our Interim Priest hosted the gathering. We all enjoyed getting to know each other better. A goal for 2023 is to have another Newcomers Gathering in the spring.
- A diocesan-wide Inquirers/Confirmation Class will be offered beginning in March 2023 on Zoom. Participating in this class to gain a better understanding of the Episcopal Church and to further one's own spiritual journey would be another form of welcome and invitation for newcomers, as well as long-time parishioners.



OUTREACH MINISTRY

St. Paul's Children's Center

The Children's Center continues to operate with the option for parents to choose either a half day or a full day. Currently, we have only one child in a half day program. That leaves 25 children who come full days. The breakdown is fun, as well – 9 girls and 17 boys!

We are so proud of our staff. Cara Walker has been teaching with us since 2019; prior to that, she was a student at BCC and did all of her Practicum work and Student Teaching with us. Cara is also a graduate of St. Paul's Children's Center. Kaden Kelly is a second-year teacher. Kaden was beneficial to us the year after the pandemic. She would come in whenever we needed an extra hand. She is continuing her education at BCC in the Early Childhood Program. Kaden comes here with knowledge of our daily routine, as she also is a former student of St. Paul's Children's Center! I have started my 38th year here at St. Paul's Children's Center. Sometimes I find it hard to believe it has really been that long! It really is a very special place! Having new, young staff members has really been like having a breath of fresh air. They come to school in the morning prepared, eager, and just happy to be here! Josephine Monseraud continues to be a volunteer with us from Riverbrook. This is Josephine's 16th year with us! We are very happy to announce that Josephine now receives a stipend for her work here. This year we have partnered with Monument Mountain Regional High School. They have provided us with a High School Intern. Abbey Kinne, also a graduate of The Children's Center, is with us each morning. Abbey will be heading to college in the fall to study Early Childhood Education.

We are enjoying some enrichment programs this year. We have a literacy program twice a month with Vicky Cooper. She is the retired Children's Librarian from the Lenox Library, and most recently from the Stockbridge Library. The children really enjoy this time, and we are learning so much. We also have been doing a dance class every Thursday morning with Miss Sharon. This is our 6th year doing dance, and the movement is so beneficial to the good health of the children.

The Fundraising Committee did a Wreath Sale in November. This raised about \$1,200.00. The Committee is eager to get started on the celebration of the Children's Center's 50th Anniversary! Hopefully more to follow soon.

The Children's Center has been receiving a Child Care stabilizing grant through the State of Massachusetts' Early Education and Care Agency. This grant totals \$3,380.00 each month. The grant runs through the end of June 2023.

We are pleased to announce that the Children's Center has been able to help four families with financial aid this year in the form of scholarships.

We take pride in our reputation as one of the best preschools in the area! We are grateful to St. Paul's Church for the continued support we receive for the use of the Parish House.

Sincerely,

Lisa Kane, 413-298-2639

Director of St. Paul's Children's Center

Addendum: In addition to providing space for St. Paul's Children's Center in the Parish House, we share many expenses (including splitting the cost of a new copier, dishwasher, and fence in 2022). Our treasurer and bookkeeping clerk handle the school's financial records, with the vestry receiving a monthly report. The four scholarships noted above were funded jointly by the school and the church. We recognized Preschool graduates and teachers at a Sunday worship service in June and gave each grad a small gift certificate. Our new parish administrator, Kyra Saltman, is a preschool parent. The children bring a sense of joy and liveliness to the weekday life of St. Paul's. We look forward to planning the 50th Anniversary of this important community outreach.

--The Rev. Libby Wade, Interim Rector

OUTREACH MINISTRY, continued

The Lee Food Pantry

Jesus says in Matthew 25 that when you have fed my brethren, you have fed me. At the beginning of each Saturday that St. Paul's team is in charge of the Lee Food Pantry, we pray in thanksgiving for the food we are distributing and for those who gave it, as well as for our clients who will receive the food. We also pray that we may serve with joyful hearts. To those experiencing food insecurity, we freely offer fresh produce from Gideon's Garden during the growing season and bread from Big Y year-round, as well as donated food from St. Paul's and food purchased through donations. A dedicated group of volunteers from St. Paul's greets clients and distributes the food on the 2nd Saturday of each month not only because of the need in the community, but also because of the blessings we receive. Once a month, the food gathered at St. Paul's is blessed at the offertory, and the Pantry is included in our Intercessory Prayers on that Sunday.

The Lee Food Pantry is a joint outreach program of St. Paul's (Stockbridge), Grace Church (Gt. Barrington), St. Mary's (Lee), and Lee Congregational Churches. Our St. Paul's group includes fifteen from St. Paul's and six who are not otherwise connected to St. Paul's. One is a junior at Lee High School who volunteers every week. Two are nurses at the hospital in Pittsfield. One started volunteering after a conversation with one of our regular volunteers who was driving him home after a bike breakdown. We all have become a caring community. On our Saturday, we typically serve around fifty clients, who represent around 100 people. This is more than we usually saw in recent years. The number of clients who only speak Spanish has increased to about ten. Adding a new Spanish-fluent volunteer in January 2023 has made a tremendous difference.

You can join in this ministry by bringing non-perishable food to St. Paul's, donating money to buy food, or joining the face-to-face 2nd Saturday ministry team. Contact Jim Wade (270-519-7078) to volunteer.

--Jim Wade, Team Coordinator

In 2022 and the first week of 2023, St. Paul's gave \$2,795 to the Lee Food Pantry above and beyond regular donations of food and volunteer time. In addition, the Community Thanksgiving Service offering of \$539 was divided by the Congregational Church equally among these pantries: Lee Food Pantry, People's Pantry (GB), and Stockbridge Pop-Up Pantry.



Gideon's Garden

Gideon's Garden is a vegetable garden located at Taft Farms and operated by Grace Church, Great Barrington. A summer internship program provides education, connection with the earth, and a small stipend for young teens. Volunteers of all ages help plant, nurture, and harvest crops for distribution to regional food pantries, including Lee Food Pantry. St. Paul's members Gale Page and Jim Wade volunteered regularly in 2022. Libby and Jim Wade participated in the Garden Blessing at the beginning of the season. Annalise Clausen, Gideon's Garden Director of Farming, lived in a portion of St. Paul's Rectory for several months, an arrangement the vestry considered as part of our mission outreach and collaboration with Grace Church. In turn, her below-market-rate payments were designated toward the upcoming Rectory Renovation Project. Gideon's Garden is one of the outreach ministries included monthly in our Sunday Intercessory Prayer. It would be great to have more St. Paul's folks volunteering in 2023.

OUTREACH MINISTRY, continued

Appalachian Trail Mini-Mission Trips

While a few individuals from St. Paul's had volunteered as Trail Angels in past summers, in 2022 we organized two teams (8 people + 1 dog) who worked on a July weekday and an August Saturday. Begun in 2018 as a shared ministry of two Sheffield churches, "Trail Magic" is a fun mission of hospitality, spending a day outdoors chatting with Appalachian Trail hikers and friends while sharing refreshments. We listened to some incredible stories about searching for identity and purpose, working out grief, and experiencing a physical challenge. We shared laughter and tears, along with water and burgers, cell phone chargers, chairs, and shade from the heat. According to several through-hikers, this is THE BEST Trail Angel site they've found. In addition to in-person volunteers, St. Paul's was able to provide Big Y gift cards to help purchase food for the teams that would follow us. Thanks to Christ Trinity Church and 1st Congregational Church for envisioning this ministry and reaching out to other churches to join them. It would be great if St. Paul's could double our involvement in 2023!

Swords to Plowshares

On Saturday, November 12, a demonstration and hands-on participation at forge and anvil, creating garden tools from guns voluntarily turned in, was held at The Guthrie Center in Great Barrington as a witness to the desire to end gun violence. Speakers who lost family and friends to gun violence, free gun locks from the Gt. Barrington PD, and a chance to purchase trowels and crosses made from gun metal were an integral part of this moving day. Grace Church was the lead organizer for the event. St. Paul's was an event sponsor, providing monetary support, as well as volunteers to serve doughnuts and cider, and participants in the event.

College Care Packages

A new outreach/pastoral care project this year grew out of the recognition that St. Paul's has nine young adults away at college. Knowing the stress that students can be under, we decided to send care packages to these students, plus a couple more, with items donated by parishioners such as bookmarks, snack food, pens, post-it note pads, etc. During church, parishioners filled baskets with items as we pondered the gospel story of the feeding of the five thousand. The boxes were mailed later that week with the following note from our Interim Priest: "On this week before Thanksgiving, the folks at St. Paul's in Stockbridge give thanks for you and hope that your fall semester at college is going well. We're sending this box of snacks and other items for you to enjoy. We know that this can be a stressful time in the life of a college student. This gift is a way of saying we care for your well-being. My contact info is below, so you can get in touch if you ever feel a need. St. Paul's holds you in prayer." Many of the students sent heart-felt thank you notes. Thanks to Diane Dillon and Jim Wade for their help with this project.

Christmas Family

Matt Fillio organized the annual project of making Christmas brighter for a local family. A list of suggested gifts for the child in the family was offered to parishioners during Advent. Some bought gifts from this list and left them at the church. Others contributed money and Matt became the personal shopper for this family. He also purchased gift cards for the parents and delivered everything in time for Christmas. Over \$600 was given to make this possible. We received a heartfelt thank you from the family: "This Christmas season has truly been magical for all of us seeing how amazing this community truly is when there are families in need! Again thank you to the angels that helped make this Christmas magical! Lots of love from our family to yours!"

OUTREACH MINISTRY, continued

Outreach Ministry of the Week

On a rotating basis, our Prayers of the People include the following organizations or ministries: 1st Sunday – Lee Food Pantry; 2nd Sunday – St. Paul’s Children’s Center; 3rd Sunday – Cathedral of the Beloved; 4th Sunday – Gideon’s Garden; 5th Sunday – Berkshire Community Diaper Project. St. Paul’s currently does hands-on work or hopes to do so with each of these. Every week, our prayers include the Austen Riggs Community and Riverbrook residents and staff, two organizations that are our near neighbors in Stockbridge.

Cathedral of the Beloved

Cathedral of the Beloved in Pittsfield is “a multi-denominational church without walls, where all people can know the joy and freedom of being loved by God.” It provides Sunday worship and a free meal, Thursday Coffee Hour, free laundry service, circle practice, pastoral care and counseling, and referrals to nonprofit agencies for needed assistance. At the suggestion of Senior Warden Jorja Marsden, the vestry designated the loose plate offering from our three Christmas services to go to Cathedral of the Beloved. That offering was \$1,050.00. We hope in 2023 to expand our interaction with the Cathedral of the Beloved by participating in a worship service or helping with a meal.

Riverbrook Residence

Riverbrook is a Stockbridge home for exceptional women. For many years, Riverbrook residents and their companions have been part of the St. Paul’s congregation, though they couldn’t come for two years due to Covid restrictions. Their return in the summer of 2022 was greeted with much joy by other members of the congregation. While we worshipped outdoors, several of the women brought cookies or brownies to share with the congregation for fellowship time. They also sometimes brought flowers from their garden to sell after church. One Riverbrook resident volunteers at St. Paul’s Children’s Center. Former Rector Sam Smith served on the Riverbrook Board in early 2022 and Senior Warden Jorja Marsden will join the Riverbrook Board in the spring of 2023. After a \$200 gift was made to Riverbrook from the Rector’s Discretionary Fund at Christmas 2022, we received this response: “Meaningful gifts create beautiful lives. Our friends at St. Paul’s, to create a beautiful life, we need you.” Our life as a parish is enriched by their participation and their horizon is broadened by worshipping here.

Prayer Basket

Since August 2022, we have kept a “prayer station” on our lower altar during the week for visitors to the church. They may write a prayer and leave it in the basket or choose a printed prayer to take with them or leave in the basket. Our Interim Priest sits with the prayers several times each week, and we offer the basket of prayers as part of our offertory action each Sunday. This is one way of reaching out to those we may never see, but who express their joys and sorrows in this holy space.

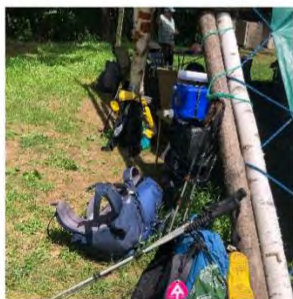
Rector’s Discretionary Fund

This fund comes from a quarterly disbursement from an endowment for this purpose, as well as gifts from time to time from parishioners. In 2022, money was disbursed from the Discretionary Fund for such needs as gift cards for graduates of St. Paul’s Children’s Center, help with a utility bill, rent assistance, gifts for our Christmas Family Project, aid for a traveler in need, and educational assistance.

OUTREACH MINISTRY, continued

Small Financial Donations were made by St. Paul's in 2022 to the following:

- Mampong Babies Home in Ghana (coins from the Memorial Garden fountain)
- Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD) from the "Drop in the Bucket" in the church
- Human to Human (\$150 was given in honor of Bishop Fisher's visit to St. Paul's). Human to Human is part of the Diocese of Western MA and supports organizations doing "God's justice by sharing Jesus' mission of mercy, compassion and hope in the world." Supported groups include Building Bridges Veterans' Ministry, Episcopal Chaplaincy at Chicopee Women's Correction Center, Laundry Love, and Marie's Mission.



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Many of our Outreach Efforts described in another section of this Report Booklet might be included in the category of “Community Involvement.” The following activities relate to community involvement that isn’t rooted in social justice, but is nevertheless important.

St. Paul’s Creates

On August 20-21 (the weekend of the Stockbridge Arts & Crafts Festival), St. Paul’s held “St. Paul’s Creates,” an open house celebration of God’s creative nature. It included church tours and a Sunday organ concert by our Music Director Dillon Streifeneder. Throughout the weekend we offered an interactive weaving demonstration, children’s activities, and music on the lawn of the Rectory. The center piece of the event was a display in the front rooms of the Rectory that included a wide variety of arts and crafts made by parishioners or former parishioners – photography, painting, writing, fabric art, papier mache, and more. We created a prayer station on the lower altar of the church that continues to be very popular with weekday visitors to the church. The basket of prayers is presented at the offertory each Sunday. Over 40 parishioners participated in “St. Paul’s Creates” by contributing art, leading church tours, or hosting the art show. Well over 100 visitors signed our guest books. There was high positive energy throughout this weekend.

--Libby Wade & Patty Melville, Coordinators



Blessing of the Animals

On the Sunday closest to St. Francis Day, we celebrated a Blessing of the Animals, the first for St. Paul’s in several years. Twelve people and seven dogs enjoyed a breezy cool mid-afternoon getting to know each other on the lawn. Advertising in the community was successful, as half the people and most of the animals came from outside the parish. After a short liturgy and stories about St. Francis’ love for all creatures, Jane Tillman and Libby Wade blessed each animal individually. Certificates and treats were offered by Diana French. We even collected a bit of pet food for Lee Food Pantry. There was general agreement among planners and participants that this is an event to be repeated annually.

Community Thanksgiving Service

1st Congregational Church was the site of the November Community Thanksgiving Day Service. Clergy from St. Paul’s Episcopal Church and St. Joseph’s Roman Catholic Church participated in planning the worship. St. Paul’s Interim, Libby Wade, was the preacher. About 10 people from St. Paul’s attended. Three of us stayed to enjoy the community Thanksgiving Dinner. The offering for that service was divided equally among food distribution sites supported by our three congregations: Lee Food Pantry, People’s Pantry in Great Barrington, and the Pop-Up Pantry in Stockbridge.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT, continued

Three Kings Celebration

After a hiatus of two years due to Covid restrictions, the Marian Fathers hosted the 48th Annual Three Kings Epiphany Celebration on Sunday, January 8, 2023 in collaboration with St. Paul's Church and the Red Lion Inn. The celebration began with Christmas caroling on the porch of the Red Lion. Mother Libby provided the Invocation and Scripture reading. As the caroling reached its high point, the kings emerged from the side of the Red Lion and solemnly processed across Main Street to the star over the Tower Room door of St. Paul's. Refreshments followed at the Red Lion. This year's event was punctuated by a fire alarm and arrival of the Stockbridge Fire Truck, but all was well in the end! St. Paul's is the keeper of the costumes and the mystery of the kings' identity. While very few St. Paul's parishioners attended this year's event, it was a fun way to celebrate the end of Christmas and the beginning of Epiphany with neighbors.

Church Tours

During the Fall leaf season, Stockbridge is a destination city for many tour busses. Some of the busses are equipped with introductory videos describing what to see while in town, including St. Paul's. Several hundred of these visitors were given impromptu tours of the church. We also offered tours of the church with scheduled tour guides during the Stockbridge Arts & Crafts Festival as part of our own "St. Paul's Creates" show that weekend. A pamphlet in the church provides information for self-guided tours.

--Jim Wade

Concerts

Once it seemed feasible to invite groups to use our worship space for concerts and events with appropriate Covid precautions, we hosted several concerts from mid-summer through December. Mother Libby developed a check list and recruited hosts to both welcome concert guests and assist the concert groups. Jorja Marsden, Kendra MacLeod, Jim Wade, Frank Smith, and Gale Page all served as hosts along with Libby. Concerts included:

- 7/17 Crescendo Period Instrument Ensemble, Christine Gevert, Director
"Conversation Galante – Jewels of the French Baroque"
- 11/19 Trio Amphion, Mariken Palmboom, Director
"Masterworks of Baroque Chamber Music"
- 12/2 Music Groups from Monument Mountain Regional High School
Girls' Acapella Group, Orchestra Ensemble, and Jazz Band
(Part of the Stockbridge "Main Street at Christmas" Weekend)
- 12/10 Crescendo Holiday Concert, Christine Gevert, Director
"Resonet in Laudibus—Resounding Joyful Praises"
This concert included an innovative light show inside and outside the church
With the music also broadcast outside.
- 12/17 Oakes and Smith, Robert & Katherine Oakes, Directors
"The Holy Moment—Holiday Candlelight Concert"

Each concert offered spiritual context in the music selected. Two of the concerts (Monument Mountain and the Crescendo Holiday Concert) filled the church. The smallest crowds, on a torrid July day and in November, were still decent and the music groups were all pleased. Not having an accessible restroom in the church is a drawback, but the Red Lion graciously allows us to direct folks there. Fees for church use and ticket prices varied. The Monument Mountain concert was free, as part of the Stockbridge Chamber of Commerce Christmas on Main. The parish hosts did a great job, and all realize how time-consuming that job is! We mostly piggy-backed on each group's own advertising, but did a lot of our own advertising for Oakes and Smith (now an annual tradition for St. Paul's). At that concert, we also gave out a small gift bag with a card inviting people to attend Christmas services. Several people did identify themselves as having attended one of the December concerts. It's been recommended that for future concerts, building use fees or a percentage of ticket sales be designated for a St. Paul's outreach project, if possible.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT, continued

Community Partnerships Project

The Congregational Assessment Tool (CAT) survey revealed that the parish “would like additional energy placed on community partnerships to expand or improve its ministries.” Specifically, “work to renew and revitalize the community around the church by building coalitions with partners that share this vision and commitment” is desired. As part of his work on the Profile Committee, Darryl Lafferty agreed to spearhead meetings with contacts and/or organizations identified by the committee and parish members at large. This work began in November and will continue into 2023.

Questions asked during interviews and meetings included:

- Would you, your organization, or the community notice if St. Paul’s ceased to operate as a worshipping community?
- What if St. Paul’s discontinued 24-hour building access to the public?
- What role does St. Paul’s play in the community?

Two non-profit organizations, The Norman Rockwell Museum and the Berkshire Botanical Gardens, shared that we are collectively concerned with the question of relevance, i.e., would anyone notice if we ceased to exist? Use of St. Paul’s space was also discussed. While no specific needs beyond possible programmatic collaboration were discovered in the first meeting, ongoing conversation or relationship is desired by all parties. On a few occasions, the St. Paul’s Children’s Center was mentioned as filling a vital need in the community and whose absence would surely be felt. Most local residents are likely to know someone who attended the preschool, if not themselves or their own children. The Waldorf School mentioned they are seeking additional classroom space, but our facilities aren’t a solution to their overall objective. However, the school did express an interest in collaborating where it might be beneficial for both organizations, including a proposed idea for a community service project.

Once the Profile Committee’s work is completed, it is hoped that this Community Partnerships Project will continue to seek further engagement and relationship building within the community surrounding St. Paul’s and bear much fruit in future years.

--Darryl Lafferty, Profile Committee Member

ECUMENICAL/INTERFAITH COLLABORATIVE MINISTRY

Several of our collaborations with other churches are described in other sections of this report:

- **Stockbridge Community Thanksgiving** w/1st Congregational & St. Joseph’s RC
- **Three Kings Epiphany Celebration** w/Marian Fathers
- **Gideon’s Garden** w/Grace Church, Great Barrington
- **Appalachian Trail Angels** w/Christ Trinity Episcopal/Lutheran & Sheffield Congregational Churches
- **Lee Food Pantry** w/Grace Church (Great Barrington), St. Mary’s (Lee), and Lee Congregational Church
- **Swords to Plowshares** w/ Grace Church (Great Barrington) and others

Holy Week Services

In 2022, these services were shared with our Episcopal/Lutheran sister churches in South Berkshire County:

- Maundy Thursday at Christ Trinity in Sheffield
- Good Friday at Grace in Great Barrington
- Easter Vigil at Trinity in Lenox

In 2023, St. Paul’s will host Maundy Thursday, Grace will host Good Friday, Christ Trinity will host the Easter Vigil.

COLLABORATIVE MINISTRY, continued

Shared Staff – Parish Administrator Jean Chapin

In the fall of 2021, Christ Trinity Sheffield, Grace Church Great Barrington, and St. Paul's Stockbridge entered into an agreement with Jean Chapin, who split her slightly more than full-time work week equally among the three churches. In the spring of 2022, Jean realized that she needed to cut back her work hours. That meant giving up the position of St. Paul's Parish Administrator and concentrating on the two churches closer to her residence. She ended her work at St. Paul's in stages, leaving the on-site position of administrator at the end of May, but keeping the off-site role of e-newsletter editor until the end of September.

Adult Christian Formation – Community in Faith

Several years ago, the three South County churches began sharing adult Christian formation, rotating leadership among the clergy, occasionally including other clergy and rabbis from Hevreh. During Covid, these classes transitioned very successfully to a Zoom format. Some series drew a couple of dozen people, while others drew smaller numbers, but there was a positive response to this opportunity to learn while getting to know people across congregational lines. As we began to come out of Covid restrictions in 2022, the response to this collaborative learning format was less successful and the collaboration most likely will not continue in 2023. In 2022, we offered the following seasonal series:

- Epiphany: "Icons," led by the Rev. Tina Rathbone (Grace)
- Lent: "The Bible With and Without Jesus: how Jews and Christians Read the Same Stories Differently," a study based on Prof. Amy-Jill Levine's book by this name, led by the Rev. Erik Karas (Christ Trinity) and Rabbi Neil Hirsch (Hevreh)
- Easter: Lectionary-based Bible Study, led by the Rev. Tina Rathbone (Grace)
- Summer (2 sessions only, just St. Paul's): "Let the Peace of Christ Rule in Your Hearts," a study of Colossians, led by the Rev. Libby Wade
- Advent: "Images from Isaiah," led by the Rev. Libby Wade

Deanery and Diocese

- Clergy in the Berkshire Deanery gather regularly via Zoom or in-person for mutual support, sharing of information, and looking for ways to collaborate. Both the Rev. Sam Smith and the Rev. Libby Wade participated in these sessions as often as possible.
- The Rev. Sam Smith serves as Chair of the Diocesan Commission on Ministry.
- The Rev. Jane Tillman serves on the Diocesan Board of Examining Chaplains.
- The Rev. Libby Wade participates in occasional gatherings of Interim Priests serving in the Diocese of Western MA.
- St. Paul's was represented at Diocesan Convention in November 2022 by the Rev. Libby Wade, Diana French, and Martha Bodine.
- Through our financial contribution to the Diocese, we share in a wide variety of ministries.

SEARCH PROCESS FOR NEW RECTOR

Introduction

Last summer, the vestry invited those who were willing to serve on a committee to let the wardens know. From that pool, they formed the Profile Committee and Search Committee. Not everyone could serve, but the wardens appreciated the willingness shown by many congregation members. Each Committee has a vestry liaison, who reports briefly to the vestry each month, and a chaplain, who helps the group stay spiritually grounded. The Committees were commissioned by our Interim Priest during a Sunday worship service.

The Diocese of Western Massachusetts provides significant helpful guidance in the form of a Transition Manual and the guidance of the Rev. Canon Dr. Rich Simpson, who met initially with the Vestry, trained the Profile Committee, and will return this spring to train the Search Committee. He is the person who receives names of prospective candidates.

The whole congregation was encouraged to complete the Holy Cow Congregational Assessment Tool (CAT) and St. Paul's response rate was exceptionally high. Canon Simpson and the Rev. Mary Rosendale met in late August with Vestry, Profile Committee, and Search Committee to interpret the results of the CAT. He then preached the next day.

This transition process is a holy time, though it's not always easy. Please hold in prayer these groups of faithful people who are working on behalf of this parish, as well as those priests who will be hearing about St. Paul's and might feel called to join with this parish in ministry.

--The Rev. Libby Wade

Profile Committee

Members of the Profile Committee are Patty Melville (Coordinator), Duncan Pollock, Rob Maloney, Diane Dillon (Vestry Liaison), Darryl Lafferty (Chaplain), and Mary Berle. Due to illness, Duncan had to excuse himself after a month, but was integral to the process and development of the "Pillars."

Our Profile Committee, whose members were asked to join and complete this task by St. Paul's Vestry, began our work in August 2022. After an initial meeting to review the Holy Cow Survey and outline the Search Process with Canon Rich Simpson and the Rev. Mary Rosendale and members of the Search Committee, the Vestry, and our Interim Priest, we began to schedule regular weekly meetings and occasional zoom meetings. Through the fall and early winter, our team reviewed the information and input we needed to gather from congregants, Vestry, and community. We held two special sessions with the parish on Sundays in October and December to gather as broad a spectrum of input as we could regarding how our Parish sees itself and what we see and believe to be our future.

This information was compiled into two separate documents: Our "Four Pillars of St. Paul's" -- a brief narrative representing who we are today, and the answers to the "13 questions" from the Office of Transitional Ministry. The "Four Pillars" are "Our Congregation, Our Place, Our Outreach, and Our Worship."

We are also including a summary of interviews done with other community "markers" in Stockbridge: the Library, Chamber of Commerce, Norman Rockwell Museum, Berkshire Botanical Gardens, Red Lion Inn, town government, Riverbrook Residence, and the two other churches (The First Congregational Church and St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church). We are looking to find how these neighbors in town see us.

A statement of financial information will be provided by the vestry.

A final statement "about the kind of person the parish is searching for" (Appendix P, p. 67, of the Diocesan Transition Guide) will be garnered from input to the 13 questions referenced above and repeated queries that rose to the top.

SEARCH PROCESS, continued

Our committee is working hard at creating an honest, accurate, and transparent profile that shows how we are NOW and not who we WISH we were. We worked hard at looking for the most input we could from our fellow parishioners. We spent time praying at our meetings, listening to each other, moving on to discuss deep issues and the true meaning of words. (When we say we are 'welcoming,' do we truly mean it? What does it mean? How is it interpreted?)

The Profile Committee expects to complete its work, present to the Vestry for approval, and share with the congregation and Canon Simpson in February. The Profile can then be posted on-line and disseminated by Canon Simpson to Transition Officers in other Dioceses.

--Patty Melville

Search Committee

Members: Anne Covell (Chair), Martha Bodine (Vestry Liaison), Darryl Lafferty (Chaplain), Matt Fillio, Donna Gray, Robin Race, and David Pearson

The Search Committee was appointed by the Vestry last summer and attended the initial Holy Cow Report meeting with Canon Simpson and the Rev. Mary Rosendale in August. Their work will begin once the Profile Committee completes their work. Canon Simpson will provide training for this Committee. Once names of prospective candidates have been received by Canon Simpson, the Search Committee will interview candidates and enter into discernment about who might be a good fit with St. Paul's. They will pass along their recommendations to the **Vestry**, which is charged with doing final interviews, entering into a brief period of discernment, issuing a final call, and negotiating a letter of agreement.

Search Process Prayer

Among the prayers used by the Profile Team, this one seems particularly appropriate for the congregation as a whole: "Ever-living God, we pray for the life of our parish in this transition as we search for a new priest. May we continue to be guided by your love and strengthened in our mission to serve you through ministry, fellowship, and worship. We pray for the members of the Profile and Search Committees that their hearts and minds may be open to what your spirit is saying. We pray for the priests we will encounter on our journey. Give us your grace to follow where you lead us and grant us your peace. Amen."



STAFF AND COMMUNICATIONS

Staff

2022 saw an almost complete turnover of staff, a situation that can be unsettling, yet we made it through with the help of volunteers in the office, supply priests, and guest musicians. While 2023 will still be another transition year as the search continues for a Rector, we were in a stable position regarding staff as 2022 ended. Kyra Saltman has been a wonderful addition to the staff, also sharing her musical talent with us occasionally. We split the Administrator's position, so that a second person now deals with the financial pieces of the job. Jorja Marsden, with vestry approval and an okay from our diocesan auditor, has ably taken on the role of accounting clerk.

Clergy (January – April)

The Rev. Sam Smith, Rector

The Rev. Jane Tillman, Priest Associate

Clergy (May – December)

The Rev. Libby Wade, Interim Priest (as of 7/1/22)

The Rev. Jane Tillman, Priest Associate

Various Supply Clergy (listed in the Worship Section of this Report Booklet) filled in as needed during Sam's Sabbatical and on Libby's monthly Sunday off.

Administrator (January – May) Jean Chapin

Jean continued to edit the e-newsletter through September.

Sebastian Bonner edited the e-newsletter in October, as a volunteer.

The Rev. Libby Wade and Jorja Marsden took over the Administrator's various tasks until a new Administrator was hired.

Administrator (November – December) Kyra Saltman

Accounting Clerk (June – December) Jorja Marsden

Music Director/Organist (January – July) Dillon Streifeneder

In the summer of 2022, after research and discussion, the vestry raised the musician's salary to meet industry standards in line with other congregations in Berkshire County. Dillon had been a wonderful addition to the St. Paul's staff since he began in November 2021. However, he received his PhD in history in May 2023, found a university teaching job and a musician position much nearer his home and resigned from St. Paul's. Libby then arranged for a variety of supply organists, and Doug Schmolze played guitar for many of our outdoor worship services. By mid-fall, we'd settled into a pattern that will continue through 2023 with Nancy King and David Smith regularly playing organ/piano. Both are excellent musicians, and we're lucky to have them playing our quirky organ. The new Rector will need to re-assess the Music Director position in the future.



STAFF AND COMMUNICATIONS, continued

Communications

Clear, accurate, and appealing communication is always a challenge for any church. At St. Paul's, we make use of the following means of communications:

- **Weekly E-newsletter**, the *E-pistle*, e-mailed on Thursdays. Libby Wade writes much of the content. Editors/Publishers have been Jean Chapin, Sebastian Bonner (volunteer), and now Kyra Saltman. If you aren't receiving the *E-pistle*, please let Kyra know.
- **Constant Contact** notices of regular events, such as Wednesday Morning Prayer and Sunday Worship. This may also be used for special or urgent announcements. Managed and scheduled by Parish Administrator.
- **Leaflet Insert** on Sundays. Produced jointly by Interim Priest and Parish Administrator.
- **Zoom** platform for Wednesday Morning Prayer and sometimes for meetings. Zoom enables those who aren't able to attend in person to participate. We use this less than in the two years when Covid prevented most in-person gatherings, but it's still quite useful. A link is posted in the *E-pistle* and on our website and in the Constant Contact notice.
- **Live-streaming** – We try to livestream our 10 a.m. worship service each week, though internet connectivity is still an issue, and sometimes the livestream just doesn't work. Matt Fillio is responsible for scheduling the live-streaming, Darryl Lafferty and Martha Bodine set up the system on Sundays, and Martha Bodine manages it during the worship service. We did not livestream our outdoor service in the summer. A goal for 2023 is to work on increasing the reliability of the system and recruit others to assist with the Sunday morning responsibility.
- **Website (www.stpaulsstockbridge.org)** – In 2022, we made a commitment to upgrade St. Paul's website, which is almost 10 years old. The website had become very cumbersome and frustrating to both priest and parish administrator. Our new administrator, Kyra Saltman, was able to make a number of positive changes and updates in the late fall. Diocesan Canon for Communications Vicki Ix provided a useful evaluation of the website. Rich Bradway has begun putting together a new website for us. This is particularly important now as the Parish Profile will reside on the website and prospective new priests will be accessing the website to learn about the parish.
- **FaceBook** – St. Paul's has a FaceBook page, from which one can view the archived Sunday worship livestream. However, we haven't made much use of that FaceBook page and hope our new administrator can help with that in 2023.
- Of course, we still use the time-tested means of communication: **e-mail** (stpaulsstockbridge@gmail.com), **phone** (413-298-2913), **postal service** (P.O. Box 704, Stockbridge, MA 01262), and **face-to-face conversation** (29 Main St., Stockbridge)!

Advertising/Public Relations

As we planned Christmas services and hosted December concerts in 2022, Darryl Lafferty, Kyra Saltman, Natalie Boyce, and Libby Wade worked on a master plan for publicity/advertisement of events. Our budget only provides a very small amount for advertising, so whatever we do needs to be cost-effective, preferably free. Producing a master plan has been a goal in years past, but we hope to actually put a workable plan together in 2023 based on our work during Advent, so that we don't have to re-invent the wheel with every special event.

STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship is traditionally regarded as the giving of our time, talent, and treasure to the good work of the church. Sometimes, we get caught up in the “treasure” aspect because we are expected to pay our bills. But let’s start with time and talent. Our members give their time to our church. We attend church, come to committee meetings, come mid-week to make sure we are ready for Sunday, help with extra ministry – like the blessing of the animals, or a newcomers get together, or when we opened our rectory in August to welcome our neighbors and exhibit the art work of our members. We have begun hosting musical concerts in our church. We volunteer – see the report just on volunteering!

We give our talent to the church. Some of these talents are easy to see – witness the beautiful greens and star that magically appear over our arch for the Christmas season. Another talent that we enjoy is the baking abilities of the numerous people who bring goodies for our fellowship after the service. And there are talents that the rector and wardens count on. We regularly ask members of our congregation to help us in the areas of finance, landscaping, history, organization, and more.

Finally, we give our treasure to the church. St. Paul’s is blessed with a healthy endowment fund that helps support our church. For this we are grateful. However, it cannot and must not be the main source of funding. We do ask each year for members to pledge their money to the church. And you do. This year you have pledged nearly \$114,000.00 to the good work of the church. This is just about the same as last year. Wonderful news and signs of health are that there were five new pledges – showing growth in our church.

In the coming year, the Stewardship committee hopes to expand its members and incorporate the theme of stewardship throughout the year.

--Martha Bodine, Stewardship Chair



Consolidated Balance Sheet (All Funds)
as of December 2021 and 2022

	2021 Actual	2022 Actual
Assets		
Cash		
General Operating Fund	37,004.65	34,524.64
Organ Fund	(8,366.91)	(11,569.72)
Memorial Garden Fund	3,716.16	4,716.16
Deborah Harding Donation	2,500.00	0.00
Alternative Evangelism Events	214.28	214.28
Other Restricted Funds	20,573.97	15,568.86
Rectory Renovation Fund		8,496.36
Rector's Discretionary Fund	1,169.48	1,849.48
Petty Cash	50.00	50.00
Total Cash	56,861.63	53,850.06
Prepaid Expenses	6,318.00	6,376.50
Endowment Investments		
Organ Fund	72,795.36	62,067.24
Memorial Garden Fund	21,029.67	17,930.44
Rector's Discretionary Fund	35,243.76	28,764.34
All Other Endowment Funds	1,603,852.64	1,309,128.86
Total Endowment	1,732,921.43	1,417,890.88
Accounts Receivable		
Receivable from Children's Center	0.00	506.80
Fixed Assets		
Church	4,596,637.72	4,596,637.72
Parish House	485,348.43	485,348.43
Rectory	478,998.23	478,998.23
Total Fixed Assets	5,560,984.38	5,560,984.38
Total Assets	7,357,085.44	7,039,608.62
Liabilities (Prepaid Pledges for 2023)	0.00	3,650.00
Principal		
Restricted Funds	130,041.04	129,225.84
Unrestricted Funds		
General Operating Fund	5,580,119.11	5,604,041.95
All Other Church Investments	1,450,205.00	1,618,581.01
Net Cash Received for Year	196,720.29	(315,890.18)
Ending Balance	7,357,085.44	7,035,958.62
Total Liabilities and Principal	7,357,085.44	7,039,608.62

Endowment Fund for 2021-2022



Here is a two-year chart of our Endowment Fund from January 2021 to December 2022 after distributions of 3.6% per year and fees of 0.5% per year.

Our Endowment Fund is invested about 70.6% in equities and 29.4% in fixed income securities and cash.

It is invested through the Episcopal Church Foundation which oversees State Street Global Advisors which holds our securities and does the actual investing.

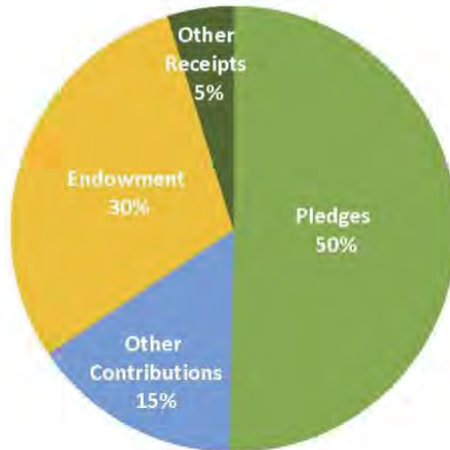
It is invested in thirteen diversified funds, 47% of which are fossil free funds.

In the chart, our decline over the two years is about -\$147,000, which is about -9.4%.

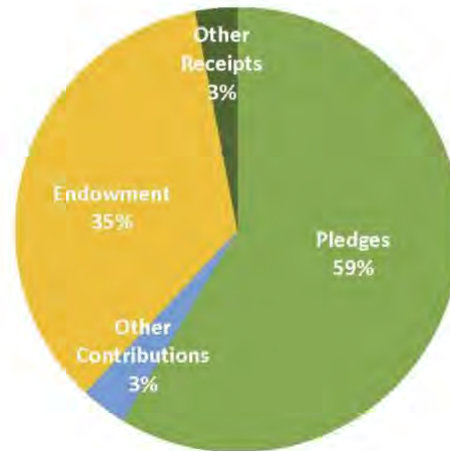
However, if we measure our two year decline in value *before* distributions and fees, the result is a loss over the last two years of -1.2%.

**General Operating Fund Revenue for 2022
and Budget Adopted by the Vestry for 2023**

2022 Actual Revenue



2023 Budget Revenue



**General Operating Fund Revenue for 2021 and 2022
and Budget Adopted by the Vestry for 2023**

	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Budget
General Operating Fund Revenue			
Pledges (Current and Past Year)	115,717.00	103,815.00	120,000.00
Other Contributions	10,248.70	31,471.25 *	6,800.00
Transfers from Endowment	58,600.00	61,140.00	71,500.00
Other Receipts	51,199.38 **	9,843.40	6,230.00
Total Revenue	235,765.08	206,269.65	204,530.00
Restricted Revenues	123,547.16 ***	4,390.00	
Restricted Expenditures	119,290.80 ***	0.00	

* Includes a bequest of \$25,000

** Includes PPP Grant of \$47,530.00

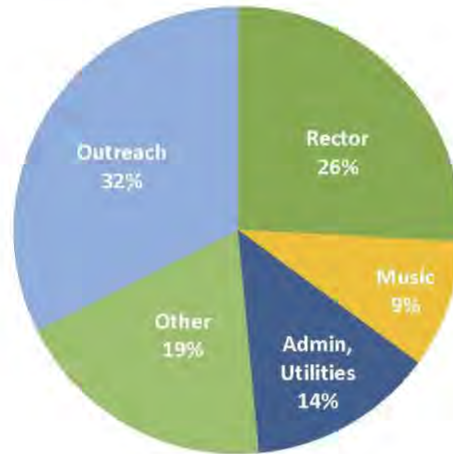
*** Includes Revenues and Expenditures for the Rectory Outside Renovation

**General Operating Fund Expenditures for 2022
and Budget Adopted by the Vestry for 2023**

2022 Actual Expenditures



2023 Budget Expenditures



**General Operating Fund Expenditures for 2021 and 2022
and Budget Adopted by the Vestry for 2023**

	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Budget
General Operating Fund Expenses			
Rector	84,363.71	31,793.56	41,795.00
Interim Priest		26,711.03	27,034.14
Other Clergy Expenses	470.34	8,997.57	3,200.00
Music	5,906.82	13,801.40	15,000.00
Search for a New Rector		714.96	15,420.00
Other Worship	3,632.42	4,003.59	3,350.00
Outreach	52,435.54	20,883.60	21,700.00
Education and Fellowship	220.11	126.06	750.00
Other Expenses	900.00	600.00	1,200.00
Administration	30,337.48	36,991.61	37,259.55
Utilities	12,669.72	18,144.59	15,100.00
Other Property Expenses	20,741.02	48,751.31	22,450.00
Total Expenses	211,677.16	211,519.28	204,258.69
**** Includes \$31,734.54 PPP Grant transferred to Children's Center			
Net from Operations	24,087.92	(5,249.63)	271.31