



2018 ANNUAL REPORT

The 269th Annual Meeting of the Parish
January 27, 2019

The Mission of Saint Paul's Church
is to proclaim the Good News of God in Jesus Christ in greater Augusta and beyond.



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RECTOR'S REPORT

This past year has been full. Together Saint Paul's has welcomed the community into our fellowship of faith on Sunday mornings, at the Celtic Service, during the Ironman weekend, the Blessing of the Animals, Manna Pantry, Evensong, and our Community Thanksgiving service. People new to the area and those who are long-time residents continue to find here at Saint Paul's a place of renewal and refreshment.

So much of what we do is supported by the most dedicated staff I have ever had the privilege to work with. Elisabeth Price, our parish administrator, has her finger on the pulse of our life together. Weekly communications, bulletins, pastoral conversation, and more than I can ever mention are provided with grace and a deep commitment to our parish. Keith Shafer touches the lives of adults and youth who sing in the choir, and not only their lives but ours as our worship is made rich and whole through his gifts. Hillary Bryant, Greg Maxie, and James Wheeler, our sextons, are ever present, helping to keep things in order, clean and ready to welcome. Their good humor and warm hearts bring a sense of joy to what they provide. Mary Jackson welcomes those who use our space for their special events. Meredith Beach, our parish bookkeeper, helps keep our financial house in order.

We are so fortunate to have the Reverend John Jenkins as our Associate Rector (technically our Associate to the Priest-in-Charge). John's superb teaching skills, deep pastoral calling, organizational skills, and grounding in the faith of our Lord and our Church are gifts that we all appreciate and for which we offer our thanks.

This past year Ranie Nieslar offered so much to our youth and young adults. Her ministry among us was deeply meaningful and her presence is sorely missed.

I also would like to thank Leslie Lambert who, for the past two years, has served as our Junior Warden. Leslie's dedication to Saint Paul's in all its many facets has and will continue to be a blessing to all of us.

None of this, none of what we do and are as a parish, is possible without the countless parishioners who give of themselves, their time, talent, and treasure. These shared gifts and the warm welcome we share are what make our proclamation of the Gospel sincere and powerful. Together we are bearers of the Good News of Jesus Christ into the world.

Other reports will speak of Capital Campaigns, annual Stewardship Campaigns, programs, attendance, and membership. All of these point to a parish and a people who have "claimed the high calling" of being active and passionate proclaimers of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is a joy to be a part of this community.

George

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR'S REPORT

It has been an exciting and busy year at Saint Paul's Church!

... let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made...

The Book of Common Prayer, 528

These words are drawn from a collect in the prayer book's liturgy for ordination and are rooted in St. Paul's deepest expressions of Christian hope. They point toward a core truth about mature Christian life: it is anchored not in the past but is drawn ever forward in the present by change and renewal. These two themes, renewal and change, are what I most notice when reflecting on the past year.

Where do you see signs of renewal? I see them in an influx of unfamiliar faces who are becoming familiar. I see them in the relationships that emerge and deepen as people gather for worship, learning, service, support, and fellowship. These are hopeful signs of renewal that point to the presence of the living Christ. Wherever Jesus went, he created community and built relationships with bonds of love. Clearly, the Lord is in this place.

Where do you see signs of change? I see them in the growing numbers of people who choose to participate in our formation offerings. I see them in a wonderfully diverse vestry of leaders who care deeply for the wellness of this parish, and who appreciate the gift given into their keeping. I see signs of change in the transition of leaders and volunteers. Wherever Jesus went, he called people to change how they perceived the world, and as a result to change how they lived. Clearly, the Lord is in this place.

As we renew, change, and grow, we will face things that previously we have not. We will discover differences, and unforeseen conflicts will arise. These are the natural and necessary by-products of growth, renewal, and change. We are called to meet one another with the kind of love that is patient and kind, creative and reconciling. May that love guide and sustain our work together in the year ahead.

In Christ,
John+

WARDENS' REPORT

IN MEDIAS RES, CARPE DIEM

For a parish founded in 1750 and chartered in 1821, being “in the middle of things” as we begin 2019 should not be surprising and, as your wardens, we are pleased to report to you solid accomplishments on several fronts:

- Our capital campaign, though not yet having met the goal, is well begun and still in process. A successful show-and-tell walk through in September brought an interested crowd, good questions, and fruitful suggestions.
- Replacement of the slate roofs of the Church and of Tyler Hall was completed “before hurricane season” and within budget.

These have been publicized and are visible; there is more to our story, though:

- Saint Paul’s has an energetic and engaged Vestry! Every Vestry member plays an active role in one or more committees, guilds, or on-going projects. With Brett Montroy, the newly appointed chancellor, and Barbara Coleman filling an unexpired term, we have new sources of experience and insight in addition to the capable folks elected last year.
- On All Saints’ Sunday our clergy presented 25 young adults and adults for confirmation, a testimony to our Christian Formation program.
- Our Godly Play program (Christian formation for ages 4 through 8) is gaining in popularity with both parents and their young children.
- First time pledges received to date number 22 — many from young families with children.
- Pub Theology and YEA ministry have maintained popularity and attendance even with our YA minister Ranie Neislar away in seminary. Dedicated lay leadership is keeping this going and growing.
- Attendance at the 11:00 AM and 5:30 PM services continues to increase; participation in our guilds is increasing; and our Daughters of the King and EfM classes are thriving supporting ministries and educational initiatives.

All these portend opportunities for growth: despite new pledging units and new families on board, our annual revenues have suffered as we have lost to death dedicated long-time supporters. **If we fund a part-time Christian Formation professional — which is exactly what we need to do, we cannot balance the 2019 budget.**

As Fr. John Jenkins so eloquently pointed out at our September 6 COME AND SEE capital campaign kick-off: everything at 605 Reynolds been given for the purpose of telling the story of Jesus and his love to the Augusta community and to the world. Not just the objects, the buildings, the windows, the chalices, but also funding for staff who inspire us, lead us, teach us, and minister through all the ups and downs of our lives. For our next step, growing our staff, Saint Paul’s needs your vocal support, your gifts, your prayers, and your financial support. Saint Paul’s is counting on your generosity!

Billy Badger & Leslie Lambert

2018 MINISTRY REPORTS

ADULT CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Epiphany

Because 2018 was “Year B” in the Sunday Lectionary, which presents the story of Jesus as told in the Gospel According to Mark, we dedicated the short four-week season of Epiphany to a crash course in Mark’s gospel. We also watched Alec McCowen’s solo recitation performance of the entire gospel to experience the story when told in full.

Creation Care Film Series - also during Epiphany, leaders of the Creation Care Committee offered two films about the Palmetto Pipeline and about the fight to save Cumberland Island from development and discussions about conservation of the earth and its limited resources.

Lent

During Lent, nearly 100 members of the parish participated in reading and discussing *The Dream of God* by Verna Dozier. This was a challenging yet highly accessible study that challenged us, the people of God, to examine the role and purpose of the institutional church, and drew the sharp distinction between the church as the body of Christ and the church as an institution of religion. Groups met on Sundays, Wednesdays at noon, and in the evening.

Easter thru August

Opening the Prayer Book - We learned about the history, context, and contents of the Book of Common Prayer. The clergy led conversational discussions that meandered through the uses and breadth of meaning contained in our church’s foundational template and order of worship.

September thru Advent

Inquirer’s Class - This formation class is offered every year and is open to all people who are interested in refreshing or deepening their knowledge, understanding, and participation in the Episcopal Church, but especially prepares adults to participate in one of our church’s rites of initiation or commitment: baptism, confirmation, reception, or reaffirmation. Led by Fr. Jenkins

Rector’s Forum - The Rector’s Forum is a time and place for conversation and discussion about contemporary issues guided by the participants and facilitated by the rector. Led by Fr. Muir.

—Submitted by Fr. Jenkins

Education for Ministry (EfM)

The distance-learning program for adult Christian formation via theological education and reflection offered by the Beecken Center for the School of Theology at the University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee is flourishing at Saint Paul’s. The full four-year curriculum is in place, and there are two classes running. There is a Sunday night class and a Tuesday morning class with nine students in each. The first two certificates of completion will be presented late summer/early fall of 2019. Suzanne Pursley-Crotteau mentors both classes and Kathleen Chandler mentors with her in the Tuesday morning class. The Reverend John Jenkins provides guidance and support with this program at Saint Paul’s.

—Submitted by Suzanne Pursley-Crotteau

BUILDING & GROUNDS COMMITTEE

In 2018, Buildings and Grounds continued its work under the leadership of Dick Manning and welcomed Bobby Wideman and Dennis Bell to its number. Staff members and long-time contributors continued faithful attendance and support. Among signal accomplishments are the following:

- Provided advice and support for repairing brickwork on the west face of the Bell Tower and for replacing the light fixtures on the church roof and on the Whaley Building prior to the re-roofing of the church. New LED fixtures increase the illumination and cut the utility bill.
- Sought and obtained reviews of on-going contracts with security, maintenance, and other vendors. Began to address structural issues on the western wall of Tyler Hall; this work is on-going with Cranston Engineering and J. C. Stockton for plans to shore up the west door adjacent to the kitchen.
- Thanks to constant supervision by Dennis Bell, monitored the re-roofing of the church and Tyler Hall; managed the removal of old slates for re-cycling, minimizing debris sent to the landfill; coordinated work stoppages and churchyard clean-ups for special services and Sundays.
- Worked closely with our primary contractors on maintenance and repairs of plumbing, HVAC systems and control systems, lighting and electrical systems, elevator service, and painting.
- Sought and applied for grants for improving energy efficiency, maintenance of the Casavant pipe organ, and replacement of audio-radio equipment.

We salute the on-going leadership and participation of Dick Manning and Clay Coleman.

—Submitted by Leslie Lambert, Jr. Warden

CHILDREN'S CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Will you [the parents and godparents] be responsible for seeing that the child you present is brought up in the Christian faith and life?

Will you who witness these vows [the congregation] do all in your power to support these persons in their life in Christ?

How are we forming the children entrusted to us on Sunday mornings? First and foremost, we honor them in the common life of our church, especially in the liturgy. We welcome and encourage their presence and engaged participation in worship and in the sacraments. For children to feel comfortable, safe, and included in our unique way of worship is among the most formative and loving gifts we can provide, so that they know they are valued and that they always have a home in the Episcopal Church.

Our youngest children continue to participate in a profound method of children's formation called Godly Play. We have a growing circle of eight to ten families who participate. Over the next years, our goal is to expand Godly Play through elementary school age.

While we work toward that goal, we continue offer an outstanding Episcopal curriculum, Weaving God's Promises, for children 8 to 12. One to four families participate.

These programs are the gifts of time and talent from Coleman Graham (Weaving God's Promises) and Ivey Coleman and Kim Butler (Godly Play). These volunteers are present almost every Sunday of the fall, winter, and spring, and devote hours of time and effort each and every week in a ministry of self-giving love.

—Submitted by Fr. John Jenkins

CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILY COMMITTEE

It has been an incredible year for the Children, Youth, and Family Committee. 2018 saw the continuation of our Wednesday Night Fellowship Dinners, and they were very successful. We are averaging 70-75 people, young, old, and in-between on the second Wednesday every month. The committee feels confident that this program will continue to grow. In December we had to say goodbye to Janet as our caterer, and we will work with Cordially Invited to prepare our meals on the third Wednesday of each month.

We sponsored several other events in 2018, like the Saint Paul's Night at the Ballpark. Many members of our church family gathered for a wonderful baseball game, food, and fellowship at the Greenjackets' game in their new stadium. Everyone seemed to have a great time, and the fellowship with one another was wonderful.

This year's BBQ meal after the Fourth of July service was spectacular. We must have had close to 225 people here for the lunch. Our grill masters and those that brought sides to share were magnificent. Unfortunately, our Parish Low Country Boil had to be canceled this year due to weather, but hopefully we can get this event back on the calendar this fall.

The committee strongly believes that the participation of children, youth, and families will continue to increase, and there will be multiple events throughout the upcoming year for this to occur.

—Faithfully submitted by Todd Shafer, Chair

CREATION CARE COMMITTEE

- The committee presented 2 films at Sunday Adult Formation by local film maker Mark Albertin – one on the proposed Palmetto Pipeline and the other on proposed development on Cumberland Island, Georgia.
- Members worked with Keith Shafer on re-planting the triangle on the west side of the churchyard.
- Saturday outing to the Convent of St. Helena in N. Augusta for Eucharist and hike to river.
- Accomplished re-cycling of paper products on a weekly basis.
- Introduced new practice of compostable plates and cups for church activities.
- The committee facilitated a new energy audit by Georgia Interfaith and Light (“GIPL”) as a follow-up to the one that the committee facilitated in 2015. This audit concluded that St. Paul's has opportunities to minimize its energy use and costs by 1) installing more ceiling insulation; 2) changing light bulbs to LED; and 3) using a computer-based energy management system. The group is working with the church wardens to implement some of these recommendations.
- Conducted the 2nd “Night on the River” in October. This event, which celebrates Creation Care, attracted 120 participants on a cold and rainy Friday night. This number was down from 160 participants in 2017.

—Submitted by Bryan Haltermann, Chair

THE ST. RUTH BYLLESBY CHAPTER OF THE ORDER OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

The Membership:

- Prayed daily for the concerns of our congregation to strengthen the spiritual life and growth of the parish and to support the mission of the Order of the Daughters of the King to spread Christ's Kingdom throughout the World. Established the Confidential Prayer Request (CPR) Ministry through "Prayer Request Cards" placed in the pews during late summer and early fall.
- Hosted three Quiet Mornings: one led by Fr. John Jenkins during Epiphany; one led by Fr. George Muir during Pentecost at Saint Paul's; and one held at St. Helena's Convent in October and led by Sr. Carol Andrew.
- Hosted two Labyrinth Walks during 2018, both led by Belinda Peebles. The first was at The Church of the Good Shepherd during Lent in March and the second walk was held during Advent in the Berlin Room at Saint Paul's, using the Labyrinth Walk Canvas designed by John Cook and donated to Saint Paul's.
- in April hosted a Lemonade and Cookies Reception on the Portico after the 11:00 AM Service to introduce the women at Saint Paul's to Daughters of the King.
- Accepted two Daughters as transfers from Church of the Holy Comforter in June. Provided Discernment Classes (April-July) and admitted three new daughters into the Order in October. The St. Ruth Byllesby Chapter now has 15 members.
- Provided a workshop on "Exploring Your Spiritual Gifts" for Chapter Members in August.
- Sponsored the Advent Prayer Trees in Tyler Hall and the Narthex throughout the 2018 Advent Season.

The College Student Ministry

- Hosted a reception for high school seniors in May.
- Sent 21 Starbucks gift cards out to college students just prior to spring final exams.
- Sent 34 Chick-Fil-A gift cards out to college students just prior to fall final exams in 2018.

—Submitted by Suzanne Crotteau

EVANGELISM / MARKETING COMMITTEE

While the 2018 goals for the Evangelism and Marketing Committee (EMC) focused principally on marketing, there was also an ongoing evangelizing effort to better connect with the Fort Gordon community as well as with our neighbors in North Augusta. The following represents a brief summary of our activities.

Evangelism

Fort Gordon

After meeting with Dr. Tom Clark, director of the Fort Gordon Alliance, we decided that the best plan of action for creating a relationship between the church and Fort Gordon was to introduce ourselves to the chief chaplain and explore ways to support Fort Gordon personnel. Unfortunately, just as we found our way through the labyrinthian hierarchy that is Fort Gordon, the chaplain transferred to another base. We are currently talking with his replacement as well as with the wife of the commanding general of the Army Cyber Center, who is eager to interface with the greater Augusta community.

North Augusta

With the thought of advertising to North Augusta, we met with representatives of the *Aiken Standard* and *North Augusta Star* and with the chair of the North Augusta Chamber of Commerce. We concluded that advertising in the Star and availing ourselves of their digital expertise was not practical at this time. We are considering joining the North Augusta Chamber of Commerce. Along those lines, we have also set as a goal for 2019 to take better advantage of our membership in the Metro Augusta Chamber of Commerce.

Marketing

Our goals for 2018 included more consistent branding of Saint Paul's Church via signage, event marketing, collateral materials, digital marketing; and traditional advertising. As a consequence, we have cleaned existing plaques and are investigating the use of new signs and banners. We also hired a professional photographer who attended three services and produced an extensive library of photographs that the church can use in the production of posters and other collateral material such as brochures and connect cards that are used to welcome guests and members of the community to our services. The EMC also designed, produced, and distributed a windshield sticker to parishioners.

The committee did more extensive promotion this year of annual events such as the Blessing of the Animals and the Independence service. With the help of WJBF-TV, we arranged interviews with the clergy as well as prepared public relations materials for other media. We continue to fine-tune our advertising plan to complement these activities, and to create an integrated marketing plan.

The church's online presence, especially Facebook, You Tube, and Google, is much improved because of the expertise and contributions of committee members. We are beginning to see an increased digital following because of these efforts.

Plans for 2019:

Among several other goals, the EMC plans to promote Saint Paul's Church while supporting the Three Bridges Run. We hope to develop and enhance relationships with neighboring businesses and support services such as the Richmond County Sheriff's Substation. The committee will finish projects started in 2018 such as the church brochure and exterior church signage.

In conclusion, 2018 was an incredibly busy but very successful year for this committee. We are blessed to have so many professional members who are so willing to share their time and expertise.

—Respectfully submitted, Barbara Coleman, Chair

HISTORIC HERITAGE COMMITTEE

The mission of the Historic Heritage Committee is to support the witness of Saint Paul's Church, as both a vibrant contemporary parish and as the oldest representative of the body of Christ in Augusta. We do this by assisting clergy, vestry, and parish committees in researching, preserving, and illuminating the history of Saint Paul's for our parishioners and the wider community.

Guided by the love of Christ, we pursue our activities conscious of our participation in the communion of saints, "the whole family of God, the living and the dead, those whom we love and those whom we hurt, bound together in Christ by sacrament, prayer, and praise" (1979 Book of Common Prayer, 862).

With our faith in mind, we accomplished the following in 2018:

- We became an official committee of Saint Paul's Church, with a mission statement and charter approved by the Vestry.
- We promoted the history and contemporary ministries of Saint Paul's through a page on Wikipedia, the free internet encyclopedia, which we will continue to enlarge.
- We promoted national awareness of the history of Saint Paul's with a guided tour for The Walpole Society, an organization of art historians and collectors specializing in 18th-, 19th-, and early 20th-century American art.
- We assisted members of the general public in recovering their families' ties to the past through genealogical research in the parish registers.
- We developed and received approval for a fee schedule to be used in the case of requests for more intensive genealogical searches of our records.
- We surveyed our parish registers to compile a searchable index of births, baptisms, confirmations, marriages, and burials performed by the clergy of Saint Paul's for slaves and free people of color in the period 1820-1913. When complete, this index will be available by a link from the parish website.

Our goals in 2019 are to enlarge the digital footprint of Saint Paul's by making more of our early records available online and by launching a blog featuring interesting people, events, and artifacts associated with the history of our parish.

The Historic Heritage Committee of Saint Paul's Church meets the fourth Wednesday of each month at 5:30 PM in the conference room. For information, call or text Susan Yarborough at (706) 631-5661 or email c3peridot@knology.net.

—Submitted by Susan Yarborough, Chair

NEWCOMER MINISTRY

The Saint Paul's Newcomer's Ministry has started its second year of greeting newcomers and visitors in the Narthex every Sunday at the 11:00 AM service. We provide a warm and friendly "greeter" at our Newcomer Table and Saint Paul's literature that any visitors may be interested in. You may also request a Saint Paul's name tag here. We have welcomed many visitors to Saint Paul's this past year and officially welcomed them at our annual welcome party this past October. Our goal is for every visitor to feel welcome when they enter our doors.

—Submitted by Kathy Enicks, Chair

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Matthew 25:40

Outreach activities in 2018 centered on feeding, clothing, and helping our neighbors in the community and the world:

- More than 1,000 families received boxes of pantry staples, purchased and distributed bi-monthly through our Manna Pantry. This is an increase of more than 100 from 2017. The number of volunteers also increased.
- Saint Paul's supported the Master's Table Soup Kitchen with financial assistance and volunteers who prepared more than 1,000 hot meals for hungry Augustans.
- As a member of the Downtown Coalition of Church Ministries, Saint Paul's contributed board members and financial support for needy families. Through DCCM, the area's largest food pantry, more than 100 tons of food were distributed to more than 30,000 individuals—66% of whom were elderly or children under the age of 18.
- With our financial support, Saint Paul's partnered with St. James United Methodist Church to aid elderly, disabled, and unemployed neighbors with rent, utilities, medicine, and more.
- Saint Paul's provided a pre-race pasta dinner and opened its doors on Ironman Sunday with coffee, snacks, and respite areas for athletes and their families—offering a loving, Christian welcome to participants from around the world. A cheer station outside the church encouraged and provided popsicles for the hot and tired runners.
- An average of 15 students from Craig-Houghton Elementary School received one-on-one assistance, school supplies, and love from Saint Paul's tutors and mentors from January to May. Saint Paul's volunteers also read books to preschool classes. After Craig-Houghton was closed, our tutors continued serving some of "their" children in a new setting, Hornsby Middle School. Our congregation provided gifts and a gala Christmas breakfast for these children and their families through our Angel Tree program. Children also received bookbags and coats through annual parish drives.
- Internationally, our church continued to sponsor an orphan at Our Little Roses Orphanage in Honduras.
- Parish outreach provided funds for disaster relief to victims of hurricanes through the Diocese of East Carolina and Episcopal Relief and Development.
- Saint Paul's reached out to our forgotten heroes with visits and quarterly socials featuring ice cream, cookies, lemonade, visits, and a sing-along at the Georgia War Veterans' Nursing Home. Members from Saint Paul's Choir also led a Christmas carol sing-along for these veterans in December.
- Our church provided a board member and financial support for St. Stephen's Ministries. Due to the resignation of our board member during the year, we welcome anyone from the parish who would like to serve in this capacity.
- On June 21, "The Longest Day," Saint Paul's hosted a program of music and memories to help raise funds for the Alzheimer's Association.

The Outreach Committee actively increased Saint Paul's impact in the community in 2018 by spearheading a parish-wide Mardi Gras that raised more than \$25,000 for outreach activities.

Community outreach is not limited to members of Saint Paul's Outreach Committee; it is a ministry of the entire church—including parishioners of all ages. To learn more about how you can get involved, call the church office or contact the person(s) listed for various activities in Saint Paul's *Weekly Postings*.

—Submitted by Marilyn Grau, Chair

PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE

Our vibrant Parish Life is one of the many things that draws and holds folks in our church community. The Parish Life Committee is comprised of three subcommittees: Parish Social Life, Hospitality Committee, and Children, Youth, and Family Committee. During 2018, Parish Life offered many events for fellowship and extended our hospitality to others in the community with the following activities:

Parish Social Life

- Brunch in the River Room for the Annual Meeting
- Lenten Chili Lunch
- Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
- Prime Time Parties for the Over-50 crowd
- Unwind for the Under-50 crowd
- Sunday Birthday Celebrations in Tyler Hall
- Sunday Lunches throughout the year

Hospitality Committee

- Rose Sunday Reception
- Two Evensong Receptions (the last of which was over 200 attendees)
- Funeral Receptions
- Confirmand and Bishop's Reception
- Two Funeral Receptions

Children, Youth and Family Committee

- Easter Egg Hunt
- Night at the Ball Park
- Parish Picnic at Camp Gravatt, Aiken
- Wednesday Night Fellowship Dinners

The Parish Life Committee hopes to make 2019 a truly eventful year by modernizing our website capabilities. This will ensure all parishioners and visitors have a venue to view upcoming events so that they can make plans to attend and volunteer.

—Christine Flanagan, Vestry Liaison for Parish Life

RIVER ROOM/BERLIN ROOM

2018 was a wonderful and profitable year for the River Room and Berlin Room. Most of our rented events were from wedding receptions and other social events, such as rehearsal dinners, birthday parties, and high school dances and proms. Kiwanis met 44 times on Mondays at lunchtime in 2018. Tuesday's Music Live hosted Tuesday luncheons 12 times for the 2017 – 2018 season, and The Augusta Choral Society rehearsed in the Berlin room throughout the year on Tuesday evenings. The River Room and Berlin Room also stay busy with many church activities such as EYC, Adult Formation classes, Annual Meeting, parish luncheons and picnics, Ironman, Outreach Dinners, birthday parties, funeral receptions, etc.

In June of 2018, we had the privilege of being one of the many movie spots for the Clint Eastwood movie, *The Mule*. Tyler Hall was transformed into a reception area and The River Room and Berlin Room were used for breakfast and lunch areas along with wardrobe changes. The week-long event experience was a great one for Saint Paul's as a whole.

2019 is not as booked thus far as the past few years have been. With the Vestry decision to no longer allow

non-parishioners to be married on-site. We have experienced a shortage in bookings because many brides want to book ceremonies and receptions in the same location. With the cyber industry growth that we are having in Augusta, we are already seeing new cyber companies booking our space for meetings and/or social events. In December we upgraded our projector in the River Room, which will be a major selling point for future corporate clients.

We were blessed in 2018 that we didn't run into major maintenance issues for the two rooms. A huge thank you to Hillary Bryant, Greg Maxie, and James Wheeler for all they do to keep things going smoothly on a daily basis.

If you would like to book the River Room, Berlin Room, the church, Tyler Hall or any other space please, let Mary know as soon as possible as the 2019 calendar will be opening up soon.

—Submitted by Mary Jackson, Facility Manager

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

The Worship Committee is chaired by the Rector, serves in an advisory capacity to the Rector, and coordinates all the lay ministries that are required to conduct the worship services of Saint Paul's Church. The Worship Committee's membership traditionally includes the clergy of the parish, the director of music, and the chairs of the Altar Guild, Flower Guild, Eucharistic ministers, ushers, Acolyte Master, as well as any others appointed by the Rector.

The Worship Committee meets, when needed, to schedule special services and coordinate all the laity required each week to conduct our worship services. For the entire year, we held three services each Sunday. Holy Eucharist was celebrated at 8:00 and 11:00 AM, and at 5:30 PM, Celtic Evening Prayer and Communion. Baptism services were held 3 times during the year. Two Evensong Services with choir were held in March and November. The traditional Easter, Thanksgiving Eve, and two Christmas Eve services drew worshippers from around the community. For the third straight year, it continues to be noted that there are new faces in the congregation each Sunday.

Our worship lay ministries have worked very hard again this year. The acolytes are incredibly dedicated and held training sessions quarterly this year, and an emphasis has been placed on our senior acolytes helping to develop and nurture our youngest acolytes. Saint Paul's presently has 4 vergers, 13 Eucharistic ministers and 34 lectors, many of whom are youth. Some of our Eucharistic ministers also serve as Eucharistic visitors, visiting the homebound and taking them communion from the reserve sacrament. The Saint Paul's Choir membership stands at 35 members, and welcomes new voices at any time. The Saint Paul's and the Canterbury Choirs sing regularly at the 11:00 AM Sunday service, and the Saint Nicholas Choir sings 5-6 times during the year. The Saint Nicholas Choir continues under directors, Victoria Hammond and Nikki Wickware. The Celtic Service has enjoyed the contributions of a number of gifted Augusta musicians, including Carl Purdy, Rob Foster, Laura Tomlin, Keith Shafer, Kathleen Chandler, Celeste Ray, Vonda Darr, Eryn Eubanks and the Family Fold, and Matthew Dickerson.

The Altar Guild has continued their faithful work, and most of our sterling silver items will turn 200 years old this year. The Altar Guild continues to recruit new members to serve in their "behind-the-scenes, sleeves-rolled-up" service. Susan Verdery has been invaluable with her expertise in maintaining and repairing these pieces and restoring a 19th century chalice given as a memorial this year. The chapel altar is being used for the Celtic Service and is significant historically to Saint Paul's as it was saved from the fire of 1916. The Flower Guild has facilitated the restoration of the altar vases found in the crypt and held a flower arranging seminar for the parish among other accomplishments. The usher teams are full and they maintain a list of people willing to substitute. The audio-visual team continues its work overseeing the

distribution of worship services beyond the walls of the church through electronic broadcast media, both by radio and live streaming video under the guidance of part-time sound engineer, Wright Montgomery. Howard Lovett retired to Charleston with his wife, Linda. The A/V team continue to work toward increased media access, higher upload bandwidth, and enhanced audio-video quality of our live-streaming of our weekly 11:00 AM service via our YouTube page in addition to video recordings being available via the same.

Please see the following individual reports of the various ministries of the Worship Committee for the year 2018.

—Submitted by John Robertson, Vestry Liaison to the Worship Committee

Broadcast Committee

The Broadcast Committee oversees the distribution of worship services beyond the walls of the church through electronic broadcast media. The committee was first organized in 2013 as a sub-committee of the Evangelism and Marketing Committee after the church received a generous donation of audio-video equipment to enhance the sound quality of the existing radio broadcast and provide the bulk of the resources required to produce live video streaming. Since then, a group of dedicated volunteer parishioners, along with a number of skilled broadcast and IT professionals, have worked together to provide broadcasting of high quality.

This year, Howard Lovett and his wife Linda retired to Charleston, and Wright Montgomery has replaced them as the new Audio Engineer. We are presently working toward increased media access, higher upload bandwidth, and enhanced audio-video quality.

—Submitted by Wright Montgomery, Chair

Acolyte Guild

2018 was another great year for the acolytes of Saint Paul's Church. The young people of the Church have given and continue to give their time and talent to the service of God and the congregation. The acolytes will continue to improve as they participate in quarterly training sessions and as we increase the roles of our senior members of the Acolyte Guild in developing and nurturing our youngest acolytes.

It is great to see more young people get involved with the Acolyte Guild, many of whom are in middle and high school. We will continue to strengthen our understanding of the role we serve in the liturgy and the role we serve in the greater Church. I want to thank the Clergy, Vestry, and the congregation for their continued support of this wonderful ministry.

—Faithfully, Todd Shafer, Acolyte Master

Altar Guild

The Altar Guild moved forward in 2018, primarily by looking back...

- Next year, most of the sterling silver vessels used every week will be 200 years old. Many thanks to Susan Verdery for her invaluable expertise on maintaining these and all of our beautiful pieces. Under her guidance one of our ciboria (from the 1820 collection) was successfully repaired as well as one of our glass and sterling cruets from 1920.

- The family of a former Associate Rector at Saint Paul's in the 1950s discovered a chalice given as a memorial to two Del' Aigle daughters that died tragically young in the late 19th century. It has been restored (again, thanks to Susan Verdery) to its original gold-on-sterling splendor and was used on Christmas Eve 2018.
- The chapel altar is now being used for the Celtic Service in the church. This altar was originally used in the former church building and has significant history as it was saved from destruction in the fire of 1916.

We are recruiting new members. Our work is “behind-the-scenes, sleeves-rolled-up” service. The commitment is for one full week a month, which usually means serving on Saturday morning to prepare everything and Sunday for one of the services. Training takes time and patience, but the reward is an education in our symbolism and liturgy and enhancement of our personal Christian experience. This is a big commitment, as we are charged with maintaining the altar, but we don't serve alone. Not only do we serve with the Great Counselor and Perfector of our Faith, but we work very closely with clergy, lay Eucharistic ministers, acolytes, sextons and of course our partners—the Flower Guild and the Linen Committee. We do our best to always regard the altar as the center of our worship, and we take our work very seriously. If so inclined, we welcome you to join us as part of your own spiritual journey.

With the help of God, the Altar Guild will continue our charge and give thanks for all who ensure the Holy Eucharist is celebrated a minimum of three times per week.

—Respectfully submitted, Catherine Stuckey

Flower Guild

Saint Paul's Flower Guild is pleased to report 2018 was filled with positive results.

Our Accomplishments

1. Altar flower sponsorships for entire year.
2. Restoration of antique Altar vases found in Crypt.
3. Mother's Day rose gift to each lady of Saint Paul's Church.
4. Flower article to our Parishioners defining our mission, goals, objectives and sponsorship funding.
5. Christmas holiday flower arranging seminar, conducted by Margaret Brown and open to all Parishioners, at no charge.
6. Showcased our beautiful stained glass windows with candlelight for Christmas Eve Services.
7. Decorated Chancel with Poinsettia trees for Christmas Eve family photos.

Our Flower Guild Team

Clint Carroll, Ann Claiborne Christian, Marian Clark, Samm Fusselle, Mickey Goodwin, Faye Long, Brenda Mason, Lynn Mays, Susan Muir, Magda Newland, Laura Phinizy, Louise Phinizy, Barbara Register, June Shafer, Sally Simkins, Bucky Thomas, Nancy Trefz, Pamela Uros, Anne Wilkin, and Jean Wright.

Through God's blessings, the Flower Guild team utilizes their creative spirits and talents to give glory to our Lord.

The Flower Guild has open membership throughout the entire year. No experience is required, we will train you. Come visit us.

Thank you, parishioners, for your generosity and support of floral sponsorships which enable the Flower Guild to continue its ministry.

—Respectfully Pamela Dorminey-Uros and Clint Carroll, Co-Chairs

Music

I began my 36th year as Director of Music of Saint Paul's in 2018 and want to thank everyone who makes our parish's music program successful. Saint Paul's Church not only supports beautiful liturgical music, but is also a major venue for concerts attended by thousands of music lovers from both Georgia and South Carolina.

Our adult singers each contribute more than 5 hours every week to the worship life of the parish and families with children also attend rehearsals and services on a regular basis. Grandparents have become increasingly important in transporting children to rehearsals. Victoria Hammond and Nikki Wickware, the director and pianist of the Saint Nicholas Choir, now have a dozen singers and more on the way. The Saint Nicholas Choir membership doubled in 2018. The Saint Paul's Choir has 35 singers and gained several in September. The Canterbury Choir was reconfigured in the fall of 2018 due to the loss of the older teen boys. High school girls anchor the choir, and of the 13 singers, eight are 12 or younger. Music Associate Emerita, Sarah Pritchard, continues to play an important role at Saint Paul's, accompanying the choir and playing occasional organ voluntaries. Kathleen Chandler maintains the church's extensive music library and further library data entry was done by June Shafer.

The Celtic Service has enjoyed the contributions of a number of gifted Augusta musicians, with Carl Purdy (various instruments), Rob Foster (various types of flutes), Eryn Eubanks and the Family Fold, Celeste Ray (clarinet), Laura Tomlin (violin), Matt Dickerson (hammered dulcimer), and Vonda Darr (harp) providing appropriate instrumental music each week, occasionally supplemented by vocalist Kathleen Chandler and Keith Shafer at the piano.

The Saint Paul's Choir with family and friends enjoyed an April trip to Greece and Turkey where the choir sang at St. Paul's Church, Athens, in a Sunday morning service attended by worshippers of incredibly varied backgrounds from all over the world. The trip included an Aegean cruise with visits to numerous islands, including Patmos where the group visited the Cave of the Apocalypse—the place where John experienced the visions detailed in the Book of Revelation. 51 people including the Rector, George Muir, and his wife, Susan, participated in the pilgrimage, which also included a visit to Ephesus on Turkey's west coast.

The parish's 501-c-3 arts organization, Tuesday's Music Live, continued to attract large audiences but experienced a decline in attendance in 2018 due to the loss of parking at the lot behind the old railroad depot, which is now closed to the public. Older patrons are not able or willing to walk several blocks to events and the lack of close parking is the biggest threat to the success of Tuesday's Music Live. The parking issue is also a major challenge to the evolving popularity of Augusta's urban center. The loss of the Depot parking lot also affected visitors to Augusta's Riverwalk who began parking in the Saint Paul's lots while events were being held at the church, creating further pressure on parking.

It is an honor and privilege to be the Director of Music of this dynamic parish and I look forward to 2019.

—Submitted by Keith Shafer

Vergers, Eucharistic Ministers, and Lectors

Saint Paul's presently has 4 vergers, 13 Eucharistic ministers, and 34 lectors who support our worship services and other special services.

Our lectors include both youth and adults. They read the lessons and the prayers of the people at our Sunday services as well as other special services.

Our Eucharistic ministers serve the chalice at all services on Sundays, special services, and occasionally at weddings and funerals. They also read lessons and prayers at some services. Eucharistic ministers are confirmed members of the church who undergo training for their ministry.

Eucharistic visitors, are specially trained laypersons who occasionally visit the homebound who are unable to attend church and take the Eucharist to them.

Our vergers serve primarily at the 11:00 AM service and at any other services at the request of the Rector. While the role of the verger is most visible in leading the procession on Sunday morning, much of the verger's work is behind the scenes working with the clergy, altar guild, ushers, and music director to make sure all is ready for each service and that all goes smoothly during the service.

If you are interested in learning more about these ministries, contact Carolyn Dolen at carolyndolen@mac.com.

—Submitted by Carolyn Dolen

YOUTH

Youth Formation for grades 6-12 continues to be taught by Todd Shafer. With the departure of our youth minister, Ranie Neislar, in the summer, this essential ministry that has enjoyed growth and gains is now under stress, as voiced by parents and youth. Todd Shafer has continued (TBTG) to offer outstanding leadership for our youth and guided their formation with an engaging curriculum titled FAITH & NATURE: Divine Adventures of Life on Earth.

EYC (Episcopal Youth Community) steadily grew throughout the spring and met weekly for worship, discussion, games, and bonfires, and supported Saint Paul's outreach efforts by volunteering during Ironman. A contingent of youth traveled to Honey Creek in January 2018 to participate in the Diocese's Revival event with Presiding Bishop Michael Curry. Saint Paul's youth continue to participate in youth events at the Diocesan Conference Center, Honey Creek, and bring their enthusiasm back to EYC. The community's activities and meetings have been curtailed this fall without the support of a youth minister, but thanks to Todd Shafer and a nucleus of families, has continued to meet on a limited basis, including some epic nerf battles; and always with heartfelt conversations about life with God through Jesus Christ.

In 2018, Saint Paul's used the Youth Confirmation curriculum called "Confirm Not Conform," which provided a solid foundation for the participants to explore their faith in new ways before their Confirmation on our All Saints' Day celebration in November.

—Submitted by Fr. John Jenkins

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

YEA — Young Episcopal Adults

Saint Paul's continues to attract and cultivate new friendships and Christian community among adults in their 20s and 30s. This group gathers at least once a month and regularly participates in service opportunities and social functions such as Manna Pantry, the Christ Church feeding ministry in Harrisburg, social time at the Bees Knees, and gathering in one another's homes. This group also integrates with and often forms the core of Pub Theology, a monthly forum for conversation about thorny theological topics that intersect with everyday life. With Ranie Neislar's departure for seminary, Fr. Jenkins been welcomed in to grow with this group.

Pub Theology

A community forum for younger adults ranging in age from mid-20s to 50s took on a renewed vigor in 2018. Attendance varies by season, swelling to as many as 20 in the summer months. This group met every month throughout year and enjoys a core of 8 to 12 individuals, including some from other denominations and walks of life. This group gathers at The Pizza Joint monthly to gnaw on thorny theological topics that bear on everyday Christian life. With Ranie Neislar's departure for seminary, Rev. Jenkins been welcomed into this group to facilitate and encourage discussion.

—Submitted by Fr. John Jenkins



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