



# 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Annual Meeting  
for the 272<sup>nd</sup> year of Saint Paul's Church  
January 30, 2022

*Historic Saint Paul's Church is a welcoming Episcopal congregation  
committed to living and sharing the Good News of God in Jesus Christ  
through liturgy, music, and outreach.*





## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Rector's Report		Page 2
Wardens' Report		Page 3
Five-Year Statistical Summary		Pages 4-5
Ministry Reports		Pages 6 - 15
Altar Guild	p. 6	
Broadcast Committee	p. 6	
Building & Grounds Committee	p. 7	
Formation for Children & Youth	pp. 7-8	
Daughters of the King	p. 8	
Eucharistic Visitors Ministry	p. 9	
Evangelism / Marketing Committee	p. 9	
Flower Guild	p. 10	
History Committee	p. 10	
Music	p. 11	
Outreach Committee	pp. 11-12	
Parish Life and Hospitality Committee	p. 13	
Pastoral Care	p. 13	
Saint Paul's Rector Search Committee`	pp. 13-14	
Strategic Planning Committee	p. 14	
River Room/Berlin Room	pp. 14-15	
Vergers, Eucharistic Ministers, and Lectors	pp. 15	
Usher	p. 15	
Financial Reports		Pages 16-20
Stewardship Campaign	p. 16	
Capital Campaign	p. 16-17	
Endowment Committee	pp.17-18	
Endowment Fund Summary	p. 18	
Treasurer's Report:		
2021 Financial Results	p.18	
2022 Budget vs. 2021 Actual	p. 18	
Income and Expense Summary	p.19	
Balance Sheet	p. 20	
Budgetary Comparisons: 2021 & 2022	p. 21	

# RECTOR'S REPORT

In preparing to write this annual report, I looked back at the first two things I wrote for Saint Paul's: a letter when we announced the call and my first contribution to the Weekly Postings. I found each of them surprisingly prescient. In one, I tried gently to get us comfortable with the inevitability of change. In the other, I talked about our need to discern our priorities together. These are still prominent tasks before us: to live faithfully through change and to work together to identify some priorities within that changing environment.

We don't yet fully understand the ways that we have changed in and been changed by the last couple of years. We have learned new habits on the fly. Other habits that had been reliable in the past have been left by the wayside either because they didn't fit the emergency situation or because they were no longer sustainable even outside of an emergency. The prevailing sense among many religious leaders is that the pandemic accelerated some trends in membership and giving that had been operative for a long time. And of course, Saint Paul's has been rocked by a conflict during the stresses of the pandemic.

I believe Saint Paul's is on a threshold, at a hinge point in our history. We are almost poised for profound growth in faithfulness, impact, and membership. And, change is here, whether we sought it or not. We are currently doing less than we want to be doing, and we can afford (in terms of finances and existing leadership) even less than we are doing now. I say this from a place of deep hope, even the hope of the resurrection: we will not be able to retrieve the past. Things will not magically snap back to a past normal, no matter how much we love and value that past normal. Instead, we are called to build something new on the foundation of our rich history, to minister to the world and neighborhood that are emerging now, as the people we are in faith becoming.

To do this takes care in setting and executing priorities. I'm delighted that a Strategic Planning process was already underway before I arrived. We have already been doing hard work together to discern our priorities in a changing environment, as changing people. That Strategic Planning process is entering a new phase: implementation. The goals are nothing too unusual. You lose some bite when you strip away the specifics, but in general terms this plan calls us to be a people sustainably ministering more deeply to each other and to our neighbors. Most broadly, they are the goals of any church seeking to live faithfully. How we pursue these faithful goals is where we need to encounter change with clear eyes and lively hearts.

To continue to fulfill our mission—to go even more deeply into our mission—we will need to learn some new habits. In the coming months we'll all look more deeply at how we can join God's work in our lives and neighborhood. This will lead to us doing new things, or doing familiar things in a new way. Some things we try probably won't work. And certainly not everything will be new. We have a lot of talent and commitment already working very well. But the lay leaders we already have need more support, and we need new leadership for new ministries. This kind of process is not always comfortable, but it is faithful, and it can be exciting.

I am very excited about this coming year. We are bringing (your) extraordinary talent and deep faithfulness to meet serious challenges in our common life and serious needs in our community. And as we deepen in discipleship and ministry together, we will not be alone. God will not leave us. The God who is calling us forward will stay with us as we go. Thanks be to God.

The Rev. Eric C. Bidy, Rector

# WARDENS' REPORT

2021 was a year of transition for Saint Paul's Church. After months of streaming services, with significant technical support from Wright Montgomery, Tom Kotti and the Parish Office, we finally returned to in-person worship on Easter, with a moving celebration of the Resurrection of Christ at a chilly morning service at the Celtic Cross. Our rhythm is more normal now, as we enjoy the benefit of Keith Shafer and the choir's expertise and presence, and we attend services without necessity for contact-tracing and sign-up sheets.

At the last annual meeting, we bid farewell to Fr. Muir on Zoom. While we were without a permanent rector, Fr. Joe Bowden, Fr. Bill Dolen, and Fr. Erwin Veale led us as we sought solace, healing and inspiration. Their love and guidance brought us through some tough months and allowed us to "carry on" and to continue to worship in this special place.

The Search Committee faithfully worked for year, mostly on Zoom, to identify our goals and then find someone to help us meet them. In September, Fr. Biddy and his family joined us as a response to our months of prayer. Fr. Biddy's response to our invitation to lead our Church ("Of course the answer is yes!) is indicative of his attitude: where there is a will, there is a way.

The Vestry worked to prepare a plan for 2022 which will allow us to move forward with a resolution to the conflict surrounding the Polk cenotaph. It incorporates the ongoing work of the Strategic Planning and Finance Committees. It responds to requests for improved communication and additional pastoral support for our children. It addresses memorials and gifts. It requests member participation. The Diocese has offered us tremendous support over the last year, including reducing our Diocesan pledge to reflect our financial situation, awarding us a grant to help support our technology updates, and helping us navigate our challenges. The Vestry continues to listen to the Church.

Physically, we have adapted our buildings to be more accommodating with new ramps, more comfortable with new restrooms, and more attractive with a good cleaning and some cosmetic updates. The River Room is open again, and we continue to welcome guests to Saint Paul's.

All of this work is designed to support the Church in living our mission. 2021 was a year for change; we prayerfully suggest that 2022 will be a year for hope.

Ashley Wright, Senior Warden  
Catherine Boardman, Junior Warden

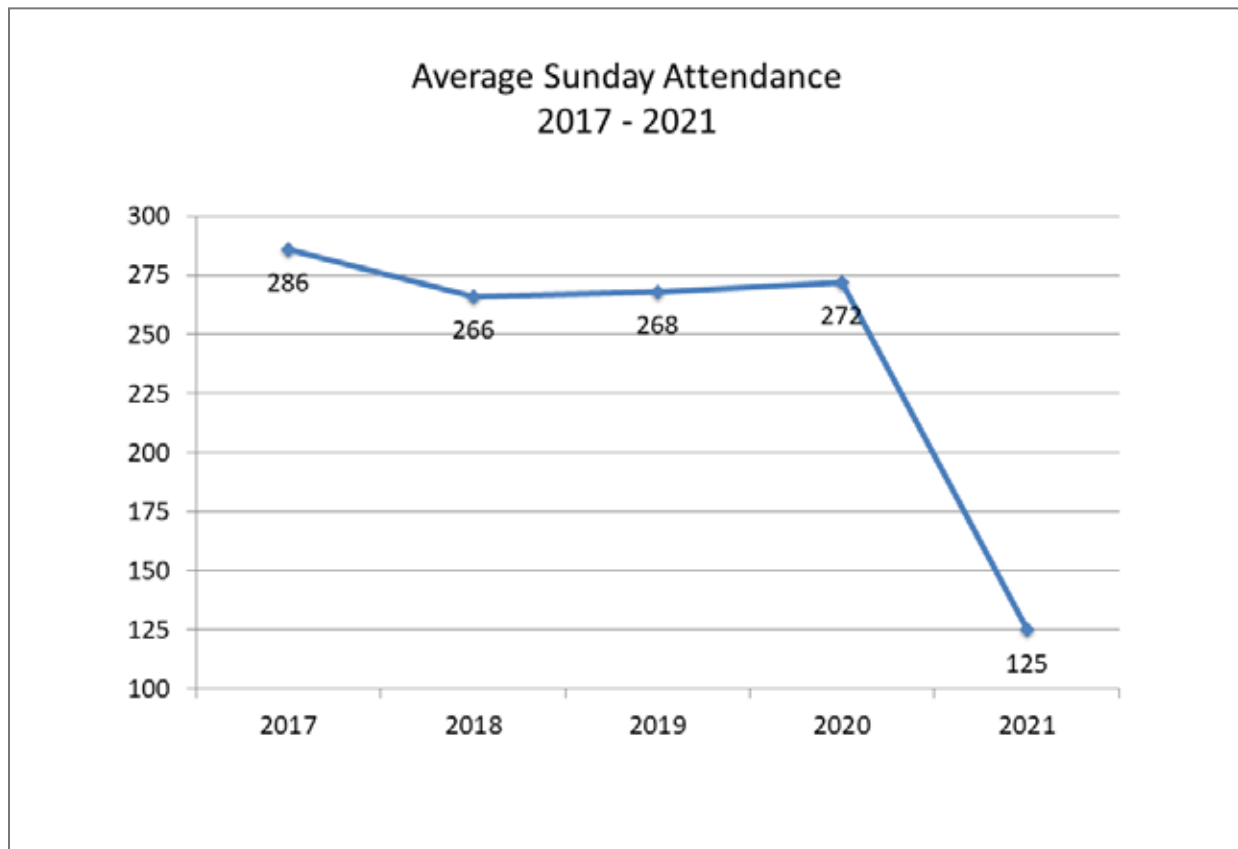
# FIVE-YEAR STATISTICAL SUMMARY

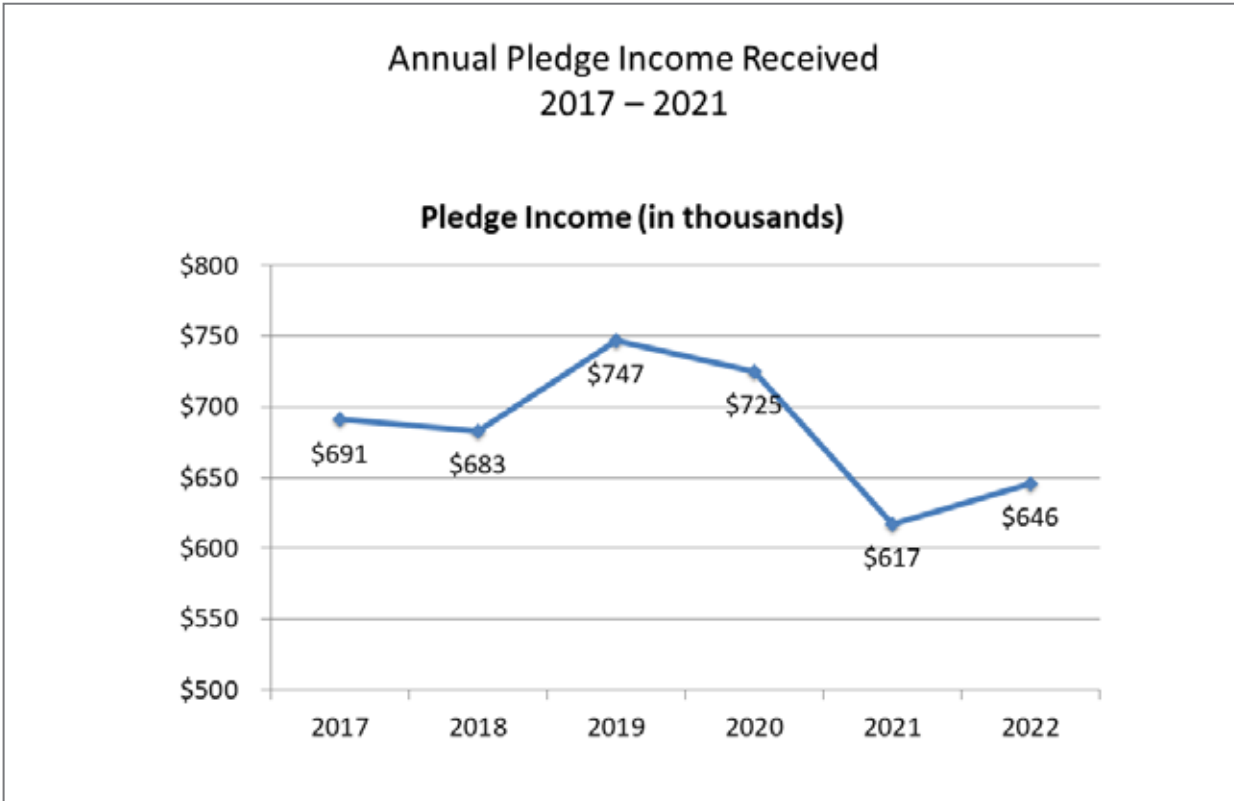
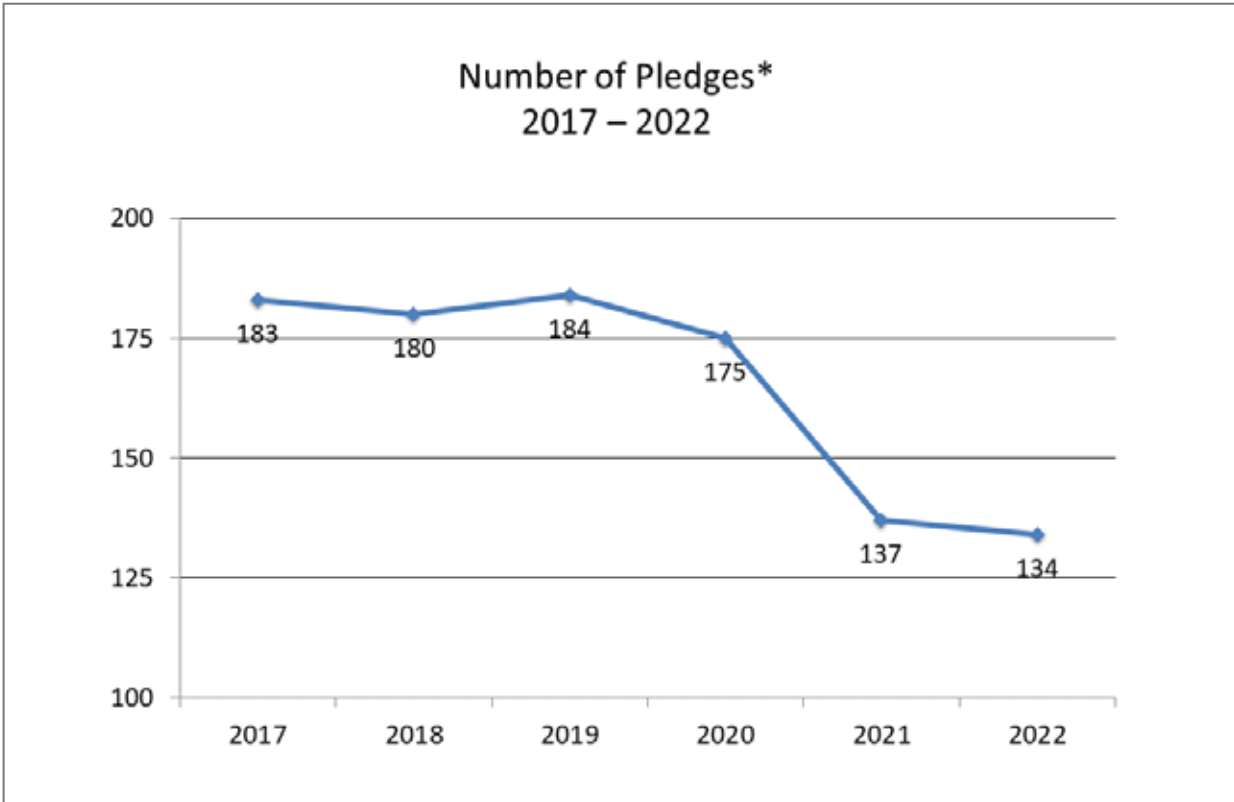
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Average Sunday Attendance	286***	266	268	272**	125*	n/a
Pledges	183	180	184	175	137	134 Totaling \$646,018
Pledge Income Received	691,886	683,409	747,555	\$725,771	\$617,174	n/a

\* Due to the Pandemic, the 2021 calculation uses only services with in-person attendance (38 Sundays).

\*\*Due to the Pandemic, the 2021 Parochial Report counts Average Sunday Attendance using only services between January 1 & March 1, 2020.

\*\*\*Average Sunday Attendance is calculated using all services held on Saturday night or Sunday. Years marked with two asterisks indicate a year that Christmas Eve fell on a Saturday or Sunday, thereby skewing the numbers. ASA without the "Sunday" of Christmas Eve equaled 276 in 2016 and 272 in 2017.





This graph reflects the actual income received from pledges in years 2017-2021. The 2022 data point is the dollar amount pledged for the 2022 budget.

# 2021 MINISTRY REPORTS

## ALTAR GUILD AND LINEN GUILD

Saint Paul's Altar Guild began 2021 with more hope but sadly lost our beloved Mary Speir to complications of COVID-19 in January. While Mary had become inactive her last few years due to health issues, she remained on the roster and served when able. She was a member of this guild her entire adult life, almost 60 years.

Our first, cautious return to in person worship was the outdoor Easter service, held in the parking lot, using the beautiful Celtic cross and garden as the altar. Opening the backdoor of the sacristy made our job much easier and it was a beautiful celebration of the risen Lord.

With a skeletal crew of diligent behind-the-scenes "worker bees" we continued to ensure the Holy Eucharist was celebrated at least three times per week. Many, many thanks to Ann Ewell, Becky Wright, Kathleen Fickling, Nancy Trefz, Julia Hickman, Ian McQueen, Laurie Montgomery and Soleta and Dudley Baird. We are also grateful to Minta Nixon, Pat Crumrine, and Susan Keithley for providing pristine linens every Sunday.

The windows in our sacristy provide a wonderful view of the eastern skyline, a great place to catch the sun rise. There are plans on this horizon for renovation of our sacristy, possibly this year. We look forward to a fresh, new space to prepare the Lord's table. Thanks be to God!

—Respectfully submitted, Catherine Stuckey

## BROADCAST (AV) COMMITTEE

The Broadcast Committee is responsible for the production and distribution of the parish's worship services and special events services via WGAC radio and electronic and social media (e.g. Facebook and YouTube).

The committee is exclusively managed and operated by Staff Members Tom Kotti and Wright Montgomery. Gabriel Hammond joined the committee in 2021 providing valuable supplemental assistance and expertise. While each staff member is proficient in the operation of all system components, Tom generally handles the Video, Wright generally handles the Audio Operation, and Gabriel handles social media.

2021 was another year of opportunity and challenges. The opportunity was to continue to provide live broadcasts of the Sunday 11:00 a.m. worship services via radio and social media during the no in-house worship during COVID restrictions. This continued until Easter Sunday. The recording, packaging and integration of recorded Choir music continued through April.

The technical challenges continued with unreliable internet broadband service necessary for the live video streaming and radio broadcasts. During the year, the team overcame over 95% of the time for the live broadcasts and 100% for the recordings and playback via social media.

The current video system is only capable of providing video that broadcasts at 480 lines (Cathode Ray Tube Television technology) better known as Standard Definition video. A comprehensive proposal for the purchase and installation of a new much needed High-Definition system with improved operations and reliability was submitted to members of the Vestry and Clergy. This proposal is pending approval.

The three older less reliable Wireless Lapel Microphones were replaced with new digital units with better sound and increased reliability. Recently, a new live stream encoder device was installed to replace the old inoperative encoder. The new encoder will integrate with the prospective video system upgrades we plan to implement in the future.

—Submitted by Wright Montgomery, Chair and Tom Kotti, Co-Chair



## **BUILDING & GROUNDS COMMITTEE**

In addition to addressing the “normal” wear and tear issues that come with a 100+ year-old sanctuary and a 20+ year old Children’s Ministry Center, the Buildings and Ground Committee spent much of 2021 studying and preparing to address several large, long-awaited projects. The Chairmanship of this Committee passed to Cameron Nixon in June, and he immediately thanked Leslie Lambert for her years of dedicated service to the Church and the grounds and facilities.

### **Accomplishments and notable initiatives in 2021 included:**

- Installation of 8 new memorial tablets on east portico wall
- Prepared for installation of new A/C unit in the vesting room
- Completed and received Vestry approval of a formal charter of the committee
- Planned for the spring 2022 installation of a chandelier, previously hung in the balcony, in the vestibule between Tyler Hall and the River Room stairs
- Continued work on a comprehensive maintenance schedule and budget projection plan
- General maintenance of the HVAC system

### **Major activities included:**

- Late in 2021, the Church discovered that a component failure in our chiller’s evaporator had caused water intrusion in the condenser coils and a full shut down and rebuild of one of the two circuits was required. Our HVAC contractor, Gold Mech, has helped craft a financially less burdensome repair plan and that work will be completed by the end of January. The chiller has an estimated remaining life of 15 years, so we are hopeful this repair job carries us through the remaining lifetime of the chiller. The aforementioned maintenance schedule and budget projection plan is a tool to help budget for the scheduled and anticipated maintenance and/or replacement of items small and large (such as the chiller). Our task as a Church is to regularly budget and fund replacement accounts so we are ready to meet the financial need of an equipment replacement.
- The Capital Campaign rolls on and the B&G Committee is coordinating a complete renovation of the Tyler Hall kitchen. Plans have been completed and incorporate input from all the Tyler Hall stakeholders. A roll out of the plans to the congregation is planned for the spring with construction to follow. A plan to renovate the sacristy will follow.
- The Committee commissioned parishioner Bill Ford, a technology provider by trade, to coordinate a comprehensive technology assessment to guide us in prioritizing and contracting for upgrades to our technology infrastructure. The recommended priorities will bring us in line with current resources and improve our streaming capabilities and our security services. This assessment is being presented to the Committee in January.

We are thankful for the support of Church staff, Elisabeth Price, Hillary Bryant, and of faithful committee members: Tom Robertson, John Robertson, Erick Montgomery, Wright Montgomery, Dennis Bell, Bob Rollins, Brad Sandbach, Jim Hilliard, Bobby Wright, and Catherine Boardman.

—Submitted by Cameron Nixon, Chair

## **CHRISTIAN FORMATION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

Since closing during the Pandemic, Christian Education for Children and Youth has been slowly reawakening. Fortunately, the commitment of Kim Butler, Ivey Coleman and Coleman Graham has been truly heroic. They were able to meet on Zoom to continue teaching and reaching out to our Kindergarten through 5th grade students. Unfortunately, as there was no one directly over the Youth program, students in grades 6-12 were not able to meet.

This past summer, July 2021, an advisory committee was formed of past and current Christian Education teachers, most of whom were professional teachers as well. Their input was critical in moving ahead with selecting curriculum and reorganizing and cleaning up of the Christian Ed and Youth spaces. This gave us an opportunity to have a fresh start in the fall. We also spent time reaching out to our parishioners with children and youth. Much credit goes to the staff, especially Elisabeth Price as well as Hillary Bryant and Greg Maxie, for their patience as we overhauled and moved furniture and attempted to set things right and reclaimed the CE spaces. Kim Butler and Ivey Coleman continue teaching Pre-Kindergarten through First Grade with Godly Play and Coleman Graham teaches Grades 2 and 3 using the Spark Curriculum.

This year, Susie Culbreath has joined the group to teach 4th through 6th graders and has been a wonderful addition to the group above. She continues to reach out to this age group to get them involved and learning all about the Old and New Testaments using the Spark Curriculum.

Our goals are small at this point, but we continue to reach out to parents and work to recruit more volunteers to both teach and help out.

For the Youth, we had several events with the Convocation and Episcopal churches in the South Carolina area this past fall. We hosted a Scavenger Hunt and a Saint Nicholas party, as well as a small group going Christmas Caroling.

It is only a start, and we hope to grow the program to include many more teachers, children and youth. Many thanks to Meg and Donald Horton for their input and enthusiasm and for taking over as head of the Acolytes. They have been so supportive of our efforts and helped in many ways. Kim Butler has also been invaluable in keeping us all together and focused on the current needs and the future goals for the Youth. During budget planning, we asked for a full time Youth and Christian Ed director for the upcoming year in order to make these programs a priority for the church. It is critical to help us regain a footing and raise the next generation in the faith of Jesus Christ.

— Respectfully Submitted by Laurie Montgomery, Vestry Liaison

## **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.
- Continued the Confidential Prayer Request (CPR) Ministry through "Prayer Request Cards" placed in the pews, Prayer Requests from EfM, and others both within the Saint Paul's community and outside sources.
- Maintained contact with each other through Zoom prayer gatherings and meetings during the pandemic.
- Continued the College Student Ministry:
  - Hosted a reception for High School Seniors May 2021.
  - Sent forty-three (43) Target Gift Cards out to students just prior to Spring Final Exams. Sent forty-four (44) Target Gift Cards out to students just prior to Fall Final Exams in 2021 to College Students of Saint Paul's. The number of students in college has stabilized to forty-two to forty-four on average based on the number of high school graduates and the number of graduating college students each year.
- Hosted Three Quiet Mornings at St. Paul's during Advent lead by Rev. Eric Bidy.

—Submitted by Suzanne Pursley-Crotteau

## **EUCCHARISTIC VISITORS' MINISTRY**

Eucharistic Visitors take the Eucharist to those who are temporarily or permanently homebound and are unable to attend church with the gathered community. Candidates for this ministry were commissioned at our 11:00 Service on Sunday, October 6, 2019. Every Sunday following this, two or three ministers visited the homebound with the Eucharist.

This service was interrupted by the COVID pandemic after our visit on March 8, 2020. However, our Eucharistic Visitors kept in touch with our homebound by phone, cards, and notes during that time. The ministry was resumed on July 11, 2021 until August 1, 2021, our last visit before being suspended again due to the rise in COVID statistics in this area.

The Ministry was resumed again on Sunday, November 7, 2021, with the hope that this will be ongoing now without interruption. In July, 9 parishioners received the Eucharist, and 15 in November-December. We have 12 Eucharistic Visitors with 9 active presently and would welcome more to expand this ministry.

We are especially grateful to the Altar Guild, our essential partners in this ministry. The Guild receives the returned kits, cleans the contents and the linens, and prepares the elements for consecration for each kit. We also thank Hannah Gosney for keeping the Eucharistic Visitor notebooks up-to-date.

This ministry is a strong spiritual support to our homebound and a strong visible sign to those who are able to worship in church that “We, who are many, are one body because we all share one bread, one cup.”

—Respectfully submitted by Ellen Nesbitt, Chair

## **EVANGELISM / MARKETING COMMITTEE**

In response to the constraints imposed by the COVID pandemic, the committee did not meet in person. Nevertheless, projects were advanced, and tasks accomplished.

### **Springfield Baptist-Saint Paul's Friendship Group:**

Members of both churches met at Saint Paul's on several occasions to continue plans for the advancement of racial healing in our community. Continued plans to meet are currently on hold as we wait for the pastor of Springfield Baptist to recover from COVID and return to the church. We do hope to jointly attend a Martin Luther King memorial service. The group will also participate in the rededication of Springfield Village Park.

### **Marketing:**

- Completed design and printing of the church brochure which will be used for promotional activities.
- Promoted annual events such as Blessing of the Animals, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter on social media as well as in collateral materials.
- Pew cards were designed and printed that provide information about the church, invited visitors to connect with contact information and request prayer.
- Doodle pads were created and placed in pew racks with the goal of encouraging younger attendees to create pictures that they could then place in the collection plates as gesture of giving.
- Replaced the aging banner that hangs on the iron gate at the back entrance to the church.
- Met with two persons who are interested in assuming oversight of our electronic communications to include our webpage and Facebook page. When funds allow, we will be talking further with them.

—Respectfully submitted, Barbara Coleman, Chair

## **FLOWER GUILD**

Saint Paul's Flower Guild is pleased to report 2021 was filled with positive results. Thank you, Parishioners, for your generosity and support of Altar floral sponsorships which enable the Flower Guild to continue its ministry.

### **Our Accomplishments:**

1. Floral Outreach Ministry-  
Barbara Register and Margaret Scott Penix repurpose our weekly Altar arrangements into smaller arrangements and deliver them to our Prayer List members. This personalized act of kindness shares social interaction and sunshine with our recipients. Program feedback has been exceptional!
2. Two new team members.
3. Mother's Day rose gift to each lady of Saint Paul's Church
4. Flower sponsorships for entire year

### **Our Flower Guild Team:**

Ann Claiborne Christian, Marian Clark, Samm Fusselle, Brenda Mason, Lynn Mays, Magda Newland, Margaret Scott Penix, Laura Phinizy, Louise Phinizy, Barbara Register, Natalie Schweers Coghill, June Shafer, Sally Simkins, Nancy Trefz, Pam Uros and Anne Wilkin.

Through God's blessings, our team utilizes their creative spirits and talents to give glory to him.

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

—Respectfully submitted, Pamela Dorminey-Uros, Chair

## **HISTORY COMMITTEE**

The Mission of the History Committee is to assist the Clergy, Vestry, and Parish committees in researching, preserving, and sharing the history of Saint Paul's for our parish members as well as for the community at large.

The committee is in a reorganizational phase, under the joint direction of Erick Montgomery, Tom Robertson, and Catherine Robertson. The major accomplishment of the committee, with the help of Laurie Montgomery, was to organize the archives room, which had a large backlog of donated items which needed sorting.

### **The goals for the upcoming year:**

- To reorganize the archives of Saint Paul's according to a plan created in 2020, by archives consultant Kay Lanning Minchew.
- To establish a collections policy.
- To reorganize the filing system.
- To enter the inventory information into a word or excel file.
- To scan more recent photographs to free up space within the fireproof vault.
- To respond to requests for church records for genealogical purposes.
- To expand the membership of the History Committee

Authorized by the Vestry, Tom Robertson is formulating a plan to write an updated history of Saint Paul's Church. There has not been a comprehensive history written since the advent and expansion of the internet, which will give a broader scope of information beyond what we have had in the past.

—Submitted by Catherine Robertson

## MUSIC

I began my 39th year as Director of Music of Saint Paul's in 2021 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.

We began 2021 in the midst of the COVID pandemic with our services live-streamed with pre-recorded music from previous years followed by rotating quartets of adults who practiced on Wednesday nights. In May the Saint Paul's Choir returned to regular Wednesday night rehearsals and live Sunday morning worship. The choir sang through the Independence Day celebration and spent the rest of July and early August on vacation. The choir returned in mid-August and has been singing "live and in person" ever since. Sadly, the Canterbury Choir was unable to return due to the circumstances surrounding the pandemic. Children's vaccines began too late in the year to be effective in time for Christmas.

Tuesday's Music Live resumed its programming with the 33rd season of concerts on 21 September. The Tuesday's Music Live Board of Directors voted to discontinue the lunches, which had been a mainstay of the series since its inception, but which presented too many challenges and increased expenses to resume. The missing lunches seemed to have little effect on attendance, however, which was better than expected for the first half of the season.

I was honored during 2021 by the commissioning of an anthem composed by Todd Wilson and made possible by a gift from Tom Robertson. Unbeknownst to Tom when he commissioned the piece Todd and I have been life-long friends and colleagues, fellow competitors during our college careers in some of the American organ playing competitions. The choir learned "Sun of my soul" in the fall and sang it at our November Evensong.

2021 brought news from the national headquarters of the American Guild of Organists that our Augusta Chapter has been awarded the 2023 Southeast Regional Convention, 18-21 June, that will attract visitors from all around the country for concerts and special programs, many to be held at Saint Paul's Church. I was named the Convention Coordinator by the Executive Committee of our local chapter, where I am presently Dean. The AGO has members of many different denominations including some who serve Jewish congregations.

Our year drew to a close with the advent of the ministry of our new rector, the Reverend Dr. Eric Biddy. Eric immediately endeared himself to our staff and musicians and everyone has enjoyed his presence among us along with that of his wife, Jackie, and two adorable children, Isaac, and Lucy.

All of the parish musicians look forward to the end of the COVID pandemic. We have endeavored to "keep the faith" in the midst of tremendous challenges to our health and that of the congregation. It continues to be an honor and privilege to be the Director of Music of this dynamic parish and I look forward to 2022.

—Submitted by Keith Shafer

## 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*

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. Due to the pandemic, many of the year's scheduled

events were changed, canceled, or postponed, and some partner organizations closed or limited their services. However, due to the generosity of Saint Paul's members, funds were distributed to assist many persons in need:

- **MANNA PANTRY:** Pantry staples were purchased bi-monthly; parishioners sorted food and distributed boxes via drive-through in the church parking lot and by delivery to the Bon Air Apartments. More than 432 families (642 individuals) were fed through this program.
- **MASTER'S TABLE SOUP KITCHEN:** The Soup Kitchen, for months closed to volunteers during COVID, reopened in August. Saint Paul's volunteers filled Styrofoam take-out containers and served meals from the courtyard in August and October, providing meals for approximately 300 persons each time.
- **DCCM:** As one of 14 partner churches in the Downtown Coalition of Church Ministries, Saint Paul's contributed a board member and financial support for the CSRA's largest food pantry. The program distributed 237,767 pounds of food during the year, serving approximately 26,400 persons.
- **COMPASS OF HOPE:** Volunteers and contributions from Saint Paul's helped feed and provide personal care items for individuals in need. Through our outreach budget, \$1000 helped the organization meet its "Project Refresh" goal, providing a portable shower for persons who are homeless.
- **OUR LITTLE ROSES:** Our church continues long-term sponsorship of designated children at Our Little Roses Orphanage in Honduras, through financial support from the outreach budget as well as from individual parishioners.
- **CHRIST COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES:** Saint Paul's Easter offering was donated to help provide services to uninsured and underserved persons.
- **ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION:** The Outreach Committee donated \$500 to Alzheimer's Association. Since 2017, until COVID prevented in-person events, we hosted AU Music Professor Rob Foster's annual Longest Day Concert in memory of his father, through which he has raised almost \$20,000.)
- **SCHOOLS/ANGEL TREE MINISTRY:** Unable to place volunteers at Hornsby Elementary and Middle Schools and to enjoy our annual Angel Tree Breakfast for students, Saint Paul's nevertheless maintained its partnership with the schools. A modified backpack drive was held in the fall; and using a "wish list" from the school, parishioners donated gifts and funds to purchase Christmas gifts. Volunteers enjoyed a breakfast in the River Room while sorting the items.)
- **WEATHER-RELATED DISASTER RELIEF:** 320 rain ponchos were distributed through Compass for Hope to homeless persons in our community and to Kentucky victims during devastating weather events. Initiated by a donation from the outreach budget, Saint Paul's parishioners also donated funds through Episcopal Relief and Development.
- **IRONMAN:** Although COVID prevented our annual dinner for athletes, hospitality tents in the parking lots provided snacks and a place for athletes to rest. Saint Paul's volunteers assisted with the early-morning gear drop and encouraged runners through a cheer station in front of the church.

We look forward to more hands-on events in 2022, such as our quarterly ice cream social for residents of the Georgia War Veterans' Nursing Home. To learn more and to get involved, contact the person/s listed for various activities in Saint Paul's *Weekly Postings*.

—Submitted by Marilyn Grau, Chair

## **PARISH LIFE AND HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE**

The mission of the ministry of the Parish Life and Hospitality Committee is to facilitate social activity and fellowship for the people of Saint Paul's Church, to extend hospitality and refreshment to those outside the parish who come through our doors, and to offer sympathy and comfort to those in our church family when they experience the loss of a loved one. In this time of isolation, social distancing, and concern for the health of all in our Parish, none of the fellowship and special events we would normally enjoy have been possible. In most other years, the Committee hosts receptions for hundreds of parishioners and visitors following the spring and fall Evensong services and the Rose Sunday concert, a reception with our confirmands for the Bishop on his annual visit, and dozens of other Parish Life events throughout the year. As we returned to gather together this year, balancing the need to keep each other safe, we celebrated the arrival of a new Rector and a beautiful new family at Saint Paul's, delighted in a return to Evensong, and had a handful of vibrant Wednesday night family suppers.

In 2021 the committee had a budget of \$3,215. We spent \$3,294, and have \$1,549 in funds held in reserve.

This year, we look forward to resuming all of the functions of the Committee as well as revitalizing and rethinking how we share a common life at Saint Paul's. All of this is only possible with the time and talents of our volunteers, and with generous contributions to support this ministry. We hope you'll join us!

—Submitted by Eric Friedman, Committee Chair, and Bill Ford, Vestry Liaison

## **PASTORAL CARE TEAM**

Following the suspension of church services in-person resulting from the COVID pandemic, members of the Eucharistic Visitors Ministry, Evangelism Committee, and Daughters of the King joined in reaching out to church members and maintaining these contacts, beginning with those who live alone, the home-bound, and then extending beyond.

We realized the need to continue this outreach to our parishioners in need. In 2021 this evolved into the current Pastoral Care Ministry. Teams have been established for phone calls, notes and cards, and meals, with volunteers in each category. We look forward to expanding this area of ministry, and we welcome those who wish to join in providing these needed services to our church family and beyond.

—Respectfully submitted by Ellen Nesbitt, Chair

## **SAINT PAUL'S RECTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE**

In June 2020, Ramzi Assad, Julie Badger, Hava Chandler, Melissa Heckathorn, Meg Horton, Wright Montgomery, and John Robertson all accepted the call to serve Saint Paul's through the Rector Search Committee. Our team formed in the time of social distancing and virtual meetings and did not meet in person together until April 2021. We were tasked with doing much of our critical work together while we were physically separated. Although building community was more difficult online, there was a deep commitment to the process by each member. LaRue Downing, retired canon and priest, served as a chaplain to the committee. His prayers and devotions helped to form a strong foundation for our work by serving to remind us that this was not merely a hiring process but a spiritual discernment process.

Our Saint Paul's community is made up of people at different stages of life with various ministry focuses, life experiences, priorities, and expectations. It was recognized that representing different voices in the church would make us a richer team and also help us to understand that our team would need to work together in a way that would honor and value different perspectives. This committee spent countless hours over the past year working together faithfully. The members listened to each other and demonstrated thoughtfulness, empathy, respect, honesty, and a deep commitment to discerning God's will for our church family. We shared our hearts and minds, struggled through hard conversations, grieved losses

together, and also laughed and enjoyed each other's company. It was truly a spiritual experience and one that was transforming to us, individually and collectively.

Our committee would like to thank our senior warden, Ashley Wright; the vestry; and all of Saint Paul's Church for entrusting us with this important work. We thank Canon Loren Lasch, Bishop Frank Logue, and the Diocese of Georgia for their guidance and support. The staff of Saint Paul's was amazing, and we are grateful for their efforts in this process.

There has been so much that has happened in our world, our country, and in our own church community since our search process began. Honestly, there were moments when it felt like the physical separation, the divisiveness, and the conflict were going to create barriers that would be impossible to work through. But there was always faith. In one of Father Biddy's sermons, he said, "doubt is not the opposite of faith; doubt is part of faith." Through everything, this committee was able to stay faithful to this process and to each other and also faithful to listening for God's voice and direction.

We give thanks that the discernment process led us to a person that we feel is a faithful and compassionate priest and pastor who will walk with us, listen deeply, and serve as a leader who will empower our ministries. We celebrated the arrival of the Rev. Dr. Eric Coleman Biddy and his family in September and look forward to his ministry at Saint Paul's.

—Submitted by Kim Butler and Brad Sandbach, Co-Chairs

### **STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE**

The Strategic Planning Committee continued its work and created the following documents:

- Mission statement
- Vision statement
- Statement of Beliefs
- SWOT analysis
- List of significant gaps in our programs and church life
- List of goals created in response to the gaps

A presentation of the committee's work was made on January 23, 2022. A second presentation will be made at the annual meeting which is scheduled for January 30, 2022.

—Submitted by Barbara Coleman, Chair

### **RIVER ROOM/BERLIN ROOM**

2021 began with the community still in the thick of COVID-19 and cancellations of events in the River Room. The River Room began cautiously hosting events again in the second half of 2021, beginning with our first wedding ceremony taking place in the River Room in May of 2021.

Kiwanis met a total of 17 times in 2021, making their return in July meeting every other week and then returning every week beginning in October. 2021's Tuesday Music Live returned but decided, in part because of COVID-19, to not return with lunches in the River Room. We also welcomed back the Augusta Choral Society for their rehearsals on Tuesday nights. They moved from rehearsing in the Berlin Room to the River Room so they would have more space to safely spread out and practice.

2021 River Room events picked back up more steadily in July with an Augusta area vendor brunch. We hosted 7 wedding receptions, one company Christmas party, two wedding ceremonies, and two Parish Fellowship Dinner's in the River Room.

Hillary Bryant and Greg Maxie continued in their roles of event managers, and we continue regularly receive glowing reviews for their work.



We are preparing to have new pamphlets made to have on hand to give potential clients when they come to tour the facility, as well as mail to past River Room renters and vendors who've worked in the space. We are also planning to use our location on the River Walk to our advantage by having banners made to hang on the terrace to advertise to passerby's who are enjoying the River Walk.

2022 has filled up quickly particularly the fall being almost completely booked. Our plan is to lean into the new normal and return to our typical bookings per year, while continuing to grow our relationships with our neighbors as the downtown area continues to flourish.

—Submitted by Hannah Gosney

### **VERGERS, EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS, AND LECTORS**

Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, and Vergers are laypersons who actively participate in our three regular worship services as well as funerals 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 or funerals. They also read lessons and prayers at some services. Some of our Eucharistic Ministers also serve as Eucharistic Visitors, visiting the homebound who are unable to attend church and taking 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 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 and everyone is in place for each service.

Participation of lay persons in worship since the COVID-19 pandemic has been greatly restricted. Presently one lay person is involved at the 11:00 service in the role of crucifer and reader of the lessons and prayers of the people. During normal times, a total of 10 lay persons have roles covering the normal three Sunday services.

If you are interested in learning more about these ministries, email Carolyn at [carolyndolen@mac.com](mailto:carolyndolen@mac.com).

—Submitted by Carolyn Dolen

### **USHER**

Our small but dedicated team of ushers has done an outstanding job this year as we went through all the ups and downs of returning to in-person worship. Early on we assisted everyone to assigned seats and slowly worked back to nearly normal services. Before the choir returned, we were fortunate to enlist the temporary help of several of our talented choir members and we thank them. We currently have a mix of legacy ushers with quite a few new members taking up the call to serve. With our current team, we can have two ushers at each 11:00 AM Sunday service and can support other church services as needed. This does make it difficult to cover changes when someone has to miss or reschedule. We need more volunteers. With a larger team, once a month service would be possible and we could restart passing the offering plates during service.

Serving as an usher is a fun, easy way to support the church and make new congregation friends. There is no age limit (young or old). If interested, please contact one of us for more information.

—Submitted by Nick Uros and Rex Teeslink

# 2021 FINANCIAL REPORTS

## 2021 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

*Lord, we give faithfully and in our giving, we honor you,  
the source of all our blessings, our daily bread, and all the gifts in our lives.*

The 2022 Stewardship campaign was led by the Vestry and this deliberate decision set the tone of the discussion between the Church and the congregation about money. All communication and public expressions for stewardship support was of one voice so to respect the congregation's wish for openness and transparency.

The communication from the Vestry acknowledged the contentious issues that have impacted the Church and annual giving over the past two years. The stewardship letter asked that the congregation continue to allow the Vestry time to address the issue of the Polk cenotaph but be mindful that the Church has ongoing responsibilities, including the welcome addition of Fr. Biddy to our family, that need to be supported by the congregation. Additional pressure on the budget came from (and continues to come from) the ongoing pandemic's impact on River Room rentals.

There was much good news in the resulting campaign: pledge dollars were higher than the year before and the number of pledges which are increases over the prior year continues to grow. The Vestry is grateful for the support.

### **2021 Results: 134 pledges for \$646,018**

Increases: 89 pledges by \$119,587

New: 22 pledges for \$ 57,356

Unchanged: 44 pledges for \$ 147,020

Decreases: 7 pledges for \$ 12,504

Vestry/wardens pledges: 10 out of 10

—Submitted by Cameron Nixon, Stewardship Chair

## CAMPITAL CAMPAIGN REPORT

In 2018 Saint Paul's Church building turned 100 years old. The roof had leaks and other physical plant issues were concerning. Thus, was born "The Next 100 Years" capital campaign.

Parishioners and other friends of Saint Paul's have donated \$1,532,615. Currently we have \$311,429 on hand and \$70,447 in outstanding pledges.

The 2018 plan requires that 30% of the collected funds be added to the Saint Paul's endowment. Currently \$334,975 are in the endowment from this campaign.

Your capital campaign funds first use, as per the 2018 plan, was to replace the slate roof on the Church and the parish hall. Gutter, downspout, skylight replacement and bell tower lighting were included in this work. This project costing \$466,505 completed in 2018 and thanks to Dennis Bell it was within budget.

The re-leathering of our Casavant organ took place in 2020 at a cost of \$75,000.

Accessibility ramps to the Church and parish hall complement our architecture. The ramps built in 2020 cost \$111,587 which was far more than our 2018 estimate.

We completed the second accessibility project, the Tyler Hall restrooms, in 2021. The cost \$202,571 was also above budget.

Design work cost \$23,343 for the completed projects and \$4,431 has been spent on other expenses.

In 2018 the plans included moving the church offices to the upstairs in Tyler Hall and refurbishing the current office space to use for church programs. Since then, a decision was made not to proceed with those plans.

Architectural plans to remodel the Tyler Hall kitchen are complete. A contractor has priced the job. This project includes added sexton workspace and storage. The space will encompass the old restroom and will house the washer and dryer now in the kitchen. This project should be completed in 2022. The estimated cost is \$300,000.

Plans to improve the Sacristy are not yet ready but we expect to complete that work in 2022. Our budget is \$25,000.

Updating technology in the Church, the offices and the River Room are the remaining projects. Technology has evolved and our uses of technology have expanded. Our budget is \$150,000. Recent proposals are within this range. We will need to raise more money to fund this project and fund the endowment as committed.

We have had so many generous givers to this campaign including some who have given more than once but we now need additional gifts to complete the job.

Thank you for your gifts of time and treasure to this campaign.

—Submitted by Catherine Boardman and Billy Badger

## **ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE**

The current Saint Paul's Endowment was created in 1997 with the establishment of the Saint Paul's Endowment Trust. It is qualified as a 501(c)(3) organization.

The purpose of the Endowment is to provide a flexible mechanism for the making of donations and bequests by parishioners of Saint Paul's Church and others, whereby the corpus, or the principal value at the time of the donation, shall be inviolate. Any disbursements from these funds are derived from the income generated by the investment of the funds and therefore represent a permanent legacy on behalf of donors.

Endowment funds are professionally managed under an agreement with the Community Foundation for the Central Savannah River Area and administered by the Saint Paul's Endowment Committee. Donations and bequests can be made to the Saint Paul's Endowment Fund c/o Saint Paul's Church.

A separate endowment fund has been established to support Saint Paul's outreach and service ministries. The Mary Kathleen Blanchard Outreach Endowment Fund was created by the estate of our beloved "MK" Blanchard to further the outreach activities of Saint Paul's Church. This fund is managed and administered as part of the Saint Paul's Endowment, but distributions will be restricted to outreach and service ministries. Gifts and bequests may be made to the Mary Kathleen Blanchard Outreach Endowment Fund c/o Saint Paul's Church.

During this past year, the Jane and Bleakley Chandler Endowment Fund was established within the Saint Paul's Endowment through a bequest from the Chandler family. The purpose of this fund is to further our church's ministries in the Augusta community. Under our Spending Rule, distributions from this new fund will begin in 2025.

—Submitted by Monty Osteen, Endowment Chair

### **ENDOWMENT FUND SUMMARY**

Endowment Income accounted for 13.1% of total income in 2021. In the 2022 budget, Endowment Income is projected to be 15.0% of total income.

Our Endowment Funds totaled \$4.45 million at year end 2021 compared to \$3.40 million at year end 2020, an increase of 30.9%. Donations totaled \$725,000\* during the year with distributions of \$132,000. The remaining \$457,000 increase in the corpus of the funds was the result of a 13.42% return on our investments for the year ended December 31, 2021.

The 2022 budget includes an estimated distribution of \$140,000 from the Endowment.

\* Donation establishing the Jane and Bleakley Chandler Endowment Fund.

—Submitted by Monty Osteen, Endowment Chair

### **TREASURER'S REPORT: 2021 FINANCIAL RESULTS**

The 2021 Amended Budget called for revenues of \$974,225 and expenses of \$966,182. This means it was a surplus budget as budget revenues were expected to exceed expenses by \$8,043.

Total income in 2021 of \$1,010,917 was a slight increase over 2020. Parish offerings declined by 11% from the prior year primarily due to a big reduction of pledge income received. Helping to offset that decline were larger than anticipated one-time, non-pledged gifts. Another factor that significantly helped 2021 income was forgiveness of the PPP Loan of \$94,665. This will not be available in 2022.

Total expenses for the year were \$1,006,300, a 1% decrease from the prior year. A 14% reduction in Salaries, Housing and other costs helped keep expenses in-line.

As of December 31, 2021, total assets stood at \$11.9 million, 10% higher as compared to the end of 2021.

—Submitted by Will Rice, Treasurer

### **TREASURER'S REPORT: 2022 BUDGET VS. 2021 ACTUAL**

The 2022 budget reflects an 8% decrease of total income in 2022 compared to 2021, a difference of \$77,687. In 2022, all staff will receive an increase in salaries and hourly pay. In addition, we have budgeted a \$30,000 base salary for a Youth Director.

You will notice two columns for the 2022 Budget. The middle column is the actual budget approved for 2022. Here, we are using \$51,000 combined from 3 reserve funds to help meet expenses. The last column is to demonstrate that without the Reserve Funds the budget would result in a deficit of nearly \$50,000.

We will continue to monitor the church's finances carefully in 2022.

—Submitted by Will Rice, Treasurer

## INCOME AND EXPENSE SUMMARY

	12/31/2020	12/31/2021
<b>Income</b>		
Offerings		
Pledges	\$725,770.99	\$617,174.15
Other Offerings	\$102,893.04	\$117,443.29
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Total Offerings	\$828,664.03	\$734,617.44
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2020 PPP Loan	\$0.00	\$94,665.00
Property Rental	\$23,207.80	\$26,238.82
Endowment Distribution	\$123,200.00	\$132,000.00
Other Miscellaneous Income	\$32,669.51	\$23,395.66
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<b>Total Income</b>	\$1,007,741.34	\$1,010,916.92
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Clergy Expenses	\$223,949.65	\$170,823.88
Staff Expenses	\$375,218.35	\$335,621.10
Administrative Expenses	\$54,577.86	\$71,015.28
Property Expenses	\$169,411.81	\$256,436.49
Loan Payments	\$0.00	\$1,426.94
Diocese	\$95,973.00	\$90,746.00
Commissions and Ministries Expenses	\$96,221.69	\$80,245.03
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	\$1,015,352.36	\$1,006,314.72
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<b>Net Income (Loss) in Excess (Deficit) of Expenses</b>	(\$7,611.02)	\$4,602.20
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## BALANCE SHEET

<b>Assets</b>	<b>12/31/2020</b>	<b>12/31/2021</b>
Bank Acct - Operating Account	\$110,256.52	\$21,475.59
Bank Accts - Restricted Funds	\$717,991.08	\$873,298.58
Restricted Investments - Endowment	\$3,396,706.01	\$4,451,513.45
<b>Total Cash Assets</b>	<u>\$4,224,953.61</u>	<u>\$5,346,287.62</u>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
Buildings and Equipment	\$9,207,866.56	\$9,207,866.56
Accumulated Depreciation	(\$2,697,026.00)	(\$2,697,026.00)
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<u>\$6,510,840.56</u>	<u>\$6,510,840.56</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<u>\$10,735,794.17</u>	<u>\$11,857,128.18</u>
<b>Liabilities &amp; Equity</b>		
<b>Prepaid Pledges</b>	\$44,496.57	\$45,792.06
<b>River Room Deposits</b>	\$12,126.00	\$14,000.00
<b>Deferred Income - River Room</b>	\$11,775.00	\$13,375.00
<b>Deferred Income - Other</b>	\$4,500.00	\$0.00
<b>Commercial Loan</b>	\$35,184.67	\$35,184.67
<b>PPP Loan</b>	\$94,665.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<u>\$202,747.24</u>	<u>\$108,351.73</u>
<b>Total Equity</b>	<u>\$10,533,046.93</u>	<u>\$11,748,776.45</u>
<b>Total Liabilities and Equity</b>	<u>\$10,735,794.17</u>	<u>\$11,857,128.18</u>

**BUDGETARY COMPARISONS: 2021 ACTUAL AND 2022 BUDGETED**

	<b>2021 Actual</b>	<b>2022 Budget Including Income from Reserves</b>	<b>2022 Budget Excluding Income from Reserves</b>
<b>Income</b>			
Offerings			
Pledges	\$617,174.15	\$675,000.00	\$675,000.00
Other Offerings	\$117,443.29	\$39,000.00	\$39,000.00
<b>Total Offerings</b>	<b>\$734,617.44</b>	<b>\$714,000.00</b>	<b>\$714,000.00</b>
2020 PPP Loan	\$94,665.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Property Rental	\$26,238.82	\$52,470.00	\$52,470.00
Endowment Distribution	\$132,000.00	\$140,000.00	\$140,000.00
Other Miscellaneous Income	\$23,395.66	\$26,760.00	\$26,760.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$1,010,916.92</b>	<b>\$933,230.00</b>	<b>\$933,230.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Clergy Expenses	\$170,823.88	\$116,587.00	\$146,587.00
Staff Expenses	\$335,621.10	\$386,293.00	\$401,293.00
Administrative Expenses	\$71,015.28	\$86,500.00	\$86,500.00
Property Expenses	\$256,436.49	\$165,770.00	\$171,770.00
Loan Payments	\$1,426.94	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
Diocese	\$90,746.00	\$90,746.00	\$90,746.00
Commissions and Ministries Expenses	\$80,245.03	\$83,010.00	\$83,010.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,006,314.72</b>	<b>\$931,906.00</b>	<b>\$982,906.00</b>

## VESTRY & OFFICERS

Ashley Wright, Sr. Warden  
Brett Montroy, Chancellor

Catherine Boardman, Jr. Warden  
Nancy Kotti, Clerk of the Vestry

Will Rice, Treasurer

### Vestry Term Expires 2022

Cameron Nixon  
Laurie Montgomery  
Nick Uros

### Vestry Term Expires 2023

Barbara Coleman  
Laura Robertson

### Vestry Term Expires 2024

Bill Ford  
Coleman Graham  
Claiborne Porubsky

## COMMITTEE CHAIRS & MINISTRY LEADERS

Altar Guild – Catherine Stuckey  
Birthday Sundays – Melissa Friedman  
Children’s Sunday Formation Teachers – Kim Butler, Ivey Coleman, Susie Culbreth, and Coleman Graham  
Children, Youth, & Families – Laurie Montgomery  
Creation Care – in transition  
Endowment & Finance – Monty Osteen  
Evangelism – Barbara Coleman  
Flower Guild – Pamela Dorminey-Uros  
Hornsby Ministry – Patsy Davis & Laraine Yarbrough  
Interior Oversight – Minta Nixon  
Lectors & Eucharistic Ministers – Carolyn Dolen  
Newcomers – in transition  
Outreach – Marilyn Grau  
Master’s Table Soup Kitchen – Al Yarbrough  
Stewardship – Cameron Nixon & Catherine Boardman

Acolytes – Meg & Donald Horton  
Buildings and Grounds – Cameron Nixon  
Compline (Online) – Kitty Gordon  
Daughters of the King – Suzanne Pursley-Crotteau  
Eucharistic Visitors – Ellen Nesbitt  
Facebook – Stacy Nuessle  
History – in transition- Catherine Robertson  
Hospitality and Parish Life – Eric Friedman  
Linen Guild – Minta Nixon  
Manna Pantry – Melissa Friedman  
Nursery Guild– in transition- Laura Robertson  
Pastoral Care Team – Ellen Nesbitt  
Search Committee – Kim Butler & Brad Sandbach  
Ushers – Nick Uros & Rex Teeslink

## CLERGY AND STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Eric Biddy, Rector ext. 205  
The Rev. Dr. Bill Dolen, Assisting Priest  
The Rev. Erwin Veale, Assisting Priest  
Keith Shafer, Director of Music ext. 215  
Elisabeth Price, Parish Administrator ext. 225  
Hannah Gosney, River Room Coordinator ext. 203  
Victoria Hammond and Nikki Wickware, St. Nicholas Choir  
Sarah Pritchard, Music Associate Emerita  
Hillary Bryant, Greg Maxie, Sextons  
Tom Kotti, Wright Montgomery, Audio Visual

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**On the Riverwalk at 605 Reynolds Street, Augusta, GA 30901**

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SaintPaulsAugusta



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