

The Annual Parish Meeting
of
**Saint Paul's Episcopal Church,
Stockbridge, Massachusetts**



Sunday, January 26, 2025
The Conversion of Saint Paul the Apostle
(transferred)

Prayers and Thanksgivings

For the Parish

Almighty and everliving God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

-The Book of Common Prayer, p. 817

For a Church Convention or Meeting

Almighty and everliving God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with those who take counsel in this parish for the renewal and mission of your Church. Teach us in all things to seek first your honor and glory. Guide us to perceive what is right, and grant us both the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

-The Book of Common Prayer, p. 818

For the Mission of the Church

Almighty God, you sent your Son Jesus Christ to reconcile the world to himself: We praise and bless you for those whom you have sent in the power of the Spirit to preach the Gospel to all nations. We thank you that in all parts of the earth a community of love has been gathered together by their prayers and labors, and that in every place your servants call upon your Name; for the kingdom and the power and the glory are yours for ever. Amen.

-The Book of Common Prayer, p. 838

Meeting Agenda

Call to Order and Opening Prayers

Appointment of the Clerk

Signing of the Annual Meeting Book

Approval of the Minutes of the 2024 Annual Meeting

Report from the Nominating Committee

Election of Vestry Members, Officers, and Convention Delegates and Alternates

Presentation of Gifts

Senior and Junior Wardens' Report

Treasurer's Report

Rector's Annual Address

Acceptance of other Reports

Other Business

Closing Thanksgiving and Motion to Adjourn

Table of Contents

Prayers and Thanksgivings.....	2
Meeting Agenda.....	2
Minutes of 2024 Annual Meeting.....	4-7
Nominating Committee Report.....	8
Section 1: Administrative Reports.....	9-11
Rector's Report	
Wardens' Report	
Property Report	
Report from Diocesan Convention	
Section 2: Worship Ministry Reports	12-16
Priests & Worship Leaders	
Priest Associate's Report	
Verger's Report	
Sunday Worship	
Weekday Worship	
Holy Week, Easter, Christmas Worship	
From the Parish Register	
Worship Ministry Groups	
Section 3: Outreach Ministry Reports.....	17-19
St. Paul's Children's Center	
Lee Food Pantry	
Gideon's Garden	
Appalachian Trail Angels Ministry	
Outreach Ministry of the Week	
Advents/Christmas Outreach	
Special Offerings	
Section 4: Formation Ministry Reports.....	20
Adult Formation	
Children's Formation	
Section 5: Pastoral Care and Fellowship Ministry Reports.....	21-22
Student Care Packages	
Safe Church	
Fellowship Events	
Section 6: Community Involvement	23
Three Kings Celebration	
Memorial Day	
Blessing of the Animals	
Concerts at St. Paul's in 2024	
Section 7: Financial Reports.....	24-30
Stewardship	
Treasurer's Report	

Minutes of the 2024 Annual Meeting

St. Paul's Episcopal Church Minutes of the Annual Meeting February 11, 2024

The 2024 Annual Meeting was held in the church following the 10:00 am service and coffee hour. Father Samuel T. Vaught, Rector, opened the meeting at 11:40 am with a prayer for transition (*please see the "Prayer for a Church Meeting" on the inside cover of the 2024 Annual Report Booklet*). Fr. Sam declared that there was a quorum, circulated the Annual Meeting Book for congregants to sign, and asked for a motion to appoint Sebastian Bonner as Clerk. Rob Maloney so moved and Kim Savery seconded, motion carried, and the Clerk was appointed.

Approval of 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes (*please see page 4 of the 2024 Annual Report Booklet*)

Fr. Sam called for a motion to approve the minutes of the February 5, 2023 meeting. Jean Rousseau so moved and Diana French seconded. Motion carried.

Nominations Report submitted by Jorja Marsden (*please see page 8 of the 2024 Annual Report Booklet*)

The Nominations Committee of the Vestry proposed the following slate:

- For a 3-year term as Vestry member – Chris Johnson and Rob Maloney.
- For a single-year term as a Vestry officer – Jorja Marsden as Senior Warden, Martha Bodine as Junior Warden, John Davies as Treasurer, and Sebastian Bonner as Clerk.
- For delegates to the Diocesan Convention – David Pearson and Kim Savery as delegates and Darryl Lafferty as alternate.

Jim Wade moved to close nominations for members and Martha Bodine seconded. Motion carried.

Martha moved to close nominations for slate of officers and Jane Tillman seconded. Motion carried.

Jane moved to close nominations for Diocesan delegate and Diane Dillon seconded. Motion carried.

Wardens' Report delivered by Martha Bodine (*please see page 11 of the 2023 Annual Report Booklet*)

- Martha asked everyone to read the Wardens' report. She delivered a huge thank you from everyone here in the church and those watching online for the remarkable support contributed during this very busy year.
- The momentum of 2023 described in the Annual Report Booklet will continue. There are more opportunities for worship with morning prayer now on line (*see page 14*). There will be new opportunities for Christian formation guided by Fr. Sam. And we're enhancing opportunities to assist at service by training acolytes and inviting more readers. In fact, we're planning to expand opportunities for everyone by formalizing all existing committees and developing new committees (*see pages 17-19*).

- All our growth at St. Paul's will benefit from new people getting active. We don't want committees to whittle down to a committee of 1. And we need new voices in stewardship. Please consider contributing your vision and talent to the several committees detailed in the report. And keep up with us by checking out the E-pistle that's emailed in the middle of every week. We know what percent of people read it – not who they are but just the numbers. Let's get readership up to 100%. It's a great way to get involved and keep up.

Treasurer's report delivered by Martha Bodine (*please see pages 33-36 of the 2023 Annual Report Booklet*)

- Our budget for this has been approved by the vestry. Here are some highlights:
 - General operating account: our revenue comes 60% from annual distributions and about one-third from the quarterly distribution of the endowment which has increased 5.2% in market value. Pledges we expect in 2024 should contribute to the extra \$12,000 we'll need to balance the budget.
 - Endowment: the market value fell then dramatically rose. It's now at \$1.4 million, almost as much as at the start of the year. We borrowed from the endowment for the rectory renovation, and have repaid \$100,000 from contributions to the renovation campaign.
 - Rectory renovation: we still have to do the roof and two porches, and we want some money left in the rectory renovation fund so that we afford repairs in the future.
 - Child Care Center: 25 children are enrolled. Jorja has visited the school to say hello to everyone, and Martha is gradually getting to know them. It's important to note that although we keep accounts for the school separate from accounts for the church, the school is part of the church not a separate entity.
- Question:

A parishioner asked what previous drawings have been made from the endowment. He acknowledged that borrowing from an endowment for a particular project like the rectory renovation is OK, but drawing down an endowment is a very slippery slope. Jorja replied that we only drew down what we needed to pay expenses at that point. We didn't draw down \$200,000 all at once. The parishioner emphasized that we shouldn't make a habit of it. Fr. Sam added that he'll pass that note of caution on to John Davies, our Treasurer. We've learned that pledges may come to a bit more than we projected, so we may not have to draw down much to balance the budget.

Rector's Annual Address delivered by the Rev. Samuel T. Vaught

The Search Committee and Vestry will remember this, but it's a good thing to share with everyone: one of the principal things that attracted me to this parish was your open door. The very doors to this building that are never locked, allowing anyone to come and go freely any time of day or night. A sign of hospitality and openness, and more than a sign, something real, something resembling more a sacrament.

It seems to me that an open door is a good image for thinking about the Church, and what we should be about. Another thing I noticed when I was looking – the first words you see on our website: “Together we strive to be the hands and heart of Christ for Stockbridge and the wider world.”

To be the hands and heart of Christ, to be the Body of Christ in this way requires a kind of passage in and out of doors. In and out of these doors, especially. Here in worship and in formation and in fellowship, we learn about our faith, we grow in our faith, not so that we can stay inside, but so that we can go out and share that faith in love and service and conversation. On one side of an open door, we nurture our faith in God, and on the other side we articulate that faith in word and deed. Here we meet Christ and one another, so that we can go out and find Christ again on the road, in the stranger, in our neighbors, so that we can meet still more others there. It’s this passage through an open door makes our faith active and alive and creative.

Whether we want to or not, we are charged with this kind of action each week at the end of the Eucharist, when Sharon dismisses us with something like, “Let us go forth in the name of Christ,” or “Go in peace the love and serve the Lord,” or “Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.” This passage in and out of the church doors is baked into our liturgy itself. It’s where the word mass comes from: from the *missa*, from the dismissal.

Put another way, we say all the time that church is something we go to. Perhaps we should also say that church is something go from, are sent from.

As far as I can tell, a rector’s annual address should look back to year past and then look forward to the year to come. Well, I haven’t been here for much of the past year, but in this year I was welcomed through these doors. And I am so grateful for that. Now in this new year, we can together go through the doors, go outside them, in all kinds of ways. In ways we’re planning to, and in ways we cannot yet imagine. This will be our movement all year, making this passage in and out, in and out, again and again.

Perhaps we should ask ourselves: how will we be sustained in this passing?

I have in my study on the second floor of the parish house an icon of Jesus. It’s a small version of a much larger icon that hangs in the chapel of Westcott House, a theological college in Cambridge, England, that I studied at for one term on an exchange in seminary. In the icon, Jesus holds a book with the words “Ye have not chosen Me / But I have chosen you.” Jesus’ words to his disciples in the 15th chapter of John. In more modern English, “You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last.”

The annual report that you have before you shows the fruit that was borne from this parish, from these disciples, in 2023. It is good fruit. We have been appointed to go and bear new fruit this year, fruit that will last. We are sent through these doors by the one who chose us, by the one who called us through these doors. And the one who calls is faithful. The one who calls will sustain us

in all our comings and our goings, so that together we can be his hands and his heart for Stockbridge and the wider world.

Acceptance of Other Reports initiated by Fr. Sam

After delivering his address, Fr. Sam asked parishioners to read all the committees' reports in order to really appreciate everything that St. Paul's achieved in 2023. He pointed particularly to the Report of the Interim Priest (*please see pages 9 and 10*). Fr. Sam offered a huge thank you to the Rev. Libby Wade for preparing this year's Annual Report, and asked her husband Jim to pass along the congregation's gratitude. He concluded by asking for a motion to accept the committee reports, Peter Dillon so moved and Jane Tillman seconded. Motion carried.

Other Business.

- Jane Tillman raised a round of applause for Jorja, Martha and everyone on the committees.
- Fr. Sam announced his pleasure of inviting all to a pancake meal on Shrove Tuesday at the Parish House.
- Jorja thanked everyone for a wonderful year and said she looked forward to this year also being wonderful.

Closing Prayer.

Fr. Sam closed the meeting with the prayer of thanksgiving found on the front page of the annual report.

Kim Savery moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:50 am and Dianne Willcox seconded. Motion carried.

**Respectfully submitted,
Sebastian Bonner, Clerk**

Nominating Committee Report

Each year we elect four officers and at least two members to the Vestry for three-year terms. Any vacancies are also filled. The Vestry shares in leadership of the parish and is the corporate body which holds title to our corporate property and makes our major decisions. According to the Diocesan canons, Vestry members are expected to be donors of record to the church and regular attendees at services, as well as active participants in church leadership.

This year, we are electing three members to the Vestry. The canons allow for a Vestry of six, nine, or twelve members, in addition to the four officers. In recent years, that numbers has been six, with two members elected each year. To increase opportunities for leadership, and to share the work and responsibility of the Vestry with a wider group of parishioners, the Vestry has decided to increase that number to nine. Starting this year, we will elect three members to the Vestry at each Annual Meeting. This will gradually increase the size of the Vestry until we have a membership of nine after the 2027 Annual Meeting.

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

Michael Flamini	(1st three-year term)
Deborah Pege	(1st three-year term)
Kim Savery	(1st three-year term)

We are pleased to present the following slate of officers:

Senior Warden	Jorja Marsden
Junior Warden	Rob Maloney
Treasurer	John Davies
Clerk	Virgil Stucker

Vestry members continuing to serve are as follows:

Class of 2026: Darryl Lafferty, David Pearson*
Class of 2027: Chris Johnson, Rob Maloney

*In June 2024, Diana French resigned her seat on the Vestry when she moved to Philadelphia. In accordance with Canon 16.5(e), the Vestry elected David Pearson to fill the remainder of Diana's term, expiring in January 2026.

Nominees for Delegates to Diocesan Convention on Friday-Saturday, November 14-15, 2025:

Darryl Lafferty	Delegate
Brett Roberts	Delegate
?	Alternate Delegate
?	Alternate Delegate

Submitted by the Nominating Committee: Diane Dillon, Martha Bodine, Jorja Marsden, Father Sam

Section 1: Administrative Reports

Rector's Report

In place of a written report, I will share my reflections on the last year and hopes for 2025 in the Rector's Annual Address at the Annual Meeting. These remarks will be included in the Minutes of this year's Annual Meeting.

**Faithfully,
The Rev'd Samuel T. Vaught, Rector**

Wardens' Report

2024 was a stellar year! With the arrival of Father Sam and Brett in early January of 2024, we have witnessed the excitement and energy of new beginnings for St. Paul's. We came together joyfully for our Celebration of New Ministry for Father Sam in May. Bishop Doug was there to lead us, Father Sam's family was there, his new church family of St. Paul's were there, and there were a host of new and old friends to bear witness. We thank Arthur and Ginger Schwartz for graciously hosting a lovely reception afterwards at their house.

Opportunity is a good word for the year. We have had more opportunities for praying and worshipping together. We have been growing this year – we have had several “Newcomers’ Luncheons” and have enjoyed getting to know one another. We have been learning this year in regular formation offerings. During the summer many of us had the opportunity to get to know each other better at dinners hosted by church members. We had the opportunity to help and support others by sending care boxes to our college aged parishioners. We also supported one of our Haitian families to have a Christmas worth remembering. And we supported our home-bound members with Christmas cards, a picture of our church dressed for Christmas, and an ornament.

As always, we were completing, continuing, and starting new projects. We completed the Rectory renovation just as Father Sam and Brett arrived. There were a few surprises, and thanks to Jorja knowing everyone in South County, those items were fixed quickly. The water and sewer pipes were finally completed and that allowed us to have the Rectory front lawn graded away from the house. We also had the front yard walk taken up and rocks put in. We took out some bushes and had some dangerous trees taken down as well. 2025 work will include completing the fence from the front of the Rectory, down the driveway, and to the corner of the house. Landscaping for privacy will continue as well.

A new project was started in 2024. We knew that work was needed on the church building to ensure it would be here for the next hundred years. We commissioned Preservation Inc., a well-known historical preservation company, to study the church building, inside and out, along with the stained-glass windows. Their extensive report arrived in December. This will be a multi-year project. As the vestry and Father Sam better understand the scope of work, they will report to the congregation about plans.

Many things happen in St. Paul's because someone has an idea, checks it out to see if it can be done, and then runs with it. Do you have ideas? Jorja and Father Sam would love to hear them!

**Martha Bodine, Junior Warden
Jorja Marsden, Senior Warden**

Property Report

As usual 2024 was full of many projects to maintain our grounds and buildings. The routine mowing with spring and fall cleanup was coordinated by Martha Bodine. Shrubs and bushes were pruned by our own Chris Johnson. More tree work around the driveway, play yard, large limbs resting on the roof of the Parish House and the large spruce bush/tree next to the Portico were all removed.

The new sewer line for the Rectory and Parish House was installed from the street into our property. Since this project included digging up the front yard, I notified the Stockbridge-Munsee Community. You may not know but our land was once occupied by Ephraim Wannauqueen, a member of the Stockbridge Indians (or Stockbridge Mohicans if you like). The Stockbridge Indians are now known as Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohicans. A group of Munsee Indians came down from Canada and joined the Stockbridge Indians in Wisconsin. They are close “cousins” to the Stockbridge Indians. Jeffrey Bendremer, Ph.D., RPA, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer arrived to view the ground digging. Nothing was found directly connected to the Stockbridge-Munsee Band, but we did find several pieces of pottery dating as early as the late 1700s. Dr. Bendremer photographed these items and directed that we place them back in the ground. We need to remember that our ground was once occupied by the Stockbridge-Munsee Band, and that anytime we have a project that will be involving digging of the land we need to contact them. The front yard was regraded so that it did not slope into the foundation of the Rectory. In the spring, the front yard will be landscaped and a new fence installed going down the driveway that will add for more privacy for the Rectory.

The two porches at the Rectory were painted and new screens were put in place on the side porch. Also, a new roof was installed on the Rectory and the garage.

One Sunday after church, many helped to clean out the basement. There is still more to be done that we will tackle in 2025.

As mentioned last year, the Vestry commissioned Preservation Inc. to do a full assessment of the exterior, interior and the stain glass windows. Their report was delivered in late December. It is very thorough and more to be reported on this next year.

Thank you for your help and guidance in maintaining our property.

Jorja Marsden, Senior Warden

Report from Diocesan Convention

Report by David Pearson on his observations at the 123rd Convention of the Diocese of Western Massachusetts:

The opening prayer was an inspiration. It reads:

“Holy God, we acknowledge the traditional, ancestral, and unceded land of the Pocumtuck, Norwottuck, and Mahican people upon which we are worshiping, praying, and visiting today. We also acknowledge the Abenaki people to the north, the Nipmuc and Wampanoag people to the east, the Pequot and Mohegan people to the south, and the Mohican and Haudenosaunee Confederacy to the west: peoples whom the people of this place took refuge with. We give thanks for those who have come before us and those who live among us. We honor all of North America’s Native peoples who have been living and working on these lands from time immemorial. We recognize that settler colonialism and the oppression of Native peoples is a current and ongoing process, and we commit to building our awareness of our present participation in these injustices. In our words and actions may we demonstrate our gratitude for the care and sharing of this land. Amen.”

This set the tone for the day. Later in the Bishop's Address, he said, "we do not come together in the Body of Christ because we agree with each other... we come to the Body of Christ because we care about each other." Later he remembered that another bishop said to him to reverse a teaching of St. Ignatius: "Pray as if everything depends on you. And work as if everything depends on God."

So, at the first Vestry meeting post-Convention, I asked what is St. Paul's' stand on disinvesting funds that have profited from the oppression of native peoples. Treasurer John Davies then wrote to the endowment investment manager about this, and she wrote back: "As we regularly talk to SSGA about potential portfolio options for our clients, it is useful to know that St. Paul's would be interested in an investment product with a Native American lens." So one never knows how the Convention will change you, and how you can make a change.

I highly recommend that anyone who is interested in expanding one's faith should perhaps consider attending as a delegate to the next Convention.

David Pearson

Section 2: Worship Ministry Reports

Priests & Worship Leaders Who Served at St. Paul's in 2024

Regular

The Rev'd Samuel T. Vaught – Rector

The Rev'd Jane G. Tillman – Priest Associate

Mr. Darryl Lafferty, Jr. – Lay Worship Leader (Morning Prayer Officiant)

Ms. Sharon Billetter – Ministry Intern (internship concluded in early May)

Occasional

The Rev'd Elizabeth (Libby) T. Wade – former Interim Rector, occasional supply priest

The Rev'd William Loutrel – supply priest

The Rev'd Theodore (Tad) Evans – former Rector, assisted for the Celebration of New Ministry in May and the 140th Anniversary of Dedication in November

Priest Associate's Report

This past year I provided pastoral care to several parishioners, assisted at Sunday worship, preached, and presided on various Sundays at St. Paul's and served as a supply priest in several local congregations. I participate in the diocese's online Compline services on Monday and Tuesday evenings and lead that service several times month. In the diocese, I serve on the Board of Examining Chaplains, reviewing the results of the General Ordination Exam for candidates for ordination as priests and meeting with candidates for ordination as vocational deacons. I have just joined the newly formed worship committee here at St. Paul's and look forward to the work of that group. I give thanks for Sam Vaught's first year as rector of the parish and for Brett who brings his gift of hospitality and humor to St. Paul's. It has been a joy to see so many people worshipping together at St. Paul's in the past year.

The Rev'd Jane G. Tillman

Verger's Report

The purpose of this verger's report is to provide an understanding of the verger's ministry over the course of the preceding year, 2024 at Saint Paul's Stockbridge. All vergers "serve at the pleasure of the rector," and Darryl Lafferty was pleased that the new rector, Fr. Sam Vaught asked him to continue in that ministry.

Past Presiding Bishop Michael Curry once said, "hospitality is at the core of what vergers do – to be witnesses." Our own verger has also added, "a verger is the one who ensures that people and all things necessary for worship are present, properly prepared, and in the appropriate place at the right time." Whenever needed, the verger completed necessary arrangements and filled in roles such as altar guild, acolyte, lector, and lay eucharistic minister.

Another key aspect of the verger's ministry was to work with the rector on planning and executing worship that was "in the beauty of holiness." While the rector canonically has full authority over liturgy, Fr. Sam created a worship committee including the verger, Priest Associate, and parishioners to collaborate with and advise him on our communal worship at St. Paul's.

Scheduling worship servers has been said among vergers to be their most challenging task. This was certainly true for our verger in 2024. The task became easier toward year's end with a significant addition to the Server Rota. Darryl sends his heartfelt gratitude to all those who have responded to the call to serve.

In addition to core verger responsibilities and in the spirit of service, your verger continued to serve on the vestry, the second of a three-year term, and continued to lead weekly on-line Morning Prayer. Darryl is a licensed Lay Eucharistic Minister and Worship Leader in the diocese of Western Massachusetts.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Darryl Lafferty**

Sunday Worship

Average Sunday Attendance: 47 in-person

This is a 27% increase from 2023, the second year in a row attendance has increased by more than 25%. We don't have an accurate count for participation in live-streamed Sunday worship, but imagine it is less than 3 each week.

Our Sunday worship services in 2024 were almost always Holy Eucharist Rite I at 8:00 a.m. (without music) and Rite II at 10:00 a.m. (with music) January–Trinity Sunday, and the Sunday after Labor Day–December. From the Second Sunday after Pentecost–the Sunday before Labor Day, worship was one service Holy Eucharist Rite II outside in the churchyard at 9:00 a.m. The only exception to this pattern was the first Sunday after the Epiphany (Jan 7), when one service of Morning Prayer was held online due to a winter storm. On a few special occasions, the two Sunday Eucharists were combined for one service (most notably on the 140th Anniversary of Dedication, November 17). In the course of the year, all the Eucharistic Prayers were used, as well as a variety of prayers and blessings from the BCP, Book of Occasional Services, and other resources from around the Anglican Communion, including *Common Worship* of the Church of England. For summer services, we used the Eucharistic Prayers from *Enriching Our Worship*. During the “Season of Creation” (essentially the month of September), prayers suggested by our Diocesan Creation Care Commission were incorporated into our Sunday worship services. Morning Prayer led by Darryl Lafferty was held on two Sundays. Priests Sam Vaught and Jane Tillman took communion to homebound parishioners 44 times in 2024, another year-over-year increase as we continue to reestablish pre-Covid patterns of worship and pastoral care.

Changes in 2024 included an expanded rota of Sunday servers, including acolytes and Eucharistic Ministers. Livestreaming indoor services continued somewhat in 2024, although we were again limited by our technology and volunteer base. The regular use of livestream is being reconsidered in early 2025. Lessons and Carols was moved to the season of Advent in 2024, and in late 2024, we began celebrating the “Red Letter Days” in the BCP, often on weekday evenings, a practice we plan to continue in 2025.

Weekday Worship

Wednesday Morning Prayer

Morning Prayer continued to be offered on-line each Wednesday via Zoom throughout 2024. The faithful attendees prayerfully cared for the needs of each other, our parish, the community, and the world.

Darryl Lafferty, a licensed Worship Leader in the Diocese of Western Massachusetts, continued leadership of Morning Prayer throughout 2024 with the assistance of Kim Savery. The format maintained a full morning prayer service as appointed in the Book of Common Prayer. Rite I was used in Advent and Lent, and Rite II was used for most other seasons along with approved supplemental resources including Enriching our Worship and Creation Care Liturgy.

Average attendance increased slightly year-over-year with about 8-10 attendees weekly. The Daily Office Lectionary, (Satucket) was used for the appointed scripture readings (NSRV) and was supplemented by commemorations found in A Great Cloud of Witnesses, (copyright © 2016.) Homilies, when included, were taken directly from A Great Cloud of Witnesses, or from James Keifer.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Darryl Lafferty**

Friday Intercessory Prayer

Thanks to the leadership of Alice Wohl, Friday Intercessory Prayer was resurrected in early 2024. Each Friday morning at 8:30 a.m., a small group of parishioners (usually 2-4) gather in the nave to pray for the names on our parish prayer list. They add other prayers of intercession for members of the community and for the events of our world. Once a month, the prayers left by visitors in the basket on the free-standing altar are read aloud. Father Sam would like to express his appreciation for Alice and Martha Bodine for their faithfulness to this ministry of prayer in 2024. All are welcome to join!

Holy Week, Easter, and Christmas Worship

Holy Week & Easter Day

- Palm Sunday at St. Paul's
- Morning Prayer Monday-Friday at 8:30 a.m. at St. Paul's and on Zoom
- Maundy Thursday at St. Paul's, Stockbridge
- Good Friday at Grace Church, Great Barrington
- Easter Vigil at Christ Trinity, Sheffield
- Easter Sunday at St. Paul's

Christmas Eve & Christmas Day

- Christmas Eve: Holy Eucharist at 5:30 (with children's participation) and 10:30 p.m.
- Christmas Day: Holy Eucharist at 10:00 a.m.

All Easter and Christmas services reflected positive trends in worship attendance.

From the Parish Register

Baptism

Joud Hariri Waller (7/14/24)

Forrest William Tierney (12/8/24)

Marriage

Joud Hariri Waller and Anson Phelps Stokes Waller (Blessing of a Civil Marriage) (7/20/24)

Sheila Marie Kalinowski and Robert Stanley Anderson (10/12/24)

Burial

Carl August de Gersdorff II, 1932-2021

Committal in Stockbridge Cemetery (2/17/24)

Kenneth M. Retzel, 1941-2023

Sandra L. Abderhalden Retzel, 1942-2023

Jeanne M. Abderhalden Frusiente, 1947-2022

Robert Frusiente, 1946-2023

Committal in Fairmount Cemetery, Lee (5/25/24)

Barbara Davis Gore, 1934-2024

Funeral hosted for Grace Church, Great Barrington (10/4/24)

Worship Ministry Groups

Altar Guild

The Altar Guild is responsible for preparing the church for worship. This includes caring for the appointments, vessels, and vestments used in worship; keeping the sacristy organized and tidy; and maintaining adequate stock of required supplies. When requested, the Altar Guild also prepares the altar for baptisms, weddings, funerals, and memorial services. Current members of the Altar Guild are Jennifer Carmichael, Tracy Johnson, Jorja Marsden, Natalie Boyce, Robin Race, and Ginny Willcox. Others, including Verger Darryl Lafferty, help occasionally. Parishioners interested in serving on the Altar Guild are always welcome.

Contact: Tracy Johnson or Jennifer Carmichael

Readers/Intercessors

These folks act as scripture readers and lead the Prayers of the People. Those who enjoy reading in church and are able to project clearly using our sound system are welcome to join.

Contact: Darryl Lafferty

Acolytes and LEMs

Acolytes carry the cross in procession and assist with preparing the altar for communion. Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEM)s administer the chalice at communion and assist with the ablutions after communion. We welcomed nearly 10 new members to these ministries in 2024. New acolytes (child, teen, or adult) are always welcome.

Contact: Darryl Lafferty

Ushers/Greeters

Basic responsibilities include arriving a bit early each service, making sure everyone has a service leaflet, greeting people, and helping visitors feel comfortable. At the offertory, the ushers/greeters collect the offering and present it at the altar. After the service, responsibilities include helping pick up leaflets left in pews, encouraging visitors to stay for fellowship time, and assisting in counting the day's offering. In 2024, we expanded the rota to include one usher/greeter at 8 a.m. and 2 at 10 a.m.

Contact: Darryl Lafferty

Altar Flowers

Each week, except during Lent, there are two flower arrangements on the high altar. For outdoor worship, we use one arrangement or a living plant in front of the altar. Carl Sprague, Patty Melville, or Diana French often arrange altar flowers for special occasions. This year, Libby Wade decorated the Advent Wreath, and Christmas poinsettias and colorful pots of flowers for Easter were purchased by Robin Race and Jennifer Carmichael with funds contributed in memory of or in thanksgiving for friends or family members. For most Sundays, we offer the opportunity for folks to provide flowers in memory of or in thanksgiving for someone. They can provide the flowers themselves or our parish administrator can order them from a florist (\$60, if the 2nd option is chosen). There are still open dates in 2025.

Contact: Kyra Saltman, Parish Administrator

Fellowship

In 2024, we regularly offered fellowship time with special treats after the Sunday worship services. St. Paul's provides coffee plus utensils and paper products, so when you host, all you have to do is bring and set up finger food and help clean up. Thanks to all the Sunday refreshment hosts and to Patty Melville, who coordinated brunch on several special Sunday occasions.

Contact: Martha Bodine

Musicians

We were blessed in 2024 with a cadre of excellent musicians. Regulars during this year were Nancy King (organ/piano) and David Smith (organ/piano). During the summer, Doug Schmolze (classical guitar), Virgil Stucker (Native American flute), Libby Wade (piano), John Davies (clarinet), Amandra Watroba and Erin White (winds) all shared their talents. Kyra Saltman (cello) also provided music during the year. We also benefited in 2024 from the expertise and generosity of parishioner John Bishop as he made an assessment of our pipe organ, and subsequently repaired 12 pedal pipes at his workshop in Maine. As part of this process, John led a group of parishioners in the safe removal and re-installation of these pipes in the fall of 2024.

Contact: Father Sam

Section 3: Outreach Ministry Reports

St. Paul's Children's Center

The Children's Center continues to successfully operate with 25 students enrolled. We are so proud of our staff. Cara Walker has been teaching with us since 2019—prior to that, she was a student at BCC and did all of her Practicum work and Student Teaching with us. Cara is also a graduate of St. Paul's Children's Center. Kaden Kelly is a year teacher. She graduated this past spring from BCC in the Early Childhood Program and is continuing to work towards a Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education from MCLA. Kaden comes here with knowledge of our daily routine as she also is a former student of St. Paul's Children's Center!

It is said that “all good things must come to an end,” and now it is time for me to end my career at St. Paul's Children's Center. I started teaching here in 1984—I never, in my wildest dreams, expected to stay for 40 years! It has been my absolute pleasure to grow up here and evolve the Children's Center from a full daycare to one of the BEST preschool programs in Berkshire County. A very special thank you to St. Paul's Church for supporting me and the program all of these years!

I am so proud to turn over the reins to the current teachers. Both Cara and Kaden will be Director Qualified to run the Children's Center. They are wonderful young women who have such dedication to our children and their families. St. Paul's Children's Center will surely continue to thrive under the direction of these two remarkable humans!

Josephine Monserud continues to be a volunteer with us from Riverbrook. Josephine has been with us for 21 years! Last spring, we were able to celebrate Josephine's 20 years with us. The staff from Riverbrook, our staff, students, Jorja Marsden, and Father Sam were in attendance. State Representative Smitty Pignatelli was not able to attend, but later that day he went to Riverbrook to present Josephine with a Proclamation from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. We are very happy to announce that Josephine gets a stipend for her work here.

We are enjoying some enrichment programs this year. We have a literacy program each month with Vicky Cooper. Vicky is the retired Children's Librarian from the Lenox Library, and most recently from the Stockbridge Library. The children really enjoy this time and are learning so much. We also have been doing a dance class every Friday morning with Miss Sharon. This is our 8th year doing dance, and the movement is so beneficial to the good health of the children.

We are thrilled that Father Sam joins us on Wednesdays for lunch. It is like having a celebrity join us. He is forming some very nice relationships with the students here.

The Children's Center has been receiving a Child Care Stabilizing Grant through the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' Early Education and Care Agency. This grant totals \$1,600 each month. The grant runs through the end of June. We are pleased to announce that the Children's Center has been able to help three families with financial aid this year in the form of scholarships.

**With much gratitude,
Lisa Kane
Director of St. Paul's Children's Center**

Lee Food Pantry

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

The Lee Food Pantry is a collaborative outreach program of St. Paul's (Stockbridge), Grace Church (Gt. Barrington), St. Mary's Roman Catholic (Lee), and Lee Congregational. Sue Gore, a member of Grace, is the Program Coordinator. Our St. Paul's group includes 22 from St. Paul's and four who are not otherwise connected to St. Paul's. One is a senior at Lee High School who volunteers every week. We all have become a caring community. On our Saturday, we typically serve around fifty clients, who represent around 100 people.

In December 2024, the Food Pantry moved to 130 Housatonic St. in Lee (across the street from Starbucks) due to the city's plan to tear down the Railroad St. building where the Pantry had been housed for a number of years. The new facility is smaller, but more efficient than the older one.

On the occasion of the 140th anniversary of the St. Paul's building, a challenge was issued to bring 140 items for the Pantry. The challenge was exceeded with almost 200 items gathered. At year end, Dan Weston was creating worksheets to improve communication between clients and volunteers to help us better fulfill client needs. We anticipate need for the Food Pantry's services will expand in the coming year.

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

Jim Wade
Team Coordinator

Gideon's Garden

Gideon's Garden is a vegetable garden on land generously provided by Taft Farms on Division Road in Great Barrington. The Garden is operated by Grace Church, Great Barrington under the leadership in 2024 of Joel Jorgensen. A summer internship program provides education, connection with the earth, and a small stipend for young teens. Volunteers of all ages help plant, nurture, and harvest crops for distribution to regional food pantries, including Lee Food Pantry. St. Paul's members Gale Page and Jim Wade volunteered regularly in 2024. Jim Wade participated in the Garden Blessing at the beginning of the season. Summer 2025 will see the departure of Joel Jorgensen and the arrival of a new Director of Farming: Jack Kamps. It would be great to have more St. Paul's folks volunteering in 2025. **Contact Jim Wade (270-519-7078) for info about summer volunteer hours.**

Appalachian Trail Angels Ministry

Begun in 2018 as a shared ministry of the Episcopal/Lutheran and Congregational Churches in Sheffield, teams from these and other churches and organizations welcome hundreds of Appalachian Trail hikers from around the world as they pass through Sheffield each summer. The goal of this ministry is to model life within the realm of God as we offer simple kindness and radical hospitality to AT thru-hikers. Our inviting site includes a large A-frame shelter and a new sturdy storage shed. We offer shade, comfy chairs, cell phone chargers, abundant food and water, and conversation. Hikers refer to this as “Trail Magic.” Those who provide trail magic are “Trail Angels.”

In 2022 and 2023, St. Paul’s was one of the guest churches, with two teams working a couple of days at the Trail Magic site. In 2024, St. Paul’s became a sponsoring congregation, joining Christ Trinity Episcopal/Lutheran Church and the Sheffield Congregational Church. As a sponsor, we contributed financially to the program, helped with set up of the site, and participated in the fall Beer and Hymns fundraising event. Peter Trapp and Libby Wade participated in a planning session before the summer season. Instead of just fielding a team of St. Paul’s parishioners to serve on one or two days, as a sponsoring church, St. Paul’s folks were able to sign up for any Monday, Wednesday, or Friday from June 17 to August 9. One benefit of our new “home team” status is getting to know people from the other sponsoring congregations. Ten people from St. Paul’s served 32 times as Trail Angels in 2024!

When summer 2025 approaches, watch for info in the “E-pistle” about how to share the fun as a Trail Angel.

The Rev’d Libby Wade

Advent /Christmas Outreach

St. Paul’s giving community had the great pleasure of fulfilling the Christmas dreams of two Haitian families that immigrated to the Berkshires this past year. Through connections made by Patty Melville, 4 families were identified and split between St. Paul’s and Grace Church. Our parishioners choose items that the families themselves declared on wish lists, then shopped and wrapped the gifts. By December 15th, everything was taken to The Family Center in Great Barrington for distribution. Items ranged from a Christmas Tree from the Church, to toys, books, and clothing for children, kitchen items for a family about to move from a shelter to their own first apartment, bedding, and adult needs.

Patty Melville

Special Offerings

In 2024, our Easter and Christmas loose plate offerings were directed to organizations outside the parish.

Easter: The Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem (\$829)

Christmas: The Elizabeth Freeman Center and Multicultural BRIDGE (\$1,681 total, split 2 ways)

Section 4: Formation Ministry Reports

We continued to offer Christian formation at St. Paul's throughout 2024. There are no detailed reports to give, but as we grow in the organization of our formation offerings, we expect a lengthier report next year. For an outline of what was offered in 2024, see below:

Adult Formation

- Lenten supper series in the Rectory: "Pilgrimage to the Cross"
- Sunday forum series in Easter: "Exploring the Book of Common Prayer"
- Summer Lectionary Bible Study on Wednesday evenings on the Rectory screen porch
- Sunday forum series in Advent: "Deepening our Prayer"

Children's Formation

Conversations are being held in early 2025, led by the Rev'd Libby Wade, to expand our offering of Children's Formation in the coming year. Stay tuned!

Section 5: Pastoral Care and Fellowship Ministry **Reports**

Student Care Packages

The St. Paul's Student Care Package project was a great success again this year. As our students settled into fall semester 2024, we sent them care packages to remind them that they are always in our thoughts and prayers and have continued support within their faith community. We know that the work, lack of sleep and the feelings of isolation from being far from home can often feel overwhelming and a little love from home goes a long way.

Members of our congregation contributed notecards, notebooks, candy, popcorn, pens, pencils, stickers, tape, hot chocolate and other much appreciated things. Students living away from home were sent generous packages filled with treats, items of use and some stuff just for fun.

We would like to thank all of those who donated items and to Jess Maloney for finding the time on a afternoon to pack all of the boxes and get them ready for shipping.

We have heard from so many of the students how surprised and happy they were with the boxes. This is one more small way in which this congregation scatters seeds. May every student develop a thirst for learning, a respect for each other and a deep love of the truth. We pray that God's peace may replace fear, anxiety and frustration and bring provision for the needs of all involved. May they feel encouraged by the community gathered around them.

Lord our God, in your wisdom and love send your Spirit upon these students and fill them with your wisdom and blessings. Give them strength to hold their faith in you, and to keep alive their joy in your creation, and embrace their true potential in this period of development, discernment, transitions, and creativity; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

In peace,
Kim Savery
Rob Maloney
Jess Maloney

Safe Church

Safe Church is about having safe places to worship and to educate the preschoolers of our Children's Center. Over the last several years, we have implemented security and procedures to help us in our goal. The Children's Center is locked. Staff and many of our volunteers have completed the Safe Church Training courses offered by the Diocese of Western Massachusetts. Our ushers wear "Host" nametags so visitors know who they can turn to, if needed. We make sure that fire extinguishers are up-to-date and recommendations of town inspectors are met. Our Verger Darryl has written up extensive directions for our volunteers who serve on Sundays

We are committed to keeping the church open all day every day. We know that the sacred space of our church is utilized regularly by parishioners and visitors alike. We invite our guests to pray and leave prayer requests.

This past year was busy for everyone. Now at the beginning of 2025, I am stepping down as Safe Church Minister. 2025 would be a good year to create a Safe Church Committee to focus on what we still need to do to make our church as safe as we can. There are not many items on that list, but it

would be nice if we got those items completed! If you are interested in serving or if you have special talents in this area, please let Father Sam know as we activate the committee and complete the work already begun. Thank you.

Martha Bodine
Safe Church Minister

Fellowship Events

On Wednesday May 8th, 2024, the Eve of Ascension Day, we celebrated our new ministry with The Revered Samuel T. Vaught, together with Bishop Doug and friends from around the community and Diocese. Ginger and Arthur Schwartz graciously offered her home for the reception and a committee comprising Michael Flamini, Natalie Boyce, Georgeanne Rousseau, Jorja Marsden, Patty Melville and Ginny met to organize and create the groundwork. Invitations were designed, printed and sent to local members of the clergy, Episcopal friends far and near, and parishioners. This joyous occasion began with a festive Holy Eucharist at 6 pm with a special sermon by guest preacher Dean Andrew McGowan of Berkeley Divinity School at Yale. Afterwards, attendees moved down the road to Ginny's house for greetings, food and beverages.

Shrove Tuesday, on February 13th, brought the St.Paul's community together in the Rectory for an evening of homemade pancakes and sausages. The parish house was filled with good food as we awaited Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. Our festive evening gave us another opportunity to continue to embrace and further get to know our new priest and his husband Brett.

On Sunday, June 30 we held a celebratory parish picnic following our 9:00 outdoor worship. At the Eucharist, we celebrated the feast of St. Peter and St. Paul, one of our Patronal Feast Days, and then enjoyed each other's company over good food. The parish provided hamburgers, hot dogs, veggie burgers, and buns. Potluck contributions of sides, salads, and desserts added to the feast.

Patty Melville

Section 6: Community Involvement

In 2024, the Blessing of the Animals once again brought parishioners and neighbors together for worship, pet blessings, fellowship, and the donation of pet food to the Lee Food Pantry. In a change from 2023, the Congregational Church did not host an ecumenical Thanksgiving Day service and meal in 2024. Other community highlights of 2024 include the following:

Three Kings Celebration

On January 7 at 6:00 in the evening, a number of us gathered together in front of the Stockbridge Library to sing carols, share some cocoa and cookies and officially bring the Christmas holiday to a close. Sponsored by the Marian Fathers, this was the fiftieth carol sing in Stockbridge always held just before Epiphany. The weather was,..uh...chilly and no wise men braved the cold, but everyone assembled sang out, loud and strong, in the night air. Prayers were offered by the priests in attendance, Bible passages were read, and a lot of good carols were sung, especially “We Three Kings,” as was appropriate to the evening. At the end, the feeling of community was so strong that people lingered to chat and, with that, our current Christmas season came to a close. All of us who were there hope to see others from St. Paul’s next year.

Submitted by Michael Flamini

Memorial Day

Stockbridge observes Memorial Day with a Main Street Parade, visits to each of the cemeteries, and a program at the Old Town Hall with speeches, music, prayers, and a hot dog lunch. On May 27, 2024, Father Sam was honored to take part in the ceremonies by providing prayers at each of the burial sites and memorials, as well as offering the invocation and benediction at the program.

Blessing of the Animals

On the Sunday closest to St. Francis Day in October, we again celebrated a Blessing of the Animals on the front lawn of the church. Attendance was small, but we did have a couple of walk-ins. We even blessed a pet shown in an I-phone photo and several parishioners who couldn’t be there had requested prayers for their pets. After a short liturgy and stories about St. Francis’ love for all creatures, clergy blessed each animal individually. Certificates and treats were offered by Diana French. It was a delightful afternoon.

Concerts at St. Paul’s in 2024

September 21 and October 19 – Berkshire Bach Society Harpsichord Festival

December 3 – Music Groups from Monument Mountain Regional High School: acapella Choral Group, Orchestra Ensemble, and Jazz Band. Annual performance to a packed church on Sunday of the Stockbridge Christmas on Main Festival

December 14 – “The Holy Moment – Holiday Candlelight Concert,” Robert and Katherine Oakes.

Section 7: Financial Reports

Stewardship

All aspects of stewardship – our time, our talent, and our monetary gifts – were wisely used by the vestry this year. Your generosity was inspirational and the spirit in which we all contributed our gifts was awesome. I have written about momentum for several years now. I don't know a better word. I think of momentum as being that energy that motivates all of us to do what we can and to grow what we do. Your stewardship makes the jobs of the Treasurer, Rector, and Vestry so enjoyable!

New as of last September 2024, we have a Stewardship Committee! Members are Tracy Johnson, Brett Roberts, and Jim Wade. They are willing workers and have many wonderful ideas about growing the meaning of Stewardship in 2025. I have enjoyed working with them.

Our Stewardship campaign was successful for this year. Our amazing Treasurer, John Davies, set our pledge goal at \$148,000.00. As of this writing, we are something upwards of \$147,000.00. We expect to reach our goal. When we meet our goals, this allows the Vestry to plan with certainty. And we very much appreciate that.

I am touched by your willingness to contribute and by your wisdom in knowing what is appropriate for you to give, be it your time, your talent, or your monetary gifts. Thank you.

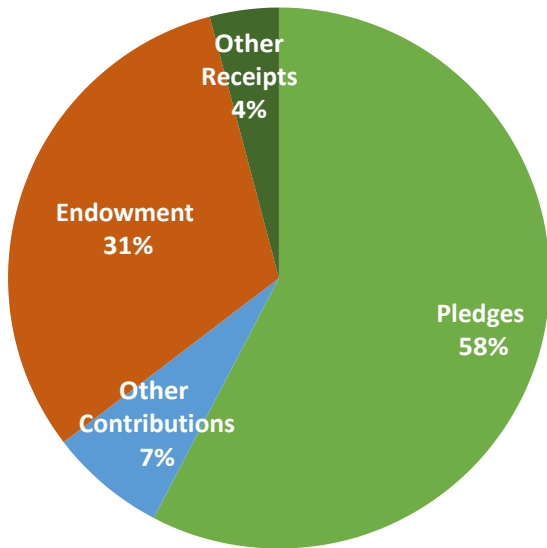
After serving as Stewardship Chair for many years, I am stepping away from that job. We are blessed to have a dedicated and motivated committee to take it from here.

Martha Bodine
Stewardship Chair

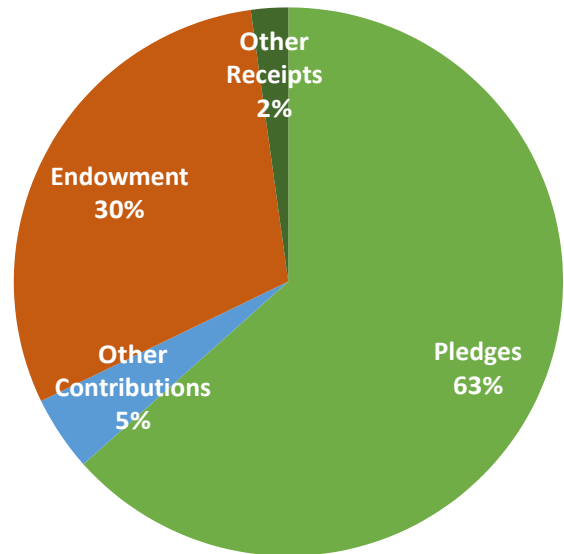
Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report for 2025 General Operating Fund Revenue and Expenses for 2024 and Budget Adopted by the Vestry for 2025

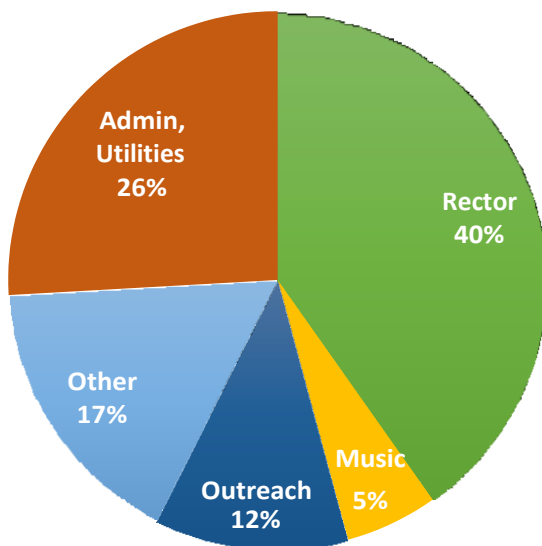
2024 Actual Revenue



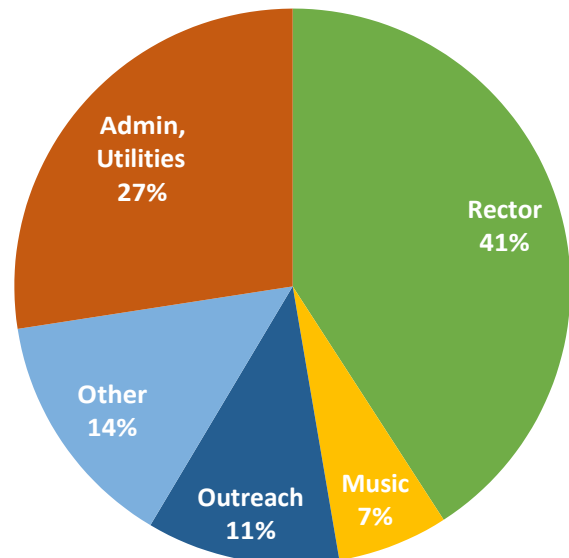
2025 Budget Revenue



2024 Actual Expenditures



2025 Budget Expenditures



Treasurer's Report for 2025
General Operating Fund Revenue and Expenses for 2023 and 2024
and Budget Adopted by the Vestry for 2025

	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Budget
General Operating Fund Revenue			
Pledges (Current and Past Year)	120,247.00	133,612.19	148,000.00
Other Contributions	14,805.01	16,139.42	10,300.00
Transfers from Endowment	69,920.00	72,400.00	70,000.00
Other Receipts	5,181.00	9,545.57	5,100.00
Total Revenue	210,153.01	231,697.18	233,400.00
General Operating Fund Expenses			
Rector	0.00	89,809.59	95,111.00
Interim Priest	57,757.20	2,342.96	0.00
Other Clergy Expenses	2,576.24	2,034.19	2,600.00
Music	13,964.40	12,726.80	15,000.00
Search for a New Rector	16,564.81	0.00	0.00
Celebration of New Rector	0.00	3,272.42	0.00
Other Worship	4,892.25	10,524.92	4,400.00
Outreach	24,962.96	26,680.28	26,133.00
Education and Fellowship	450.77	770.21	1,300.00
Other Expenses	625.00	1,338.12	1,000.00
Administration	38,305.01	40,258.32	42,623.26
Utilities	14,350.97	19,054.53	21,250.00
Total Expenses	215,533.03	232,418.41	232,737.26
Net from Operations	210,153.01	231,697.18	233,400.00

St Paul's has three active "funds": the General Operating Fund, the Endowment Fund, and the Rectory Renovation Fund. The Children's Center has its own set of books. Here are the results of the General Operating Fund from 2023 and 2024 and the budget for 2025.

Pledges and Other Contributions make up about 60% of the Total Revenue, and quarterly Transfers from the Endowment make up about 30%. The number of pledges for 2025 has increased by about 30% over 2024.

As for our expenses, the total projected for 2025 is about the same as last year. In 2024, we paid from the Operating budget about 11% of total for Outreach. In addition, direct donations received for Outreach, including the Lee Food Cupboard, the Hospitals supported by the Diocese of Jerusalem Ministry, the Multicultural Bridge and the Elizabeth Freeman Fund in the Berkshires, in 2024 brought the total to about 14%. The Children's Center's use of the Parish House rent-free also means that we can keep the tuitions lower than we otherwise would be able to do.

Treasurer's Report for 2025

Endowment Fund Revenue and Expenses for 2023 and 2024

	2023 Actual	2024 Actual
Endowment Beginning Balance	1,417,890.88	1,417,003.09
Endowment Fund Contributions	99,593.06	12,549.55
Endowment Fund Transfers In (Rectory Renovation)		35,000.23
Endowment Fund Earnings/Gains/Losses	187,961.90	156,809.58
Endowment Fund Expenses	(7,002.75)	(6,823.02)
Endowment Fund Routine Distributions	(71,440.00)	(74,000.00)
Endowment Fund Non-Routine Distributions	(210,000.00)	(12,385.06)
Endowment Ending Balance	1,417,003.09	1,528,154.37

The Endowment Fund is about \$1.5 million, managed by the Episcopal Church Foundation (ECF) and State Street Bank, with oversight by St. Paul's Finance Committee and the Vestry. It is comprised of about 70% stock funds and 30% bond funds.

For the last eight years, about 48% of these funds were fossil fuel free. This year, however, the Vestry, with the able assistance of ECF, decided to move about 61% of our investments into ESG screened funds. ESG stands for Environmental (energy consumption, carbon footprint, and waste management), Social (diversity, human rights, consumer protection, animal welfare), and Governance (management structure, employee relations, executive compensation, employee compensation). These, in turn, are broken down into 33 specific screens that are applied to the individual companies.

The Finance Committee and the Vestry then checked the past performance of the proposed new investments and was convinced that these new investments likely will produce a return for St. Paul's that will be about the same as the return from our previous investments. And so we made this change in November.

The Finance Committee and the Vestry explored in December whether to maintain our current 70/30 split between stocks and bonds in light of the effect that the incoming Trump administration might have on the stock market. A Trump reduction in government regulation and reduction in corporate taxes likely would have a positive effect, but the imposition of tariffs and immigration restrictions likely would have a negative effect. We consulted with our ECF representative and looked at what other churches like ours are doing, and we decided to stay with the 70/30 split for now even though we believe there probably will at least be some short-term volatility in the stock market.

In 2024, our Endowment investments produced a return of about 11%. The fees we paid to ECF and State Street were 0.44%. The routine distributions from the Endowment to the Operating Fund in 2024 were about 4.7%

Treasurer's Report for 2025
Rectory Renovation Fund Revenue and Expenses - 2021 – 2024

	TOTAL (4 YEARS)
Rectory Renov Fund Receipts	
Transfer from Operating Cash	42,215.00
Transfer from Linda Day Bequest	12,575.60
Non-Routine Transfer from Endowment	190,529.26
Repayment of Trans from Endowment	(99,593.06)
Donations for Rectory Renovation	255,324.46
Rectory Rental Income	4,200.00
Proceeds of Arts Fair	190.00
Total Rectory Renovation Fund Receipts	405,441.26
Rectory Renovation Fund Expenditures	
Rectory Siding	66,904.00
Rectory Windows	36,132.00
Rectory Shades	4,764.70
Rectory Building Permit	385.00
Rectory Rot Remediation	8,402.25
Rectory Painting	25,638.76
Rectory Electrical	3,674.55
Rectory Plumbing	8,218.57
Rectory Kitchen Fixtures	13,219.35
Rectory Kitchen Appliances	1,828.94
Rectory Henry Kirchdorfer (general contractor)	136,071.58
Rectory Deep Clean	4,480.00
Rectory Chimneys	2,825.00
Rectory Fund Raising Expenses	62.42
Rectory Boiler	17,888.00
Rectory Roof Repair	33,414.46
Rectory Sewer Line	6,803.50
Total Rectory Renovation Fund Expenditures	370,713.08
Net Total (Rectory Renovation Fund Cash Balance)	34,728.18

I have included the above table of the revenues and expenses for the Rectory Renovation Fund over the last four years. I think it is notable that the renovation was completed with about \$132,000 from the Operating Fund and the Endowment. And we have about \$35,000 left over, so that the net of these is only about \$97,000. The rest of the funding came almost entirely from individual donations to the Rectory Renovation Fund. Jorja Marden, in particular, deserves our thanks for the very large amount of time and effort she put into overseeing this project.

Treasurer's Report for 2025
Consolidated Balance Sheet (All Funds) as of December 2023 and 2024

Assets	2023 Actual	2024 Actual
Cash		
General Operating Fund	35,026.62	35,482.07
Organ Fund	2,136.22	2,136.22
Memorial Garden Fund	9,516.16	9,516.16
Christmas Offering		1,681.00
Easter Offering		829.00
Lee Food Pantry		331.90
Children's Center Scholarships		821.50
Alternative Evangelism Events	214.28	
Rectory Renovation Fund	41,445.67	(271.82)
Other Restricted Funds	9,726.33	6,195.32
Rector's Discretionary Fund	1,458.83	1,220.02
Petty Cash	50.00	50.00
Total Cash	<u>99,574.11</u>	<u>57,991.37</u>
Prepaid Expenses (Church Cleaning)	6,844.50	7,020.00
Endowment Investments		
Organ Fund	31,391.34	34,743.56
Memorial Garden Fund	20,413.97	22,593.96
Gardens, Trees Fund	17,440.57	19,302.99
Rectory Renovation Fund		37,926.26
Rector's Discretionary Fund	31,111.87	32,745.66
All Other Endowment Funds	1,316,645.34	1,380,841.93
Total Endowment	<u>1,417,003.09</u>	<u>1,528,154.36</u>
Accounts Receivable		
Receivable from Children's Center	506.80	0.00
Fixed Assets		
Church	4,596,637.72	4,596,637.72
Parish House	485,348.43	485,348.43
Rectory	478,998.23	478,998.23
Total Fixed Assets	<u>5,560,984.38</u>	<u>5,560,984.38</u>
Total Assets	<u>7,084,912.88</u>	<u>7,154,150.11</u>
Liabilities (Prepaid Pledges)	10,000.00	6,250.00
Principal		
Restricted Funds	<u>145,888.60</u>	<u>130,455.51</u>
Unrestricted Funds		
General Operating Fund Beginning Balance	5,598,792.32	5,597,086.71
All Other Church Investments - Beg. Balance	1,303,550.46	1,316,645.34
Net Cash Received for Year	26,681.50	103,712.55
Ending Balance	<u>7,074,912.88</u>	<u>7,147,900.11</u>
Total Liabilities and Principal	<u>7,084,912.88</u>	<u>7,154,150.11</u>

Treasurer's Report for 2025
Children's Center Revenue and Expenses for 2024-25
and Budget Adopted by the Vestry for 2024-25
(fiscal year: July 1-June 30)

	2024-25 Actual (to Dec 31, 2024)	2024-25 Budget (to Dec 31, 2024)	2024-25 Budget (entire year)
Tuition (* Scholarships not yet taken into income)	76,610.00 *	82,540.00	191,650.00
Other Revenue	6,993.44	6,074.02	19,164.00
Total Revenue	83,603.44	88,614.02	210,814.00
Utilities	838.83	806.69	2,700.00
Food and Supplies	1,827.96	3,681.07	5,600.00
Equipment	0.00	250.00	500.00
Staff Salaries and Benefits	60,276.59	61,314.60	159,039.35
Enrichment and Other Expenses	3,120.00	2,480.00	6,900.00
Building	9,687.79	9,669.98	18,670.00
Office	4,372.49	4,925.48	9,850.80
Contribution to Scholarship Fund	1,280.00	1,280.00	3,200.00
Other Expenses	1,695.00	1,952.80	4,250.00
Total Expenses	83,098.66	86,360.62	210,710.15
Net Operating Surplus	504.78	2,253.40	103.85

The Children's Center is completing its 52nd year in 2024. Lisa Kane, the Director, has been at the helm for 37 of those years. The CC is considered one of the best pre-schools in the Berkshires. Parents and past parents are uniformly enthusiastic, and Lisa has no trouble filling the CC roster each year.

The tuition is \$50 per day (morning and afternoon), and the school year is 182 days, so the full-time tuition is \$9,100. However, many parents choose to send their child less than five full days a week. And this year (2024-25) about \$13,000 will be awarded in scholarships, funded by the Church, the CC, and other donors.

Lisa is retiring in June, at the end of this school year. We want to express our very deep gratitude for a job well done. She will stay on as a consultant and will serve on the CC board that we are creating.