

St. Paul's Annual Report

2016

Annual Meeting

January 29, 2017



ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
BRUNSWICK, MAINE
Annual Parish Meeting
29 January 2017

AGENDA

"... love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers." Romans 12:10-13

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| 1. Call to Order and Opening Prayer | The Rev. Carolyn H. Eklund, Rector |
| 2. Rector's Address | What is God calling us to?
What is Christ's Good News to proclaim? |
| 3. Introduce Leadership | Carolyn H. Eklund |
| 4. Acceptance of 2016 Annual Meeting Minutes | Carolyn H. Eklund |
| 5. Acceptance of 2016 Annual Report as Written | Carolyn H. Eklund |
| 6. Introduce Nominees | Pat Ryan, Nominating Comm. Chair |
| 7. Call for Nominations from the Floor | Carolyn H. Eklund |

A Nominee must be a member in good standing (acc. to Canon, give financially and attend worship at least four times in the year, at least 16 years old), and must have agreed to run.

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| 8. Voting | Carolyn H. Eklund |
| 9. Announce Election | Pat Ryan |
| 10. Presentation of 2016 Finances and 2017 Budget | Lenita Richard, Finance Comm. Chair
Nancy Whitehouse, Treasurer |
| 11. Giving Program, Pledging Data, Pledging Update | Paul Womer, Giving Program Chair |
| 12. "Living Local: Meeting God in the Neighborhood" | Myrna Koonce/Caroline Russell |
| 13. Presentation to Outgoing Leadership in Gratitude | Carolyn H. Eklund |
| 14. Move to Adjourn | Carolyn H. Eklund |
| 15. Sung Dismissal | Led by Randy Day, Music Ministry Dir. |

Nominating Ministry Team Report

The Nominating Ministry Team members are Pat Ryan, Linda Ashe-Ford and Emily Levine.

The Ministry Team submits the following slate for a vote at the Annual Meeting on January 29, 2017:

Senior Warden (one-year term) Paul Womer, fulfilling Pat Ryan's term

Junior Warden (two-year term) Johanna Wigg

Vestry Members (three-year term) Dana Baer, Betsey Bailey and Caroline Russell.

(one-year term) Susan Martens, fulfilling Chip Liversidge's term

2017 Convention

Delegates: Susan Brown, Emily Levine, Kevin Miller, Macauley Lord, Charlie Priest.

Alternates: Linda Ashe-Ford, James Ford, Pat Ryan.

St. Paul's Church

Vestry Job Description

The Vestry is comprised of a Senior Warden and a Junior Warden, elected for two-year terms, and three groups of three members, elected for three-year terms. Including the Rector, there are twelve voting members of the Vestry. All Vestry meetings are announced, open to all members of the parish, and approved minutes of those meetings are posted on the Church bulletin board. In addition, a Clerk and Treasurer are appointed annually by the Vestry, with the privilege of a voice.

Election to the Vestry is for a three-year term, unless one is elected to fill a vacancy created by resignation. Current vestry members are not eligible for re-election.

As a current Vestry, we expect candidates to be willing to commit themselves with us to:

1. Regular attendance at monthly Vestry meetings and the annual Vestry Planning Retreat.
2. An average of 2 hours weekly in addition to current St. Paul's activity.
3. A leadership role, not necessarily that of Chair, on a parish Ministry Team, with responsibility to communicate its work to the Vestry and vice versa, to recruit new members, and to encourage integration and coordination of that Ministry Team's work into the life of St. Paul's.
4. Participation in the life of worship, education and service of this parish.
5. Participation as a pledger in the Annual Stewardship Program.

Introduction to the Candidates

To serve as **Senior Warden** for a **one-year term: Paul Womer**

Paul was born in Worcester, Massachusetts, and is a lifelong Episcopalian, attending various Episcopal and Anglican churches in the US and Europe. In Worcester, he sang in the junior choir, served as an acolyte, and was a member of the youth group. For four summers, he taught swimming at Bement Center and Camp, operated by the Diocese of Western Massachusetts. Paul graduated from Assumption College in 1971 with a BA in Political Science and later earned a MS in the Administration of Justice from American University. Paul served with the US Army from 1971-1982 in Japan, Washington, DC, and Germany. In 1982, he joined the CIA and served in Washington and various overseas locations until his retirement in 2005. Concurrent with that service, he also maintained his military status in the Army Reserves in numerous domestic and overseas assignments, retiring in 2000. Paul and his wife, Abigail (Abbie) Van Doren, moved to Brunswick in January 2005, becoming active in St. Paul's shortly thereafter. Paul has been active in the Men's Group, worked on the Christmas Fair, chaired the Buildings & Grounds Ministry, served twice on the vestry, and has been Jr. Warden since 2014. Abbie is a co-chair of the Reception Ministry and is active in the Bible Study Ministry. Paul is an old-movie buff, enjoys bicycling and sculling during the warmer months. He and Abbie enjoy the live arts (musicals, opera, and stage plays) whenever the opportunity arises.

To serve as **Junior Warden** for a **two-year term: Johanna Wigg**

Johanna Wigg, PhD, has been a member of St. Paul's since 1985. She served on the vestry and various committees. She is a founder and owner of The Vicarage by the Sea, Inc., a long term care home for individuals living with dementia. The Vicarage model of care is unique and strongly influenced by Johanna's religious upbringing. After nearly twenty years of operation, Johanna's call to care for those living with progressive neurological illnesses matures through her spiritual engagement.

Johanna and her partner, Cheryl, have two adult children, Michael and Max, and are now raising Estella. In her spare time, Johanna loves to travel, spend time outdoors and on the ocean... and, of course, plenty of time playing with Estella!

To serve on the **Vestry** for **three years:**

Dana Baer

Dana was confirmed in the Episcopal Church in 1985 and has regularly worshipped since. He served as Junior Warden at The Church of the Holy Spirit in Gallup, New Mexico, as a vestry member at St. Paul's in the early 2000s, and as a member of the Facilities Committee at the Church of the Ascension in Gaithersburg, Maryland.

Dana trained as an engineer at the Colorado School of Mines and University of New Mexico. He worked for 10 years in underground mining and almost 30 as a civil engineer. For 23 years he served as a US Public Health Service officer working on water and sanitation projects for American Indian and Alaska Native tribes. In 2005 Dana was transferred from Maine to Washington, DC, where he retired in 2015 as the director of the Indian Health Service sanitation program.

Dana and Andree live in Brunswick and have two grown children, Emily and Andrew, both of whom were active members of the St. Paul's youth program and Journey to Adulthood.

Betsey Bailey

Since my retirement from 28 years as an Art Teacher, followed by caring for my husband through his illness and the following 2 years of support and love extended by the St. Paul's community, I appreciate all that has been lovingly given. I'm ready to become more active wherever needed as part of the congregation.

Advocating for children and their parents along with having the huge pleasure of teaching Art to Pre-school and Elementary children has been a joy-filled as well as sobering experience. I hope to bring these experiences to good use as a member of the Vestry. Thank you.

Caroline Russell

Caroline Russell retired to Maine from New Hampshire, a move long planned but hastened by the closing of her long time business. She immediately joined St. Paul's and began her involvement in its ministries and in the community. Caroline has served on two previous church Vestries in New Hampshire and has been the Clerk of St. Paul's Vestry for the past two years. Active in the newly formed Diocesan "Living Local" process, the flower committee, Women's Group and chairing the Freezer Gourmet Committee mean she brings a wide variety of interests to the Vestry. Caroline is also on the Board of Directors for The Gathering Place and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Bath Brunswick. She can regularly be found as "Chef" at MCHPP! She is interested in gardening, cooking, travel and being a great Mom to her grown daughter. Caroline is very pleased to have the opportunity to serve on St. Paul's Vestry, and welcomes comments or suggestions.

To serve on the **Vestry for one year:**

Susan Martens

Susan Martens and her husband, Bill, of Pownal, Maine have been members of St. Paul's Church in Brunswick for 34 years. Their children, Jess and Kate, were raised in the church. In addition to church involvement (Prayer Group, Thursday Eucharist, Women's Group, Freezer Gourmet Committee), Susan has been active throughout the Brunswick and Portland communities. She volunteers weekly at Mid-Coast Hunger Prevention and Portland Adult Education. Susan is a former English teacher who still practices her craft on anyone who asks for an edit (and even on those who don't)!

2017 Convention Delegates**Susan Brown**

Susan is the musician for St. Paul's 9:30 Family Eucharist and also provides music for the Summer Outdoor Eucharists. She and her husband Robert live in Bowdoinham and are the parents of Joanna and Trevor. Susan has been an active participant in the fundraising activities of the High School Pilgrimage, of which Joanna is a member.

Emily Levine

Emily grew up in the mid-Atlantic and first came to Maine as a student at Bowdoin. She and her husband, Pete, and were thrilled to return to the state in 2001, and their daughters Mira and Ellie were born here. She was raised in the Episcopal Church; one highlight of her faith journey was being chosen to participate in a young adults' pilgrimage to Hawaii, Okinawa, and Hiroshima that was organized on the occasion of Presiding Bishop Edmund Browning's retirement. Since joining St. Paul's in 2007, she has tried to find ways to cultivate her own spirituality and involvement in parish life while introducing their children to a faith community. She has served on the St. Paul's Vestry from 2014-2017. Emily has been a fundraising professional for the past 13 years and currently serves as Development & External Relations Director for Portland Public Library.

Kevin Miller

Kevin is a lifelong Episcopalian who joined St. Paul's after relocating to Maine in 2014 after several years in Washington, DC. A native of New Jersey, Kevin grew up in a family heavily involved in all aspects of their close-knit parish. After attending about a dozen different churches in five different states over the past 20 years, Kevin felt like he found a home again when he came to St. Paul's. He has served on the St. Paul's Vision/Mission Statement Team and volunteers at the Christmas Fair. He has volunteered as a driver for Meals on Wheels in Brunswick, Augusta and Ellsworth and was a regular volunteer with Washington, DC's largest food pantry before moving back to Maine. Kevin works as a journalist in Portland and enjoys hiking, camping, kayaking, fishing and pretty much anything outdoors.

Macauley Lord

Macauley Lord has been a professional fly fishing instructor and writer for 30 years. He trains fly casting instructors around the country. A seminary graduate, he volunteers as a chaplain at Cumberland County Jail in Portland.

Charlie Priest

Charlie graduated from Dartmouth and the University of Maine Law School, practiced law, and served in the Maine Legislature for 14 years. He and Pat Ryan were married at St. Charles Episcopal Church in Gardiner, and have two children, Clare and Jenny, and two grandchildren, Athena and Chiron. He and Pat joined St. Paul's in the 1980's, and have been regular worshipers for the last decade. Both he and Pat usher, normally for the 8 o'clock service, and they were St. Paul's delegates to the Diocesan Convention in 2014 and 2015. Currently, Lucy Leitzell and he are working on writing a history of St. Paul's from 1945 to the present.

St. Paul's, Brunswick, Maine

Annual Meeting 24 January 2016

The meeting was called to order by the Rector, the Rev. Carolyn Eklund, at 10:30a.m., followed by an opening prayer.

The Rector introduced the leadership and staff: Vestry members John Cordts, Jim Hornor, Carol Thomas, Jo Belknap, Linda Ashe-Ford, Emily Levine, Carol Thomas, Dana Baer, Chuck Dyer, Chip Liversidge; Pat Ryan, Senior Warden, Paul Womer, Junior Warden; Staff: Susan Tyler, Parish Administrator, Randy Day, Music Ministry Director, Susan Brown, Lois Kwantz.

Joan Reynolds moved and Lucinda White seconded acceptance of the Minutes from the 2015 Annual Meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Charlie Priest moved and Lois Kwantz seconded acceptance of the 2015 Annual Report. The motion carried unanimously.

John Cordts, Nominating Ministry Team Chair, introduced the Nominating Ministry Team slate: Senior Warden, Pat Ryan; Vestry, Sarah Arnold, Cliff Ruprecht, Kevin Miller; Convention Delegates, Susan Brown, Charlie Priest, Tobey Lee, Charla Spann, Bill Edman; Alternate Delegates, Art Treffry, Pat Ryan, Caroline Russell. Each person stood to be introduced.

John Cordts called for nominations from the floor. There were no nominations from the floor. Andree Appel moved and Dana Baer seconded the slate be accepted by acclamation. The motion carried unanimously.

The Rector led the welcoming of the newly elected parish leaders. She called upon all the Vestry members to come forward.

Lenita Richard, Chair of the Finance Ministry Team, presented the end of 2015 financial standing of the parish. First, she thanked the treasurer, Nancy Whitehouse, for her service. She thanked the members of the Finance Ministry Team for their service, Charles Arnold, Elizabeth Butler, Nat Henshaw, Bill Martens, Bob Mulligan, and Wardens, Pat Ryan, Paul Womer.

Paul Womer, Stewardship Chair, updated the parish on Stewardship. There was a discussion of the desire to increase transparency, especially in Stewardship. Instead of ending 2015 with a deficit, we showed net income of \$16,576.11. We have received 139 pledges for 2016, 40% of which were increased. Since electronic giving is not automatically renewed by Vanco, the vendor, Paul Womer recommended that those who wish to increase their pledge and are electronic givers to please notify the office. All are asked to please complete and sign a pledge card, even if you give electronically.

The Rector commended Nancy Whitehouse, Treasurer, for her work to organize, streamline and update our finances. Lenita Richard shared her calling to chair the Finance Ministry Team. Lenita Richard summarized our financial position, ending the year with a surplus of over \$16,000. The Fair also netted more, over \$12,000. We have increased several items: Outreach, Fellowship, Music, staff salaries and training. Lowered costs included a good sized decrease in health insurance premiums.

The outgoing Vestry members John Cordts, Jim Hornor and Carol Thomas were called up. Pat Ryan read a proclamation and gave a framed photo of a stained glass window from the St. Paul's nave to each retiring member. The Rector similarly recognized Pat Ryan.

The meeting concluded with a presentation by the Rector, “What is God calling us to in 2016 and beyond.” The presence and work of the Holy Spirit is very much within us. The Rector spoke to our work with justice, restorative justice, outreach and other ministries.

Pat Ryan thanked Carolyn for her help moving us forward.

The meeting ended with a sung dismissal. The motion to adjourn was moved by Charles Arnold and seconded by Lois Kwantz. The motion was unanimous and the meeting adjourned at 11:35am.

Respectfully submitted by Caroline Russell, Clerk, in conjunction with the Rector.

Rector's Report

“Love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor.” (Romans 12:10)

This verse from St. Paul's Letter to the Romans forms the foundation of Christian community. St. Paul intended for this section of his letter to be a directive on how to live in Christian community. It's the best instruction anywhere in scripture.

St. Paul's, Brunswick can claim this instruction for our community. Our love for each other is demonstrated in our mutual care and affection for each other and our world. This was revealed in some of the responses made to Vestry members during interviews for our Mutual Study of Ministry which the Vestry completed in 2016. We reviewed the profile from the Rector's Search, evaluated our progress on the goals, and developed questions that considered our future. We have included the full report as an appendix to the 2016 Annual Report. I hope you will review it.

Growing family ministry was an important goal for the profile, and it still is. The beauty of this parish is that across all ages there is a desire to connect with families and deepen our relationships with young parents and their children. Some of us reported that we are still unsure about “First Sundays, Life Together at 9am.” It is a bit untraditional and perhaps a bit of disruption in the regularity of worship times. But those same people still voiced the importance of continuing the “experiment” because it brings us all together once a month. That is an important priority for all.

More good news from 9:30 am Sunday Family Worship is that the congregation has grown to the point that we had to move from “The Upper Room” upstairs to “The Upper Room in the Great Hall.” The move happened in September. We made a procession downstairs as a congregation, holy things in hand, to set up in the Great Hall. We rolled up the “God is Love” rug and brought it with us. We set up a “Beanbag Chair Garden” in the Great Hall flanked by small bistro tables for parents, children and even some “8 o'clock” parishioners enjoying leisurely coffee drinking! We still hope more families will deepen their connection to the St. Paul's community by volunteering to teach Church School and participate in Family Ministries.

I give thanks for Jane Burke to whom we said “good-bye” this summer. Jane is a gifted artist and led us into many beautiful and spiritual projects to deepen our faith and connect us with each other. The mosaic crosses and the butterfly projects were wonderful. She led our Christian Formation program and befriended parents and children alike.

Randy Day, our Music Ministry Director, completed his first year with us in November. He has demonstrated his broad range of musical gifts, organ performance, choir direction for all ages, and his canny ability to select music that moves us, challenges us and fits our Sunday lectionary themes. His goals have been to develop our worshipping community through singing. He has added temporary voices to the choral mix by offering “pick up” choir rehearsals on Sunday mornings called “Nave at 9.” Randy, Susan Brown and I are planning ways to increase involvement of youth and children in music for Family Worship and for “First Sundays, Life Together at 9 am.” I'm grateful to Susan Brown for her collaboration with me on in the 9:30 a.m. Sunday Family Worship. Her contributions have livened up congregational singing at our 9:30 worship.

I was pleased to have participated in the Tri Church Earth Care forum panel with The Rev. Mary Baard from First Parish and The Rev. Sylvia Stocker from the Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick. This important forum led me to develop a three-week program in Advent to study parts of the encyclical that Pope Francis wrote, “Care of Our Common Home.”

Programs of St. Paul's in 2016 that were significant included the Juneteenth celebration for all ages held in the memorial garden and Great Hall in partnership with the Abyssinian Meeting House. We celebrated freedom on the anniversary of when the news of the Emancipation Proclamation finally reached Texas.

The St. Paul's Frontline Ministry Team received a Diocesan New Initiatives Grant that funded two community forums to increase awareness of teen homelessness. There was so much community interest in this problem that much of the grant is now being used to fund a grant writer in order to fund a community housing program through Tedford Housing, Inc.

Prior to the Presidential election, the Adult Formation Ministry Team organized an Interfaith Forum that included knowledgeable speakers from the Muslim, Jewish and Christian faiths. The Great Hall was filled with people from the Brunswick community who sought to reach understanding and find common ground with people of different faiths.

I commend and thank our Treasurer, Nancy Whitehouse, for her important role of tracking our finances, initiating our 5-year audit, and probing deeper into our finances to improve our methods. Last year we approved a deficit budget. It was not a large deficit. But because our pledge goal was not achieved, that made the budget gap greater. We worked to fix that for 2017 by making some cuts in the budget and by asking you to increase your pledge or become a new pledger if you hadn't yet. You will see the 2017 budget with a small deficit. Thank you for giving to our work at St. Paul's.

I want to thank Pat Ryan, our outgoing Senior Warden, who has served the Vestry in many ways. Before you called me to St. Paul's, Pat served as Vestry Clerk, Vestry member, Junior Warden and Senior Warden. Her joyful, generous, wise, compassionate and intelligent counsel has been a leadership gift to all of us. I will miss her in her role as Senior Warden. But she tells me that she will be as engaged as ever in the many ministries of St. Paul's.

Thanks go to Emily Levine and Linda Ashe-Ford for serving faithfully as deeply committed Vestry members. Their passionate voices have served us well as we've made decisions to grow our Family Ministries.

Thanks also go to our staff who work hard every week to ensure that worship runs smoothly and inspiringly and that our building and finances are managed well. Susan Tyler, Randy Day, Melanie Chicoria, Aubrey Farmer and Kimmy Edwards, thank you.

Our deacons, whose vocation is to witness the world's needs back to the parish, serve the world in challenging ways. The Rev. Mary Lee Wile serves in a spiritual and teaching role at the women's prison. Her experience has deepened her writing, spiritual direction and the quiet days she leads for St. Paul's. I have special thanks for Mary Lee for her role as a helpful presence for Church School teachers and parents on Sundays. The Rev. Chick Carroll is a witness to homelessness as he led the community of Brunswick to build the day housing for The Gathering Place. Thank you, Chick. I'm proud of the many parishioners who followed his call to give generously to the new building.

St. Paul's is growing in depth spiritually and in new souls who have come to us. Thank you for your faith, hope and charity in all that we accomplished in 2016. The years to come will likely challenge us as our country struggles through deep divisions. One thing will be clear to us, as a body of Christ and people of faith: we will be called upon to serve, to hold on to our trust in God and in the teachings of Jesus. We will continue to learn how to adapt to the changes that are happening in our culture while holding fast to "Love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor." This will be our strength in the year ahead of us.

Report from the Wardens

“Dear Friends in Christ.” How often have we heard that expression? For some reason, it has a special meaning this year. During the past 18 months we have experienced a grueling and divisive Presidential election. Locally, our Maine domestic political picture is equally fractured. St. Paul’s parishioners have not been immune to the stress, angst, and isolation that many across the nation have felt, regardless of the political stripe worn.

Despite the above, however, we found that there is refuge, solace and even hope within the institution of our church and our faith. Why? Because we are indeed friends in Christ. We have a bond with each other that transcends international strife or national/domestic politics. That bond enables us to both respect and care for each other, but also to work together as one to fulfill Christ’s mission to the world.

Has this been easy? No, it has not. In addition to the pressures we feel for our community and the future, we have had to balance and manage many competing and worthwhile interests. In planning for our future in 2017, the vestry has faced our financial reality with both practicality and optimism, saying, “We can do this.” We can move forward as a worshipping, faith-based organization that protects and nurtures its inner core and also looks to 2017 as an opportunity to serve and help those within our church and outside of our immediate family. Examples of both abound: active ministries throughout the parish, a Christmas Fair that continues to excel in raising funds for outreach in our community and abroad, an interfaith forum to bring us together, construction of window inserts for the less fortunate, etc.

As we look forward to 2017, we do so with hope and a cheerful attitude. We are indeed fortunate to be members of this body. As your wardens, it has been an honor, a pleasure, and fun to serve this parish and work with so many caring and faithful individuals.

In peace,

Pat Ryan

Senior Warden

Paul Womer

Junior Warden

Report from the Deacons

St. Paul's in Brunswick, Maine is a good place to be a deacon. Our new Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry, often says that "we are the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement" – stressing the idea of moving: out of our comfort zone, even out of our doors into our wider neighborhoods. In a recent address he spoke of how a deacon's role is to anchor this movement in the Gospel before propelling folks into the world to love and serve each other and our neighbors in the Name of the Lord. Our own Bishop Steve and our rector Carolyn echo this call.

Although assisting in worship on Sunday morning is our most visible role at St. Paul's, it's actually not a top priority for deacons. A deacon's primary role is "bridge" ministry, connecting the church and the world, helping people live their faith beyond Sunday morning, taking God's Good News to those who may not even have a faith community. Mary Lee and Chick do this in differing ways. In 2016, for example, we organized Ashes to Go in various locations around Brunswick on Ash Wednesday, and planned the Way of the Cross around our neighborhood on Good Friday (although weather forced us inside this time). Chick and Mary Lee are both contributing members of the Adult Education programs of the parish, and Mary Lee helped shepherd the Sunday morning children's programs this fall.

Another "bridge" activity for Mary Lee is the ongoing ministry of the Eucharistic Visitors, which connects homebound parishioners sacramentally to the church. She also facilitates workshops and worship among men and women at the Correctional Center in Windham, with a special focus on the spiritual needs of incarcerated mothers; writes monthly posts for Forward Movement's "Grow Christians" blog, which is aimed at families looking for ways to live their faith at home; leads quiet days and workshops around the diocese; and serves as Chaplain to Companions of the Holy Cross.

For Chick, his primary bridge ministry is to lead others to the work of ministering to and being ministered by those who are materially poor. This is done through The Gathering Place, where so many members of St. Paul's serve and are served. In addition, Chick is active on various committees in the community, working jointly with Tedford Housing, Midcoast Hunger, and the Brunswick Police Department to provide a safer community for those who are poor and homeless.

Being deacons at St. Paul's is a privilege. This is a parish that has long been living into Presiding Bishop Curry's call to servant ministry: through Outreach, Frontline, and our new participation in Living Local: Joining God in the Neighborhood, as well as all the ways individual parishioners tirelessly tend and advocate for those on the margins.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Lee Wile and Chick Carroll

Music Ministry Report

Early in January the Rector and I charted a list of goals for this calendar year. The following items from that list have been addressed and realized:

1. Setting up an office for music ministry
2. Creating a database for all ages of St. Paul's musicians
3. Recruiting new singers (an ongoing goal)
4. Establishing a database of all musical resources
5. Collaborating with the Rector on choosing hymnody and service music
6. Confirming appropriate licensing for use of copyrighted materials
7. Purchasing new dollies for keyboards (2)
8. Purchasing new desk and portable file for use in choir room
9. Creating Nave @ 9 program for occasional ensembles
10. Working with the Rector on seasonal services including Lent, Holy Week, and Christmas Eve and Christmas Day
11. Developing a Men's ensemble and Women's ensemble
12. Acquiring new choral anthems and resources in order to expand music library
13. Choosing and charting of service music by season
14. Serving as a resource consultant for the 9:30 Family Service

Beyond the meeting of these goals there have been highlights this year: new members added to the Adult Choir, the addition of Men's and Women's Ensembles to the 10:30 a.m. worship line-up, continued use of organ music for 8 a.m., and an effort made to include elements of both 9:30 a.m. Family Service music and 10:30 a.m. service traditions on Sundays when we met for First Sundays, Life Together at 9 a.m.

Perhaps the over-arching goal was to seek ways in which each St. Paul's member or any attending individuals might participate musically, especially as part of the congregation. One of the joys that has emerged over this first year with you is the vitality of singing at the 9:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services.

After a robust fall of music-making and worship together, 2016 ended on a note of joy as we shared carefully chosen carols, hymns, and service music for Advent, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day. Thank you to the youth and adult singers who participated in each of these services, bringing joy to all.

One goal still to be upheld and kept up close and personal is the involvement of our children and youth in worship. Plans continue to evolve and morph as we find ways to include them in our weekly ritual of music, prayer, and activities on Sundays.

Thank you to all who helped make this my first full and complete year at St. Paul's a success and a joy to experience. Your support of this ministry through prayer and active participation has helped spread much joy to all.

Blessings to all during the New Year of 2017.

Respectfully submitted by:

Randy Day

Music Ministry Director

Christian Formation Report

Classes for our children in 2016 began with a customized combined class for Lambs and Lions created by our then Christian Formation Director, Jane Burke. Jane, together with Susan Brown, Nancy Johnson and Steve Thomas, taught our children ages 4-10. Most of the classes were based on the Gospel lesson for the day. Carol Lord and Jim Hornor led the Middle School class with weekly discussions based on the Sunday Gospel lesson.

Myrna Koonce, Hugh Savage and Macauley Lord were our high school youth leaders. Our high school youth planned fund-raising and the logistics of their mission trip last February to the Dominican Republic with the non-profit agency Outreach360. We sent them from us with blessings and lots of support. Their presentation of slides and experiences was the centerpiece of a gathering in the Great Hall after their trip and they cooked typical Dominican food for us!

Thank you all for teaching and being examples of our faith for our children. "Give ear, O my people, to my teaching...we will tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD..." Psalm 78.

Jane Burke left us in August to pursue chaplaincy work and her creative work in fine art. Jane shared her art with us most liberally as she helped us create mosaic crosses, place our Lenten prayers in the "cocoon hand of God," installed the butterflies of our Easter resurrection in the nave for Easter Sunday. She was an important part of the planning team for our first-ever Juneteenth celebration for the historical Emancipation Proclamation. Families from Brunswick and Portland came to join us for an afternoon of games, music and "soul food."

After Jane's departure it was important to commence planning for the program year. I began to meet with Susan Brown about music and instruction, and with teachers, parents and youth leaders. In July, a "town hall" was organized to have a conversation about the move of 9:30 a.m. Family Worship from upstairs to the Great Hall. Members of other worship services were invited to weigh in.

The energy was delightful in anticipation of the move. But there was a great deal of conversation about the vision and future of Christian Formation. This feedback included the desire expressed by parents that the classes follow a developed Episcopalian curriculum that relates to the lectionary. There was a need for more parents to be involved and more teachers to be recruited. We had a meaningful discussion about moving the time of Middle School and High School Church School classes from 9:30 a.m. so the classes don't conflict with 9:30 a.m. Family Worship because our youth have a desire to take part in that worship.

Retired high school English teacher and our deacon, The Rev. Mary Lee Wile, and I spent late August organizing curriculums and materials to present to our parents and teachers this fall. Mary Lee volunteered to be a resource person to circulate during class time and offer support. Every week Mary Lee found story books based on the themes of the class. We decided on the curriculum from The Episcopal Church, "Lesson Plans that Work" and recruited teachers for the Lambs, Lions and Eagles classes. Mary Lee has been a champion for the teachers, a compassionate listener to the parents and a shepherd for all our families with small children. I thank her enthusiastically.

We decided that we needed all of our classrooms because we are growing in number of families with small children. We asked Randy Day to move from his office in the former Lambs classroom to space in the parish office area. Thank you Lil Heyda and Betsey Bailey for organizing the resources and materials for the beginning of classes this fall.

Thank you teacher volunteers and parents! Johanna Wigg and Christin Nadeau taught the Lambs. Katie Rivera and Emily Talmage taught the Lions. Rodney and Lenita Richard volunteered to teach the Eagles, but no one has yet come to that class. Meanwhile, the small children love their classes and the

classes are growing. We plan to expand the number of teachers, support the parents more intentionally and continue to prepare the classrooms in the best way for learning.

A large component of Christian Formation is something called “intergenerational learning.” When the entire congregation comes together to learn by doing or by experiencing something together, our community grows and becomes stronger in the faith. That’s why I’m so very happy to have Betsey Bailey, retired art teacher, plan the monthly “Intergenerational” activity in the Great Hall after “First Sundays, Life Together at 9am.” I’m deeply grateful to Betsey for her artistic gifts and energy. Not only is “First Sundays...” designed for worshiping together. So is “coffee hour” when we gather around the new bistro tables and enjoy conversation. But the most important aspect of that “coffee hour” time is the activity that Betsey planned for every month last fall. October was our celebration of St. Francis Day and Betsey planned for us to celebrate nature by making butterfly “kites.”

In November Betsey planned an activity which celebrated Saints for All Saints Sunday. We made our own “Saint” icon. In December Betsey instructed us in how to make bird mobiles with symbols of Advent. This all happened right in the midst of the after-church crowd in the Great Hall. The next “Intergenerational” activities for all ages will be after “First Sundays, Life Together at 9am” service on February 5. Please bring your family and friends to join us.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Carolyn H. Eklund, Rector

Christian Formation Director Opening, Part-time

St. Paul’s, Brunswick, Maine seeks a part-time Christian Formation Director (CFD) for a vibrant, community-oriented, historical parish located in the heart of Brunswick, Maine.

The duties of the CFD will be to enhance formation programs for a growing membership of families with small children and youth. The three most important criteria for the candidate are:

- one who delights in children
- is organized
- and has a passion to help families grow in the Christian faith.

Weekly Sunday Family Worship is growing with new families with young children, and we seek a CFD to further develop our ongoing Church School classes that teach stories from scripture, stories with ethical lessons, songs, and the meaning of worship. Church School classes for Pre-K through 5th grade have a relatively new curriculum while Middle and High School youth have recently reorganized their meetings with the goals of building community, offering contemporary worship, and serving our neighbors. See <http://conta.cc/2fe96tK> for an example of our weekly parent postcard with news of Family Worship and Church School.

The CFD will work with the Family Ministries Team to support parents and to nurture new families in the faith and in their spiritual lives. Though the classes and programs are underway for 2016 and 2017, and our teams of teachers are already in place, we search for a candidate who is experienced in choosing creative lesson plans as well as recruiting, training and nurturing our teachers. We seek a candidate who is inspired by the developing spiritual lives of children and their parents. The best

candidate will plan engaging activities and offer critique of Family Worship for accessibility. It is important for the CFD to publicize Church school events, particularly using electronic media

The CFD will be required to have or take “Safe Church” training, and will have a modest Continuing Education budget for professional development. Please email cover letter and resume to St. Paul’s Church; Attn: CFD Position, stpauls@stpaulsmaine.org

St. Paul’s Youth

This has been a year of change in the youth program. The major event for high school youth was the mission trip to provide education service through Outreach 360 in Montecristi, Dominican Republic. Being embedded in a secular mission organization had its challenges, but positive outcomes included heightened awareness of the problems Haitians face in the DR, the development of a rooftop prayer service each morning, and strengthened relationships with one another. Once back, the youth offered reflections in place of the sermon during worship, and created a Dominican feast for the parish, with Power Point presentation, on April 29.

While leaders have remained constant (Hugh Savage, Macauley Lord and Myrna Koonce with the high school group; Carol Lord and Jim Hornor with the middle school group), group composition has changed significantly. Six of our regular high schoolers graduated in 2016, and our current high schoolers are mainly freshmen and sophomores. We are restructuring the high school youth program based on feedback from youth and parents, and the advice of our Rector. On a regular basis, leaders, parents and youth worship at the 9:30 service together. Once a month, middle and high school youth are invited to meet for fellowship, a meal and an activity, usually at someone’s house. We met to carve pumpkins in October; take a neighborhood walk and plan service activities in November; and go caroling in St. Paul’s neighborhood, followed by a hot soup supper, in December. In addition, the middle school group continues to meet at 9:30 each Sunday, following a flexible curriculum. We continue to see where the Holy Spirit will take us in terms of opportunities for our youth to build community and come to know Christ.

To help bolster food donations during December, the high schoolers had the idea to give parishioners a raffle ticket for every can of food they brought in. The raffle prize was a basket of local foods and other items. We hope to do more such service activities that involve connecting with parishioners around needs in the community.

A number of our youth attended Diocesan events, including the spring middle school event (for which two of our high school youth served as leaders); TEC (Teens Encounter Christ), also in the spring; BION, the summer high school week at Camp Bishopswood; and Miqra, the fall high school youth event. Plans are underway for the middle school youth event to be held again at St. Paul’s on March 10-12.

We are grateful to the congregation for your unwavering support of and interest in our youth, and we invite those who feel called to this ministry to talk with the Rector or one of the current leaders.

Respectfully submitted,

Myrna Koonce

High School Group Co-leader

Adult Christian Formation Ministry Team Report

Adult Christian Formation offers ongoing programs, such as three Bible study groups that meet weekly (Sundays at 9:30, Tuesdays at 12:30, Wednesdays at 5:30). In addition, it invites the parish to participate in other discrete programs throughout the year. Some are one-time events and others take place over a period of weeks. Dinner, lunches, or desserts are included with some of them, thanks to the wonderful Hospitality Ministry that works with Adult Formation.

Small Groups

We began the year with a very powerful small-group program on Etty Hillesum, facilitated by Pam Nugent and The Rev. Mary Lee Wile. It was an amazing look at a Dutch woman, Jewish by birth but secular in her lifestyle, who found herself trapped in Amsterdam during the Nazi occupation. Her spiritual journey began with a yearning for she knew not what and ended in finding the sacred in the most horrific places.

A six-week small group was offered by Liz Messler and Sarah Arnold in the fall, “Prayer: Our Dialog with God.” Reading The Rev. Ronald Rolheiser’s book *Prayer: Our Deepest Longing* launched the group into an exploration of the richness of prayer, one that fully engages our hearts and the Spirit of God alive within us.

Rick Wile continued to offer his Spiritual Memoir program beginning in October. Through writing, the participants examined and shared some ways in which God had entered their life and given it meaning.

During Advent The Rev. Carolyn Eklund facilitated a series of small-group meetings on Pope Francis’s Encyclical on the Environment. The group looked at excerpts from the encyclical and had lively discussions about the myriad problems occurring because of the destruction of a healthy planet. The discussions included ideas of what we can do individually and corporately to address the problems.

Retreats

We were blessed to have The Rev. Mary Lee Wile offer two Quiet Morning Retreats, one in Lent and the other in Advent. The spring one was entitled “Abandoned,” and it explored how we face those dark times in our lives when we feel abandoned by God. How can we continue to live faithfully even when we do not feel God’s presence? The Advent Quiet Morning, entitled “Breathe In; Breathe Out,” explored the meaning of the Incarnation that we celebrate at Christmas and our own reality as incarnate beings.

Movie and Discussion

In the spring Macauley Lord and Myrna Koonce led a fabulous discussion based on film clips from the documentary *Chaplains: On the Front Lines of Faith*. With their hands-on experiences, Macauley and Myrna brought their own stories and insights to supplement this thought-provoking DVD. Although interesting as it was to learn about the varied settings in which chaplains minister, the film has relevance to all of us who minister to one another, and that happens all the time.

Special Lenten Activities

Every year we offer a special Lenten program, usually based on a parish read of a specially selected book. The book choice for 2016 was John Philip Newell's *The Rebirthing of God*. After a light supper, the program, which spanned five Tuesdays, was led by members of our own parish: Lollie Brown and Bronda Niese, Myrna Koonce, Pam Nugent, and Elizabeth Powers. Based on Newell's Celtic perspective, we explored some of the critical issues facing the Church now and looked for ways in which we can stay open to what God is doing in the world today.

During Lent we also enjoyed reading the Lenten Meditations booklet, which for more than ten years has offered 40 meditations written by members of our parish. Different every year, the booklet provides accompaniment to our own individual Lenten journeys and promotes fellowship within the parish.

Forum

In late October we sponsored "An Interfaith Encounter." The forum opened with a women's a cappella group, which echoed the theme of the afternoon by singing three songs having to do with the unity of all people. One of the songs they sang was called "One Voice," and some of the words come back to me, even now: "This is the sound of all of us/Singing with love and the will to trust/. . . One people, one voice/This is the sound of one voice."

With a three-person panel (Rabbi Carolyn Braun, Reza Jalali, and Dr. Christopher Leighton) and The Rev. Bob Patterson as moderator, we explored how we could find unity in the diversity of the three Abrahamic faiths. Addressing the almost 100 people in attendance, the panel modeled an interfaith dialog that honored differences and demonstrated respectful listening. Then it was the audience's turn, in small groups and then in Q&A sessions, to practice going beyond mere acceptance of the "other" to a place of valuing each other as children of God.

The forum was a start, and Adult Formation hopes to build on what we accomplished that day with subsequent programs.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Nugent, chair of Adult Christian Formation Ministry Team (Charles Arnold, Sarah Arnold, Chick Carroll, Jim Hornor, Liz Messler, Bob Walkling)

Building and Grounds Ministry Team Report

The following is a summary of buildings and grounds issues of 2016. For more detailed information, parishioners are invited to read the periodic reports prepared throughout the year for the vestry. These reports are on file in the office and are included as attachments to minutes of vestry meetings.

The good news (touch wood) is that the 2015 repairs to the heating system seem to be holding. Unfortunately, it cost approximately \$20,000 to reach this point. That expense depleted our long term maintenance funds and more, making it difficult to cover costs of repairs and upgrades during the past year.

Projects of 2016 included:

- Security Upgrade: We confirmed that some guests extended their stay in the building past closing. While we want to remain open and welcoming, common sense and concern for the safety of others dictated a change. Closed circuit video monitoring and motion-controlled/timer-controlled lighting was installed to cover the parking lot entrance, nursery, and areas adjacent to the Memorial Garden.
- Landscaping: The changes to the Memorial Garden done in 2015 are taking hold. We considered converting the front lawn (Pleasant Street) to its original state of a perennial garden. Time and expense put the project on hold. The work on the “islands” (by the parking lot) was done in an effort to replace the grass which was not doing well. Several attempts failed, but we are hopeful the current mix of perennials (edible herbs and other plants) will be low-maintenance and attractive. Their resistance to heavy fall rain bodes well.
- Plans: We are acquiring information regarding cost and scope on the following capital upgrades. Payment would be beyond our yearly budget.
 1. Nave: The nave needs to be painted. Paint on the walls is soot-covered (from oil-fired window candles, since replaced by LED candles). Paint along the ceiling and walls is flaking. The project will need staging. Contractors recommended that there be sufficient sums available if more serious problems are discovered during the initial preparation. We would plan to take advantage of the staging to finish the upgrade to energy-efficient LED lighting. Initial estimates recommended we consider wireless control to take advantage of the different moods, colors, etc. that LED offers (think: Christmas Eve, Maundy Thursday, concerts). Another consideration would be to replace the carpet at the same time. (Temporary removal of the pews would be necessary.)
 2. Kitchen: The new refrigerator is working great. We now need to consider replacing the freezers that are nearing the end of their life. Although the dishwasher is working well, several have asked for a model that does not involve lifting, is more energy efficient, and faster. We were told that a new dishwasher could be construed as a major upgrade, necessitating changes to accommodate current code requirements (e.g., installation of a third sink). We will need to proceed with our eyes open. We are also trying to be good stewards of creation by using permanent goods (plates, cups, flatware, etc.). Recycling is good, but it is even better to wash and re-use. We are exploring options to have periodic professional cleaning.
 3. Building Skirt: The design of the skirt holds water which promotes rot. Work continues. If we cannot deter the rot with flashing, we might consider artificial materials.
 4. Heating: At some point, we want to change the heating system fluid from glycol to water. Water is cheaper to operate and has better heat transference. However, we need glycol

because some pipes run through the unheated undercroft. Last winter we monitored temperatures there 24/7. Although the temperature stayed above freezing, it was a mild winter; the monitoring continues. Installing an auxiliary heater or heat pumps in the undercroft are also options.

5. Great Hall: Many have commented on the stains in the Great Hall carpet. Thanks to the generosity of a parishioner, there have been periodic cleanings. If the cleaning does not improve the carpet, we might want to consider a hard floor that does not hold the dirt. We also need a separate microphone-sound system for services held in the Great Hall and in the Memorial Garden. Eventually, we would also upgrade the lighting to LED.

Other:

- Barnes Building - Independence Association (IA): IA has proven to be wonderful and generous tenant. The upgrades inside Barnes have turned the building into a very pleasant work space. IA and St. Paul's split the cost on trash and recyclables pick-up. In the fall, the roof began to leak. IA offered to cover a substantial part of the repair cost. (Note: Senior personnel at IA recalled that Codman Hall was where IA first met. Because of that, IA wanted to "give back" and help defray the cost.)
- Sacristy: We were asked to consider a change to the plumbing. The single-control tap permits very hot water to flow. We anticipated a simple and inexpensive plumbing job, but that was not the case. That project is on indefinite hold.
- Candles: Window candles were changed to LED. As noted above, oil-fired candles produced excessive soot and were expensive to operate.

Thanks to Hugh Savage, Dana Baer, Brent Dudley, and Peter McCracken for their assistance and advice during the past year.

Respectively submitted,

Paul D. Womer, Chair

Buildings and Grounds Ministry Team

Christmas Fair Report

Co-chairs Bonny Labonte and John Cordts led the 2016 St. Paul's Christmas Fair to a very successful conclusion on December 3. Their goal for the fair was two-fold: to make it a fun event for our congregation and the greater Brunswick community, and to raise as much money as possible to meet our parish's commitment to donate an amount equal to 5% of our pledges to outreach. Both of these goals were achieved!

Over 600 people attended our fair, and several have returned to worship with us. Altogether almost \$17,600 was raised, and after the expenses were paid we made \$13,600. That is quite a feat and we should all be proud of the effort. The co-chairs are both quick to point out that the fair would not have been possible without the hard work, hours and days of preparation by many people who gave up a significant part of their holiday season to make it happen. They profusely thank the congregation and table chairs for making the fair a resounding success.

There were several differences in the 2016 fair from previous years. A silent auction this year, with 26 donations, was implemented as a way to grow fair proceeds, and it was very successful. The entire fair was on the first floor of the parish hall with a modified layout of the fair's offerings. Although a bit crowded it made for a vibrant and festive atmosphere. There were book signings, Maine cheese, door prizes and ambassadors to mention some of the revisions. One favorite from past fairs was missing: Gerry Corbett's fine art table. We miss her and her table.

A common pay station was implemented for all purchases accepting credit cards, checks, and cash. Each fair guest received a tally sheet on which each table recorded their sales. Doing this relieved the tables of having to handle money and keep records, and it allowed guests to pay for everything at one time at the end of their visit. It may seem like a small step, but it made a huge difference to the table workers, the guests, and to the accounting at the end of the day.

Thank you to John and Bonny, the 108 (!) fair workers, everyone in the congregation who donated, worked, or purchased items, the church staff and groups meeting at the church, and especially to our friends and neighbors for making the 2016 fair a wonderful time and a success for our outreach donation.

Respectfully submitted,
Dana Baer
Vestry Liaison to the Christmas Fair

Earthcare Report

Protect and Preserve God's Creation

St. Paul's Earth Care Ministry Team goal: to educate ourselves and others and to take action in our community.

- Promote eco-justice and care for creation as an integral part of the Christian message and encourage one another to share that message within and beyond our church community.
- Help other community organizations, church committees, and individuals promote eco justice and care for creation.

Meetings are held monthly, usually on the second Sunday of the month, and are open to all. We welcome new members! Ministry Team members are: Michael Anne Banks, chair, Tim Banks, Lollie Brown, Anne Brautigam, Dick Brautigam, Dick Hall, Nick Smith, Linton Studdiford, Deborah Goodwin (part time and returning in 2017) and Chuck Dyer, Vestry liaison.

In addition to the ongoing efforts outlined in the Building and Grounds report, the following report touches on the highlights of 2016.

The Community Garden, under the direction of Linton Studdiford, continues to provide garden plots to people of the community as well as providing a Common Good Garden which provides food for Mid Coast Hunger Prevention.

The Winter Gardening Workshop series is held at St. Paul's Church beginning in January

Recycling has improved thanks to the initiative of Paul Womer who contracted with Pine Tree to accept our recyclable waste.

The Window Dresser Project was completed at the end of September by 78 volunteers giving approximately 300 hours. We completed 209 windows for the community that will help Mainers have warmer homes. Dana Baer was the building coordinator and Bonny LaBonte was the volunteer coordinator.

Our Ministry Team participated with a community group to begin the process of eliminating single use plastic bags and Styrofoam in the town of Brunswick. This is being studied by the town council which will hopefully support an ordinance in Brunswick in 2016. The Styrofoam ban went into effect in October of 2016. The plastic bag issue is an ongoing matter of the Town Council.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Anne Banks, Chair

Earth Care Ministry Team

Family Ministries Report

The following are the Mission and Goals for the Family Ministry Ministry Team and were approved by the Vestry in 2016.

Mission statement

- We understand that families have many needs. We want to create an environment that makes it possible for people to ask for, receive and give support to the community, parents and parishioners by networking to foster a caring, inclusive church.

Our Goal

To establish ways to help parishioners network with each other to build a stronger church family

- Training
 - Develop and monitor training that will help support volunteers as they work with others.
- Recruitment
 - Establish a group of family mentors/ grandfriends/ and guides.
 - Develop guides who are in touch with needs and resources and can help point volunteers in the right directions.
- Develop activities that are intergenerational and foster social interactions between groups.
- Foster communications.
 - Create a list of needs and resources.
 - Develop a way to help our parish understand and serve the many different forms and members that make up a family.
 - Establish a communication path that will help people ask for help and offer help.
 - Offer and foster a way to talk about how to offer help in a faith-based manner.
 - Establish paths of communication to ask for help and to give help.

This spring, fall and early winter we sponsored several brunches that provided fellowship opportunities for our church family to get to know each other. We are looking to broaden these activities so that we will provide multi-generational fellowship opportunities on different days and times. We are also looking at a fundraiser that will provide money to meet the needs of families in crisis. Finally we are working on a tool that will help groups in the church think about who and how they serve different factions in our church family.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Ashe-Ford, Chair

Family Ministry Team

Frontline Ministry Team Report

The Frontline Ministry Team continued its work to engage with the community and other faith communities in our area, based on Bishop Lane's call to push the frontline of our church outside its four walls.

Terry Howell and Joan Reynolds continued their liaison with Family Crisis, our local domestic violence prevention agency, on behalf of the Ministry Team.

As a follow up to our work around human exploitation, the Ministry Team wrote a proposal to the Diocese for a New Initiatives grant to host a series of forums to raise community awareness around teen homelessness. Each of the two forums attracted over 80 people from Brunswick and Topsham as well as several other towns in the area. We collaborated with St. Charles Parish as well as a local ad hoc group that had been meeting for several years to try and find solutions to the problem of teen homelessness. As a result of the forums and our work together, we have decided to move ahead with a host home pilot project. We will be writing a grant proposal to fund this pilot in the new year.

Living Local is a new venture that was proposed by the Bishop and approved by our Vestry. The Frontline Ministry Team has agreed to be the foundation for the Guiding Team for Living Local. The Guiding Team will attend the first training on January 28, and will spearhead conversation about how we engage our neighborhood and neighbors, employ deep listening and try out new behaviors.

For more information on Living Local, see Myrna Koonce's piece in the December Messenger or visit the Diocesan website: http://www.episcopalmaine.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=235:joining-godin-the-neighborhood&catid=69&Itemid=128

We look forward to this new opportunity to live into our faith more deeply and to bring this to the entire congregation. We are grateful for the support of our Rector, the involvement of our members and the contributions of our Vestry liason, Kevin Miller.

Respectfully submitted,
Andree Appel, Convener
Frontline Ministry Team

Healing Prayer Ministry Report

Healing prayer has been offered for several years now at St. Paul's on the first and third Sundays after the 8:00 and 10:30 services, and that hasn't changed. However, instead of praying with people in the vestibule behind screens, we now do it openly in the chancel. That is a big change for the team and, we acknowledge, for the congregation as well. The move from the vestibule was suggested by The Rev. Carolyn Eklund as a way in which the healing prayer ministry could become more visible and, in a sense, mainstreamed into the church service itself.

One might ask, and some of you have, why the location matters. The move from the vestibule is a visible way in which we as a church affirm that praying for healing is a part of the Church's regular ministry. Jesus spent his time on earth preaching, teaching, and healing, and he sent his disciples out into the world to continue that work. We read about that in Luke 9:2 in which Jesus commissioned his disciples to "preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick." When you come for healing prayer, we serve as channels through which God continues to act in the world. Even though certain individuals carry out this ministry, we do so on behalf of the whole congregation. In the post-Communion prayer said in the 10:30 service on most Sundays, we ask God to "send us forth a people forgiven, healed, renewed." The healing prayer ministry at St. Paul's is one way our church has of achieving that restorative mission.

We always pray for you or your loved ones with great humility, because we feel it is a privilege to be with someone in a moment of need, vulnerability, or thanksgiving. Sometimes we are asked to pray in response to experiences of loss, unfulfilled longings, illness, or fears that are incredibly hard to bear. We assure you that all that you share with us is kept in strict confidence. We believe that God can always be found in the painful places, and we pray in hope that those with whom we pray will find God's loving presence in the midst of their situation.

Our membership number has held steady this year. Carol Thomas resigned because she moved to Maryland with her husband to be closer to family. Liz Messler joined us on the healing prayer team. We confirm that God has called her to participation in this ministry at St. Paul's.

We want to continue to pray on your behalf for any need you might have in the coming year. Please know that you can ask for prayer at any time, even if it is not on one of the designated Sundays. We understand that concerns can arise at any time; they don't just surface two Sundays a month.

Many blessings from the Healing Prayer Team,

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Dick Hall, Charles Arnold, Sarah Arnold, Myrna Koonce, Liz Messler, Ada Moore, Pam Nugent, Virginia Vincent, Bob Walkling, Julia Walkling

Holy Stitches Report

Holy Stitches Ministry is an ongoing small group of the parish. It is for anyone who can use a needle (or wishes to learn). We meet weekly and accomplish much.

We have three primary branches to our ministry:

We serve the parish community by making prayer shawls and lap robes. These shawls and robes are tangible symbols to envelop those in need with prayer and warmth. The items are prayed over when made and then blessed by the Rector. (Additionally we encourage anyone who knows of a person who would benefit from such a tactile gift to contact the church office, the Rector, the Deacons, the Lay Pastoral Visitors Ministry Team, the Healing Prayer Ministry, etc.)

We create needlecraft projects for the parish's annual Christmas Fair, and thereby support the initiatives of the Outreach Ministry Team. Thanks to the efforts of the core groups of six members, three summer members and the contributions of many, many others, this ministry earned over \$950 at the Fair. We made over 75 hats, 50 scarves, and some 'new' items for a large variety of goods. We greatly appreciate ALL who assisted with making these goods.

Lastly we care for each other. We sometimes go out for a restaurant meal. We celebrate that our summer members have been able to share with us another summer. We celebrate birthdays. As on-going friendships develop, we share, care and pray with each other when one is in crisis. Once this summer, a member rushed in, letting us know she had just found out her 40-something year old nephew suddenly died. Another member immediately grabbed the Prayer Book and read from it. We stopped our knitting and shared with her for a few minutes, allowing her to speak her feelings. Although an extreme example, this care for each other can and does happen at our meetings.

The Holy Stitches Ministry is a very special, intentional ministry which invites anyone to join us.

Respectfully submitted,

Charla Spann and Tobey Lee, Co-chairs

Holy Stitches

Hospitality Ministry Team Report

The Hospitality Ministry Team experienced a full schedule of events requiring hospitality/food at St. Paul's this past year. A full schedule of five Lenten forums was provided for, as well as lunch for both a Diocesan-wide "Spring Training" and a Christian Formation movie event. In July, we offered hospitality for an Episcopal Peace Project event and the wedding reception of a former St. Paul's member. September brought a reception to recognize the opening of the new Gathering Place facility and October, Bishop Steve's breakfast for clergy. And once again, in December we hosted the Oratorio Chorale with three "cocoa and cookies" receptions following their *Sing We Noel* concerts. Luncheons for two "Quiet Mornings" during the year completed the schedule.

Early in the year, a new refrigerator was purchased and recently several coffee carafes were added to replace old equipment.

With the relocation of the 9:30 Family Worship to the Great Hall, an additional coffee hour was added to the schedule. We now have three coffee hours on Sunday mornings and there is a continuing need for volunteers to host these events. We also have begun to "adapt" to the use of china coffee cups to replace the recyclable ones previously used.

Future plans, hopes and dreams include a one-time professional cleaning service for the kitchen and Great Hall, and continuing monthly cleaning for the kitchen alone; and, God willing, a user-friendly, power efficient, replacement dishwasher. We hope to reinvent the Kitchen Ministry Team to provide additional maintenance of our facilities.

As always, the generosity of St. Paul's members, when asked to "bake some cookies" or "bring a dish." knows no bounds. Thank you all.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Keating and Michael McCabe, Cochairmen

Hospitality Ministry Team

Lay Pastoral Visitors Ministry Team Report

The year 2016 continued to keep all of the Lay Pastoral Visitors busy with our usual activities. We have been fortunate to have two new Visitors join us this year. We would love to have more of you join our ministry and our fun. Our Visitors number fifteen active and four or five available but less active members. Our Visitee list changes on a regular basis but consistently numbers between twenty-five and thirty.

This year our **meetings** included two outside sources. The Rev. Robert Beaumont, a Chaplain for the Chans Hospice Program, spoke to us about his work. It was very informative to hear the parameters of the Hospice program and his involvement with all those who are in Hospice Care. In the fall we were fortunate to have The Rev. William Blaine-Wallace lead us through a process to discern our direction - new or continued - and to inspire new leadership. We expect to see changes soon.

Our activities remain much the same. We deliver the Altar **flowers** to our Visitees and other Church members. We bring a little of St. Paul's to those needing something to brighten their day. In addition to Altar flowers, we deliver All Saints, Easter and Christmas plants. Jo Belknap purchases the plants to be delivered as well as organizing the assignments for Visitors to make regular deliveries.

Donna Thivierge continues to head up the **crisis/emergency meals** part of our ministry. Donna is assisted by Joan Reynolds and a team of 23 cooks who prepare and deliver meals when requested. This year a total of 40 meals were provided to different families. If we know there is a need we will find a way to respond. Let us know!

In May we organize a **Tea at Thornton Oaks**. We invite all members of St Paul's who live in the Thornton community and other Visitees who are ambulatory. The event is received with great enthusiasm. Again this year our Rector brought her harp and played music for the enjoyment of all. There are about forty people with a St. Paul's connection who join this gathering.

Under our umbrella is the **Sharing and Caring** group. This group is a support group for anyone in the community who is caring for a loved one or who has recently lost a loved one. Barbara Blanchard, Susan McCracken and Sandy Meyer continue to provide the leadership of this group.

Lay Pastoral Visitors meet eight or nine times a year either for a program which is beneficial to our ministry and/or to support each other in our ministry. The Leadership is shared by **Jean Mulligan, Susan McCracken and Barbara Blanchard**. We have been working together for nearly 15 years and are looking forward to some changes in the near future.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Mulligan, Chair

Lay Pastoral Visitors Ministry Team

Outreach Ministry Team Report

We at Outreach are humbled and honored to represent the members of St Paul's as we distribute financial support to many organizations dedicated to helping others. In 2016 we have distributed a total of \$22,100 to 17 organizations – 74% in Brunswick-Bath; 19% elsewhere in Maine; and 7% to the rest of the world. A list of each recipient has been posted on the Outreach bulletin board.

As we look to distributions in 2017, we will use the funds voted by the Vestry (or net income from the Christmas Fair, whichever is greater). In addition, we at St. Paul's are blessed with the balance of the generous multi-year anonymous gift to be used for Outreach.

Thank you for placing your trust in our Ministry Team representing St. Paul's Outreach.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Peter McCracken, Chair

Outreach Ministry Team

Reception Ministry Team Report

St. Paul's Reception Ministry Team, co-chaired by Bonita Labonte and Abbie Van Doren, hosted nine memorial receptions for members of St. Paul's Church in 2016.

St. Paul's continues to be able to host receptions because of the many people in our parish who support St. Paul's Reception Ministry Team either by their food donations and/or their continued assistance with setting up, serving, and cleaning up following the reception. Together we can provide this valuable service. Many thanks for your support.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonita Labonte and Abbie Van Doren, Co-Chairs

Reception Ministry Team

Worship Ministry Team Report

Over the Christmas Holiday as I was shopping in the grocery store, an acquaintance from another church in town stopped to say “hello.” We exchanged pleasantries and then she said, “I see that you are having worship on New Year’s Day.” I said, “You know, at St. Paul’s we love to worship.” That day, a Sunday, nearly 100 people came to St. Paul’s to sing Christmas Carols and celebrate Holy Eucharist.

There are many components to making Sundays and other special holy days inspiring, vibrant and strengthening to our spirits. A multitude of lay members help to create moving and joyful worship. Greeters and Ushers welcome and guide people. Thanks go to Ralph and Donna Thivierge for recruiting and scheduling our Greeters and Ushers whom we commissioned in their ministries on the First Sunday of Advent this year.

Music is an essential element of worship because as St. Augustine quite accurately said, “Singing is praying twice.” Randy Day, our Director of Music Ministry, Susan Brown, our 9:30am Family Worship musician, and I select songs that are thematic for worship and are inspiring to sing. The focus in 2016 was on deepening congregational singing. Singing songs together from our respective worship congregation when we gather for “First Sundays, Life Together at 9am” is a way to strengthen our community bond.

At 9:30am Family Worship, after our move to “The Upper Room in the Great Hall” in September, Susan Brown began accompanying congregational singing on a recently donated baby grand upright piano. This year we have invited members of this congregation to come a few minutes early in order to learn new songs or just hear guitar rehearsals going on. Susan Brown has recruited members of the congregation to play guitar accompaniment with her from time to time.

I work closely with Julia Walkling, who trains and schedules Layreaders and Eucharistic Ministers. After training, the Bishop then provides licenses to these lay ministers. That’s how importantly this work is regarded. Licenses are renewed on a regular basis. Julia comments on this important ministry this way, “[Layreaders and Eucharistic Ministers] are wonderfully cooperative with each other and the clergy in support of worship at St. Paul’s.” In 2016, Layreaders from Family Worship led readings from time to time at our monthly all-parish worship in an effort to integrate each other into the life of the entire worshipping community.

The Altar Guild, under the leadership of Lenita Richard, are stewards of our holy vessels, hangings and elements. They care for all the things for worship and provide for orderly and beautiful arrangement of all the things we handle in Worship. The white hangings receive much wear during high holy days, for funerals and weddings. In late 2016, a contribution was given by The Vicarage by the Sea to the Altar Guild for the purchase of new white hangings and vestments. We give thanks for this much needed financial support. The Altar Guild and I worked to update the procedure book in 2016 and have re-organized the leadership tasks.

Beautiful decorations and flowers are handled by the Flower Ministry Team under the leadership of Abigail Manny Patterson. They provide flowers for the altar and decorate the nave for holy days and sometimes weddings. The Reception Ministry Team count on them to create floral centerpieces for funeral receptions. Last fall, the Worship Ministry Team discussed the problem of the smoke and the inconvenience of needing to refill the window candles during Christmas time. We researched LED candles and purchased them for the windows in time for Christmas. I thank Lois Kwantz, Abigail Manny Patterson, Paul Womer and Claude Brancart for being advisors for this project.

Tom Nugent, our Acolyte Master, recruits and schedules acolytes for Sundays at the 10:30 am service, drawing from our youth members. Ralph Thivierge schedules acolytes for the 8:00am service. This is an important function because acolytes assist the ministers of the liturgy by leading processions,

helping to set the table and receiving the Offerings of the people. There is an increased need to recruit and train more acolytes for the 10:30 service since a good number of our youth graduated from high school last year.

Bill Edman has agreed to become our first verger at St. Paul's. At our highest holy days, Easter, Pentecost, the Bishop's Visitation and All Saints, and for large funerals, Bill will be the minister leading the procession and directing the ministers of the liturgy to their respective places in the liturgy. I give thanks for Bill who has a keen eye for detail.

It is my honor to thank Leslie Brancart for organizing the Worship Ministry Team for many years. She assists me in calling meetings, takes minutes and prepares us for the Annual Report. She and I will work together in 2017 as she helps me take on this work as the canons of our Church require the rector to be in charge of all things of worship. I lean on Leslie very much and on all the members of our Worship Ministry Team. Our worship is consistently beautiful and inspiring, not anxious or messy. Thank you all for these three years of praising God together in beauty. "O worship the LORD in the beauty of his holiness...Come, let us adore him." Psalm 96:9

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Carolyn H. Eklund, Rector

Treasurer's End of Year Report

Balance Sheet: The BSI checking account ended the year with a healthy \$34,443.64 balance. In the savings accounts you see a reduction in #1060 "Savings – other" of over \$10,000; this accounts for the return to the proper accounts, amounts borrowed in September and October to cover payroll and bills. We transferred \$4200 to the #1068 Long term maintenance account from checking at the end of the year. In addition, we paid back the #1070 J2A account one half of the \$5500 borrowed to cover the costs of a new roof on the Barnes Building. This gives us an end of year balance in the combined checking and savings accounts of \$107,738.64.

Income and Expense: Pledge offerings for December were over budget by \$851. This combined with an extremely high November pledge offering put our total pledge offering at \$303,419.98 which is only \$6,580.02 from the annual budget figure of \$310,000. Our total pledges for 2016 were \$293,000 or \$17,000 below our budgeted figure. We made considerable headway toward erasing that deficit. The only disappointing income figure was Plate Offerings which were \$9,359.05 below the yearly budget figure. The 2017 budget shows a reduction in this figure. All other income accounts are well ahead of budgeted figures.

Expenses: Most of the yearly expenses were at or below budget figures. The only large deficit was in account #7130 Repairs & Maintenance \$13,484.60 above budget. However, in that figure we had over \$11,000 in heating repairs last January, upgrades to the security system, and repairs to the skirting of the church all of which were not budgeted. We paid for these from savings and generous donations from parishioners as well as budgeted money. Bottom line total expenses for the year \$421,909.77 or \$12,156.67 below budget.

Income for year: **Net Ordinary income** for the year is a **negative (\$2,564.07)** as compared to a **budgeted negative (\$12,266.44)** This figure not only shows a make up to budgeted amount of close to \$10,000 but also includes the \$17,000 reduction in actual pledges to the budgeted pledge amount of \$310,000. Due to almost \$56,000 in unrealized gains of our Endowment Funds and a good showing for our 2016 Christmas Fair, the bottom line **Net Income is \$54,569.56** compared to a **budgeted negative (\$12,266.44)**.

Respectfully submitted

Nancy Whitehouse, Treasurer

Balance Sheet

12/31/2016

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

1005 · BSI-Checking 37,443.64

1006 · BSI-Rector's Discretionary 12,717.34

1060 · Savings Account - BSI 57,577.66

Total Checking/Savings 107,738.64

Fixed Assets

1500 · Church Property

1501 · St. Paul's Building & Land 3,035,655.24

1502 · St. Paul's Equipment 1,166,391.89

Total 1500 · Church Property 4,202,047.13

1510 · Barnes Building & Land 279,576.28

1515 · Computer Equipment 3,659.44

1516 · Sound System 21,875.20

1517 · Furniture, Fixture & Equipment 2,120.57

1550 · Accumulated Depreciation (2,173,810.00)

Total Fixed Assets 2,335,468.62

Other Assets

1800 · Genesis (Root Fund) 11,215.17

1900 · Diocesan Endowment Funds 1,144,134.75

TOTAL ASSETS 3,598,557.18

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

2000 · Accounts Payable 2,194.91

Total Accounts Payable 2,194.91

Other Current Liabilities

2050 · Prepaid Pledges 36,653.39

2200 · Passthrough Liabilities (3,435.48)

2300 · Barnes Property Security Dep 2,000.00

Total Other Current Liabilities 35,217.91

Total Current Liabilities 37,412.82

Long Term Liabilities

1260 · Prepaid Funerals 2,000.00

2410 · Building Promissory Notes 10,000.00

Total Long Term Liabilities 12,000.00

Total Liabilities 49,412.82

Equity

3000 · Net Assets 3,067,866.63

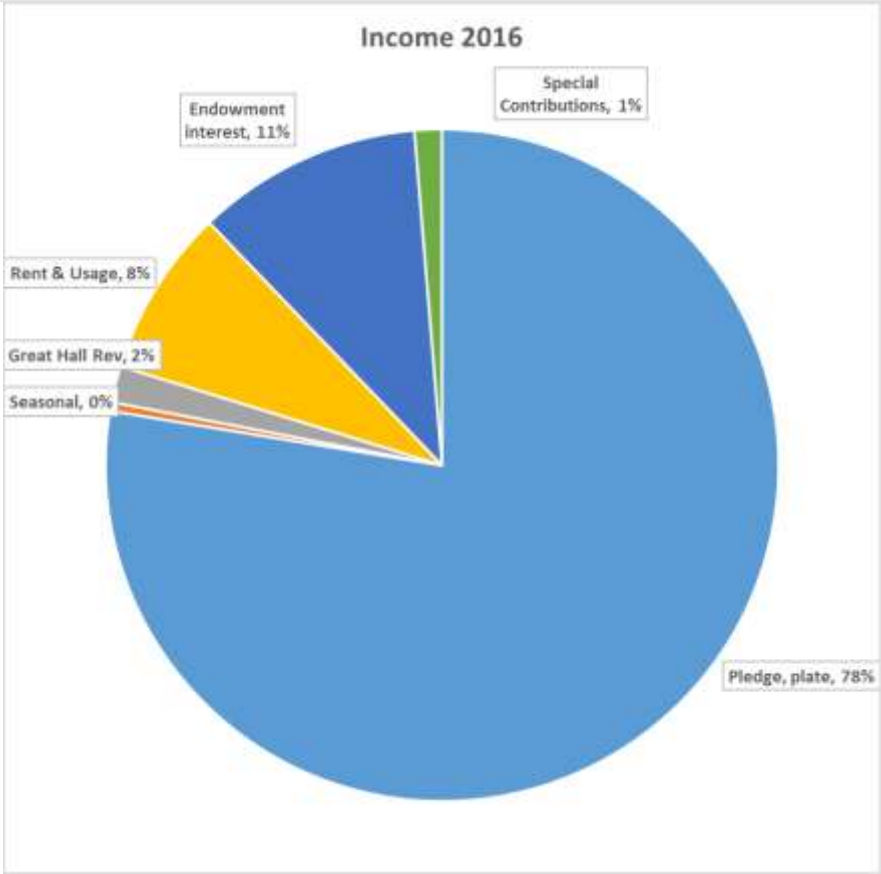
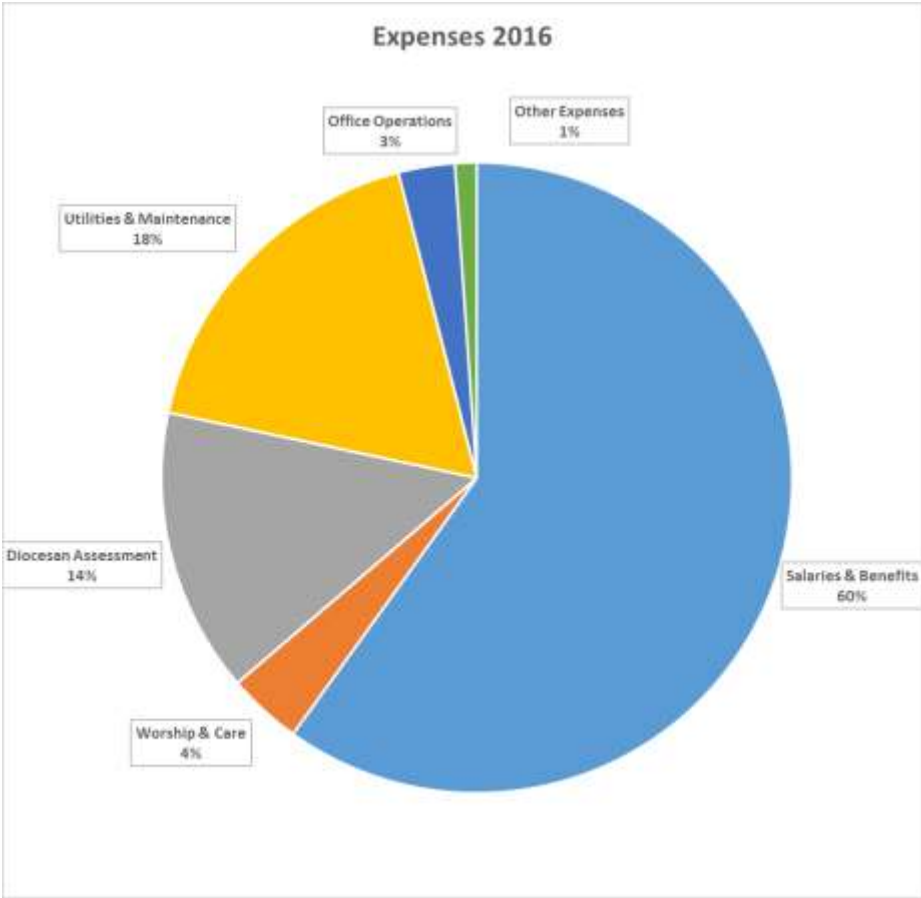
3025 · Scheduled Maintenance Reserve 4,721.59

32000 · Retained Earnings (Undistributed earnings of the corporation) 421,986.68

Net Income 54,569.46

Total Equity 3,549,144.36

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY 3,598,557.18



2016 St Paul's Income and Expense	Actual	Budget	Variance
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
4000 · Pledge Offerings	303,419.98	310,000.00	-6,580.02
4001 · Prior Year Pledge Offerings	1,203.70		1,203.70
4002 · Amazon Smile	112.67		112.67
4100 · Plate Offerings	15,693.57	30,000.00	-14,306.43
4120 · Rector's Discretionary Offering	4,947.38		4,947.38
4200 · Seasonal Offerings	1,764.00	3,500.00	-1,736.00
4201 · Christmas Fair	0.00		0.00
4300 · Great Hall & Other Revenue	7,327.00	2,000.00	5,327.00
4355 · Rent & Usage Fees	33,896.00	32,200.00	1,696.00
4370 · Endowment, Interest & Dividends	45,470.86	44,100.00	1,370.86
4411 · Special Contribution-Operations	5,510.54		5,510.54
Total Income	419,345.70	421,800.00	-2,454.30
Expense			
5100 · Salaries & Housing	203,698.48	208,849.00	-5,150.52
5200 · Travel, Pensions & FICA/Tax	36,263.14	31,122.44	5,140.70
5300 · Insurances - Med/Dent/Life/WC	10,894.93	11,958.00	-1,063.07
5351 · Rector Education	1,897.52	2,500.00	-602.48
6000 · Worship & Care	14,955.91	21,085.00	-6,129.09
6710 · Wedding/Funeral Expenses	1,150.77		1,150.77
7000 · Diocesan Assessment	61,585.08	61,085.00	500.08
7110 · Utilities	26,449.05	38,017.00	-11,567.95
7120 · Insurance	2,988.70	4,800.00	-1,811.30
7130 · Repairs & Maintenance	41,884.60	28,400.00	13,484.60
7160 · Real Estate Taxes	3,240.48	3,200.00	40.48
7200 · Office Operations	12,208.77	13,000.00	-791.23
8100 · Other Expenses	4,692.34	10,050.00	-5,357.66
Total Expense	421,909.77	434,066.44	-12,156.67
Net Ordinary Income	-2,564.07	-12,266.44	9,702.37
Other Income/Expense			
Other Income			
4377 · Unrealized Gains (Losses)	55,891.65		55,891.65
4410 · Special Contributions	24,958.00		24,958.00
4425 · J2A Special Projects	1,400.60		1,400.60
4506 · Annual Christmas Fair	13,593.05	12,000.00	1,593.05
6600 · Warm Thy Neighbor Donations	-100.00		-100.00
Total Other Income	95,743.30	12,000.00	83,743.30
Other Expense			0.00
6425 · J2A Expense	7,983.56		7,983.56
6426 · Outreach Expenses	22,255.00	12,000.00	10,255.00
8200 · Rector's discretionary fund exp	8,371.21		8,371.21
Total Other Expense	38,609.77	12,000.00	26,609.77
Net Other Income	57,133.53	0.00	57,133.53
	54,569.46	-12,266.44	66,835.90

St. Paul's Budget 2017

	2017 budget
Income	
4000 · Pledge Offerings	301,732.00
4001 · Prior Year Pledge Offerings	
4100 · Plate Offerings	20,000.00
4200 · Seasonal Offerings	2,000.00
4201 - Christmas Fair	-
4202 - Spring Event	5,000.00
4300 · Great Hall & Other Revenue	2,000.00
4355 · Rent & Usage Fees	34,560.00
4370 Endowment Interest & Dividends	40,100.00
4310 Special contributions	4,000.00
Total Income	409,392.00
Expense	
5100 · Salaries & Housing	213,257.00
5200 · Travel, Pensions & FICA/Tax	32,138.00
5300 · Insurances - Med/Dent/Life/WC	11,334.00
5351 · Rector & Staff Education	3,100.00
6000 · Worship & Care	17,446.00
7000 · Diocesan Assessment	62,570.00
7110 · Utilities	27,349.00
7120 · Insurance	4,800.00
7130 · Repairs & Maintenance	24,695.00
7160 · Real Estate Taxes	3,200.00
7200 · Office Operations	12,200.00
8100 · Other Expenses	10,100.00
Total Expense	422,189.00
Net income/loss	(12,797.00)

2016 Christmas Fair

		Expense	Income	Table Total
Bake & Candy				
	Total	\$0.00	\$1,260.75	\$1,260.75
Cheese				
	Total	(\$665.56)	\$934.00	\$268.44
Christmas Café				
	Total	(\$347.39)	\$1,157.00	\$809.61
Christmas Corner				
	Total	\$0.00	\$652.60	\$652.60
Gourmet Freezer				
	Total	(\$543.77)	\$2,679.06	\$2,135.29
Greens				
	Total	(\$1,210.22)	\$2,924.50	\$1,714.28
Knives/Country Store				
	Total	(\$214.00)	\$1,215.70	\$1,001.70
Religious				
	Total	\$0.00	\$342.25	\$342.25
Silent Auction				
	Total	\$0.00	\$3,290.01	\$3,290.01
Stitchers				
	Total	\$0.00	\$848.00	\$848.00
Treasures				
	Total	\$0.00	\$1,925.75	\$1,925.75
Misc.				
	Total	(\$999.05)	\$361.23	(\$637.82)
<hr/>				
Total Fair Proceeds		(\$3,979.99)	\$17,590.85	\$13,610.86

PARISH STATISTICS*	2015	2016
Communicants in Good Standing	437	435
Average Sunday Attendance	162	152
Total Sunday Eucharists	125	110
Total Weekday Eucharists	53	53
Total Private Eucharists	70	57
Daily Offices on Sunday or Saturday Evenings	2	0
Daily Offices Held on Weekdays	5	10
Marriages Conducted	1	3
Burials Conducted	7	10
Baptisms 16 years and older	0	1
Baptism under 16 years of age	6	3
Confirmations 16 years and older	1	0
Confirmations under 16 years of age	0	0
Received by a Bishop	1	0

* Beginning with the Annual Report for 2015 and subsequent reports the Parish Statistics will be recorded to reflect the Episcopal Parochial Report statistics. Therefore, the statistics on this page in past Annual Reports will not match the format of the 2015 & 2016 Parish Statistics.

Ministries

Buildings and Grounds	Paul Womer, Chair	373-1020
Christmas Fair	Bonny Labonte, Co-Chair John Cordts, Co-Chair	
Earthcare	Michael Anne Banks, Chair	729-6592
Education	Adult Formation Ministry Team, Pam Nugent	737-2369
Finance	Lenita Richard, Chair	688-2249
Frontline	Andree Appel, Chair	319-4993
Healing Prayer	Pam Nugent	737-2369
Holy Stitchers	Charla Spann	844-8220
Men's Group	Al Niese	443-8613
Outreach	Peter McCracken, Chair	846-0150
Prayer Group/Chain	Nancy Hawkins	442-7759
Pastoral Care	Jean Mulligan, Chair	798-6765
	Receptions: Bonny Labonte	729-5226
	Abigail Van Doren	373-1020
	Crisis Meals: Donna Thivierge	729-3511
Women's Group		
Worship	Leslie Brancart, Chair	729-7873
	Acolytes: Tom Nugent	737-2369
	Altar Guild: Lenita Richard	688-2249
	Flowers: Abigail Manny Patterson	725-9062
	Lectors/Eucharistic Ministers: Julia Walkling	725-6353
	Ushers, Greeters: Ralph Thivierge	729-3511
	Welcomers: Caroline Russell	729-1845

Staff and Vestry

The Rev. Carolyn H. Eklund, Rector..... 373-3891
The Rev. Mary Lee Wile, Deacon..... 846-5288
The Reverend Chick Carroll, Deacon..... 721-9245
Susan Tyler, Parish Administrator..... 729-7962
Randy Day, Music Ministry Director..... 717-669-7247
Melanie Chicoria, Administrative Assistant..... 725-0670
Aubrey Farmer, Sexton.....319-0164
Kimmy Edwards, Nursery Caregiver..... 725-7166

The Vestry

Pat Ryan, Senior Warden..... 725-5439
Paul Womer, Junior Warden..... 373-1020

Term ending 2017

Linda Ashe-Ford.....729-5584
Dana Baer.....319-4992
Emily Levine.....449-9484

Term ending 2018

Jo Belknap.....721-8505
Chuck Dyer.....978-835-9922
Chip Liversidge.....406-4156

Term ending 2019

Sarah Arnold.....373-1738
Kevin Miller.....249-8511
Cliff Ruprecht.....688-4169

Addendum 1

The Rev. Carolyn H. Eklund, Rector
Pat Ryan, Senior Warden
Paul Womer, Junior Warden
The Vestry of St. Paul's Episcopal Church
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Brunswick, Maine

July 5, 2016

Subject: Diocesan Supervised Committee Audit of St. Paul's 2015 Financial Reports

We have performed a Diocesan Supervised Committee audit of the financial reports of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Brunswick, Maine for the year 2015. Our Diocesan Supervised Committee Audit was made in accordance with the guidelines prescribed by the Diocesan Council of the Episcopal Diocese of Maine, and accordingly includes the Committee Audit procedures prescribed in the "Episcopal Diocese of Maine Audit Guide - Revised May 1, 2014" and any other procedures we considered necessary.

In the Diocesan Supervised Audit Committee Team's estimation, the financial condition of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Brunswick, Maine is fairly reported in the Treasurer's Report for the year ended December 31, 2015.

Sincerely,

Members of the Diocesan Supervised Audit Committee

Madeleine Msall, St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Brunswick, Maine

Richard Trub, St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Brunswick, Maine

Robert W. Knapp, CPA
Robert W. Knapp, CPA, Liaison to Canon Missioner for Finance and Stewardship,
Episcopal Diocese of Maine

Terrance A. Reimer, CPA, CGMA
TERRANCE A. REIMER, CANON MISSIONER FOR FINANCE AND
STEWARDSHIP
EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MAINE

Addendum 2

Mutual Study of Ministry July 2016

In the Spring of 2016, the Vestry of St. Paul's conducted a Mutual Study of Ministry. The Rev. Canon Michael Ambler, Canon to the Ordinary for the Diocese of Maine, facilitated. The process consisted of an initial meeting between the Rector, the Vestry, and the Facilitator, at which the Vestry identified several questions it wished to pose to representative members of the congregation. Vestry members then interviewed two or three members of the congregation each, and sent notes of their interviews to the Facilitator. The following report summarizes the results of the process. It is broken down as follows.

Part A represents Canon Ambler's impressions and overview of the interview summaries. What stood out? What picture of the congregation and its ministry emerged?

Part B consists of conclusions and recommendations for next steps, which will be the subject of a meeting between the Rector and Vestry and Canon Ambler in July, 2016.

Part A: Impressions and Overview

Goal 1: Bring in new families and young people; develop Family ministries, music, spiritual growth for parents, young adults and singles

The interviews, viewed as a group, suggested that this goal was very important to the congregation of St. Paul's (one respondent noted that it had been identified as a key ambition in the 2012 Parish Profile). The responses suggested that the steps the congregation has taken to achieve this goal are being successful and are well appreciated. One representative comment observed that St. Paul's is the best it's been in twenty years, in part because of the presence of young people.

In particular, there is a strong base of enthusiasm for the 9:30 service. One respondent who identified herself as a mother of young children appreciated the "laid back" feeling of the service.

Within the context of this general enthusiasm, there was a subset of responses that was concerned about limited interplay between the 9:30 service and other aspects of life at St. Paul's. One respondent who was identified as a high school student noted that the 9:30 service draws families, but that they tend not to stay afterwards for Sunday School—could that be, the respondent wondered, because there is no parallel offering for parents? At least one other response noted the same phenomenon, and suggested that it might be helpful if there were more picnics or other fun activities to help incorporate 9:30 service participants.

Several other responses made similar suggestions, for events like picnics, retreats, and other parish-wide gatherings apart from Sunday services. This same idea surfaced in several responses to Goal 3 (unity among different parts of the congregation).

In addition to the 9:30 service, the personal qualities of the Rector were identified by a number of responses as being particularly responsible for the growth in family and youth ministry. "Carolyn is a boost," observed one, a sentiment shared in different words by several other responses.

There were several notes of caution raised, though in each case by only one or two respondents. One worried that Sunday could start to feel too busy, and not enough like a Sabbath (my words). One older respondent said that he couldn't find his way around the First Sunday service, and no longer came; this service was addressed more in responses to Goal 3, below. Another older respondent said that older people needed written materials to be able to follow the liturgy, and to take home afterwards (I wasn't entirely clear whether that had to do with the First Sunday service or was a general observation). One wondered whether the weekly schedule of four distinct services was too much. And one was concerned

that J2A graduates didn't continue in church. And there were a handful of general suggestions. A couple of people suggested using music as a way to attract people. One wished for parents' nights out, with non-parents providing child care. One expressed appreciation for the Thursday service and the community that gathers there, and wished for more use of lay Eucharistic ministers.

Goal 2: Develop St. Paul's role in the larger community and nourish outreach

This goal was also viewed as important by respondents, though it did not attract quite as much response as Goal 1. The Gathering Place was singled out by several responses as a "fantastic" (in the words of one response) ministry, and the Rev. Carroll's work as exemplary. One of these responses noted that St. Paul's outreach was Biblically rooted, "bringing Jesus to the world." One response which praised the Gathering Place also expressed a worry that the congregation might be getting stretched too thin.

Other ministries that received accolades included Gourmet Meals, and the Window Dresser project.

One person who expressed happiness with St. Paul's outreach also expressed surprise that people at St. John's seemed unaware of St. Paul's or its beliefs. A couple of responses suggested increasing work with young people, such as by offering a homework club; another suggested finding ways of serving Bowdoin students. Yet another suggested using music as a form of outreach, such as by offering a mothers-and-babies music program.

Goal 3: Create opportunities for members of all four congregations (including Thursday's Eucharist) to relate with each other as a community of Christ

There were a large number of comments in favor of the First Sunday service, which was viewed as a helpful way of bringing the different Sunday congregations together. The high school student referred to above noted specifically that the "Festival" character of First Sundays gave them a special place. One respondent noted that there was a trade-off between convenience and unity, and the balance seemed about right.

Not all respondents shared the enthusiasm for First Sundays. A couple noted that it is more successful at unifying the 8 and 10:30 congregations, and the 9:30 group is missing. That same observation was echoed by a parent who regularly attends the 9:30 service but does not come on First Sundays because it is not so family-friendly, and is too early. Others expressed skepticism generally about First Sundays.

Several responses echoed a theme first raised in response to Goal 1: that there be more parish wide activities apart from Sunday services. Suggestions included retreats, picnics and other social activities, some of which used to be more common (such as Advent dinners and a fall retreat).

Goal 4: Minister with empathy and care to individual parishioners in need

Pastoral care can be the "third rail" of parish life—because errors or omissions can resonate so personally—and it was wonderful to see how pleased the respondents were to the quality of pastoral care at St. Paul's. The Rector in particular, as well as the deacons and the Vestry, were identified as very attentive (one person noted a fear that Rector could be subject to burn-out, and wondered if St. Paul's needed a curate). Several respondents reflected on personal experience of being well cared for. There were several suggestions for how pastoral care could be extended further. They included a transportation ministry, to help older parishioners get to services and parish events; an end-of-life study, perhaps using Gawande's *Being Mortal* as a text; a group for those struggling with depression; and a wish by a couple of respondents for a singles' group.

Finally there were a couple of respondents who did not view proactive pastoral care as particularly important—they said, in slightly different ways, that they knew help was available if it was needed.

Other Comments, Suggestions and Observations

There were a number of comments that did not seem to fit specifically within any of the four Goals, but

nonetheless are important to take note of.

Some had to do with education. One wished for a class on Islam, and particularly for help understanding the Sunni/Shia divide, as a way of helping to reduce fear by offering knowledge. Another was unsure of how education programs were chosen. The high schooler mentioned above thought programs should be smaller and fewer, such as discussion groups where ad hoc participation (rather than a commitment at the outset) would be ok.

Others had to do with the character of the congregation. One suggested coaching leaders of ministries on how to be inclusive and avoid clubbiness; another urged congregational selfawareness of how welcoming the congregation was to newcomers.

Other specific suggestions included easier music, a St. Francis Day Blessing of the Animals outside of the church and advertised through the Humane Society, and a chapel space.

Part B: Conclusions and Recommendations

The purpose of the Mutual Study of Ministry is to allow parish leaders to conduct a “structured check-in:” to ask representative members of the congregation to reflect on key aspects of congregational life. This is not a statistical survey; while there are times that I note a larger or smaller number of responses, this is more a listening exercise than a counting one. In particular, the fact that each Vestry member inevitably posed questions in different ways, that each parishioner answered in their own terms, that the Vestry interviewers recorded answers in different styles, all means that what we have here is a series of anecdotes, not a scientific poll.

There is a great deal to hear from this listening exercise. Members of the parish seemed to give serious thought to the questions being posed, and have some important reflections to offer.

Before we get to those reflections, though, there are some things that are important from their absence. No matter what the questions, people usually find a way to say what’s on their minds, and particularly to raise unhappiness or dissatisfaction. That didn’t happen here: there were no sad or sour notes anywhere in these responses. There were plenty of suggestions, but the overall tenor of the responses was happy, engaged, and enthusiastic. Even those which expressed reservations about one thing of another—such as the First Sunday service—tended to do so from a position of supporting the underlying purposes being advanced.

It’s also important to note that clergy, and especially rectors, can serve as focal points for congregational energy and mood. The Diocese of Maine is blessed with good priests; but even so, it’s rare to read the responses to an MSM and not see a single word of criticism or anger directed toward the Rector. This was that rare MSM, and the very aware of what an extraordinary thing that is—and what it says both about the Rector, and about the tenor of life in the congregation overall.

As the leadership thinks about goals, several things stand out from the responses.

First, there is enormous support for the work the congregation has done and continues to do to attract and serve families and children. There are some specific “side effects” of that work that are not universally popular, such as the First Sunday services, but even these are generally viewed with good humor.

Second, there are a number of questions about whether First Sundays as they are now celebrated are quite achieving their purpose. It seems that those who usually come to the 9:30 service are generally absent from the First Sunday services, and that First Sunday attendance is generally lower than on other Sundays (that impression would be easy to verify or disprove). If that is the case, then it’s possible that First Sundays have not yet achieved their unifying purpose... and in that case, it might be appropriate to ask whether there might be other ways, including adjustments to First Sundays, to come closer.

Third, there is a significant cluster of responses that wish for more parish-wide activities outside of Sunday morning services—most especially parish picnics in the summer and dinners in general, and also parish retreats. The desire here seems more for fellowship and company than for programming. Might there be a space at St. Paul’s for a Ministry of Fun?

Fourth, the outreach and social ministries at St. Paul’s are generally viewed as both important and appropriate. There is great support for what is being done; there is practically no mandate for doing more or differently. The Vestry might want to spend a little time with that, and ask itself—does this satisfaction mean that we’re doing enough, or that we’re asking of ourselves too little? This survey does not offer any help answering that question, but the question itself seems apt.