

# The Episcopal Church of St. Paul

DeKalb Illinois

## 2013 Annual Parish Meeting

January 26, 2014 9:00 a.m.

### AGENDA

- A. Call meeting to order and opening prayer
- B. Approval of agenda and appointment of clerk for the Annual Meeting
- C. Approval of the minutes of the 2012 Annual Parish Meeting on January 27, 2013
- D. Reception and File for Audit of the 2013 Treasurer's Report (separate document)
- E. Reception and Approval of the 2014 Budget (separate document)
- F. Report of the Senior Warden with Nominating Committee Report
- G. Election of new member of the Vestry – Mary Lincoln
- H. Election of the Junior Warden- Peg Newby (written report)
- I. Nominations and election for the delegates to the Diocesan Convention November 21-22, 2014– 3 delegates and 3 alternates—Luke Krueger, Peg Newby, Henry Leonard, (1<sup>st</sup> Eva Leonard, 2<sup>nd</sup> Marilyn Cleland, 3<sup>rd</sup> Bill Cummings)
- J. Election of Board Members of the Endowment Fund Committee—Dick Downen (term ending Jan. 2016), Pat Brown, George Nenonen (term ending Jan. 2017)
- K. Junior Warden's Report
- L. Reception of the Reports from the Subcommittees of the Vestry and Ministries of St. Paul's
- M. Capital Needs Planning Committee report
- N. Thrive Team report
- O. Thank you and presentations (Retiring from Endowment Committee: Ellen Anderson Retiring from Vestry: Freyja Rasmussen-Johns. 2013 Convention Delegates: Luke Krueger, Henry Leonard, Eva Leonard Alternates: Marilyn Cleland and Bill Cummings. Thank you to David Anderson for serving as our Senior Warden).
- P. Adjournment and closing prayer

### Attached Committee and Program Reports

- Rector's Report
- Senior Warden's Report
- Junior Warden's Report
- Treasurer's Report (separate document)
- Sunday School
- Art and Music Ministry
- Altar Guild
- Episcopal Church Women
- Lobster Boil 2013
- Flower Guild
- Greeting Cards
- Mission and Outreach
- Services at Oak Crest Retirement Center
- Stewardship
- Social /Fellowship
- Thrive Report

## 2012 Annual Meeting Minutes

2012 Annual Meeting of  
The Parish of St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
January 27, 2013

There were 40 parish members in attendance.

- A. The meeting was called to order at 9:13 a.m. with an opening prayer by Rev. Stacy.
- B. Jennie Cummings moved, seconded by David Anderson, to approve the agenda. Rev. Stacy then motioned to nominate Freyja Rasmussen-Johns as clerk for the Annual Meeting. Motion was seconded by Luke Krueger. Both motions passed.
- C. Janie Torma made a motion, seconded by Jackie Dickow, to approve the minutes of the 2011 Annual Parish Meeting which took place on January 29, 2012. Motion passed.
- D. A motion was made by Roy Mason to receive and file for audit the 2012 Treasurer's Report. The motion was seconded by George Nenonen. Motion carried.
- E. George Nenonen moved and Luke Krueger seconded to receive and approve the 2013 budget. Motion carried.
- F. Senior Warden report – Michael Duffy reported that the energy audit is nearly complete, and he then briefly explained the process. He also announced that we will be voting on the bylaws revisions.
- G. A motion was made by Vince McMahon and seconded by Luke Krueger to elect the new members of the Vestry – Pat Brown, Marilyn Cleland, Jocelyn Prall. Motion carried.
- H. Rochelle Cripe moved to elect Luke Krueger as the new Junior Warden. The motion was seconded by Roy Mason. Motion passed with one abstention.
- I. A motion was made to nominate and elect the delegates to the Diocesan Convention on November 22-23, 2013. Delegates: David Anderson, Luke Krueger, Henry Leonard; Alternates: Eva Leonard and Ellen Anderson. Motion was seconded by Jackie Dickow. Motion carried.
- J. Sharon Downen made a motion, seconded by Roy Mason, to elect the board members of the Endowment Fund Committee: Doug Roberts and Ellen Anderson. Motion carried.
- K. Junior Warden's report – David Anderson thanked Mike Duffy for his work as Senior Warden and for his work on the energy audit and the bylaws revisions. David went on to discuss some of the major projects that had been undertaken during the past year.
- L. A motion was made by Bill Cummings, seconded by Janie Torma, to receive the reports from the subcommittees of the Vestry and Ministries of St. Paul's. Motion carried.

M. Parish By-laws proposed revision. Mike Duffy led the discussion. On page 37, article 2B, it was decided to change "American Midwest Bank" to "the bank". Roy Mason moved and Gretchen Schlabach seconded to adopt the changes. Motion carried.

N. Thank yous and presentations.

Thanks were given to:

- Freyja and Ellen for coordinating the breakfasts for the two meetings
- Lorraine Langer for the photo slideshow she had set up to play during the meeting
- Pat McMahan, who is retiring from the Endowment Committee
- Mike Duffy and Gretchen Schlabach, retiring from Vestry
- the 2012 Diocesan Convention Delegates: Mike Duffy, David Anderson, Henry Leonard; and the Alternates: Ellen Anderson and Eva Leonard

Rev. Stacy then presented Mike Duffy a gift of a cross constructed by Rhys Prall for his term as Senior Warden.

Pat Brown thanked Pat McMahan for her work on the Altar Guild

Further thanks were given to:

- Pat Brown for her work as treasurer
- Lorraine for her work with the choir
- Rev. Stacy for all that she does
- The Building and Grounds Committee – Rick Johns, Rhys Prall and Bill Cummings
- David Anderson for all his work
- The Sunday School teachers and
- The ECW for Godly Play materials

Ellen Anderson made an announcement about Lobster Boil, and thanked all who participate and especially to Rick Johns for picking up much of the load.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m. with a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Freyja Rasmussen-Johns

## 2013 Annual Meeting Report from the Rector

Dear Friends in Christ,

I completed our parish parochial report for 2013 on the morning before writing this letter to you. For the past three years I have provided a number of details from that report in my annual report to the parish. While they are sort of interesting, they're not really THAT interesting! Suffice it to say that membership and attendance was holding steady in 2013. We said good-bye to some of our friends, but God brought us new friends to join us in worship, mission, and fellowship. If you would like to see the parochial report, please do contact me. I would be happy to provide you with a copy and interpret it for you as well. What I think is far more interesting to report on is all the ways St. Paul's *thrived* in 2013, and the missions and ministries that the Holy Spirit is enflaming our hearts and passions to pursue in 2014.

We began 2013 with the formation of a new ministry team. The Thrive team consisted of myself, Rochelle Cripe, Christina Krueger, Ellen Anderson, Jamie Stubblefield, and Terry Dickow. Rochelle, Chris, and I attended monthly meetings with other churches from around the Diocese of Chicago in this pilot program. The goal of this learning and discerning program: helping congregations to Thrive by helping them figure out who they are and helping them connect with their neighbors to be the churches God is calling us to be. (That's my interpretation anyway, you can find out the official word on Thrive at the diocesan website <http://www.episcopalchicago.org/our-tools/thrive/>). You can read the Thrive report, written by Christina Krueger, for more information about what this team led and accomplished at St. Paul's in 2013. Friends, St. Paul's was so ready for Thrive. I know this because right out of the gate our group came up with an idea to connect with and support our student neighbors during the most stressful time of year—Spring Finals week. **Prayers2Pass** was dreamed up with more than a little nudging of the Holy Spirit after our third year of offering **Ashes on the Go** on Ash Wednesday 2013. We noticed that while not everyone accepted our offer of the imposition of ashes, many people did respond favorably to the offer for prayers right then and there. I know, it's totally not typical of Episcopalians to offer to pray with perfect strangers while standing outside—that's way out of the box for us! But just as **Ashes to Go** had basically worked, so did **Prayers2pass**. Our interactions with students offering cold beverages, snacks, and prayers went so well on that Tuesday in April before finals week, that we decided to host a second prayers2pass, this time "The Welcome Week Edition" and offered prayers, drinks, and snacks for two days during the first week of the fall semester. **Grace Place Campus Ministry at NIU** was our partner this year in both Ashes to Go and Prayers2pass. We look forward to working with them again at both of our locations to let our student neighbors in particular know that God loves them, and so do we.

We are becoming known as the church that goes outdoors and does stuff! I run into friends and acquaintances around town who remark on how we are so often in the media. The visibility of St. Paul's was raised also in 2013 by events such as our parish picnic the last Sunday of August in the front yard with a bouncy house, our Fifth Annual and largest Pet Blessing to date the first Sunday of October (with special guest, Bishop Jeff Lee), hosting a prayers4pups booth at the TAILS Humane Society Mutt Strut in Hopkins Park (second Saturday in September), and an increased number of neighbors enjoying our park-like setting with its

Annual Meeting, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, DeKalb, Illinois.

January 27, 2013

playground and **St. Paul's Neighborhood Garden**. There is so much that happens at and through St. Paul's that isn't on Sundays, or isn't a traditional sort of Sunday morning experience. This place means a lot to a lot more people than we can possibly know. So it is important for us to take care of our building and the grounds for those who are meeting God here and finding healing and peace seven days a week.

It's also important for us to get the word out that we are a church who truly welcomes everyone—no exceptions! Because Sunday mornings at St. Paul's are pretty incredible! I give thanks to God for all the people who serve as ministers in a variety of liturgical (worship), teaching, and hospitality roles. This is a fun and Spirit-filled place to be! We added a new ministry to our Sunday mornings this fall that came from the observation of our children's Sunday School teachers, the **Feed My Lambs Children's Breakfast Ministry**. Many of the children in our neighborhood do not have enough to eat on the weekends. At times they have shown up at St. Paul's on their own looking for food. That was the idea behind starting **Feed My Lambs** in September of this past year. So far we have not welcomed any new guests to breakfast, but our current Sunday School students and nursery children have grown to really enjoy eating breakfast with one another from 9A.M. to 9:30A.M. every Sunday in the St. Timothy Center (lower level). It's a chance for them to socialize and get their wiggles out before Sunday School begins. It's basically coffee hour for kids. *You will notice in the February 2014 newsletter an invitation to be involved in this important ministry by signing up to serve breakfast. It's really a simple thing that means a lot to our kids, their parents, and we pray in 2014 new children and their families in our neighborhood.*

This past year also saw us continue to be in conversation with our friends at the **Islamic Society at NIU**. In case you haven't noticed, they have begun construction on their new mosque across the street in the 800 block of Normal Road. We can look forward to celebrating the opening of their mosque and community center with them in 2014. When Eboo Patel, founder of Interfaith Youth Core <http://www.ifyc.org/>, visited NIU's campus in October, I was there and our friendship with ISNIU was renewed, as well as the friendship with Grace Place and the Muslim Student Association. (Not to mention a deeper and more meaningful connection with NIU was born than we have seen in years!) A small conversation has begun with our Muslim neighbors to participate in at least two interfaith service projects together in 2014: a **Feed 'em Soup dinner on February 26<sup>th</sup>** and a **Fast-a-Thon** to be held at NIU sometime in the spring semester 2014.

Another area of ministry that St. Paul's responded to this year was in ministry to senior citizens off campus. Under the leadership of our priest associate, The Rev. Dr. Joyce Beaulieu, St. Paul's began hosting a monthly Holy Communion service open to the wider community at the chapel at **Oak Crest**. I hope you will join me in giving thanks to God for the work Rev. Joyce and our lay leadership has done to begin this important ministry to meet the spiritual needs of our elders.

If you noticed that a lot of what I have talked about so far has food and hunger as a common theme, then you are right! St. Paul's has long been a supporter of the Salvation Army Food Pantry and Crop Walk, and will continue to do so for years to come. But it seems that the Holy Spirit is calling us to expand on our vision for feeding our hungry neighbors in 2014. Our **Thrive** team (as you will hear during their remarks at the annual meeting) has begun to discern our project for 2014, and it seems like it is revolving around food and our garden in particular. We will be talking with **DeKalb County Community Gardens** in early 2014 about ways we can partner with them to provide food in our neighborhood which according to USDA standards is a "food

Annual Meeting, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, DeKalb, Illinois.

January 27, 2013

desert". One idea that is being discussed is hosting a reasonably priced farmers market which would provide organic produce for those who need it, while respecting their dignity by giving them a chance to purchase it. The funds would then be reinvested back into our DeKalb community. It's just a dream, an idea floating around right now. But that's how Jesus gets things done. At the beginning of his ministry he walked along the shores of Galilee, and what did he see? Fisher folk. And that got him to thinking, "Hmm. I bet these people might know a thing or two about fishing for people. I bet they would be good at catching their attention to hear the good news of the coming of the kingdom of God." Jesus is still ever present with us, looking at the gifts and talents we have each been given, and saying, "I can use that!"

The kingdom of God is a marvelous things, friends. And I do believe (and I hope you believe as well) that we have been given charge of caring for a corner of the kingdom right here. Tell the good news of the kingdom being revealed at St. Paul's. People are friendly here! God is in the house! We have made a commitment to **welcome everyone, no exceptions! We are called to gather around the sacred story and table of Christ where all are invited to be fed and everyone's story matters** (St. Paul's Mission statement). My fervent prayer is that we continue to live that mission, and I pray that we will continue to **open our hearts to seek the inspiration of the Holy Spirit to be the church and the Christians that God is calling us to be** (St. Paul's Vision statement).

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Stacy+

## Senior Warden's Report

This is partly a junior warden report along with the senior warden's report. As many of you know, I assumed the position of senior warden with the departure of Dave Anderson, as per the guidelines of our bylaws. Peg Newby assumed the duties of junior warden.

The current arrangement does have me maintaining buildings and grounds responsibility. In this role, we had some trees removed from our grounds this spring: The willows by the rectory and one ash tree by the rectory.

We did have a mini-crisis with our sump pump, as it was spurting water from due to a leaky fastener. We called a plumber quickly and had it fixed that same day. The plumber assured me that the sump pump was in good working order and it was simply a worn part that needed replacement. No damage was done to the room in which the sump pump is housed.

Also in the spring, I was contacted by a National International Roofing. Their goal was to provide annual service to our roof. While the building and grounds committee did not recommend contracting with them, they did inspect our roof, and found it to be in good condition.

As fall became colder, Breezy's did their annual inspection of our furnace. The major concern was that our heat exchangers were cracked, which can cause a carbon monoxide danger if not replaced. The tricky thing with this is that sometimes, a company may recommend this when no damage to the heat exchanger is evident. Breezy's provided photos and the cracks were evident though to what degree it wasn't clear. In calling a few local heating and air conditioning companies they all agreed that if the if the exchangers were cracked they needed to be replaced. I was present when Breezy's replaced the heat exchangers, and there was significant cracking. We also had the flue pipes replaced as they were taking on moisture and starting to corrode. Breezy's said our heaters looked good otherwise.

I was able to attend a retreat for THRIVE. Additionally, I attended my first diocesan convention as a lay delegate. All measures past, and there was little of a controversial nature. I would like to point out that a new parish treasurer training program will be inaugurated this year. Even if someone is not necessarily planning on being a treasurer, it could be quite valuable to future vestry members.

I continue to learn what it means to be the senior warden, but I look forward to a full year, and the chance to advance our capital needs in the coming year. In addition, I continue to make repairs, light bulb replacement as needed. Getting over to church at least one outside of Sunday to do a walk around and replace as needs dictate.

Respectfully submitted,

Luke Krueger – Senior Warden

## Junior Warden's Report

Because I became Jr. Warden very recently, I do not really have a report on the last year. So I'll take this opportunity to talk about 2014.

Those of you who have read my contributions to the Mars Hill Proclaimer the past few months have probably picked up on a theme. I am encouraging all of us to do *something*. Bishop Jeffrey Lee inspired this theme in his visit with us this fall. Please indulge me as I expand on it.

Think of yourself as one of the fingers on the arm of the church. All the fingers need to be participating so things go smoothly. This isn't to say that only 8 or 10 people need to be participating! The wider church has many arms, and needs many active fingers. I know this example is simplistic and a bit whimsical, but I hope it serves to make a point. EVERY finger is important. YOU are important. Whatever point you are at in your ability to serve the church, there is a place for you.

There will be many opportunities to serve this year. In addition to the standing guilds, committees, and serving in many ways on Sundays, there are always one-time special needs. Reading the Sunday bulletin or looking at our website will point you towards those needs. Remembering that our arm of the church is connected to the wider church, we will be having a one-time special event later this year to support A Place of Grace and Gladness at St. James Commons. Perhaps you'd like to help me with that. Our wonderful fellowship gatherings are another way to help out in a short-term way.

I also encourage you to attend our Sunday and special services. I very rarely pass along stories I receive via email or social media, however, I recently saw one that pretty accurately describes what being a part of the body of Christ on Sundays can do for you. You've probably heard it in one version or another, as it's not new. The story recalls a preacher who goes to the home of a parishioner who hasn't been to church services for a while. Without speaking a word, the preacher removes an ember from the parishioner's fireplace, and moves it to one side of the hearth. Soon, the ember's flame goes out. The preacher then places the cold ember back in the fire, where it begins to glow and burst into flame. The message is obvious. Can you relate to this story? Can you think of a time when you DIDN'T feel better after attending services? And I'm certain that others were better for you having been there.

I had not pictured being the Jr. Warden when 2013 began. I had not pictured it for 2014! But there was a need, and I am able, so I agreed when approached. I will do the best I can to support Rev. Stacy and Luke Krueger as we work our way through another year. I encourage you to do *something* that will increase your faith and add to the strength of our faith-filled family.

Peg Newby

## **Sunday School Report**

### **Children and Youth:**

St. Paul's Sunday School Program for children and youth served 11 students from 7 families. Rev. Stacy led the class for jr. high/high school students. The class for the younger ages had four adult volunteers serving as teachers and greeters, and several adults served as "subs" as needed. The younger class used the Godly Play curriculum - a hands-on storytelling program that the students and teachers use to explore the sacred stories of our faith and the work that God is calling each of us to do.

This fall, we added a new ministry to our program: "Feed My Lambs". Breakfast is served at 9:00 a.m. for children and adults downstairs in the St. Timothy Center. This ministry was created in response to the increasing number of families in need in our community. The children have enjoyed this opportunity to socialize and share a light breakfast. If this "inaugural" year is deemed a success, we hope to spread the word to those outside the congregation.

Another "new thing" for this year was the Nativity Play performed at the children's Christmas Eve service. Each child had a role in the play. The costumes and the players were adorable, and it was wonderful to see the mystery of Christmas brought to life by our youngest members!

Thank you to our dedicated volunteers for helping to make this year a success!

Maureen Gerrity

### **Adult Education, Summer and Fall, 2013**

Since Summer of 2013, Christian Education for adults has devoted itself to Bible study. We decided this after spending the previous year studying secondary sources on the faith or related to faith, Marcus Borg's X and God is Not One by Y, both of which challenge some traditional understandings of the church as well as the common notion that all religions seek the same goal but through different paths. These sessions provoked much discussion.

It was this experience, at least in part, that led our group to vote for actual bible study. Most of us, with the exception of Eva Leonard, realized that we had not engaged in an extended study of the Bible. Most of our knowledge came from the calendar of readings we hear every week (for which we give thanks). After some discussion, we decided upon the Book of Acts because we wanted to know what the experiences of the early church were, at least those considered significant enough to be placed in the canon.

Our study has surprised many of us. Acts contains 28 chapters, and our study took from last summer through the end of December. Our process consisted of reading the chapters aloud, with different versions of the Bible from the New International Bible to the Traditional King James. The variety of voices as well as interpretations both informed and challenged us. The book gave us a sense of the divisions that developed early between Jews who acknowledged Jesus as salvation and those Jews who came to see Jesus as speaking as well to the gentile world. Accompanying those divisions was the incipient and tragic anti-semitism that came to full expression in later Christian history. All our readings were accompanied by candid discussion, which is why our

Having found the process both engaging and challenging, we have decided to move on to the book of Romans. For this suggestion, we are indebted to Brian Wagner, who, along with Trisha Wagner, has added spirit and insight to our discussions.

The participants in Christian Education have found our study and our process rewarding. At the same time, we seek additional processes and activities to enliven our fellowship. It's not necessary to come every week; come when you can. Those in leadership will communicate routinely with the parish as well as seek to develop individual meetings that require no previous participation. We seek active input from all.

Marilyn Cleland  
Gretchen Schlabach  
Brad Cripe

## **Music Ministries**

The Adult/Youth and Children's Choirs have received many positive responses from the congregation in regards to their presence, sound, literature and spiritual inspiration.

We continue to enhance the worship services with the beautiful and traditional Episcopal favorites such as the music taken from the 1982 Hymnal. In keeping with the Revised Common Lectionary, and broadening our experience and diversity, we have and continue to add music taken from supplemental Episcopal hymnals, and other musical and liturgical resources. In addition to having the gift of added instrumental colors, such as the trumpet and steel pan, we are very appreciative of the added artistry of the dissonant Sanctus bells lead by the children.

We are very fortunate to have such dedicated and talented volunteer choirs that continue to grow musically & spiritually. A special thanks for a wonderful job in song and spirit goes to all the volunteer musicians; Michael Duffy (Trumpet) and Yuki Nakano (Steel Pan), the adult/youth (Maureen Gerrity, Mechelle Goodenough, Freyja Rasmussen-Johns, Julie Kostrey, Chris Krueger, Linda Lorbach, Amanda Mitchell, Jocelyn Prall, Madison Williams, Morgan Williams, Rick Johns, Roy Mason, Tyler Mitchell and Jan Bach) and children's (Michael Biundo, Francesca Biundo, Andrew Cripe, Ashleigh Cripe, Jimi Crosby, Charlie Duffy, Nora Duffy, Oscar Frontjes, Rowan Frontjes, Emily Russell, Ava Stubblefield and Luke Stubblefield) choirs, for their continued gifts of talent, time and spirit!

We are also fortunate to have on staff, two dedicated musicians, Kathleen Johnson as our organist and YoonJin Kim (NIU graduate student) as our pianist.

I defer to the 2013 Proclaimer (St. Paul's Newsletter archived on the church website) for more detailed information shared throughout the year about music ministries at St. Paul's, and our parishioners artistic contributions in the DeKalb community at large

*Lorraine Langer, Director of Music & Choirs*

## **Altar Guild Report**

### **New Vestments**

This past year has been an exciting year for the Altar Guild (and the entire Parish). After a few years of exploring and discussing possibilities for some new vestments, we were able to meet with a gentleman who visited St. Paul's to view our sanctuary and explore our needs and worship tastes. A few months later we received vestment designs along with a design for a small, light-weight processional cross. We were so pleased when the vestments, along with altar stoles and prayer stoles arrived in time for use on Christmas Eve. The new white Chasuble (priest's vestment) and the altar stoles are elegant and reflect the décor of the church with their incorporation of the hanging "Red Cross" in the design. The green vestment set is just as beautiful. New torches and the new processional cross were also used on Christmas Eve. The vestry had approved the purchase of these items and we have been blessed with generous donations from several parishioners. Thank you very much!! Donations are still being accepted.

### **About the Altar Guild**

The Altar Guild members help prepare our worship space for Sunday, weekday, and special services. Their ministry is carried out under the direction and guidance of the rector. In addition to preparing the altar, the group cares for the sacred vessels, linens, vestments, and candles. Hymn posting is another responsibility.

The Altar Guild works in close coordination with the ***Flower Guild***, especially during the Christmas and Easter seasons. Both groups make our sanctuary festive and beautiful on these occasions. The Altar Guild is a mainly "behind-the-scene" ministry. It provides a quiet, reflective time and another opportunity to provide service to our Lord.

If you would like to learn more about the Altar Guild, please talk to Jocelyn Prall. There are many opportunities to serve besides setting up the sanctuary for Sunday and other services. There are intermittent trips to the cleaners, occasional brass polishing for special services, ordering of supplies, and care of linens to name a few. You don't have to help with "all" to be a part of the altar guild. If you are looking "to do" something at St. Paul's on an occasional basis, think about joining us.

Thank you to parishioners who serve in this capacity both routinely as well as occasionally for their continued dedication to this ministry----Peggy Newby, Jane Nenonen, Jocelyn Prall, Pat Brown, Lana Prouty, Sharon Downen, Hazel Rutherford and others who assist with the weekday service. A big thank you also goes to those husbands who help with some of the heavier and "up high" tasks.

Jocelyn Prall

## **Episcopal Church Women**

The ECW facilitates activities that foster fellowship in the parish and enhance St. Paul's outreach efforts. ECW members met at area restaurants or the parish hall for lunch frequently in 2013 an average of 8 - 12 participants. The ECW met October 7 at Chesapeake Bagel 122 S. First St DeKalb <https://www.facebook.com/ChesapeakeBagelBakery/info>. There were 9 in attendance for lunch and fellowship, including Maureen, Henry, Eva, Jennie, & Francesca, Amy, Puzz, Pat B., Julie K. These are wonderful gatherings and all in the parish are invited to participate: women, men, children, and visitors. Consider adopting a month! There is a signup sheet in the parish hall. Guest hosts will choose a restaurant & time; put out a signup sheet; and make reservations. ECW's only officer, at this time, is our treasurer, Rosemarie Ostberg. We try to meet monthly. Projects are always a possibility at the host's discretion. Please see our church website for more information: <http://www.stpaulsdekalb.org/outreachall/episcopalchurchwomen.html>

Many of our members continue to participate in the DeKalb County Hospice BUNS (Baking Up Nice Surprises). Sharon Downen coordinates this effort, soliciting bakers and delivering the treats to Hospice three times a year.

Thank you to the Rosemarie Ostberg who served as ECW Treasurer during 2013.

Report Submitted by Jennifer Cummings.

**St. Paul's Episcopal Church Women's 2013 Budget - Annual Report**

	2012 Budget	2012 Actual	Percentage of budget	2013 Budget
<b>Local/Diocesan Expenses</b>				
Fair Share/Diocesan ECW	348.00	348.00	5.00%	533.00
<b>Local Charities</b>				
American Red Cross of DeKalb County	348.00	348.00	5.00%	533.00
Coordinated Child Care - 4 C's	348.00	348.00	5.00%	533.00
Family Service Agency	348.00	348.00	5.00%	533.00
DeKalb Co.Rehab/Nursing Cntr Auxiliary	348.00	348.00	5.00%	533.00
DeKalb County Hospice	348.00	348.00	5.00%	533.00
Habitat for Humanity	348.00	348.00	5.00%	533.00
Hope Haven	348.00	348.00	5.00%	533.00
Love in the Name of Christ	348.00	348.00	5.00%	533.00
Safe Passage	348.00	348.00	5.00%	533.00
Voluntary Action Center	348.00	348.00	5.00%	533.00
<b>Total charitable contributions</b>	<b>3,480.00</b>	<b>3,480.00</b>	<b>50.00%</b>	<b>5330.00</b>
<b>ECW Activities</b>				
ECW Convention	200.00	75.00	4.00%	427.00
Special Events & Contributions	278.48	179.00	4.00%	427.00
Nets for Life ( \$120.)				
Special coffee hour (\$59)				
<b>Total Events/Contributions</b>		<b>179.00</b>		427.00
<b>Parish Activities</b>				
Sunshine Committee	139.00	48.00	2.00%	213.00
<b>Parish Support</b>				
General Parish Support	1,392.00	1,392.00	20.00%	2,135.00
Discretionary Fund	1,044.00	1,044.00	15.00%	1,601.00
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>6,960.00</b>	<b>\$6,566.00</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>10,663.00</b>
<b>Proceeds from 2012 Lobster Boil</b>				<b>10,676.74</b>
<b>Checking Account</b>				
Beginning balance	<b>9,914.00</b>			
End balance	17,217.00			

## Lobster Boil Report

The Lobster Boil was held on Saturday, May 18, 2013. The many, many volunteers helped St Paul's sell 1,275 lobsters. It was a delight to see all the runners, traffic workers, baggers and stapler/folders in the tent, ticket takers and baggers in the garage, kitchen crew, cooks, and live lobster sellers. Special thanks to those who stepped in and took on additional responsibilities when they saw a need.

If I leave someone out in the following list, it is inadvertent. These Committee chairs deserve our thanks for doing a wonderful job: Head Chef - Rhys Prall ; Traffic-Roy Mason & Bob Brown; Garage-Peggy Newby; Equipment – Rick Johns, Tent – Jocelyn Prall; Runners– Assorted; Kitchen-Pat McMahon; Live Lobsters-David Anderson; Dinner Decorator and Publicity – Rosemarie Ostberg; Printing - List – Rick Johns; Ticket printing/sending - Bill and Jennie Cummings, Pat Brown, Christine Krueger; Ordering and worrying – Ellen Anderson; Co-Chairs. – Ellen Anderson, Pat Brown, Dinner--J Cummings. Ordering & Coord. stuff – Rick Johns

Many enjoyed the parish lobster party at the end of the day. The results are listed below compared with prior years. We sold 341 live and 934 cooked = 1,275

	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
<u>No. sold</u>	<u>1275</u>	<u>1520</u>	<u>1550</u>	<u>1650</u>	<u>1600</u>	<u>1550</u>	<u>1700</u>	<u>2100</u>
<u>Receipts</u>	<u>\$24,069</u>	<u>\$28,704</u>	<u>\$24,730</u>	<u>\$26,322</u>	<u>\$25,329</u>	<u>\$26,951</u>	<u>\$25,364</u>	<u>\$25,647</u>
<u>Disbur.</u>	<u>(15,721)</u>	<u>(18,027)</u>	<u>(17,738)</u>	<u>(16,451)</u>	<u>(15,879)</u>	<u>(19,789)</u>	<u>(23,384)</u>	<u>(21,426)</u>
<u>Profit</u>	<u>\$8,348</u>	<u>\$10,677</u>	<u>\$ 6,992</u>	<u>\$ 9,871</u>	<u>\$ 9,450</u>	<u>\$ 7,162</u>	<u>\$ 1,980</u>	<u>\$ 4,221</u>

Ellen Anderson negotiated a price with Hooks that was slightly less than last year, however we did not sell as many lobsters. The credit card payment option - 56% of sales - was still popular with customers. The printer mailed out the leaflets again which saved time and funds. Many people assisted in publicity and promotion. The cost of Lobsters was \$10,928; trucking \$1,571 and other expenses (gas, bibs, bags, trash, advertising, postage, printing, drinks, misc. supplies, and dinner) totaled \$3,221. Our profit was \$8,348, slightly higher than 2011 but less than 2012. We kept the price the same as 2012. See additional document with summary of 2013-2009.

Funds from our profits for the 2012 Boil were given out in April 2013 at a special event organized by Ellen Anderson and the ECW. See the ECW report for more details and the names of the recipient agencies.

The 2014 Lobster Boil is scheduled for Saturday, May 17, 2014. Start making plans now. All suggestions and help are welcome. Easter is April 20, 2014. We will have a "UPDATE" at the Low Sunday Brunch on April 27. Plans for 2014 will be well underway by then so look for opportunities and sign up sheets earlier. We need to continue the success we had in 2012 and 2013! Please think about where you would like to Volunteer! Rick Johns and I need your help in filling in for the Andersons.

See Pat Brown or Rick Johns for answers or comments.

Respectfully submitted by Pat Brown, 2013 Lobster Boil Co-Chair with Ellen Anderson (in absentia) - Rick Johns and Jennie Cummings assisting. Thanks to Rosemarie Ostberg for her great recordkeeping.

		<b>2013</b>		<b>2012</b>		<b>2011</b>		<b>2010</b>		<b>2009</b>
<b>Receipts</b>										
<b>Cash/Checks</b>			<b>10,582.00</b>		<b>11,273.00</b>		<b>11,905.00</b>		<b>13,771.00</b>	<b>14,157.05</b>
<b>Credit Cards</b>		13,833.00		17,872.00		13,165.00		12,882.00		11,471.00
<b>less: CC fees</b>		(345.97)	<b>13,487.03</b>	(440.58)	<b>17,431.42</b>	(339.73)	<b>12,825.27</b>	(331.44)	<b>12,550.56</b>	(298.67)
<b>Net Receipts</b>			<b>24,069.03</b>		<b>28,704.42</b>		<b>24,730.27</b>		<b>26,321.56</b>	<b>25,329.38</b>
<b>less: refunds</b>							<b>(30.00)</b>			
<b>Disbursements</b>										
<b>Lobsters</b>		10,928.35		13,903.50		13,287.50		12,262.20		11,442.88
<b>Trucking</b>		1,571.43		1,591.07		1,614.64		1,457.50		1,331.00
<b>Cost of lobsters &amp; Trans</b>			<b>(12,499.78)</b>		<b>(15,494.57)</b>		<b>(14,902.14)</b>		<b>(13,719.70)</b>	<b>(12,773.88)</b>
<b>Profit after COGS</b>			<b>11,569.25</b>		<b>13,209.85</b>		<b>9,798.13</b>		<b>12,601.86</b>	<b>12,555.50</b>
<b>Other costs</b>										
<b>Advertising</b>		594.00		634.00		525.00		624.00		624.00
<b>Mailing, stamps, etc</b>		412.96		369.12		461.29		341.16		274.08
<b>Printing, Posters, fliers</b>		557.38		548.68		548.68		565.45		534.30
<b>Supplies, bibs etc</b>		942.99	**	558.32		592.67		536.19		784.41
<b>Drinks, Beer, Food</b>		116.07		184.11		104.90		94.83		178.39
<b>Disposal</b>		245.75		213.05		222.05		211.25		243.65
<b>Gas for cooking</b> rev		300.00		230.10		347.68		275.65		345.00
<b>Dinner materials</b>		51.82		25.83		33.86		82.29		121.47
<b>Total Other costs</b>			<b>(3,220.97)</b>		<b>(2,763.21)</b>		<b>(2,836.13)</b>		<b>(2,730.82)</b>	<b>(3,105.30)</b>
<b>Receipts over Disbursements</b>			<b>8,348.28</b>		<b>10,446.64</b>		<b>6,962.00</b>		<b>9,871.04</b>	<b>9,450.20</b>
		<b>2013</b>		<b>2012</b>		<b>2011</b>		<b>2010</b>		<b>2009</b>
<b># Lobsters sold</b>		<b>1275</b>		<b>1520</b>		<b>1550</b>		<b>1650</b>		<b>1600</b>
<b>Lobster count</b>										
<b>4 pm live</b>		<b>341</b>		<b>568</b>		<b>561</b>		<b>650</b>		<b>527</b>
<b>5 pm cooked</b>		<b>327</b>		<b>322</b>		<b>379</b>		<b>416</b>		<b>373</b>
<b>6pm cooked</b>		<b>319</b>		<b>374</b>		<b>371</b>		<b>351</b>		<b>400</b>
<b>7pm cooked</b>		<b>288</b>		<b>256</b>		<b>239</b>		<b>233</b>		<b>300</b>
		<b>** Includes 2 new burners for cooking 632.45 and charge for tire for customer car 120.45</b>								

## Flower Guild Report

The Flower Guild is happy to be able to put flowers on the Altar as their work for the Church. It is our desire to do this for the Glory of God. Please sign up on the chart if you want to offer flowers for any occasion this year. We do not have flowers in lent although some small arrangement could be put by the columbarium. Please write what you want printed in the bulletin. If any one wants to join our little group you are more than welcome. It is wonderful to have people tell us what they think of the flowers. We never know. Also if you have ideas of what you would like to see let us know. Yours in Christ's love, Janie Torma, Hazel Retherford, Mary Lincoln, Jane Nenonen, Kristin Duffy

## Greeting Card Report

### January

A Nenonen  
 A Guiborat  
 A Newby  
 B Stubblefield, L.  
 B Roberts, L.  
 B Lindvall, N.  
 B Larson, J  
 B Krueger, C.  
 B Newport, J.  
 B Duffy, M.  
 B DeGolier, J.

Total 11

### February

B Gerrity, M.  
 B Downen, S.  
 B Mason, R.  
 B Russell, B.  
 B McMahon, K.  
 B Stason, B.  
 B Rasmussen-Johns, F.  
 B Lindvall, J.  
 B Schlabach, G.

Total 9

### March

B Crosby, J.  
 B Fanning, A.  
 B Fitzgerald, N.  
 B Russell, J.  
 B Russell, E.  
 B Nenonen, J.

B Russell, D.  
 B Stubblefield, J.  
 B Guiborat, M.  
 B Roberts, S.  
 B Torma, J.  
 B Dickow, J.  
 B Lincoln, M.  
 B Piper, G.

Total 14

### April

A Mounts, M&J  
 B Russell, M.  
 B Roberts, J.  
 B Petty, K.  
 B Johns, R.  
 B Newport, T.  
 B Leonard, A.  
 B Wright, G.  
 B Newport, S.  
 B Roberts, D.  
 B Cripe, R.

Total 11

### May

B Mitchell, T.  
 B Ouellette, G.  
 B Dickow, T.  
 B Mason, N.  
 B Guiborat, M.  
 B Newport, M.  
 B Biundo, A.  
 B Harkness, M.  
 B Petty, A.  
 B Torma, J.  
 B Duffy, C.

B Nakano, Y.

B Ouellette, S.

B Krueger, L.

Total 12

Total 9

June

A Cripe

A Leonard, A&amp;B

A Duffy

A Cleland

A Biundo

B Sitzes, S.

B Beard, D.

B Frontjes, O.

B Frontjes, R.

B Ouellette, M.

B Leonard, E.

B Biundo, F.

B Sjolholm, M.

B Lyon, B.

B Roberts, D.

B Sitzes, K.

B Ostberg, R.

Total 17

July

A Prall

A Fanning

A Walker-Frontjes

B Retherford, H.

B Prall, J.

B Prouty, B.

B Fanning, G.

B Graham, J.

B Cleland, M

B YoonJin Kim.

B Cripe, A.

B Biundo, N.

B DeGolier, S.

Total 12

August

A Johns, R&amp;F

A DeGolier, S&amp;J

A Torma, J&amp;J

A Abbott, C&amp;J

A Downen, R&amp;S

A Mason, R&amp;N

B Cripe, B.

September

A Leonard, H&amp;E

A Cummings, W&amp;J

A Stubblefield, J&amp;J

A Prouty, R&amp;L

A Williams, J&amp;K

A Krueger, L&amp;C

B Prouty, L.

B Cummings, W.

B Russell, P.

B Abbott, J.

B Lovelock, M.

B Leonard, B.

B Russell, R.

B Guiborat, J.

B Duffy, K.

B Langer, L.

B Anderson, D.

B George, E.

B Brown, P.

B Newby, P.

B Stubblefield, J.

B McMahan, V.

B Newport, V.

B Cummings, J.

Total 24

October

A Petty, A&amp;K

A Roberts, D&amp;L

A Anderson, D&amp;E

B Downen, D.

B Guiborat, D.

B Guiborat, M.

B Piper, L.

B Leonard, H.

B Williams, M.

B Lorbach, L.

B Prall, R.

B Mitchell, A.

GW Prall, J.

Order All Saints Convent – 2014 cards

Total 14

November

A Piper, G&L  
 B Cleland, C.  
 B Keleher, M.  
 B Nenonen, G.  
 B Sitzes, J.  
 B Harkness, R.  
 B Johnson, K.  
 B Mounts, J.  
 B Duffy, N.  
 B Walker-Frontjes, S.  
 B Williams, M.  
 B Biundo, M.  
 B Newport, R.  
 B Abbott, C.

Total 14

December

A Kelly/Nissen  
 A Dickow, T&J  
 A Newport, S&V  
 A Russell, R&P  
 A Harkness, B&M  
 A Retherford, H&L  
 B Stubblefield, A.  
 B Anderson, E.  
 B Pool, B.  
 B Bach, J.  
 B Kelley, L.  
 B Mounts, M.  
 B Retherford, L.  
 B Frontjes, R.  
 B Ouellette, M.  
 B Cripe, A.  
 B Brown, R.  
 GW Harkness, M.

Total 18

Christmas Card Mailings – 2013

Abbott  
 Adams  
 Altepeter  
 Anderson  
 Bach  
 Beard  
 Beaulieu/Lovelock  
 Brickle  
 Biundo

Brown, P  
 Brown, R  
 Burke  
 Clark  
 Cleland  
 Cripe  
 Crosby-Lindner  
 Cummings  
 Dailey  
 DeGolier  
 Dickow  
 Downen  
 Dudgeon  
 Duffy  
 Fanning  
 Fitzgerald  
 Franklin-Smith  
 George  
 Gerrity  
 Gollmer  
 Graham  
 Guiborat  
 Harkness  
 Jensen  
 Johns  
 Johnson  
 Jones  
 Keleher  
 Kelly-Nissen  
 Kim  
 Kostrey  
 Krogman  
 Krueger  
 Langer/Schlabach  
 Larson  
 Leonard, A  
 Leonard, H  
 Lincoln  
 London  
 Lorbach  
 Lyon  
 Mason  
 McMahon  
 Mitchell  
 Mounts  
 Nakano  
 Nenonen  
 Newby  
 Newport  
 Ostberg  
 Ouellette  
 Petty

		<u>Summary of Mailings for 2013:</u>	
Piper			
Pool			
Posten		Stamps remaining end of 2012	72
Prall			
Prouty		Jan., Feb., March mailings	34
Retherford		Apr., May mailings	22
Roberts			
Rogers		Stamps on hand 6/1/13	16
Russell		Stamps purchased 6/20/13	100
Schilt		Stamps on hand 6/20/13	116
Schreiber		June mailings	17
Sjoholm			
Stubblefield		Stamps on hand 7/1/13	99
Torma		July, August, September.	
Wagner		October, November mailings	74
Walker-Frontjes			
Williams		Stamps on hand 12/1/13	25
Wright			
Zenzen		Stamps purchased 12/10/13	100
		Stamps on hand	125
Birthday and Anniversary		December B&A mailings &	
Cards for 2013	= 165	Christmas Card mailing	97
Christmas Cards for 2013	= 80		
-----		Stamps on hand 12/31/13	28

## Mission and Outreach Report

The Mission & Outreach Committee's subcommittee the **Food Pantry:**

For the past two years, volunteers from St. Paul's have assisted in staffing the Salvation Army Food Pantry on the first Thursday of each month from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Many thanks to our faithful volunteers during 2013: Ellen Anderson, Bill Cummings, Dick and Sharon Downen, Julie Kostrey, Mary Keleher, Vince and Pat McMahon, and Larry and Hazel Retherford. It is estimated that these individuals have donated nearly 100 hours of service. Special thanks go to Jennie Cummings who serves as liaison with the Food Pantry. St. Paul's parishioners have been generous in their donations to the Food Pantry on the second Sunday of each month. During 2013 1,680 food or personal items and 3,639 diapers were donated to the pantry for a total of 5,320 items. Thanks to all whose donations helped make this a successful ministry.

St. Paul's also participated in the 2013 Thanksgiving Meal drive for the Salvation Army and sent food for nine complete meals and cash donations for another six meals. Total meals funded/provided were 15.

The Mission & Outreach Committee's subcommittee the **Casserole Ministry:**

The Casserole Ministry would like to thank our faithful group of volunteers: Amy Biundo, Jane DeGolier, Jocelyn Prall, Kim Buster-Williams, Maureen, Sue Ouellette, Sharon Downen, the Kruegers, and Rochelle Cripe. Calling all Casserole Makers!

St. Paul's Parish is re-starting a program to provide wonderful, homemade casseroles for parishioners in need of assistance. We are looking for volunteers to prepare casseroles which can be divided into 2-portion freezer-proof plastic containers which will be stored in the freezer in the Parish Hall. Casseroles should be labeled,

Annual Meeting, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, DeKalb, Illinois.

January 26, 2014

including main ingredients, date prepared, and cooking time and temperature. Please sign up in the Parish Hall. Any questions? Please contact Jennie Cummings. If you are interested in this committee, we won't need casseroles every month. The coordinator will contact Committee Persons on the months that casseroles are needed. You can participate as you have the time. There will be a need for folks to bake and deliver at times too.

St. Paul's also participated in the Bowl For Kids' Sake fundraiser for Big Brothers/Big Sisters in 2013. The Biundo & Sitzes-Piper families bowled and "Team St. Paul's" raised \$296.

## **Services at Oak Crest Retirement Center**

In the summer of 2013, parishioners at St. Paul's suggested that a service of Holy Eucharist would be well received by parishioners residing at Oak Crest who were finding it more difficult to attend church on Sunday. I began to plan for regular services by meeting with Rev. Stacy and then with staff of Oak Crest. It was determined that a monthly service on the third Wednesday would fit well into the schedule of their chapel. (The Eucharist is offered only one other time a month there for Protestant residents.) A shortened service for Holy Eucharist was developed from BCP and Church of England sources, and we asked for volunteers to assist as readers and chalice bearers. Our first Holy Eucharist was held in September. In November, we were joined by a pianist who volunteered to play every month, whose musical contribution has greatly enhanced the service.

This Holy Eucharist is open to all residents of Oak Crest, and we have especially invited residents who are Episcopalians and Lutherans. We hope to expand the leadership of services, and have invited local Lutheran pastors and Episcopal priests to partner with us in this cooperative Protestant communion option for residents.

The sacraments could not have been offered at Oak Crest without the faithful parishioners who have been involved in beginning these services: Bob Brown, Marilyn Cleland, Bob and Margurite Harkness, Lorraine Langer, Molly Lovelock, Julie Kostrey, Pat and Vince McMahon, Jane Nenonen, Hazel Retherford, Gretchen Schlabach, and Jim Torma. Gayle Dannenberg has provided music. Beth Krogan from St. Peter's, Sycamore has also served as a reader. Thanks and God bless all of you!

Faithfully, The Rev. Dr. Joyce Beaulieu, Priest Associate

## **Stewardship Report**

Mike Duffy, Rev. Stacy and Brad Cripe were the three members of St. Paul's 2013 Stewardship Committee. The committee sent a letter to the congregation asking members to prayerfully consider their contributions to the church for the upcoming year. The committee asked Christina Krueger and Rochelle Cripe to deliver a short, 5 minute speech to both the 8AM and 10:30AM services discussing their spiritual journey at St. Pauls. We are very thankful to both Chris and Rochelle for their thoughtful words and encouragement to us to achieve as much as possible for ourselves and St. Pauls.

Submitted by Brad Cripe

## **Social/Fellowship Committee Report**

As usual, the Fellowship Committee was kept quite busy with coordinating many social events during 2013. It was extremely helpful to have volunteers sign up to host several of these events, which included:

- Epiphany luncheon, coordinated by Peg Newby and Ellen Anderson
- Continental breakfasts for the budget Q&A session and the Annual Meeting
- Ash Wednesday soup supper, coordinated by Rosemarie Ostberg
- Chili Cook-off, hosted by the Stubblefield family
- Easter Vigil reception following the service
- Low Sunday Brunch, coordinated by Rosemarie Ostberg
- Ascension Day potluck following the service
- Feast of Saint Peter and Saint Paul dinner following the service
- Parish picnic and farewell party for the Andersons, hosted and coordinated by the Vestry
- The Bishop's visit and Pet Blessing
- Saturday Tailgating party, hosted by the Stubblefields
- Children's pumpkin decorating party, hosted by Jackie and Terry Dickow
- Blue Christmas reception following the service, coordinated by Jennie Cummings
- St. Nicholas party, hosted by Jane and George Nenonen
- Christmas Eve cookie reception

Once Ellen and David Anderson moved away, it was time to find some new volunteers. Many thanks to Jocelyn Prall and Julie Stubblefield, who both kindly agreed to join the Fellowship committee this past fall. Their creative ideas and efforts are most appreciated.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered to host/coordinate one or more events (it's fun, isn't it?). I'd also like to say thank you to Pat Brown who was extremely helpful in assisting me with getting the party for the Andersons up and running. And, of course, thanks to all of you who volunteer to bring wonderful food, set up, clean up, decorate, etc. This is why we have such wonderful fellowship events at St. Paul's.

At the end of January, I will be going off the Fellowship committee, and will leave it in the capable hands of Jocelyn and Julie. If you would like help out on this committee, please speak to one of them, as I'm sure they would appreciate any and all assistance. I've very much enjoyed my time on this committee and working with everyone who has served on it in the last three years. (I'm also quite sure that I'll find myself back there at some time in the not so distant future!)

-Freyja Rasmussen-Johns

## Thrive Report

We began our journey in January 2013 when Rev. Stacy and I met with other churches in the Diocese of Chicago at Techney Towers. We had no idea what to expect and the first question they asked us was "What was your first memory of God?" It was clear that we were going to spend some time on self-discovery. We spent the first few sessions "discovering" ourselves as leaders and what role we play at our church. Later we looked at good things and bad things about the Episcopal Church as a whole. After this first retreat, we knew we had work to do but we weren't really sure what we wanted to accomplish just yet.

We then formed our accountability team which consisted of Terry Dickow, Jamie Stubblefield and Ellen Anderson. Rochelle Cripe was also a part of the core Thrive Team. We met once a month in between the cohort meetings to discuss what we had learned and how we could implement positive changes at St. Paul's. Our first mission was to establish who we felt our neighbors were and what they needed. We decided to first target the students at NIU and the college community as a whole. With final exams approaching we decided to try holding an event that would meet the students that pass through our yard outside of the church and give them what we thought they needed. That was narrowed down to water, snacks and prayers! And so Prayers2pass was born.

We have also included an online presence for the event that encouraged students to use the hashtag #prayers2pass to tweet prayers or thanksgivings during this tough time. Jamie Stubblefield was our tech wiz and created a great landing webpage for the event that students could visit and we printed that along with the hashtag on labels and put one on every item we handed out. The feedback during the event from the people we encountered was overwhelmingly positive. We had God-filled conversations with some and most were very appreciative of the kind gesture. The website and hashtag did not receive a lot of attention but we intend to try again and see if it just needs a few times to catch on. We did not keep exact records of our handouts but we estimate that during the fall event we handed out over 600 water bottles. We were also the proud recipients of a \$500 grant from the Episcopal Church Women's Group at the Diocesan Convention to continue our efforts with this program!

We then went to the task of creating a Mission and Vision statement as well as a Tagline that we can use to help promote ourselves as a faith community and give people a sense of who we are. These are still in an evolutionary phase but this is what we have put together for now.

Tagline: All are welcome, no exceptions.

Mission Statement: We are called to gather around the sacred story and table of Christ where all are invited to be fed and everyone's story matters.

Vision statement: We are opening our hearts seeking the inspiration (of the Holy Spirit) to be the church and the Christians that God is calling us to be.

We also have been reading "Tell it Like it Is" which talks about the importance of personal testimonies in our church services. We would love to involve our own testimonies as parishioners more often than just during the stewardship drive. We are thinking of perhaps asking parishioners to share their stories during a series perhaps during lent. We are also going to try a re-launch of fellowship groups and will try to tailor it to each person's schedule to help keep it going longer. Rev. Stacy and Terry are also looking at ways we can continue to work with other faith based organizations to serve the community (i.e. ISNU, Grace Place, etc).

This program has most certainly caused all of us involved to take a hard look at ourselves as individuals and as a congregation and see what we can bring to the table to help improve the vitality of the church. That has inspired us to reach past our comfort zones and meet our neighbors where they are to share the good news of Christ and share God's love with all we encounter.