

## **2014 Annual Parish Meeting**

January 25, 2015 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 2013 Annual Parish Meeting on January 26, 2014**
- D. Reception and File for Audit of the 2014 Treasurer's Report (separate document)**
- E. Reception and Approval of the 2015 Budget (separate document)**
- F. Report of the Senior Warden with Nominating Committee Report**
- G. Election of new members of the Vestry – Rick Johns, Julie Stubblefield, Vince McMahon (terms ending in 2018)**
- H. Election of the Junior Warden- Rick Johns**
- I. Nominations and election for the delegates to the Diocesan Convention November 20-21, 2015– 3 delegates and 3 alternates—Rick Johns, 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 and Brad Cripe (terms ending January 2018)**
- K. Junior Warden's Report**
- L. Reception of the Reports from the Subcommittees of the Vestry and Ministries of St. Paul's**
- M. By Laws Revision, BL III, Section 3, Letter C**
- N. Thank you and presentations: Retiring from Vestry, Luke Krueger, Pat Brown, and Bill Cummings); 2014 Convention Delegates, Luke Krueger, Henry Leonard, Peg Newby Alternates, Eva Leonard, Marilyn Cleland and Bill Cummings. Thank you to Luke Krueger for serving as our Senior Warden).**
- O. 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**
- **Flower Guild**
- **Greeting Cards**
- **Mission and Outreach**
- **Stewardship**
- **Social /Fellowship**
- **Thrive Report**
- **Endowment Fund Report**
- **Lobster Boil 2014 (separate document)**

---

## 2015 Annual Meeting Report from the Rector

Dear Friends in Christ,

This has proved to be an interesting year in the life of St. Paul's Parish. In March 2014 we said farewell to our priest associate, The Rev. Dr. Joyce Beaulieu when she accepted a call to be the interim priest at St. Bride, Oregon. However, the ministry that Rev. Joyce began of a monthly Holy Communion service at Oak Crest retirement center has continued. It has flourished in large part to the commitment of our volunteer pianist, Gayle Dannenberg. Gayle is not a member of St. Paul's, but she enjoys sharing her gift of music for third Wednesday monthly services at Oak Crest. I give thanks to God for Gayle's gifts and her willingness to share them. Music really makes or breaks worship. The same is true for our services held at St. Paul's. I'm glad to say that the many talents of our choir and musicians does make Sunday morning a wonderfully holy experience that nourishes me as I lift my voice in praise to God with all of you.

I have been so proud to serve God with all of you in worship and Christian service this past year. We have not only maintained a presence in our neighborhood through **Ashes to Go** on Ash Wednesday and **Prayers2Pass** (at spring finals and during welcome week in the fall; [www.prayers2pass.com](http://www.prayers2pass.com)). We really took a big step when we turned a dream into a reality with the **Thrive Neighborhood Market and Community Garden** ([www.thrivemarket.org](http://www.thrivemarket.org)). I give a big thanks to God for our Thrive core team who dreamed up this dream with the guidance of the Holy Spirit: Christina Krueger, James Stubblefield, and Terry Dickow. We were joined by many faithful members of St. Paul's and our friends in the garden every Tuesday night. We held four affordable Saturday farmers markets in our parking lot with our partners DeKalb County Community Gardens, and with the DeKalb Public Library as a frequent guest as well. Very little food went to waste in the garden this year. And many friendships were made with our neighbors at the market and the garden. I firmly believe that God called us to join him and his other friends in the garden to cultivate not just community but also

our own relationship with Jesus Christ. I am profoundly grateful for this experience and I look forward to what God may have in mind for us this year in the garden and at the market.

**If I have any concerns, it is that our average Sunday attendance (ASA) dropped dramatically in 2014. In 2013 our ASA was 66. In 2014 our ASA slipped to 56.** This is the lowest ASA we have on record for the past six years. While some members did move away in 2014, we also welcomed new members. We also had a severe winter in early 2014. However, the attendance numbers show we never really rebounded from the winter slump. I'm not sure why this has occurred. **I will say that your presence in your church on Sunday morning matters.** When you aren't here you are missed. And you are missing out on the life of the community. When you aren't here you are missing out on the spiritual formation for yourself and your family that happens only in the context of worship. When you're not here on Sunday, you are missing out on an opportunity to engage in Christian education as well. This is not to say that spiritual formation and study cannot happen in private devotions at home. I am a strong advocate for each Christian and their household developing a practice of daily prayer and study. The development of one's personal relationship with God is of great importance for living the Christian life. But I also know that an isolated Christian is a paralyzed Christian. We are not whole as Christians without one another. Sunday morning is the main event for our gathering together as the whole body of Christ. Having said that, life can present many obstacles to us that can make showing up on Sunday a real challenge. If something is bothering you about St. Paul's, or you are not well, or anything else is happening in your life that is preventing you from being at Sunday services I would really appreciate a phone call from you. I am happy to come to your home or welcome you to my office for a private conversation. Sometimes people say, "I don't want to be a bother." I pray you will hear me when I say, "You are not a bother. I'm your priest and pastor. Call me!" Listening to people's joys and woes and helping acknowledge God's healing presence in the midst of life is what I do. And if for some reason you are not comfortable talking to me, I urge you to contact either our Senior Warden, Peg Newby, or our Junior Warden, Rick Johns. They will be happy to hear your concerns and help communicate them to me if necessary with your permission.

We have had some wonderful times of worship together this year notably two services of Holy Baptism, our parish picnic on the lawn of St. Paul's, Holy Week and Easter (in particular the Easter Vigil with creative story telling of several Old Testament readings by the people of St. Paul's), the offerings of the Children's Choir on All Saints and Christmas Eve, the offerings of the adult choir on Christmas Eve, and most recently the Epiphany pageant led by the children of our parish (which was technically in 2015, but fresh in my mind!). I often receive compliments from our guests on the quality of the music and the refreshing qualities of our worship services in general. As one guest remarked, "I sense really good vibes in your church!" An indication of the movement of the Holy Spirit in our midst if ever there was one! And also a compliment to your warm and generous spirit for Christian hospitality as well, dear friends.

Yours in Christ,

Reverend Stacy

---

## Senior Warden's Report

Senior Warden Annual Report -2015

Last year, we as a vestry along with the Capital Needs Discernment Committee came to the congregation with our plan to investigate and prioritize projects that were needed for the buildings and grounds of St. Paul's in

order to make sure that we are best utilizing our space and resources to enhance the mission of St. Paul's. We stressed then the idea of responsible stewardship, a term heard often from Bishop Lee as regards St. James and the Nicholas Center.

As we outlined last year, our plan was to consult with various members of the congregation to hear what needs they identified were in need of attention. As we had said last year, we could not guarantee that all the needs could be met, but we did vow to investigate the feasibility of addressing the needs brought to our attention and then prioritizing those which needed to be done.

After the initial queries, we set as our projects: a new sign, a new roof for the rectory, a shed for storing supplies for the garden and the lobster boil, and repaving the parking lot. The available funds in our building fund would pay for these projects. We chose to do this rather than initiate a new capital campaign asking members for still more money despite having funds specifically designated for this kind of work. We did not stop there. In consulting with Courtney Reid of the Chicago Diocese, we determined that we needed to indentify what amount of money should be in reserve to handle catastrophic repairs - such as a total replacement of our HVAC system.

The numbers have been detailed in previous senior warden reports, so I won't rehash that. However, I am happy to report that a new roof was installed on the rectory in early October. In August, our new sign went up. We are waiting until this spring to fix the parking lot. A total repaving was cost prohibitive, and was not advised by the three companies with whom I gathered bids. Instead they advised resealing and repainting the lot. Rev. Stacy and I will consult on the wording for signs in the parking lot, which we hope to make more inviting both for our visitors and our members. Rhys Prall and I will begin work on the installing the shed when the spring arrives.

This was all done in calculation with the considerations in mind as we were advised by the diocese. I am happy to report as well that the funds allocated for these projects as detailed in previous senior warden reports came in at budget. The installation of the sign was a bit more than envisioned, but not over what we had planned for in the motion to approve the funding of these projects.

One matter that we had hoped to address was installing means for handicapped access to the St. Timothy's Center. Unfortunately after consulting with the city and a city inspector, consulting with companies to install a chair lift, and having previously examined the cost of an elevator, this endeavor proved too cost prohibitive. Moreover, there was no guarantee the city would approve a chair lift for the stairwells leading to the St. Timothy's Center

Next, to the sanctuary roof. I had promised to attack this problem with as much vigor and tenaciousness as I could. I hope my summary will stand as a definitive appraisal of the matter so that in future years, those who investigate this matter will be able to come up to speed quickly.

I consulted with a lawyer who volunteers for the diocese, John Goudge. He advised me that the time frame in which we could file suit was soon to expire. I proceeded to gather all pertinent documentation that I could. This included pouring over vestry minutes from the year in which this project was underway; collecting insurance claims from when the roof leak caused significant damage to the sanctuary; collecting material from DECRA the manufacturer of the good working order but there was some build up where the water is dispensed. He advised that I run CLR through it and that should improve the cleaning quality. I have done a few treatments with CLR since then, and I hope the dishwasher is working better. It seems to be.

This year I also attended the Diocesan Convention. It was a powerful spiritual event, as always. Changes in the wording to marriage ceremonies were our major matters addressed within resolutions. These resolutions

looked to make the ceremony gender appropriate to whomever the parties were who were being joined in holy matrimony. A resolution of a similar nature was approved to be presented at the national conference. They passed with very little opposition

One last note of business, with the help of Rhys Prall, Collin Prall, Jocelyn Prall, and Rick Johns we finally unclogged the drain on the roof. This was a matter that we wrestled with since I came on vestry but I am happy to announce the drain is unclogged, and all final work on the drain shall be finished shortly.

Finally, it has been my honor to serve the congregation of St. Paul's over the past three years as a vestry member, junior warden, and senior warden. I hope I have done more good than harm. I have too many to thank to name them all here. I am grateful for the work of my fellow vestry members and those senior wardens from whom I learned invaluable lessons: Mike Duffy and Dave Anderson. Pat Brown, whose knowledge of our budget helped me in planning for our improvements, was priceless. Thank you, Pat. I am grateful for a tremendous junior warden such as Peg Newby who has been a great source of support. To Bill Cummings, for his work as our clerk, and a great voice of debate in which he helped, always, to focus me to plan for other contingencies. Rhys and Rick for helping and teaching me how to best care for our buildings and grounds. For Rev. Stacy, whose patience with me as I learned the role was incomparable and invaluable, thank you. Finally, to my wife, Chris, who never worried or complained if a vestry matter suddenly fell into our lives and we had to change plans. She was the first to say, "Get out and take care of it."

Chris, asked me if I was sad to be leaving the vestry. Without hesitation, I said yes. A role such as this, serving on the vestry, is a gift. I enjoyed every minute spent in service to this vestry and the congregation. Thank you all for your support, trust in me, and dedication to St. Paul's. It truly was my honor to serve.

"Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves..." Philippians 2:3.

Respectfully submitted,  
Luke Krueger  
Senior Warden

---

## Junior Warden's Report

My goals for 2014 were to be an active participant on the Vestry, learn the responsibilities of the Wardens, and encourage parishioners to take an active role in the life of our church. I have been active and I have learned (with a lot more learning to come!). I have encouraged you, via my newsletter articles, to participate in parish activities and attend services on Sundays and special times. I appreciate everything being done by our church family, and will continue to encourage participation. Together, we make things happen!

Last February, I hosted a Vestry Retreat at my home. This was an excellent opportunity for the newly-formed Vestry to get to know each other. We shared personal and spiritual thoughts and experiences, shared a simple meal, and in general, had a very nice evening. Knowing a bit about your coworkers is a good start in being able to work together effectively. I have been impressed and grateful for the way our Vestry has been able to talk through topics and sometimes express opinions that are not that of the majority.

Long-time United Thank Offering (UTO) chairwoman, Eva Leonard, turned over the reins to me this year. Rev. Stacy and I developed a program for children and adults that was presented over Lent. I attended my first

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

January 26, 2014

Episcopal Church Women (ECW) convention in April. As the representative for St. Paul's, I presented our UTO donation. This was a brief but informative glimpse into the role of the ECW.

In August, I facilitated our congregation's contribution towards the St. James Commons replenishment of their capital fund. The collection was gathered at our picnic, and parishioners were more than generous. We received a thank-you certificate from the Diocese, which is on display in Parish Hall.

In November, I attended my first Diocesan Convention, representing St. Paul's as a lay delegate. I reported on my experience in the December/January Proclaimer, but would like to say again what a wonderful experience it was. Very interesting, informative, and inspiring.

Most recently, my duties included working with Mary Lincoln on the Stewardship Campaign. Using the *Walking the Way* materials available through The Episcopal Network for Stewardship, we presented weekly messages tied to our scripture that related to giving. I hope you found them useful in your prayerful consideration of your commitment to St. Paul's. Thank you to Rev. Stacy for her guidance throughout the campaign, and to Susan, whose assistance from the office was invaluable. And to Pat Brown for her financial brain!

The Epiphany pageant saw my debut as a shepherdess. I wasn't too successful in that role, as my sheep ran away to sit with mommy. But I enjoyed the experience, and was reminded again how rewarding working with children can be.

I want to express my thanks to Rev. Stacy and Luke Krueger for their leadership in 2014, to the Vestry for their commitment, and to Luke and the rest of the Buildings and Grounds Committee for all their work.

I did not have to think very hard to come up with goals for 2015. They are the same as 2014! Of course, there will be individual projects and duties, but the bottom line is the same. I ask that you reflect on what your goals for your contributions to the life of St. Paul's are for 2015. I hope they include participating whenever possible, and perhaps inviting others to join us in worship and activities. And as always

...

See You Sunday!

Peg Newby

---

## Sunday School Report

### ANNUAL SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2014

St. Paul's Sunday School Program for children and youth served 7 students from 4 families, with adult volunteers serving as teachers and greeters. The Godly Play curriculum offers children the opportunity to place themselves in the sacred stories and traditions of Christianity. This year we expanded our library of presentations with the addition of stories of the saints.

Thank you to all of the adults who volunteer their time to this important ministry.

Maureen Gerrity

The Adult Sunday School program spent 2014 reading the gospels of Matthew and Mark, the Book of Romans, and the Book of Acts, which mainly narrates St. Paul's experiences as an evangelist and theologian. We also read for home discussions the book, *Mere Christianity*, by C.S. Lewis.

Our discussions were fruitful in that we examined the early church, which created the theology we have come to call Christian; the Jewish traditions at that time out of which Jesus came; the potential for anti-semitism of the gospels; and the growth and development of Jesus as he comes to understand who he is and to reveal it. This coming week, we will ask ourselves what our understandings of Jesus are now and how they have been affected by our sustained reading and discussions.

For Lent, we have decided to read a new book. We will also try to develop programs that will encourage others in the congregation to join us.

By the end of the spring, we will have to determine what we will do for the fall.

Marilyn Cleland

---

## Music Ministries

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

We continue to enhance the worship services with the beautiful and traditional Episcopal favorites (choral anthems and service music alike) 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, steel pan, cello and guitars, we are very appreciative of the continued 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:** We miss the departure in talent and spirit of both Michael Duffy, Trumpet (along with Kristin, Nora and Charlie) and Yuki Nakano, Steel Pan. And we are very thankful to add Chelsea Coventry as a Cellist. **Continued appreciation and thanks to the Adult/Youth** (Chelsea Coventry, Maureen Gerrity, Mechelle Goodenough, Freyja Rasmussen-Johns, Chris Krueger, Linda Lorbach, Amanda Mitchell, Jocelyn Prall, Rick Johns, Roy Mason, Tyler Mitchell and Jan Bach) and **Children's** (Oscar and Rowan Frontjes, Ava and Luke Stubblefield, Ellison and Quinn McLane, Michael and Francesca Biundo and several other children as guests) **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 Huixin Chen (NIU graduate student) as our pianist. Additionally, we have been fortunate to have highly qualified professional substitute accompanists such as Abi Mogge and Myron Myers.

I defer to the **2014 Proclaimer (St. Paul's Newsletter archived on the church website)** and the **monthly Vestry Reports (also archived on our 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 Ministries

---

## Altar Guild Report

If you are looking “to do” something at St. Paul's on a regular or occasional basis, think about *joining the Altar Guild*.

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 think you would like to be a part of this important ministry and want to find out more about it, please talk to Jocelyn Prall.

### 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.

We have been using the new vestments and altar stoles this past year which adds to the beauty of the sanctuary. Our next need will be to replace our white altar cloths which are really showing their age after years of continued use and frequent cleaning.

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, Pat McMahan, 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

---

## Flower Guild Report

The Flower Guild is responsible for decorating the altar and columbarium each week. We enjoy this work dedicated to God and the Church. There are four members of the Guild and we would love to have more. None of us has flower arranging training or experience. We learn from each other by sharing ideas and working together. We each have a week of the month we are assigned, and work together for holidays. We are eagerly looking for more members to join of the Guild. Our flowers come from Kar Fre Florest in Sycamore. We get them of Friday afternoons and arrange whenever we want before the 8 o'clock service on Sunday morning. The flowers are paid for by the donations on major holidays and the memorial flowers on different weeks. We work with new members until they feel comfortable to work alone. Come and join us. We are few by number but, big at heart. Janie Torma, Mary Lincoln, Jane Nenonen and Hazel Rutherford



---

## Greeting Card Report

January

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

Total 11

February

B Gerrity, M.  
 B Dowen, S.  
 B Mason, R.  
 B Russell, B.  
 B McMahon, K.  
 B Rasmussen-Johns, F.  
 B Schlabach, G.

Total 7

March

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 Crosby, J.  
 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 Beaulieu, Rev. J..  
 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.

Total 12

June

A Cripe  
 A Leonard, A&B  
 A Biundo  
 A Duffy  
 A Cleland  
 B Sitzes, S.  
 B Beard, D.  
 B Frontjes, O.  
 B Frontjes, R.  
 B Ouellette, M.  
 B Leonard, E.  
 B Biundo, F.  
 B Sjoholm, 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 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&F  
 A DeGolier, S&J  
 A Torma, J&J  
 A Abbott, C&J  
 A Downen, R&S  
 A Mason, R&N  
 B Cripe, B.  
 B Ouellette, S.  
 B Krueger, L.

Total 9

September

A Leonard, H&E  
 A Cummings, W&J  
 A Stubblefield, J&J  
 A Krueger, L&C  
 B Cummings, W.  
 B Russell, P.  
 B Abbott, J.  
 B Leonard, B.  
 B Russell, R.  
 B Duffy, K.

B Langer, L..  
 B George, E.  
 B Brown, P.  
 B Newby, P.  
 B Stubblefield, J.  
 B McMahon, V.  
 B Newport, V.  
 B Cummings, J.

Total 18

October

A Petty, A&K  
 A Roberts, D&L  
 B Downen, D.  
 B Piper, L.  
 B Leonard, H..  
 B Lorbach, L.  
 B Prall, R.  
 B Mitchell, A.  
 GW Prall, J.

Order All Saints Convent – 2014 cards

Total 10

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 Walker-Frontjes, S..  
 B Biundo, M.  
 B Newport, R.  
 B Abbott, C.

Other All Saints Convent Payment

Total 14

December

A Kelly/Nissen  
 A Dickow, T&J  
 A Newport, S&V  
 A Russell, R&P



Stamps remaining end of 2013	28
Jan., Feb., mailings	18
Apr., May mailings	22
Stamps purchased 2/18/14	100
Stamps on hand 3/1/14	110
Mar-Oct mailings	102
Stamps purchased 11/10/14	100
Stamps on hand 11/10/14	108
Nov.-Dec. mailings	30
Christmas mailings	73
Stamps remaining end of 2014	5

---

## Mission and Outreach Report

### St. Paul's 2014 Food Pantry Donations

Food/Personal Care Items	1240
Diapers	2249
Baby Wipes	1400
Cash Donation (\$50)	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4890</b>

### Food Pantry Ministry-

We have had a consistent team volunteering at the Salvation Army Food Pantry monthly for **four years**.

St. Paul's~ Mission & Outreach Committee~ Volunteer Opportunity at the Salvation Army Food Pantry 830 Grove Street DeKalb, IL 60115

St. Paul's has adopted the **1st Thursday each month**: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon. .

Food Pantry Hours: Monday-Wednesday: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm; Thursday: 9am - 12pm; + 5pm - 6:45pm

\*\*Gary Billings, SA Volunteer Coordinator

### Caring Meals Ministry

We have had an active committee for **2.5 years** now.

Over these two years, our committee has provided meals in many forms. (Taco Bars, and Baked Potato Bars for NIU Grace Place,) For a few families in mourning, some recovering from surgery, or having a new baby, we have made casseroles and soups. Mostly, our committee has provided Caring Meals with love and thoughtfulness.

---

## Stewardship Report

We used the Episcopal Network for Stewardship's materials, *Walking the Way*, for this year's campaign. We provided the congregation weekly bulletin inserts that assisted in reflecting on how the Gospel reading for the day could assist in prayer about stewardship and faithful giving. We developed pie charts, so parishioners had visuals of income sources and distributions.

Our pledges were dedicated on November 9<sup>th</sup>. Over the next two months, we accepted several additional pledges. To date, our pledging units total 34, plus 2 junior/children pledges. There are 2 new pledging units, and 2 moved away (plus 1 junior/child pledge). Four pledges were reduced, 14 remained the same, and 16 were increased.

Our 2015 pledges are about 1% over those of 2014. Thank you to everyone who fulfilled their pledge commitment in 2014, and to those who give regularly. All dollars given to support the life and mission of St. Paul's are greatly appreciated.

We would also like to thank Susan King for her assistance with the mailings and keeping pledge information updated. And thanks to Rev. Stacy and Pat Brown for their insight and wisdom in all things budgetary.

Peg Newby & Mary Lincoln

---

## Social/Fellowship Committee Report

The fellowship committee schedules events that occur throughout the year, most which coincide with the liturgical calendar. We also help with other occasions as they present themselves (i.e.: pumpkin decorating, crêpes on the patio, Bishop Visit). Each year we post the major pre-scheduled fellowship gatherings so parishioners have the opportunity sign up to coordinate a particular event. The coordinator does just that, coordinates by asking others to help bring food, help set up and /or decorate, and help clean up. Spreading the work involved so we can all enjoy these gatherings really helps. So .....watch for sign-up sheets and be sure to sign up as often as you can and want.

Last fall the fellowship committee and thrive worked together to revitalize fellowship groups. These are groups who meet about once a month in people's home or a restaurant to enjoy food and fellowship. Only one group had been continuing to meet on a regular basis. After reviewing surveys completed by those who were interested, we formed groups. Some have already met and others will be meeting. Anyone is welcome to join any group at any time – on an occasional basis as your schedule allows or on a regular basis. It is a great chance to get to know each other more than our short visits at coffee hour. Groups along with their leaders (contact person) will be posted. If you are interested, you can contact the leader or talk to anyone in the group. Sharing food, laughter and even spiritual journey stories is a great way to spend an evening.

Jocelyn Prall

---

## Thrive Report

It has been a great year for the Thrive Team at St. Paul's! This year, we have continued our Prayers2Pass ministry, started the Thrive Market and Community Garden and recently reinstated the Fellowship Dinner ministry.

We held the Prayers2Pass event twice this year, once at the start of the school year and once during finals week at the end of the year. Both times we were pleasantly received by the students and others passing through. We filled up poster pages of prayers and handed out hundreds of water bottles and mints with prayers on them. We had many "God-filled" conversations with our neighbors and continued to pray for them in church each week

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

January 26, 2014

when we added their prayers to The Prayers of the People. They all seemed pleasantly surprised that we were not asking anything of them but were just genuinely wishing them well as they entered a stressful time in their lives. We hope to continue this ministry for as long as there are students walking through our yard!

The Thrive Market and Community Garden started this year as an idea last January when we were posed with the challenge by the Diocese to put our faith into action. We knew we wanted to try something that centered around feeding people and we thought this would be a good opportunity to utilize the garden. We started asking around and when we came to Dan Kenney of the DeKalb County Community Gardens, he encouraged us to go ahead with our plan to have a "pay as you can" farmer's market right here at St. Paul's! DCCG also provided us with the seeds and plants for the garden as well as the 2 new Children's Garden raised beds in the front of the building

Rhys Prall tilled the way for us to plant our first cold weather crops in late April with a formal blessing in early May. A faithful group of members met in the garden on Tuesday nights to continue the planting, weeding and harvesting from May up until October. Our first market in June was a success even though we had mostly lettuce to offer and not much else... yet. Our small garden continued to have a fruitful yield each week and we took some of it for ourselves and donated the rest to the several food banks and other non-profit groups around DeKalb. At the markets, we raised over \$400 for the DCCG and the library who also came to some of the markets and gave away free books. We had several people thank us for offering such a service and we saw people who would not otherwise have access to such fresh food be able to afford it. It was a way for those who participated to become closer to the Earth, each other, our neighbors and God.

We have also recently teamed up with the Fellowship Committee to re-start the Fellowship dinner program. There are several groups that will be meeting monthly in private homes and public places. Anyone can join a group at any time! The hope is that this will be an opportunity to share our stories with each other about how God works in our lives and what we hope to see in the future. We hope to have a dinner combining all of the groups and sharing what we've learned about each other, our faith and God from these meetings sometime in the spring.

Christina Krueger

---

## **Report of the Endowment Board of Trustees of the St. Paul's Endowment Fund**

The Board of Trustees met in December of 2014 to review the report of the asset manager, the prior year use of the endowment fund contribution to the annual budget and discussed the options for contributions to the proposed 2015 operating budget. Various financial reports on the performance of the fund and contributions to the operating budget are highlighted in other parts of this packet.

The trustees also addressed the challenges of trying to build the endowment with contributions from others especially those who would like to leave a legacy to the church. Plans are now being developed on how to approach those persons interested in considering a legacy gift. Separately, the trustees are reviewing options for a parish wide information program to develop a better understanding of how a contribution to the endowment fund might be a part of everyone's estate planning. We are seeking guidance and information from the diocese on how this might be crafted.

In total, the fund is in good shape and your trustees are working on ways to increase the asset balance through estate planning contributions.

Doug Roberts-Chair

## Lobster Boil

### Lobster Boil Report - Annual Meeting January 25, 2015

The Lobster Boil was held on Saturday, May 17, 2014. The many, many volunteers helped St Paul's sell about 1,100 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; Garage-Peggy Newby; Equipment – Rick Johns, Tent – Jocelyn Prall; Runners– Assorted; Kitchen-Pat McMahon; Live Lobsters–Vince McMahon; Dinner Decorator and Publicity – Rosemarie Ostberg; Printing - List – Rick Johns; Ticket printing/sending - Bill and Jennie Cummings, Pat Brown, Ordering and worrying – Rick Johns; Co-Chairs. – Rick Johns, 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. Our profits were down from prior years.

	<u>2014</u>	<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>	1,100	1275	1520	1550	1650	1600	1550	1700	2100
<u>Receipts</u>	\$19,865	\$24,069	\$28,704	\$24,730	\$26,322	\$25,329	\$26,951	\$25,364	\$25,647
<u>Disbur.</u>	<u>(14,846)</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>\$5,018</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>

Rick Johns negotiated a price with Hooks that was about the same as last year, however we did not sell as many lobsters. The credit card option was popular as before. We kept the price the same as 2013.

Funds from our profits for the 2013 Boil were given out in April 2014 at a special event organized by the ECW.

The 2015 Lobster Boil is scheduled for Saturday, May 16, 2015. Start making plans now. All suggestions and help are welcome. We will have a "UPDATE" at the Low Sunday Brunch . Plans for 2015 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 and all the great workers in 2014! Please think about where you would like to Volunteer! Rick Johns and I need your help and additional members need to stand up and assist.

See Pat Brown or Rick Johns for answers or comments.

Respectfully submitted by Pat Brown, 2014 Lobster Boil Co-Chair - Rick Johns and Jennie Cummings assisting. Thanks to Rosemarie Ostberg for her great recordkeeping and publicity and to everyone else who helped. We can't do this without everyone pitching in like you did in 2014.