



2016 ANNUAL REPORT

The 267th Annual Meeting of the Parish
January 22, 2017

The Mission of Saint Paul's Church
is to proclaim the Good News of God in Jesus Christ in greater Augusta and beyond.



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BELIEFS

- We believe that, in the pursuit of our primary work, worship, we must strive for excellence in liturgy, music, and preaching.
- We believe in being an open and welcoming congregation to all who come for daily prayer or worship services and to all who visit the churchyard.
- We believe that the tithe is the Biblical standard for giving and that this standard applies to individuals and to Saint Paul's as a church.
- We believe that we must operate in a fiscally responsible manner to ensure our future viability.
- We believe that the development of lay leadership is critical to the mission of Saint Paul's Church.
- We believe that Christian Education is vital to the spiritual development of every person and that a fully developed program must be offered to all ages.
- We believe that we have a responsibility for Christian ministry to and within the downtown area.
- We believe that we must offer pastoral care, through the clergy and laity, to all of our members, according to their individual needs.
- We believe that we must develop and implement an expanded program of outreach.
- We believe that our stewardship responsibility includes the preservation of our historic properties for future generations.

INTERIM RECTOR'S REPORT

Every Sunday I stand on the front steps of Saint Paul's to welcome and visit with those arriving for worship. Some faces are familiar and more and more often they are not. They are the faces of those who come looking for something, who come because they believe they can find it within our community. There is a sense of joy, of expectation, that something truly transformational is about to happen.

When I process into the nave, move down the center aisle, and ascend the chancel steps, I am overwhelmed by the presence of the Spirit filling this place. When I turn around, I see in the faces looking back the presence of God. We are blessed. We are blessed with this place which is entrusted to us. We are blessed with the message of hope and peace and transformation through Jesus that we share. We are blessed by one another as we journey together.

I see and feel that we, as a congregation, are living out our ministry of hospitality. We are open and reaching out not only to those in physical need, but those seeking to grow in their relationship with a loving God. Every person we encounter is seeking what we are and it is clear that all are welcomed here to share this journey with us.

The bulk of this Annual Report deals with facts and figures. These are important. What is more important is the sense of vitality that is so evident here at Saint Paul's. We are full of life. A life grounded in our growing together into the people God calls us to be.

"This is the table not of the Church, but of the Lord." we hear. "It is made ready for those who love him and for those who want to love him more. So come, you who have much faith and you who have little, you who have been here often and you who have not been here long, you who have tried to follow and you who have failed. Come, because it is the Lord who invites you. It is his will that those who want him should meet Him here."and indeed we do.

Four years ago when I stood and addresses this Annual Meeting, I made the comment that we were going to have fun. I believe, in what I hear from and see in you, that we are.

Thank you for allowing Susan and me the privilege of sharing the fun with you, the people who are Saint Paul's.

George

ASSISTANT TO THE INTERIM RECTOR'S REPORT

Serving God's people in ordained ministry is my love and privilege, and I am blessed to have been called from seminary to begin this ministry at Saint Paul's by your Wardens and Interim Rector.

Invite. Equip. Send.

This in a nutshell is how I describe the sort of ministry (service/work) I feel called to; to create intentional spaces and opportunities where people feel welcome and able to gather; to equip people with the intellectual and spiritual tools they seek so they can discover, develop, and grow toward God's unique calling. To that end, much of my work at Saint Paul's has focused on Christian Formation.

The departure of our children and youth formation leader in August of 2015 set in motion a number of actions that just now are bearing fruit. For children, we spent the spring and summer preparing to offer Godly Play to our 5- to 7-year-olds. This involved recruiting volunteer teachers, hosting a regional training session, and purchasing and renovating a classroom. I believe that there is no finer method of children's formation, so I am grateful for the support, faithfulness, and resources that Saint Paul's has committed to fulfill our common obligation to bring our children up in the Christian faith and life (BCP 302).

We hired Ranie Neislar to coordinate and lead youth ministries—both formation and EYC, and she has invigorated each of those programs as well as recommended valuable changes that better serve their needs and meet them where they are.

Adult Formation—there has been a great participation increase in both short-term (book-focused) and long-term (Living In Community and Education for Ministry) adult formation opportunities. Formation is a lifelong endeavor and that should in all ways equip us to grow towards the full stature of Christ (BCP 302) in fulfillment of our Baptismal vows.

As we continue our ministry together, I will strive to do all in my power to support each of you in your life in Christ.

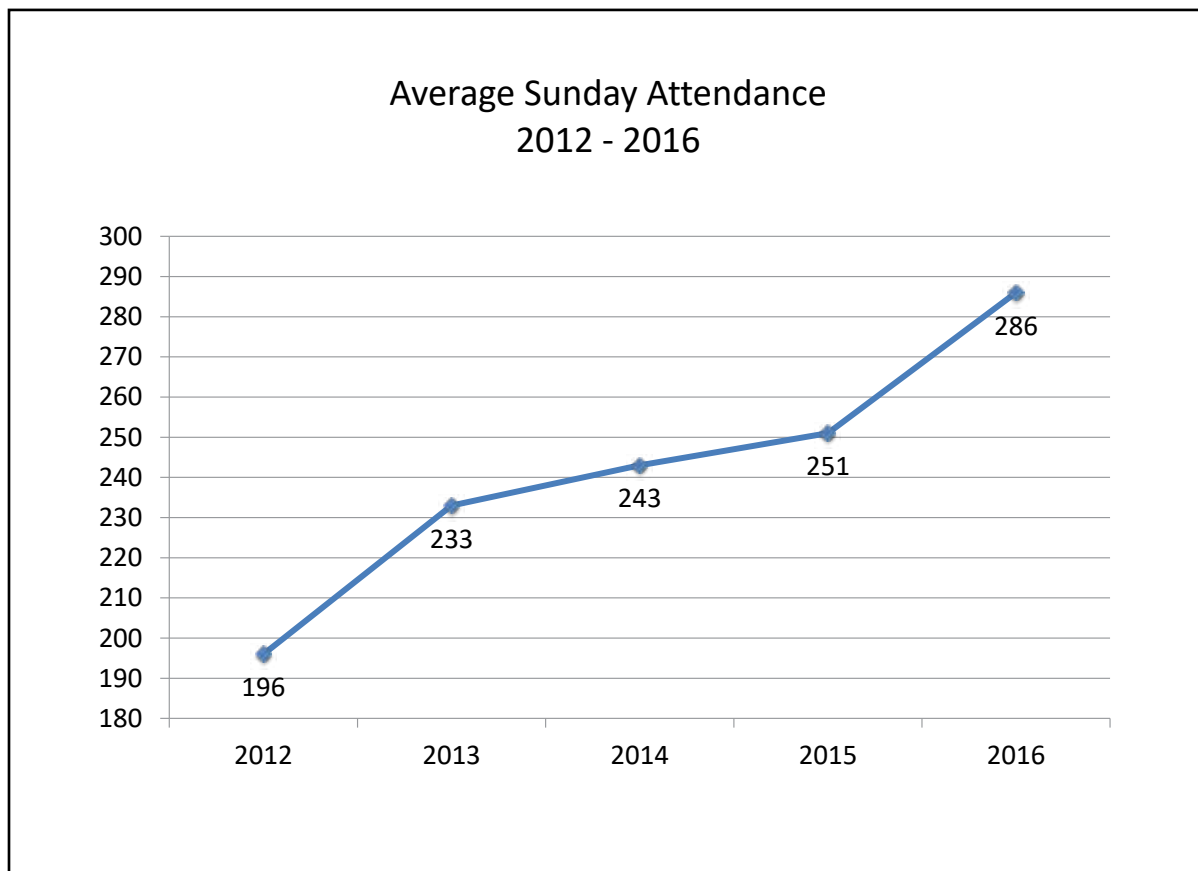
In Christ,
John+

FIVE-YEAR STATISTICAL SUMMARY

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	% change
Average Sunday Attendance	196	233	243	251	286***	45.9%
Number of Pledges*	168	184	179	178	185**	10.1%
Pledge Income received	\$471,000	\$498,000	\$615,000	\$657,000	\$667,000	41.6%

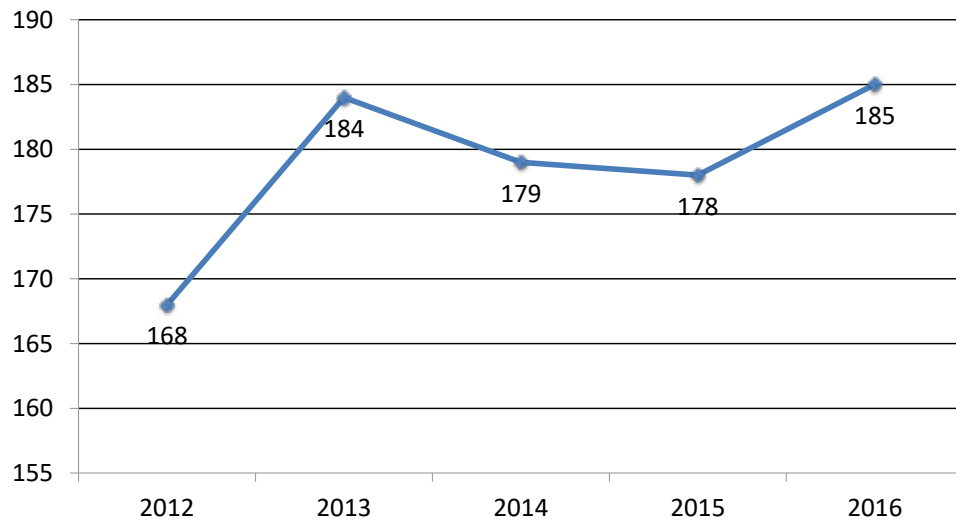
* Number of Pledges received for the following year

**Estimated Number of pledges



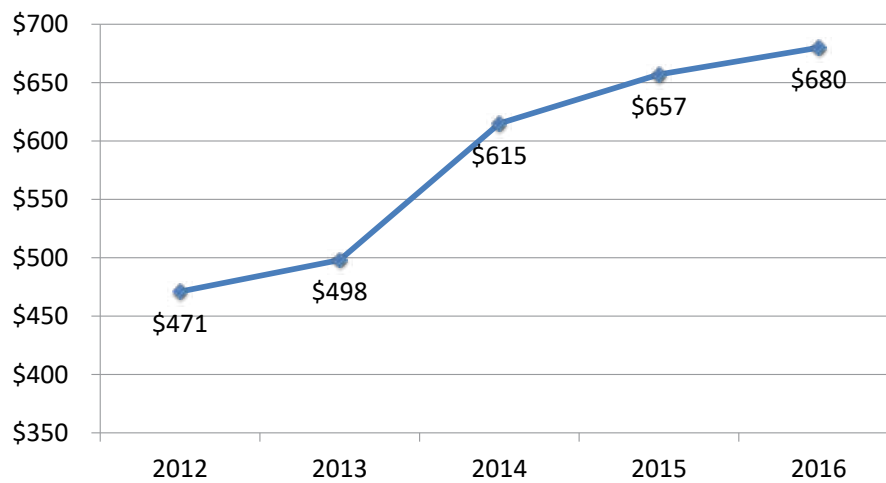
*** Average Sunday Attendance (ASA) is calculated using all services held on Saturday night or Sunday. Christmas Eve fell on Sunday this year contributing to an increase in ASA. ASA for the first 51 weeks of the year equaled 276.

Number of Pledges*
2012 – 2016



Annual Pledge Income
2012 – 2016

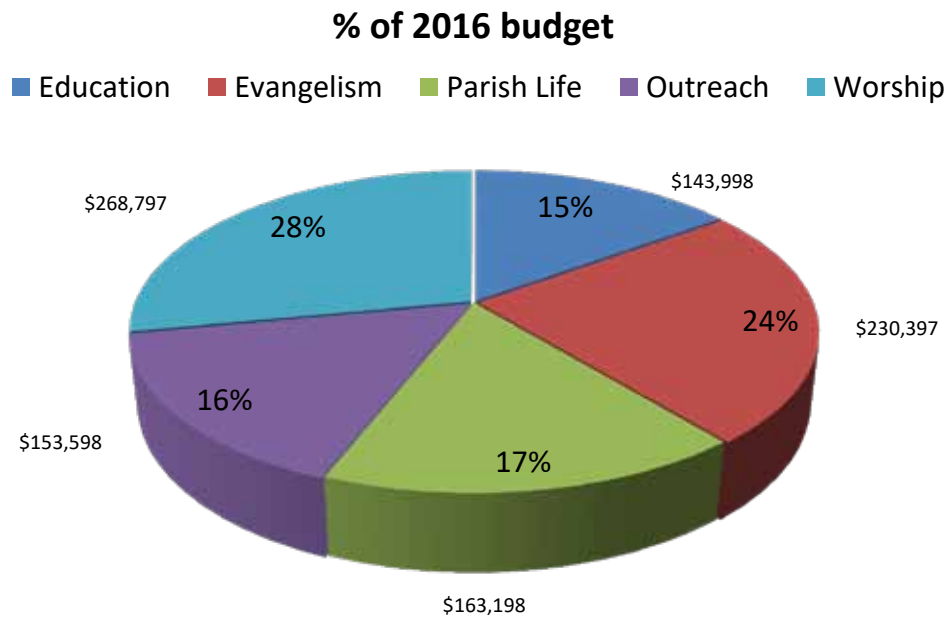
Pledge Income (in thousands)





2016 MINISTRY RESOURCE ALLOCATION

The pie chart below represents graphically how we allocated our resources among our five areas of specific ministry during 2016. The amounts and percentages are approximations which represent direct program costs comprising the portion of staff and leadership time, direct expenses, and facility utilization.



2016 MINISTRY REPORTS

ADULT CHRISTIAN FORMATION

In Advent of 2015, a group formed to explore and discuss the essentials of being Christian by discussing Rowan Williams's book *Being Christian: Baptism, Bible, Eucharist Prayer*. On the heels of that experience, another small group formed during the season of Epiphany to explore the Lord's Prayer with *Becoming Jesus' Prayer* by Gregory Palmer. During the season of Lent, a group gathered at noon on Wednesdays to discuss our faith journeys to and from the church guided by Rachel Held Evans's *Searching for Sunday: Loving, Leaving, and Finding the Church*. During the summer, a group met to explore the concept of Sabbath guided by Walter Brueggemann's *Sabbath Resistance: Saying No to the Culture of Now*.

In August we made a significant shift in our Sunday morning schedule. First, we resumed Sunday formation in conjunction with the local school systems rather than following Labor Day. Second, in order to accommodate the new children's program, Godly Play, and also meet the needs of our choral program, we expanded formation to a full hour that commenced at 9:30 AM. The clergy offered two classes for adults. Fr. Muir led a 10-week exploration of Flannery O'Connor's use of theology and Fr. Jenkins began a year-long examination of Christian community as seen through the lens of Benedictine spirituality.

Also in August, the Sunday evening Education for Ministry (EfM) group resumed its work of study and theological reflection. In September, a new EfM group formed and began meeting Tuesday mornings. EfM is an intensive, small-group (12 max) mentor-led formation class for laity (it is not an ordination track program). Participants cycle through four successive 9-month blocks of study (Years 1 thru 4: Old Testament, New Testament, Church History, and Theology/Ethics) and group-led theological reflection. Currently, a dozen parishioners are enrolled across Years One and Two of the four-year program. New participants may enter the program each August. Consult the clergy for details.

In Advent 2016, the entire parish was invited to participate in reading and discussing Rowan Williams's follow-up publication to our 2015 Advent study, *Being Christian*, titled *Being Disciples: Essentials of the Christian Life*. Small group discussions were held on Sundays and at noon on Wednesdays.

--Submitted by The Rev. John Jenkins

BOOK CLUB

Saint Paul's Book Club continued to meet every month for refreshments, fellowship, and a lively discussion of books in Tyler Hall. We enjoyed the visit of author, Karin Gillespie, the daughter of one of our parishioners, as the leader of the discussion at one of our meetings. The members met in July to decide on which books to read for the upcoming year. We welcomed 4 new members to the club this past year and welcome anyone to join us any month.

--Submitted by Anita Tanner

BUILDING & GROUNDS COMMITTEE

Committee members: Clay Coleman, Allen Harison, Leslie Lambert, Dick Manning, (Chair), Erick Montgomery, Wright Montgomery, Tom Robertson and Keith Shafer. Ex-Officio; George Muir, Brad Sandbach, Ann Ewell and Mary Jackson.

In 2016, the Building and Grounds Committee worked on the following projects:

Completed: playground renovation; repair of masonry of exterior windowsills on the parish house; installation of a second hand rail at the steps from the breezeway on the Reynolds Street side; replacement of the 80-ton chiller in the parking lot; replacement of a broken window in CMC kicked out by an escaping wannabe thief; stabilization of two of the handrails at the chancel steps; restoration and painting of the Bell Tower (thanks to a grant from The Creel-Harison Foundation); repair of a leak in the River Room roof; and many other smaller projects necessary on two 100-year old buildings.

In process: pressure washing (and painting where needed) of all exterior wood surfaces on the church, parish house, and CMC; development of a Disaster Relief Plan; and replacement of dimmer lighting panel in the church.

--Submitted by Dick Manning, Chair of the Building and Grounds Committee

CHILDREN'S CHRISTIAN FORMATION

How does Saint Paul's Church utilize the time, talent and financial resources of its members to fulfill the commitments made in the liturgy of Holy Baptism, to do all in our power to support our children in their life in Christ?

First and foremost, we honor children in the common life of our church, especially in the liturgy. We welcome and encourage their presence and engaged participation in worship and in the sacraments. For children to feel comfortable, safe, and included in our unique way of worship is among the most formative and loving gifts we can give them so that they know that they are valued and have a home in the Episcopal Church.

In August, we welcomed our 5- to 7-year-olds to a profound method of children's formation called Godly Play. The program is outstanding in its design, content and methodology, but the difference it makes to our children happens because of the teachers who freely give their time (EVERY Sunday, and to training and program certification!) and talent in service to our children. Godly Play is a Montessori-inspired program that honors children's inherent knowledge and connection to God and equips them with the stories, symbols, and language of our church and tradition. Each Sunday, the children gather, listen to foundational stories, and then practice the art of making meaning (i.e., theological reflection) that is age appropriate yet profound. Godly Play is growing at Saint Paul's because the children love it and tell their parents about it. The exciting news is that we have lots of space and capacity to welcome more children.

Over the next few years, we hope to expand Godly Play for all of our children through the age of 12. In the meantime, our older children will continue learning through the SPARK Lectionary curriculum. SPARK teaches children about the themes and stories of our faith that guide our church through the liturgical year. Like Godly Play, SPARK is made possible by a selfless group of people who share the responsibility of being present each Sunday, no matter how few or many children are present.

To all those who give their time and energy in ministry to teach the faith to children, we owe you our gratitude, thanks, and support.

--Submitted by The Rev. John Jenkins

CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILY COMMITTEE

We have had a banner year for the Children, Youth, and Family Committee. 2016 saw the beginning of our Wednesday Night Fellowship Dinners, and they have been very successful. What started out as various committees and groups within the church hosting and cooking the meals has now turned into those groups' just being responsible for setting up, making sure things run smoothly for the evening, and cleaning up. We now have a caterer providing top quality meals. This has accomplished two things. One, it has freed up the groups to focus on fellowship and family, and it has made the meals consistent. We are averaging 70-75 people -- young, old, and in-between -- on the second Wednesday every month. We look forward to seeing this fellowship continue to grow.

In 2016 we also sponsored the Saint Paul's Night at the Ballpark. Sixty members of our church family gathered for a wonderful baseball game, food, and fellowship at the GreenJackets' game. The feedback that the committee received was overwhelmingly positive and we plan on repeating the event in 2017. The weekend of July Fourth, we held our annual BBQ contest and, again, it was a very successful event. There will another one in 2017, with improvements! The committee strongly believes that the participation of children, youth, and families will continue to increase, and there will be multiple events throughout the upcoming year for this to continue and grow.

--Faithfully submitted by Todd Shafer, Chair of CYFC

DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

The Saint Ruth Byllesby Chapter of the Order of the Daughters of the King has been very active this past year:

- In May, the Chapter doubled in size with the admission of four new Daughters.
- In September, the Order initiated and has created a sustaining prayer ministry for college students and military service members in the parish with the direction of Rev. Muir.
- In November, the Daughters continued their ministry with The Advent Prayer Tree; lifting up special prayer requests from parishioners on a daily basis throughout Advent season.

For 2017, the Daughters plan to:

- In February, offer a Quiet Day for prayer and reflection for everyone in the parish who is interested.
- In March, begin discernment classes for women in the Church who are interested in becoming Daughters.
- Throughout the year, work with Rev. Muir to establish a Confidential Prayer Ministry by the Daughters for the Parish.

--Submitted by Suzanne Crotteau

EVANGELISM / MARKETING COMMITTEE

Branding : Working with the graphic artist who designed our current steeple logo, the committee approved four complementary logos for Thanksgiving, Christmas, Blessing of the Animals, and Easter. Images were created for Thanksgiving and Christmas and developed into both print media (posters and postcard invitations) and digital media (Facebook and Website Headers.) The committee hired a photographer on Pentecost to build the collection of available photos. Many of these images are in use on-line and in our print publications.

Facebook: Our Facebook page, Saint Paul's Church Augusta GA, has grown slowly, but steadily from 247 "Page Likes" in January 2014 to 577. A team of six parishioners works on a rotating schedule to post weekly to the page. This page is also linked to an on-line version of our Weekly Postings, our You Tube Channel, and our website.

You Tube: A new You Tube Channel, Saint Paul's Church Augusta GA, was established utilizing a Church Streaming and Podcast License to allow the full service, including choir anthems of copyrighted music, to be recorded. The new You Tube Channel is linked to our Facebook page and website.

Google my Business: Our Google listing was "claimed" and a "Google my Business" site was created. This allows for consistency in branding/messaging as well as pictures of the church (not simply pictures of the building) to be included in any Google searches. The site has listed 2.25k searches for our church - about half searching specifically for us and half finding us through an alternate search word.

Advertising: On-Line and Print Advertising was placed for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter.

As the year concluded, the committee focused on establishing goals for the 2017 in each of the above areas as well as established major goals working closely with the newcomer committee in designing and implementing "Invite" and "Welcome" initiatives.

The committee added two new members this year and is in transition with an interim chair.

-- Submitted by Elisabeth Price

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Leadership Development Committee was formed by the Vestry in March of 2016 to work on one of the goals of the parish three-year plan. The Vestry charged the committee to "Identify, expand and strengthen the leadership base in the parish and actively encourage new members to assume leadership positions." The Vestry asked the committee to work on the following initiatives:

- A. Focus church staff and lay leadership on creating a culture of volunteerism and service.
- B. Market opportunities for service through communications and education.
- C. Create "one time" service opportunities to engage first-time volunteers.
- D. Incorporate mentoring into all ministry and committee structures.
- E. Create a volunteer management and tracking system.
- F. Use recognition as a motivating and recruitment vehicle.

The committee met six times in 2016 -- first brainstorming action plans to pursue this year in addressing each these initiatives, then carrying them out.

The Committee completed the following action plans:

- Committees and Chairs were identified and a list made, with contact information. Committees each report to the Vestry through their Vestry liaison.
- A joint meeting of the Vestry, church committee chairs, and the Leadership Committee was hosted by the Leadership Committee in May. The meeting focused on the mission of Saint Paul's that we all share and generated ideas for identifying, strengthening, and empowering leaders of our church to carry out that mission. The event included a "thank you" dinner given by the committee in appreciation of these church leaders.
- The Interim Rector met with the chairs collectively and individually, to coordinate the fall schedule and to encourage them to name and train co-chairs, or "heirs apparent."

- A tri-fold display board was installed in the Narthex in the fall to feature a collage of pictures showing church committees and their ministries. Rex Teeslink and the staff supplied the pictures. Featured groups are changed periodically. Additionally, major committee accomplishments are recognized, from time to time, during services.
- Martha Scroggs was asked to gather a group to generate names of people who might be recruited for various ministries and to brainstorm possible future leaders. She brought an extensive list to the August committee meeting with recommendations of volunteers and the ministries which they might lead.
- Patt Nuessle conducted a communications survey of parishioners and presented a very professional report and Power Point to the committee. The survey mostly showed that Saint Paul's is communicating effectively with the methods currently in use. Survey results were sent to the Vestry, and a summary of the survey report was distributed to the congregation through the Weekly Postings..

As more newcomers began arriving at Saint Paul's, the Leadership Committee realized the importance of including them in ministry and enabling them to be leaders. The Committee proposed to the Vestry that it lead a newcomer incorporation initiative as part of its goal to "Identify, expand and strengthen the leadership base in the parish and actively encourage new members to assume leadership positions." The Vestry concurred, and Kathy Enicks and Claiborne Porubsky agreed to co-chair this new initiative.

--Respectfully submitted, Lee Robertson, Leadership Committee Chair

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Matthew 25:40

Outreach activities in 2016 centered on feeding, clothing, and helping our neighbors in the community and the world:

- Approximately 900 boxes of pantry staples were purchased and distributed to families through our Manna Pantry.
- Saint Paul's supported the Masters Table Soup Kitchen with donations and volunteers who prepared and served more than 1,200 hot meals to hungry Augustans.
- We supported the Downtown Coalition of Church ministries by contributing dollars, board members, and toiletries to needy families, including seniors and children.
- Saint Paul's provided a pre-race pasta dinner and opened its doors on Ironman Sunday with coffee, cookies, and respite areas for athletes and their families.
- Children from Craig-Houghton school received one-on-one assistance, school supplies, uniforms, and clothing from Saint Paul's tutors and mentors throughout the year. Our congregation provided gifts and a gala Christmas breakfast for the children and their families through our Angel Tree program. Children also received coats through our parish coat drive in the fall.

- Internationally, our church sponsored an orphan in Honduras, gave farm animals to families in honor of our newly-baptized, and assisted with disaster relief.
- We partnered with other local organizations, providing manpower and financial support to “all sorts and conditions of men” through St. James United Methodist Benevolence program and St. Stephens Ministries.

The Outreach Committee actively increased Saint Paul’s impact in the community in 2016 by spearheading a parish-wide Mardi Gras that netted \$16,000 for outreach activities.

--Submitted by Marilyn Grau and Anita Tanner, Co-chairs for Outreach

PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE

Our strong community is what draws and holds people here. There are many opportunities to deepen our relationships with one another and increase our sense of belonging as a parish family. During 2016, Parish Life offered many fun events for fellowship – PrimeTime receptions for the Over 50 crowd, other receptions for the Under 50 group, Sunday birthday celebrations in Tyler Hall, Celtic receptions, Newcomers parties, parish picnics, and other receptions/luncheons in the River Room for Annual Meeting, Pentecost, etc.

I offer my grateful thanks to the leadership of Parish Life for making us glad to be Episcopalians!

Anita Tanner – Hospitality

Julie Badger – Primetime Parties

Ann Pendarvis – Celtic Receptions

The Rev. John Jenkins – Parties for the under 50 crowd

Eleanor Harison Taylor and Mary Porter Vann – Birthday Celebrations

Newcomers’ Parties – The Rev. and Mrs. George Muir

--Submitted by Martha Scroggs, Vestry Liaison to Parish Life

RIVER ROOM

2016 was a wonderful year as Ann Marie Reckentine left big shoes to fill along with a full event schedule for the year. The reins were passed off and the River Room and Berlin stayed full for the rest of the year. Most events were weddings and/or receptions with an increase of Friday wedding receptions but we are starting to book more corporate events during the week. Kiwanis met 43 times on Mondays at lunchtime, Tuesdays Music Live hosted Tuesday luncheons 12 times, and Augusta Choral Society rehearsed in the Berlin Room 20 Tuesday evenings beginning in July 2016. This is in addition to the many church groups and activities that utilized the River Room/Berlin Room – EYC, EfM, Adult Formation classes, Annual Meeting, parish luncheons, Ironman Outreach dinner, Star Spangled Fourth dinner, birthday parties, funeral receptions, Vacation Bible School, etc.

2017 looks like it is on track to be as full as 2016, with only 11 Saturdays still open for events. Fridays are now beginning to fill up for weddings and/or receptions due to most of our Saturdays being booked. If you or any of your groups want to book any room in the church, Tyler Hall, and/or The River Room/Berlin Room, please let Mary know as soon as possible as 2017 is filling up and the 2018 calendar will be open soon. We are considering raising prices for The River Room/Berlin Room beginning June 1, 2017.

We experienced several maintenance issues in 2016 -- icemaker, dishwashing area, elevator, a leaky roof – All have been repaired. We purchased spandex chair covers for our chairs – a recommendation from our brides. We are currently evaluating our carpet and plan to replace it in the near future.

--Submitted by Mary Jackson, Facility Manager

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

The Worship Committee serves in an advisory capacity to the Rector and coordinates all the lay ministries that are required to conduct the worship services of Saint Paul's Church. The Worship Committee's membership traditionally includes the clergy of the parish, the director of music, and the chairs of the Altar Guild, Acolytes, Flower Guild, Lay Eucharistic Ministers, Ushers, as well as any others appointed by the Rector.

The Worship Committee meets, when needed, to schedule special services and coordinate all the laity required each week to conduct our worship services. For the entire year, we held three services each Sunday. Holy Eucharist was celebrated at 8:00 and 11:00 AM, and, at 5:30 PM, Celtic Evening Prayer and Communion. Baptism services were held 5 times during the year. Two Evensong Services with choir were held in February and November. November's Evensong Service debuted former head chorister, Heard Robertson's Preces and Responses. The traditional Easter, Thanksgiving Eve, and two Christmas Eve services drew worshippers from around the community. It has been noted that there are new faces in the congregation each Sunday.

Our Worship lay ministry members have worked very hard this year to hone their skills and grow their respective ministries. The Acolytes are incredibly dedicated and held training sessions quarterly this year. Saint Paul's presently has 3 Vergers, 14 Eucharistic Ministers and 31 Lectors. This represents an increase in Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors over last year. The Saint Paul's Choir has increased its membership to 35 members. They and the Canterbury Choir sing regularly at the 11:00 AM Sunday services and the Saint Nicholas Choir sings 56 times during the year. The Celtic Service has enjoyed the contributions of a number of gifted Augusta musicians, including Carl Purdy, Katie O'Shaughnessy, Rob Foster, Laura Tomlin, and Eryn Eubanks and the Family Fold.

The Altar Guild has welcomed two new members and continues to search for more. Some vestments have been refurbished and new items procured. The Flower Guild continues to recruit new members and has welcomed new co-chairs. The Usher teams are full and they maintain a list of people willing to substitute. The audio visual team continues its work under the guidance of part-time sound engineer, Howard Lovett. After sorting out licensing issues with YouTube, each 11:00 AM and special services are available via our You Tube page.

Additionally, in 2016 Saint Paul's hosted a convocational training session at Saint Paul's Church for those wishing to be Eucharistic Ministers and Eucharistic Visitors.

Please see the following individual reports of the various ministries of the Worship Committee for the year 2016.

--Submitted by John Robertson, Vestry Liaison to the Worship Committee

AUDIO VISUAL TEAM

The A/V system continues under professional guidance. Videos of the 11:00 services are available on You Tube. (Saint Paul's Church Augusta GA, a link is available on our website and in the Postings). Two mobile microphones have been replaced, one as gift (from Harold Lovett).

-- Submitted by Ted Hussey

ACOLYTE GUILD

2016 was another successful year for the Acolyte Guild of Saint Paul's Church. The young people of the Church have given and continue to give their time and talent to the service of God and the congregation. The acolytes participated in quarterly training sessions. Our senior acolytes continued being involved in developing and nurturing our youngest acolytes. A goal of the Acolyte Master was to increase the number of youth participating on Sundays within the Guild. The Church has seen an increase in younger people attending our Sunday services, and we expect to see an increase in participation in the Guild. The acolytes who are currently serving are doing so with enthusiasm. We will continue to strengthen our understanding of the role we serve in the liturgy and the role we serve in the greater Church. I want to thank the Clergy, Vestry, and the congregation for their continued support of this wonderful ministry.

--Faithfully, Todd Shafer, Acolyte Master

ALTAR GUILD

The Altar Guild had a good year, welcoming new members Ivey Harrison and Emily Lamb. Things ran smoothly during Lent, Holy Week, five baptismal Sundays and Christmas. The beautiful Agnus Dei vestments have been repaired/replaced and are again being fully enjoyed by all when worn by the clergy. The children of Sylvia Mayson, who served on the Altar Guild for over 50 years, donated a beautiful pulpit fall to match this set.

We are recruiting new members. Our work is "behind-the-scenes, sleeves-rolled-up" service. The commitment is for one full week a month which usually means serving on Saturday morning to prepare everything and Sunday for one of the services. Training takes time and patience but the reward is a deeper education of our symbolisms and liturgy and overall enhancement of your own Christian experience during reception of consecrated sacraments. This is a big commitment, as we are charged with maintaining the altar but we don't serve alone. Not only do we serve with the Bishop of Souls and Perfecter of our Faith but we work very closely with Clergy, Lay Eucharistic Ministers, Acolytes, the Choirs and of course our partners -- the Flower Guild and the Linen Committee. We do our best to always regard this space as the center of our worship and we take our work very seriously. If so inclined, we welcome you to join us as part of your own spiritual journey.

-- Respectfully submitted, Catherine Stuckey

FLOWER GUILD

Once again the Saint Paul's Flower Guild has had a stellar year. Thanks to the generosity and support of our wonderful parishioners, every available Sunday throughout the year has been sponsored.

We are so fortunate to have such a talented and dedicated guild. We all work together and make it fun and also learn from each other along the way. We have a rotation system composed of teams and each team knows when it is their turn to obtain, create, and dismantle the flowers. During special feasts such as Christmas and Easter, the entire guild comes together as one -- to transform the entire Church. It is like a well-oiled machine, only prettier!

As in all committees, there comes a time to have a transition from one chairman to another and I am extremely pleased that Pamela Uros has graciously agreed to accept the Co-chairmanship of the Flower Guild along with Clint Carroll. I have so enjoyed co-chairing this wonderful guild for the past few years and look forward to continuing to serve under Pam and Clint.

I encourage members of Saint Paul's to consider joining the Flower Guild; it is a wonderful ministry. You need not have past experience as it is a "learn as you go" process. Come check us out. You will be amazed at what you can do!

--Submitted by Lynn Mays. Co-Chair of the Flower Guild

MUSIC

I began my 34th year as Director of Music of Saint Paul's in 2016 and want to thank all of those who give so much of their time and talent to make our parish's music program so effective. Our adult singers each contribute more than 5 hours every week to the worship life of the parish and families with children also attend rehearsals and services on a regular basis. Melissa Schultz, our Music Associate, is a phenomenal resource and I am grateful we have been able to keep her at Saint Paul's despite the challenge of directing only a handful of children. Music Associate Emerita, Sarah Pritchard, continues to play an important role at Saint Paul's, accompanying the choir and playing occasional organ voluntaries. Kathleen Chandler maintains the church's extensive music library and Victoria Hammond manages all of the vestments, assisted by Jane Rordam, who is a wizard with needle and thread.

The Saint Paul's music ministry includes the Saint Paul's Choir (teens in grade 10 and adults) the Canterbury Choir (grades 3-9) and the Saint Nicholas Choir (children pre-K through grade 2). The Saint Paul's and Canterbury Choirs sing regularly at the 11 AM Sunday service and the Saint Nicholas Choir sings 5-6 times during the season.

The Saint Paul's Choir gained several members during 2016 and presently numbers 35 singers. The choir is looking forward to their April 2018 trip to Greece and Turkey. The choir sang Evensongs in February and November.

The parish's two 501(c)(3) arts organizations, the Riverwalk Series and Tuesday's Music Live, continue to grow and prosper. Tuesday's Music Live now has standing-room-only crowds for almost every concert. The Riverwalk Series gained new sponsors for the Star Spangled Fourth concert and featured the return of Russell Joel Brown as its "headliner" at the 2016 concert.

The Celtic Service has enjoyed the contributions of a number of gifted Augusta musicians, with Carl Purdy, Katie O'Shaugnessy, Rob Foster, Eryn Eubanks, and Laura Tomlin providing appropriate instrumental music each week.

It is an honor and privilege to be the Director of Music of this dynamic parish.

-- Keith Shafer

VERGERS, EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS AND LECTORS

Saint Paul's presently has 3 Vergers, 14 Eucharistic Ministers and 31 Lectors.

Our lectors include youth and adults. They read the lessons and the prayers of the people at all three of our Sunday services as well as other special services. Some of our youth have also read a lesson at the Service of Nine Lessons & Carols at Sacred Heart Cultural Center. Our Eucharistic Ministers serve the chalice at all services on Sundays, special services and occasionally at weddings or funerals. They also read lessons and prayers at some services. Our vergers serve primarily at the 11:00 AM service and at any other services at the request of the rector. While the role of the verger is most visible leading the procession on Sunday morning, much of the verger's work is behind the scenes working with the clergy, altar guild, ushers, and music director to make sure all is ready for each service.

In addition, some of our Eucharistic Ministers serve as Eucharistic Visitors, visiting the homebound who are unable to attend church.

In 2016 we hosted a convocational training session at Saint Paul's Church for those wishing to be Eucharistic Ministers and Eucharistic Visitors. This was attended by a number of people from different parishes throughout the convocation.

--Submitted by Carolyn Dolen

YOUTH

Youth formation through EYC and Sunday morning Formation Hour continue to evolve in exciting ways. EYC and Sunday morning formation seek to engage our youth in formation and fellowship in order that they can establish a unique Christian identity for themselves as young Episcopalians. In January 2016 Saint Paul's hired Ranie Neislar as Coordinator of Youth Ministries. Ivey Coleman and Jennifer Marr taught middle school formation on Sunday mornings using the Journey to Adulthood curriculum. They regularly had 5-7 middle school youth in attendance from January-May.

There was no Sunday morning offering for high school youth, other than Confirmation Class, taught by Ranie, George and John, alternately. Bishop Benhase confirmed 9 in the spring. Beginning in August, a high school formation hour using the Journey to Adulthood curriculum served roughly 4-5 high school youth, but dwindled to 2-3 by mid-December. High school and middle school formation hour classes combined for a total average of 7 into mid-December. Ranie and Todd Shafer jointly taught this class using the Journey to Adulthood curriculum. Ranie, Todd, and the youth that regularly attend are excited about using a new curriculum in 2017.

EYC at Saint Paul's has continued to grow and change in exciting ways! Throughout EYC in January-May, Ranie spent time getting to know the youth through more discussion-based EYC events: films ("Faith and the Force") followed by discussion and dinner together. These events had roughly 5-8 in attendance. EYC continued to meet through the summer 2016 but was limited in number. The group in attendance often went off campus for ice cream or dinner together, continuing to enjoy youth fellowship.

EYC shifted from discussion-based, relationship-building with Ranie to fellowship for youth and limited formation. The evenings usually involved a very structured group activity, dinner, and very brief time for simple formation. The activities included Scavenger Hunt, Color War, Bonfire, Ultimate Frisbee at the Barrett family property, Human Foosball, and more! It was a pretty wild and fun fall with an average of 13-15 in regular attendance through mid-November and dropped to 10-12 by late December. All in all, we saw an increase in numbers and reached a wider group of youth who are not involved regularly on Sunday mornings. We are excited to move forward in 2017 by incorporating a little bit more formation into our EYC meetings.

Aside from weekly EYC on Sunday nights, Ranie and Saint Paul's play a large role in the continuation of Cornerstone, the convocational monthly youth gathering. Under the leadership of Ranie and a couple other youth ministers from the convocation, Cornerstone has evolved into an opportunity for fellowship and outreach. Cornerstone continues to have about 30 youth from around the convocation with Saint Paul's making up over a third of that group. Beginning in February 2017, Cornerstone will live into the incorporation of outreach through service at Christ Church's Saturday morning "Community Meal" and one event in the spring, which has yet to be decided.

In addition to EYC, Cornerstone, and Sunday Morning formation, 10 SPC youth participated in a Whitewater Rafting trip to Charlotte, NC in September! We will definitely be doing another trip similar to that one this year. Youth also served and led a variety of parish-wide events, including a Shrove Tuesday dinner in February, a number of Wednesday Night fellowship dinners, an overnight lock-in to serve and participate in hospitality for the Ironman, leading a parish-wide picnic and pumpkin carving event in October, and caroling to homebound parishioners in December.

Fr. Jenkins has assisted Ranie in planning for the youth formation, has aided her in establishing a curriculum, and continues to be a sounding board for her ideas. Wright Montgomery participated weekly throughout 2016 as a volunteer leader and support where needed for any Youth or EYC meeting. Ranie is hopeful about extending her network of volunteer leaders in 2017.



2016 FINANCIAL REPORTS

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

The Stewardship Committee is pleased to report 182 pledges were received from our parishioners for the 2017 calendar year! This equated to a pledged budget of \$680,000. A few additional pledge cards are also anticipated.

This year, the Stewardship Committee decided to run a different type of campaign—one that involved a more “personal touch.” For the 2017 Campaign, we formed a large volunteer force of about thirty parishioners. The thirty volunteers then selected five families/households to personally deliver (when possible) their 2017 Pledge Card. This personal meeting accomplished two things. First, it gave the fundraising process a much more warm and personal feel. Second, it got parishioners together for fellowship!

The Committee was very pleased with the progress the volunteers made and is thrilled by the Parish response and outcome of the Campaign. Fundraising seems to one of the most difficult things for us to discuss; however, it remains critical to the life of the Parish and our many ministries. I have to admit getting 30 volunteers to give of their own time to take this task on was truly rewarding to watch. On behalf of the Stewardship Committee, and the entire Vestry, thank you to everyone who volunteered, and all who pledged for 2017.

One final note: While tithing is a year-round obligation, it can also be in other forms – time and talent come to mind. So if you want to get more involved with helping the Church continue its progress forward, please let George, John, or a Vestry Member know. Great things are happening at Saint Paul’s Church, but the best is yet to come.

--Submitted by Bryan S. Hawkins, Stewardship Chair

2017 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

As this annual report goes to press, we are estimating **185** pledges for 2017 totaling over **\$690,000**. These totals compare to **178** pledges for 2016, totaling \$679,000.

Of the **182** pledges for 2017, **57** reflected increases and **22** were new pledges*. (*Defined as pledges received for 2017 from people who did not pledge for 2016.)

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

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

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

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

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

--Submitted by Monty Osteen, Endowment Chair

ENDOWMENT FUND SUMMARY

As you can see from the Income and Expense Summary, Endowment Income continued to be an important part of our financial picture in 2016, accounting for 8.6% of our total income, the same as in 2015. Endowment Income is projected to account for 8.6% of total income in the 2017 budget. These percentages demonstrate the importance of building our endowment and why we will be emphasizing endowment giving in our stewardship efforts in 2017. Much of the current corpus in our endowment funds has come from the planned giving activities of our parishioners. We have also received significant contributions during our capital campaigns.

Our Endowment Fund balances totaled \$2.12 million at year end 2016, an increase of 2% over the \$2.08 million at year end 2015. Gifts of over \$34,900 were made to the Endowment during 2016.

TREASURER'S REPORT: 2016 FINANCIAL RESULTS

Total Income in 2016 increased 8.0% over 2015. Parish Offerings were up 3% and Property Rental was up 6%. Endowment Income remained the same over the prior year reflecting our traditional 4% payout rate. The spending rule that we use to determine distribution limits is based on a four-year moving average of portfolio returns.

Total Expenses were also up 3% in 2016 due principally to an increase of 19% in ministry Expenses and a 26% increase in Property Expenses. The increase of 27% in our diocesan assessment reflects a 10% assessment on adjusted gross income.

At December 31, 2016, total assets stood at \$9.9 million. Total cash assets about the same as 2015 with a 19% decrease in our Operating Account and a 3% decrease in Restricted Fund Balances partially offset by a 2% increase in Endowment Funds. We also reduced the balance on our commercial loan by 12%, from \$336,000 to \$288,000.

INCOME AND EXPENSE SUMMARY

	12/31/2015	12/31/2016	% Change
Income			
Parish Offerings	\$ 723,024	\$ 744,312	3%
Property Rental	\$ 125,967	\$ 133,186	6%
Endowment	\$ 80,300	\$ 82,500	3%
Other Misc. Income	\$ 1,097	\$ 82	-93%
Total Income	\$ 930,387	\$ 960,080	3%
Expenses			
Clergy Expenses	\$ 232,346	\$ 229,108	-1%
Staff Expenses	\$ 303,590	\$ 294,675	-3%
Admin. Expenses	\$ 47,503	\$ 29,312	-38%
Property Expenses	\$ 174,330	\$ 209,802	20%
Debt Service	\$ 60,300	\$ 60,300	0%
Diocese	\$ 47,393	\$ 60,076	27%
Ministry Expenses	\$ 64,253	\$ 76,716	19%
Total Expenses	\$ 929,715	\$ 959,989	3%
Net Income in Excess of Expenses	\$ 672	\$ 91	-86%

BALANCE SHEET BALANCE SHEET

	12/31/2015	12/31/2016	% Change
Assets			
Bank Acct - Operating Acct	\$ 159,874	\$ 128,720	-19%
Bank Accts- Restricted Funds	\$ 381,607	\$ 371,891	-3%
Restricted Investments - Endowment	\$ 2,081,494	\$ 2,116,487	2%
Total Cash Assets	\$ 2,622,974	\$ 2,617,098	0%
Buildings	\$ 9,112,034	\$ 9,132,957	0%
Accumulated Depreciation	\$ (1,663,286)	\$ (1,851,358)	11%
Total Fixed Assets	\$ 7,448,748	\$ 7,281,599	-2%
Total Assets	\$ 10,071,722	\$ 9,898,697	-2%
Liabilities & Equity			
Prepaid Pledges	\$ 96,615	\$ 89,733	-7%
River Room Deposits	\$ 16,286	\$ 19,000	17%
Deferred Inc. - River Room	\$ 24,500	\$ 36,538	49%
Deferred Inc. - Other	\$ 7,350	\$ 15,000	104%
Commercial Loan	\$ 335,542	\$ 288,011	-14%
Total Liabilities	\$ 480,293	\$ 448,282	-7%
Total Equity	\$ 9,591,429	\$ 9,450,415	-1%

TREASURER'S REPORT: 2017 BUDGET VS. 2016 ACTUAL

The 2017 budget anticipates a 2.5% decrease in total income compared to our actual 2016 total. A 2.6% budgeted decrease in Parish Offerings and a 5% decline in Property Rental Income.

Total expenses are budgeted to increase by .1% in 2017 over 2016 as well. The decrease in clergy expenses and increase in Ministry Expense account for most of the increase. Our diocesan assessment is scheduled to increase by 13% in 2017. This increase in the diocesan assessment reflected the increase in our adjusted income in 2017. Ministry Expenses will increase by 8% in 2017 reflecting increased activities in all of our core ministries.

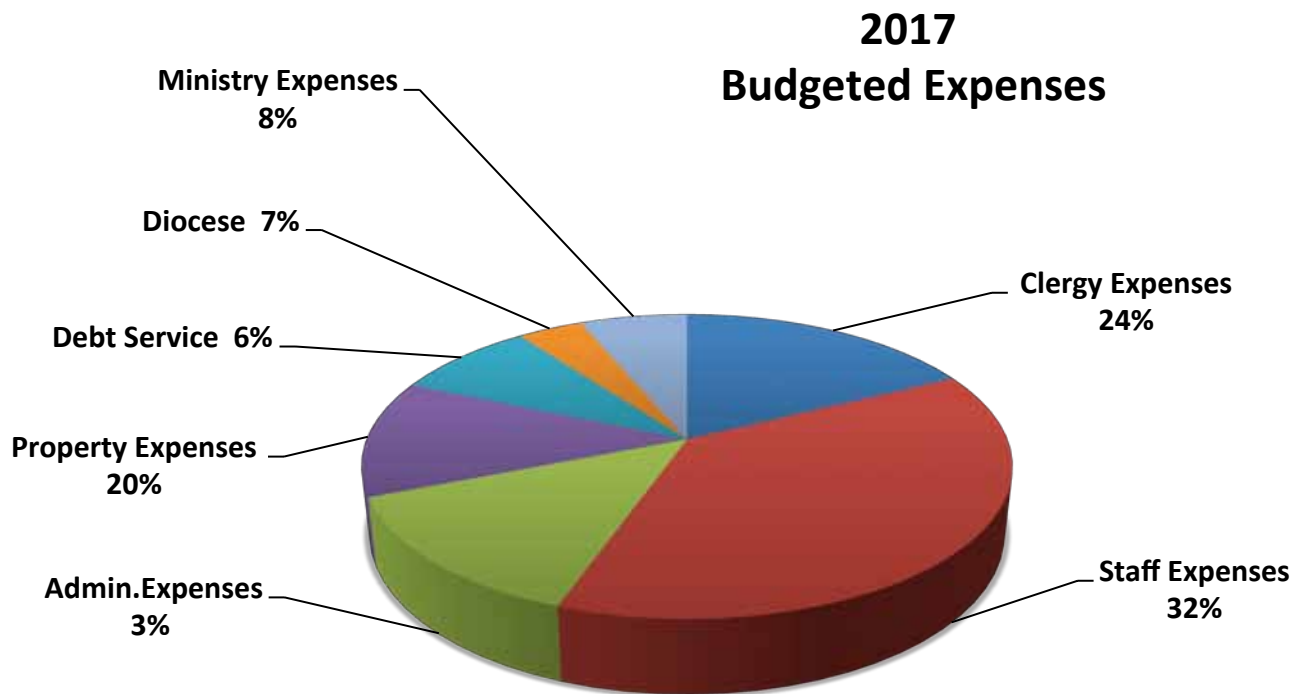
BUDGETARY COMPARISONS: 2016 ACTUAL AND 2017 BUDGETED

<u>Income</u>	<u>2016 Actual</u>	<u>2017 Budget</u>
Parish Offerings	\$ 744,312	\$ 737,000
Property Rental	\$ 133,186	\$ 130,200
Endowment	\$ 82,500	\$ 82,500
Other Misc. Inc.	\$ 82	\$ 13,000
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 960,080	\$ 962,700

<u>Expenses</u>	<u>2016 Actual</u>	<u>2017 Budget</u>
Clergy Exp.	\$ 229,108	\$ 217,948
Staff Exp.	\$ 294,675	\$ 308,599
Admin. Exp.	\$ 29,312	\$ 30,200
Property Exp.	\$ 209,802	\$ 194,100
Debt Service	\$ 60,300	\$ 60,300
Diocese	\$ 60,076	\$ 67,863
Ministry Exp.	\$ 76,716	\$ 83,600
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 959,988	\$ 962,610

Trans.to (from) reserve		
reserve	\$ 92	\$ 90
NET INC./EXP.	\$ -	\$ -

BUDGETARY COMPARISONS: 2016 ACTUAL AND 2017 BUDGETED





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