

# 2022 Annual Report



Sunday  
March 5, 2023  
Annual Meeting

Holy Eucharist 7:45 AM & 10:15 AM

Luncheon/Parish Meeting 11:30 AM

Guiding Principles

We are a Parish of the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana committed to living as, and encouraging others to live as, disciples guided by the historic faith and teachings of the Anglican tradition.

We accept, honor, respect, and love one another as Christ taught us to do.

We are committed to honesty and integrity in our dealings with each other, the community, and the Diocese.

We provide a framework for people in faith and help them develop for ministry.

We believe in and value Christian education in the Episcopal tradition.

We will resolve conflicts with love and respect. We faithfully administer the Sacraments.

Rule of Life

Growing in Relationships. Growing in Service. Growing in Christ.

Mission

To restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ (BCP 855).

Vision

St. Paul's strives to live the gospel of Christ by inviting all people, as they are, to grow in faith within an Episcopal community committed to a more loving, hopeful, and inclusive world.

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**St. Paul's Episcopal Church**  
**Annual Parish Meeting**  
**Sunday, March 5, 2023**  
**Agenda**

- Call to Order
- Opening Prayer
- *Trivia*
- Declaration of a Quorum: William Barousse, Clerk
- Approval of 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes (*see page 16*)
- *Trivia*
- Oral Reports:
  - Senior Warden: Stephen Kepper
    - *Trivia*
  - School: Charleen Schwank
    - *Trivia*
  - Treasurer: Ryan Kelley
    - *Trivia*
- Comments from the Rector: The Rev. Rob Courtney
- *Trivia*
- Recognition of Outgoing Vestry Members:
  - Stephen Kepper
  - Betsy Stoner
  - Greg Williams
- *Trivia*
- Election of New Vestry Members:
  - Ryan Kelley
  - Pat Pritchett
  - Nikki Wilder
- *Trivia*
- Closing Litany
- Blessing and Dismissal

## MEET YOUR VESTRY NOMINEES



**RYAN KELLEY** was born and raised in Memphis, Tennessee in the Southern Baptist tradition. He went to college at Christian Brothers University in Memphis and after graduation began working for KPMG, an international accounting firm, as an auditor. After six years with KPMG in Memphis, Ryan and his wife, Malinda, accepted a two year rotation with KPMG in Lugano, Switzerland. When the rotation was complete, Ryan and Malinda moved to New Orleans (Malinda's home) and started a family. Ben is currently in fourth grade and Claire is in second grade at St. Paul's. Ryan left KPMG in 2016 and joined LaPorte CPAs & Business Advisors in New Orleans where he is currently a Director in the consulting practice. Ryan and Malinda began attending St. Paul's in December 2013 and Ryan was confirmed at St. Paul's in May 2014. Ryan is currently the Treasurer of St. Paul's and previously served a term on the Vestry from 2019-2021.



**PAT PRITCHETT** born and raised in New Orleans and is a proud graduate of Brother Martin High School and the University of New Orleans. He and his wife Jean have been married for 35 years, and together they have two adult children – Beau (married to DC) and Allison (married to Josiah) -- plus their granddog Pacey. Pat and Jean met in Washington, DC at the beginning of their CIA careers, and during their careers they lived in the Philippines, the Republic of Panama, and Pat served an unaccompanied year in Iraq. They retired and moved (back) to New Orleans in 2016 and have been active members of St. Paul's Episcopal Church since 2017. Pat has prior Vestry experience, having served at the Church of the Holy Trinity in Manila, Philippines and at St. Matthew's Episcopal in Sterling, VA, including two years as Senior Warden. Pat is very thankful for the role St. Paul's plays in his and Jean's lives, and he is excited for the opportunity to serve the St. Paul's community should he be elected.



**NICOLE CAMMATTE WILDER**  
I was born and raised in Jefferson/ Orleans parish. I am currently employed as a pharmacy Technician at Ochsner Baptist hospital in New Orleans. I attended grammar school at St. Paul's Episcopal School, I later graduated from Ecole Classique High school. I received Associated Degree in Business Administration and a degree in Pharmacy Technician from Delgado Community College. My family has attended St. Paul's and served in various capacities with the church for 3 generations. As a teenager I served as an acolyte and helped with vacation bible school. Currently, I serve on the altar guild, wedding and hospitality committees. I have watched St. Paul's grow and change over the past 50 years and would like to be a larger part of the church continued growth and changes heading into the future.

## RECTOR'S REFLECTION



Greetings, St. Paul's! Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I am so grateful for you and everyone who is a part of the wider St. Paul's community. Many faithful people like you work diligently to the glory of God and on St. Paul's behalf to live out our mission "to restore people to unity with God and each other in Christ." You are part of a community that generously gives of "ourselves, our souls, and bodies" (as the Prayer Book says) for the work of sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ in our neighborhood and our wider city. Thank you for all that you do!

Recently, I finished a book called *Churches and the Crisis of Decline: A Hopeful, Practical Ecclesiology for a Secular Age* by Andrew Root. Sounds like a page-turner, right? It indeed is if you're a church nerd like me. Essentially, the author believes that like many people and organizations in our modern, secular age, the church seems to have bought into the conviction that every problem can be solved through more (or the correct) effort. Root says that the Church frequently thinks, behaves, and acts like we are the hero of our own story, making it all happen through our own effort. The forgotten truth, rather, is that *we are not, and God is*. Channeling the work of the famous 20<sup>th</sup> century German theologian Karl Barth, Root writes provocatively, "Without the incoherent claim 'God is God,' the pastor has no center to her ministry and the church has no real reason (that couldn't be achieved by some other social collective) to exist. . . . Only the claim 'God is God' can direct us to life" (p. 58).

This book knocked my socks off because I believe he's right: Why else does the church exist if not to proclaim that God (and nothing and no one else) is God? If we respond to the questions of our Baptismal Covenant with the repetitive answer, "I will, *with God's help*," then why do we continue assuming that it's all up to us?

Perhaps our call isn't to be the hero, but rather to be a guide, pointing one another and our community toward the God who is God, the only being who can save any one of us, much less the Church.

Reading Root's message in light of the last three years, I'm struck by how clearly I can recognize the ways God has once again been working to protect and sustain us as a community. The whole history of St. Paul's is a story of continuous dying and somehow finding ourselves risen by the grace of God. If you look back over our history you'll see numerous times since 1836 when we have faced death. We faced the closing of the congregation for more than two years during the Civil War. A devastating fire in 1891. Closures during the Spanish Flu epidemic of 1918. More devastation by Hurricane Katrina. COVID. Ida. Nevertheless, we are still here. I do not want to discount the herculean efforts by many, many St. Paul's members over the years who have served admirably to overcome these trials and tribulations. They deserve much credit. Nevertheless, do we really think we could do (or did do) any of this on our own? Are we the heroes here? Or is it the God "with a mighty hand and a stretched-out arm, [whose] mercy endures for ever" (Ps. 136:12)?

The last couple of years have been challenging. Yet, here we are once again slowly regaining our footing and moving forward. Could it be that the God who has sustained us through all of this still has some greater use for St. Paul's? I hope you'll take some time to read through these pages to see the ways God is working through St. Paul's to be bearers of Good News. I hope you will pray about the future of our church and *the Church* writ large. Perhaps you'll even hear the Spirit reminding you of the ways God has sustained your life through the ministry of St. Paul's. Maybe you'll hear God urging you towards ways you and our church can become more deeply involved in what God is already doing in and around us.

Please reach out to me if you have questions or concerns. My door is always open. May the God who has been our help in ages past continue to be with us in the days ahead, and in the age to come give us life everlasting. In Christ,

The Rev. Rob Courtney  
Rector

## ASSOCIATE FOR CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT



2022 saw St. Paul's digging deep to renovate our Children and Youth ministry programs. Our Renovation Team has worked hard to recruit volunteers, create systems, and identify areas of growth for these ministries. I am incredibly grateful for the work that Ryan Kelley, Dawn Brown, Mtr. Gina Jenkins, Jean Pritchett, and Eston Fain have put in to this process. In June, we held our Vision Summit with Elaine Pendergrass, our lead consultant, helping us craft and articulate a unified vision for our Children and Youth Ministries. From this work, the Renovation Team drafted six goals with one-year benchmarks and clear next steps for accomplishing those goals. Just a few weeks ago, we hosted the Christian Formation Summit. Again, Elaine led us through a fun and interactive process that helped us create an intentional plan for Christian formation that included a teaching calendar, a plan for milestone events, and a plan for special events to maximize the impact of the goals we set for our Christian Formation programs. This work is ongoing and we are excited about the upcoming opportunities. 2022 also saw the return of Children's Chapel and Godly Play, a Sunday School curriculum for children, as well as our acolyte program. We have had great success with Children's Chapel especially, and we have a good rotation of volunteers for this program. We are hosting a Godly Play training next Sunday, March 12, after the 10:15 AM service to train volunteers to tell Godly Play stories and to serve as Doorkeepers. Our acolytes are getting back to the rhythm of worship and it is wonderful to serve with them again. They add so much to our services. I am especially grateful that our junior acolyte program has continued to grow. A lot of good work has been happening, and we still have much more work to do! We need your help to make these programs successful and sustainable. Our greatest need right now is volunteers for the youth ministry program. We need volunteers to help plan programs, host events, and walk alongside our youth as they grow and mature in their faith. Is God calling you to serve our church in this way? Contact Mtr. Liz today!

The Rev. Liz Embler-Beazley

## SR. WARDEN'S REFLECTION



*We Must Continue to Grow Together:* Being asked to reflect on this past year begs the question, "Where have we been and where are we going?" As I pondered an answer, I began to think about what ways we have grown as a church and how have I grown personally from my time on the vestry. Indeed, the theme of "growth" seems to pervade every aspect of our church life. Our Rule of Life is "Growing in Relationships. Growing in Service. Growing in Christ." We say it every Sunday, but are we living it? Over the course of my term on the vestry, and in particular in this past year as Senior Warden, I have seen firsthand how our parishioners, clergy, and vestry are living out our Rule of

Life.

*Growing in Relationships:* While I was baptized and confirmed at St. Paul's and have been going to Church here as long as I can remember, I never really made an effort to really engage others. As a result, my relationships remained somewhat stagnant. Father Rob calls us every Sunday to go up to someone we don't know and ask, "Have we met?" This is how relationships begin. This simple act could open the door to a wonderful relationship. Following that introduction, the relationship needs to grow. Over the past year, we have implemented several opportunities to foster that growth, whether it be by participating in a men's bible study, a Wednesday W@tch program, attending a lectionary session, or assisting with our new youth program "Godly Play." This is just a small subset of the services and programs we have developed over the past year. For me personally, many of the relationships formed by serving on the vestry have found a deeper connection through our men's bible study. I



have also seen firsthand my children's natural curiosity, love, and relationship with God grow with Godly Play. I would encourage all of you to seek out and grow new relationships.

*Growing in Service:* The selfless act of service to help others is the most fulfilling work you can do, and my time on the vestry has opened my eyes to how much time and effort is put in by various volunteers of our parish community – all behind the scenes. Our Alter Guild makes sure our sanctuary is prepared for service. Our outreach programs, like Lantern Light, feed the homeless. Our volunteers for youth ministry have invested in our children's growth and are leading Godly Play on Sundays. These are just a few examples, and there is more we can do! If you are looking for ways to serve, there are plenty of opportunities, so please seek them out and begin (or continue down) the path of "growing in service."

*Growing in Christ:* What does this mean to you? To me, it means to personally grow my relationship with God. Through relationships in this community, research and reflections on scripture, worship, and service, I have found that my relationship with God has grown, but there is always more room for growth!

While the pandemic and Hurricane Ida presented real challenges over the past couple of years, I believe we have grown individually and together guided by the principles set out in our Rule of Life. I know that our clergy and vestry are focused on continuing this progress, and I hope that you will do the same. Seek out relationships, find ways to help others, and let's all grow in Christ together!

It has been a pleasure and a privilege to serve on the vestry and as your Senior Warden this past year, and I thank all of you for giving me the opportunity.

God bless all of you,  
Stephen Kepper

## ST. PAUL'S CENTER FOR COUNSELING AND EDUCATION



Our Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry has made a simple truth famous, literally across the world, and it's said at each St. Paul's school chapel:

**"If it's not about Love, It's not about God."**

That quote means so much to me that I had a bumper sticker made for my car, and I've never had a bumper sticker before. I realized as I began to write for this year's annual parish meeting, that the quote is the Mission of the Center of Counseling and Education; it's my mission as a counselor. I'm trying very hard to remember that each and every day, and each time I see you.

I've now had the privilege of serving St. Paul's as Director of the Center for Counseling and Education for eleven years. This experience has been truly amazing. I have laughed with you, cried with you, and gone through struggles, challenges and great changes with you. I've been blessed with the task of helping prepare many for marriage. I am grateful for the enormous gift of sharing your lives in very special and unique ways.

Thank you.



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What has 2022 been like? It's been an amazing year. I saw more individuals than in any single year. I had lots of people take the Enneagram. Most were quite excited about how much they learned about themselves and their relationships. They, as have I, discovered an invaluable tool to help understand what motivates each of us and how it differs from the motivations of others. It aids in understanding our greatest fears and needs. It us helps navigate stress and anxiety better. After taking the Enneagram, many said they felt validated. Others said they finally understand why they do things the way they do them. And others were relieved to realize there are others who think, see, and experience the world the same way they do.

### **Is the Counseling Center for you? Yes!**

**I am here to listen**, to care, and to help with whatever you are dealing with - any and all the changes and chances life presents.

**I'm her for everyone who is part of St. Paul's Church and School Community.**

*You can come with any concern!*

If you feel the need to talk about something happening in your life, that's why I'm here. Sometimes having another person just listen can make a huge difference. If you have decisions to make, I can help you evaluate all your options so you can choose the best path yourself.

**What is the cost?** Showing up! There are no fees. The Center is a ministry of St. Paul's Episcopal Church. It is funded through donations. Donations are both appreciated and tax deductible!

*I continue to find this work very fulfilling. You are amazing people and it is such a joy for me to share in your lives, even the sad and hurting moments. Thank you for sharing yourselves with me. I pray that by God's grace, my work is beneficial. Remember, no concern is too small or too large.*

Call or text: 504-330-2549, or email [jrobertson@stpauls-lakeview.org](mailto:jrobertson@stpauls-lakeview.org).

**All counseling is confidential. Only you can share what is said here.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Dr. Jeanne

Jeanne Robertson, Ph. D., LPC, MFT  
Director of the Center of Counseling and Education

## **ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL SCHOOL**

### **Head of School Report to the St. Paul's Community-January 2022 – February 2023**



#### **School Events January/February – May, 2022**

##### **Return to St. Paul's campus and construction after damage from Ida:**

- First day back on campus for Pre-K and kindergarten on Tuesday, January 18.
- Friday, January 21, we welcomed 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> graders back to campus.
- The 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> graders first day back on campus was Tuesday, January 25.
- Baby Saints and Toddler Saints returned to St. Paul's main building on Feb.1.
- Fifth Grade returned to the main building on Thursday, Feb 3.
- Gym floor was installed May 2.



**Fine Arts Week** - Students enjoyed a week of Fine Arts performances and activities as we dedicated the month to Black History. Ms. Davis and Mr. Mac treated us to special chapels highlighting the fine arts contributions made by many African Americans. Students attended presentations during the week from a string quartet, a magician, hip hop dancers, and a tribute to the Beatles.

**Little Saints Mardi Gras Parade** –The annual St. Paul’s parade continued on the turf. Emily Servat (LS3) was the queen and James Pontier (LS3) was the king. To be king or queen, you must bid on this event during the auction of the Gala.

**Fish Fry** – Our school and church Fish Fry was a great success on March 25. We sold 307 plates of fish. It was a great community building event. School and Church each earned \$1200 for outreach.

**Eighth Grade Play** – *Shrek, Jr.* was a big hit with parents and students! Eighth graders did a fine job singing, dancing and acting! They did a performance at night for parents and 2 performances for students.

**Professional Development Day** – Faculty and staff participated in a day of professional development, April 19, which included guest speaker, Jessy Molina, who spoke on “Reducing the Impact of Implicit Bias and Interrupting Microaggressions.”

**St. Paul’s School’s 60th Birthday** – We enjoyed special 60<sup>th</sup> birthday cupcakes on March 31<sup>st</sup>. Every student received a blinky diamond ring with our diamond jubilee logo.

**Assemblies** – Each first grader researched and presented information about one of the types of animals they were studying, including amphibians, reptiles and birds. Kindergarteners studied the continents and presented information about interesting animals, food, and places found in each continent. Fifth Graders worked very hard on their Hall of States projects.

**Eighth Grade Civil Rights Trip to Memphis** – Eighth graders travelled to Memphis by bus on April 10. This trip culminated their studies of civil rights in social studies and language arts. They toured the Civil Rights Museum.

**Coastal Roots** – Sixth graders experienced a Coastal Roots field trip to Buccaneer State Park in Mississippi, April 13, where they planted bitter panicum grasses that we are growing in our garden. This is an important sustainability field trip to help stop erosion and rebuild the coast.

**Gala** – A Jazz Fest favorite band, Usual Suspects, performed. There was great food and a live and silent auction. The gross amount raised was \$106,000 – an all-time high! We raised money for a new school bus.

**Standardized Testing** - ERB (Educational Records Bureau) standardized testing for middle school and Map (Measure of Academic Progress) Growth testing for lower school occurred in April. Map Growth measures achievement and growth because it is taken more than once throughout the year.

**Grandparents’ and Special Friends’ Day** – Friday, April 29. We enjoyed a performance in Little Saints and 2 performances in the church. A reception followed in O’Ferrall Hall and activities and photos were taken in the gym.

**Book Fair** – Our Parents Association engaged Scholastic to bring the Book Fair to St. Paul’s on May 2, 3, 4. The Book Fair took place in O’Ferrall Hall.

**GiveNOLA Day** – Thank you so much for participating in the Give Nola Day. St. Paul’s raised over \$7K.

**Jazz Jam** – Our own St. Paul’s studio band and choir performed on May 5. The choir and studio band performed separately and several songs together. Molli Davis directs the choir and Steve Thompson directs the studio band.

**Baccalaureate Eucharist** – May 10, 8:00AM – This Eucharist honored our graduating class and their parents.

**Graduation** – May 19, 6:00PM - 8<sup>th</sup> graders received their diplomas in the church with a reception following in O’Ferrall Hall.

**Fun Day/Swim Day**– On May 21, grades 1-3 went to Land-o-Pines. Grades 4 -8 went to Green Acres Country Club for swimming and tennis. Little Saints, Pre-K and Kindergarten stayed at school to enjoy water fun with slides.

**Summer Adventure Camp - Adventure Camp** – Adventure Camp occurred for 7 weeks this summer with Coach Dale, Lauren Brennan, and Edie Martinez.

## **School Year 2022 – 2023**

### **Construction Update:**

The second floor of the main building was completed enough for students to occupy for the first day of school, August 18.

The second floor received new lighting in the classrooms and new carpet in the halls and classrooms. The 2nd floor main building utility closet was completely renovated with new flooring, walls and sink. The doors had been installed but the frames had not arrived nor was the glass ordered in time for the beginning of school. Temporary door frames and plywood for the clerestories had to be installed. All fire safety features were installed, and we passed the fire marshal’s inspection. The certificate of occupancy was issued August 16.

**Re-enrollment/Enrollment** – We have 246 students re-enrolled/enrolled for Pre-K – 8<sup>th</sup>. Little Saints have enrolled 40 and Baby/Toddler Saints have 19 students.

**ISAS/SAES Accreditations** – This is our self-study year in which we examine all standards of the 2 accreditation bodies. We will spend the year doing this and send a written report to ISAS (Independent School Association of the Southwest) and SAES (Southwest Association of Episcopal Schools). The self-study involves every faculty and staff member and happens every 10 years. It is always an important time to reflect on and study every aspect of the school.

**COVID -19** – COVID-19 restrictions were relaxed and only the student or teacher who tested positive must isolate for 5 days. Upon return they must mask for another 2-5 days.

**Chapel** – The first day of school was joyful as all students assembled in chapel for the first time since 2019! Fourth – eighth graders enjoyed their newly renovated second floor.

**Faculty Retreat** – The faculty and staff enjoyed a retreat at the Solomon Center in Robert, La. on Sept. 1-2. We began our work on the self-study.

**Brown Foundation Service Celebration** - Our 8<sup>th</sup> grade students attended the Brown Foundation’s kick-off at the Pontchartrain Center. The Brown Foundation each year gives St. Paul’s a grant which funds most of our service learning such as the 6<sup>th</sup> grade Coastal Roots Program and our work with St. Michael’s. It also funds some of the PAWS to Work Program.

**Open Tour Day** – The Sept. 23 Open Tour Day was a huge success! Every time slot was filled. We will have 3 more Open Tour days for the year.

**Garden and Sustainability** – Some of the garden themes this year include: pre-kindergarten – Power Pollinator, kindergarten – 5 senses, first grade – fairy tales and enchanted garden, second grade – Japanese Zen garden, third grade – Native American Heritage Garden, fourth grade – Medieval and Colonial Garden, fifth grade – Mesoamerican garden (Ancient Aztec, Incan, and Mayan), sixth grade – Coastal Roots, seventh grade – Victory garden, 8<sup>th</sup> grade – Vietnamese vegetables. Our 8<sup>th</sup> graders are also creating Mason Bee hives to promote the continuation of the Mason bee which is a very effective pollinator.

**G.L.U.E.** – (Guidance and Learning Unite Everyone). GLUE returned after 3 years! This is a time for our Panther Pals to get together. Students missed these special times with their panther pals due to COVID restrictions.

**Class Chapels** – Throughout the year, each grade will present a lesson and lead chapel.

**Pet Blessing** – Our annual Pet Blessing was a great success on Friday, Sept. 30. Fr. Rob and Mother Gina blessed many pets including dogs, cats, and turtles! This is an event that students love!

**Pumpkin Patch** – The St. Paul's Pumpkin Patch was open for 23 days this October, raising a net of approximately \$23,000. In addition to being a successful fundraiser, the pumpkin patch raises awareness of the school throughout the greater New Orleans area.

#### **After School Programs:**

Art Lessons – Mr. Mac is teaching art lessons this year.

Chess Club – Coach Russ is back to resume chess club on Tuesdays.

Soccer Shots – This program is for Little Saints – second grade.

Sports – Middle school volleyball, flag football, and cross country finished their seasons, followed by basketball.

Soccer for third and fourth grade was offered as an intramural event.

**8<sup>th</sup> grade Trip** - The 8<sup>th</sup> grade enjoyed their trip to North Carolina. They went hiking, camping, rafting, and worked on team-building, and leadership skills. Mr. Thompson, Mr. Parks, Dr. O'Brien and Ms. Olivier lead the group.

**Faculty In-Service** – Dr. Margaret Huntwork, MD, from Tulane, did a presentation on allergies and epi-pens for the faculty and staff.

**Fall Fest** – Saturday, October 29, 11:00AM – 3:00PM. For a \$12 wristband, children enjoyed the inflatables and games. Men's Club cooked hamburgers and hotdogs. This event was enjoyed by the St. Paul's community and friends! Presenting sponsor- DOCO (Kuo family, Casey's uncle- 6<sup>th</sup> grade). Because of the rainy weather, Fall Fest had to be in the gym this year in a modified form. With t-shirt sales included, we raised approximately \$7300.

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade Trip** – Mr. Thompson led the 7<sup>th</sup> graders on their camping and canoeing trip, to Bogue Chitto State Park, November 2-4. The students had a wonderful experience, and Mr. Thompson, Ms. Willoz, Mr. Parks, Dr. O'Brien, and Coach Dale all worked hard to make the hiking and exploring memorable.

**Halloween STREAM Scream** – A combination of Family Science Night and Open House, this innovative Open House highlighted our creative and fun teaching styles and activities and was open to our own students, as well as prospective students. STREAM activities include: science, technology, religious studies, engineering, art, and math. The fire finale was a big hit!

**Halloween Costume Parade** – Middle school students dressed in their costumes for the day and lower school students dressed in their costumes in the afternoon. Parents and other adults were welcome to participate in the annual Halloween Costume Contest on October 31.

**St. Paul's Men's Club Golf Tournament** – Thank you to all who supported the Men's Club Golf Tournament. We had a very successful day on Friday, Nov. 11. Our sponsors were MOPHO, C3NOLA Construction, Galloway Law Firm, William Barousse of Voorhies Law Firm, Boykin and Utley, Forman Watkins and Krutz, LoCicero Family, Dr. Steven McPherson, Waltz Law Firm, and we thank our many hole sponsors! Hole-In-One Sponsorship- Royal Honda (Hotard family-7<sup>th</sup>.)

The food was incredible with gumbo from Pigeon, wings from MOPHO, pork sliders from Junior's, and burritos from the Hotard family. We had approximately 112 players this year.

**Sports** – Our 6th grade panther flag football team came in first place in the league and the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> flag football team made it to the playoffs. Congratulations, Coach Dale!

**Thanksgiving Feast** –The Thanksgiving Feast was Tuesday, Nov. 22. Parents, Maggie Sentilles and Vanessa Flores chaired the event this year. This is one of our cherished traditions and a time for the St. Paul's family to gather together and give thanks.

**Lower School Christmas Concert** – Saturday, Dec. 10. Pre-k – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade performed in the gym. It was a lovely way to bring holiday joy to our families.

**Trustee/Vestry Christmas Social** – The Vestry and Trustees gathered on Dec. 12 at 6:00PM in O' Ferrall Hall for some holiday time together. It is very important for the Board and Vestry to know each other as we work together for the good of St. Paul's.

**7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Exams** – This was a change for us to have exams before Christmas, Dec.13 – 15. Quarter dates had to be altered to make this work.

**Alumni Chapel** - Dec. 16. We had our best turn-out ever with 35 alumni attending. Annie Hasney and Emily Chopin spoke to the students about their memories of their days at St. Paul's.

**Epiphany Feast of Lights** – Our annual Feast of Lights was held on Jan. 6, with 8<sup>th</sup> graders performing all leadership roles for the service. Students especially enjoyed the candle flashlights and celebrating with king cake at lunch.

**Strategic Planning Day** – A Strategic Plan Retreat was held on Saturday, January 7. Andrew Wooden, formerly SAES interim director, conducted the meeting. These 5 statements below encompassed some of our focus for the day and will be used as we work toward more definition of our goals.

1. Achieve full enrollment and best composition of the student body.
2. Continue to build, promote, and communicate the richness of the St. Paul's Community.
3. Improve and enlarge curricular, extra-curricular and after school programs.
4. Improve and enhance facilities including teaching and learning (interior and exterior) spaces.
5. Support and enhance the opportunities for faculty/staff.

**Mid-Year Parent Meetings** – This year we returned to 3 mid-year Parent meetings, all in January. These meetings took place at St. Paul's and were designed to inform parents about the spring semester. This event also helped different grade levels join as resources for each other.

**Re-enrollment** – Re-enrollment for grades K-8th went out Jan. 17 and was due to be completed Jan. 31. Re-enrollment is completely on-line.

**Middle School Standardized Tests** – Jan.31 – Feb. 2. We have scheduled standardized tests for middle school earlier this year.

**Scope and Sequence** – Faculty are working diligently on the scope and sequence for the curriculum. This is done at every level from babies/toddlers – 8<sup>th</sup> grade. It incorporates every subject area also, from core subjects like language arts and math to enrichment areas such as the fine arts and the sustainability curriculum. This comes at a good time for math, as we are updating our math curriculum to include the new *Math in Focus*, just available in publication this year. This will also help to ensure that our curriculum, which is purposefully integrated in many subject areas, remains sequentially integrated. This is part of the self-study.

### **Fine Arts Week – Feb. 6-10.**

Once again the students enjoyed another week of fine arts performances such as Opera a la Carte, Opera Review, Andriu Yanovski, New Orleans Piano and Vocals, Delachaise String Quartet, and Casa Samba, Samba Percussion and Stilt Walker.

Respectfully submitted,  
Charleen Schwank

## **ORGANIST-CHOIRMASTER**



This past year was a wonderful year in the life of the St. Paul's Episcopal Church music ministry. As the irregularities from Covid and returning to the church facilities following Hurricane Ida, our music team has continued to be unbelievably resilient. I have never been as amazed by the generosity of volunteers as I have been with the volunteer members of the choir. Week after week they show up for Wednesday night rehearsals and extra rehearsals for special events. They show up early every Sunday to prepare for that day's mass. And when they arrive on Sunday to find out that many of their colleagues will be out that day for one of the many illnesses we've experienced this year, they change plans on the spot. As I said, they are amazing.

We are also blessed with our soloists. Eleanor Halm Simmons joined us last January as our new soprano section leader and has made wonderful contributions to the choir and program. Ellie, as she goes by, recently graduated with her Bachelor's from UNO in Film and Theater Production. She was also active in the music department and was soprano section leader for the UNO concert choir. She also happens to be my daughter. Unfortunately, we lost Max this year when he moved on to a music director position, but we are happy to recently add Randy Martono-Chai as our new tenor section leader. As the year progresses, I look forward to adding alto and bass section leaders to complete our quartet to help lead the choir and expand musical options.

Over the past year, the choir has grown closer as a team, but I'm especially thrilled with how they've grown musically. This is only the beginning, however. Just this last December we again held our Lessons & Carols service which was a joy to present, but we have many more plans coming. One of my personal pleasure is the planning team between myself, Father Rob, and Mother Liz. Each of us has a great passion for the role music plays in worship and a unique history to draw upon. I can honestly say I've never experienced such an open partnership for planning the way music and words work together to enhance worship.

The most important thing we need going forward is, actually, YOU! Everyone is welcome to be a part of the choir and music department. Yes, we practice very Wednesday night at 7, but this is just as much a fellowship

opportunity as a rehearsal. Even if you're not sure it's the right thing for you, I invite you to come and try it out. You are always welcome!

Timothy Todd Simmons  
Organist-Choirmaster

## OUTREACH MINISTRY

### **Lantern Light**

During 2022, 48 St. Paul's Episcopal Church and School members donated nearly 1,300 meals for the homeless and working poor of New Orleans as part of the Lantern Light feeding ministry. On the second Tuesday of each month, St. Paul's community members prepared and delivered 125-150 bagged lunches, including a hearty sandwich, a bag of chips, homemade chocolate chip cookies, a bottle of water, and fruit, which we recently added to enhance the lunches' nutritional value. As the COVID epidemic subsided, St. Paul's delivery teams were once again able to personally serve the lunches to the Lantern Light guests.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jean Pritchett

### **Camp Able**

In July 2022, St. Paul's hosted 120 special needs children and young adults for a fun-filled camp day on our school grounds.

Hamburgers and hotdogs were served, along with popsicles. Everyone had a blast swimming, in the pools, blowing bubbles, playing with water toys, and enjoying the water slides. There was an arts and craft table and even a dance-off!

### **St. Anna's Food Pantry**

Together, our church worked to fill St. Anna's Church Food Pantry twice in 2022. Our Lenten collection fed 49 families, where each family received three bags of groceries plus a box of Girl Scout cookies, which were donated by our school's Girl Scout troop! Then, for our Thanksgiving collection, we gave all the necessities to make a nice Thanksgiving dinner for 50 families. With each collection drive, we collected enough to feed each family for two months! This equals 594 bags of groceries or April and then again in November.

Respectfully submitted,  
Betsy Stoner



# TREASURER'S REPORT



## Treasurer's Report (pp. 18-20)



## Pledge Collection

- 92% of pledges were collected in 2022

<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
97%	87%	100%	92%



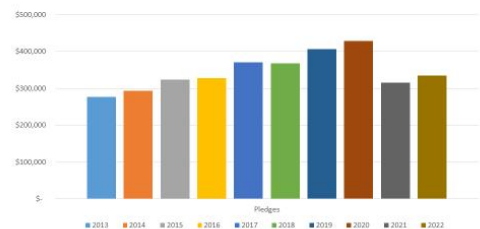
## Pledges for 2023

- To date, \$315,307 has been pledged for 2023

<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
\$406k	\$429k	\$317k	334k



## Pledge History



## Endowment

- O'Ferrall Fund was valued at \$2,431,655 at December 31, 2022
- \$1,477,000 of the Fund is permanently restricted
- \$954,655 was available for use

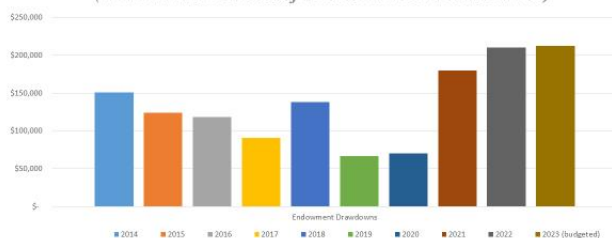


## Endowment (O'Ferrall Fund)

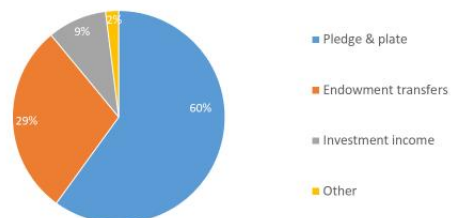
1/1/2022 Value	\$3,017,505
Dividends and Interest	60,943
Market losses	-368,012
Transfers In	2,824
Less Withdrawals	-270,951
Less Management Fees	-10,654
12/31/2021 Value	\$2,431,655



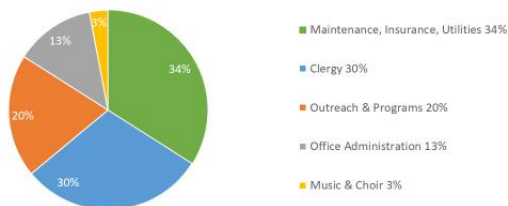
## Endowment Drawdowns (Withdrawals in Excess of Interest and Dividends Earned)



## 2022 Revenues



**2022 Expenses**  
Excluding Hurricane Ida



**Hurricane Ida**  
(9/29/21 – 12/31/22)

Cash spent	\$6,273,851
Payments from insurance	-5,935,994
Church portion of deductible	-39,426
School portion of deductible	-139,783
Other	3,360
Receivable from insurance	\$162,008

FINANCIAL REPORT-MARCH 5, 2023 ANNUAL MEETING

**2022 Stewardship Report**

Total Pledges Received:	99	units
New Pledges for 2023:	22	
Increased Pledges for 2023:	37	
Decreased Pledges for 2023:	13	
Same amount as 2022:	27	

Total amount committed: \$315,307

Changes in Investment Fund Balances	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>Change</u>
<b>O'Ferrall Fund</b>	\$ 3,017,505	\$ 2,431,655	\$ (585,850)

**Note:** Pursuant to the motion passed at the 2011 Annual Meeting, and in addition to the normal expenditure of dividend & interest income of \$60,943, principal of \$210,000 was withdrawn for operating and capital purposes.

<b>Memorial Endowment Fund</b>	8,553	9,548	995
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**Note:** Donations to this fund totaled \$4,440. Withdrawals totaled \$3,500.

<b>Bequest Fund</b>	32,808	36,076	3,268
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**Note:** The Building Fund is housed in the Bequest Fund, but accounted for separately. Donations to the Building Fund totaled \$2,950.

<b>Altar Guild</b>	2,317	1,408	(909)
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Note: Use of these funds includes purchases of altar/worship supplies as well as net flower costs.

<b>Eastwood Fund</b>	23,406	24,917	1,511
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**Note:** Donations to this fund totaled \$1,220.

<b>Columbarium Escrow</b>	14,459	14,646	187
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#### **School Indebtedness**

The school loan had a balance of \$2,461,810 at December 31, 2022 compared to a balance of \$2,582,092 at December 31, 2021.

## **ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES 2021**

**St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
6249 Canal Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70124  
Annual Meeting Minutes  
February 21, 2021**

#### **Clergy and Vestry Present**

Rev. Rob Courtney	Ryan Kelley, <i>Treasurer</i>	Cherie Bolner
Rev. Liz Embler-Beazley	Jean Pritchett, <i>Clerk</i>	Irene Ziegler
Laura Beth Ramirez, <i>Sr. Warden</i>	Eston Fain	
Stephen Kepper, <i>Jr. Warden</i>	Alison Quayle	

The 2021 annual meeting (attended by some parishioners in person and others via Zoom) began with a prayer and a review of the rules for Annual Meeting Bingo. Clerk Jean Pritchett declared a quorum (at least 25 members in attendance). Fr. Rob announced the new candidates for Vestry: William Barousse, Lori Parault, and Melissa Carnall. With no additional candidates raised, Natalie James moved to approve the new Vestry members by acclamation, David Russell seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. A motion to accept the 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes was made by Jason Akers and seconded by Ryan Kelley, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

#### **Senior Warden Report – Laura Beth Ramirez**

- God has been with us throughout all the changes required due to the pandemic.
- The Vestry met in December at the Solomon Center and wrote a new St. Paul's vision statement, as follows:

- *St. Paul's strives to live the Gospel of Christ by inviting all people, as they are, to grow in faith within an Episcopal community committed to a more loving, hopeful, and inclusive world.*
- Streaming our services online allows us to meet people where they are. For example, our December Lessons and Carols service was viewed 730 times; and the number of views of our Sunday services in January 2021 far surpassed our pre-pandemic weekly attendance.

#### **Head of School Report – Charleen Schwank**

- This is Charleen's tenth year as Head of School.
- In January 2020 Charleen began researching "coronavirus" based on information from the World Health Organization and immediately started to plan what to do if the virus hit New Orleans. At first people thought she was crazy, but her early planning paid off, and St. Paul's School was ready with their virtual "St. Paul's @ Home" as soon as the Governor closed all Louisiana schools.
- With loosening restrictions in June, SPES was able to open a 6-week Summer Camp, which turned out to be excellent practice for opening school in the fall. Currently, all school railings, doorknobs, etc. are cleaned every hour; students in PreK 4 and older wear masks and stay in pods of 25, and everyone is extremely happy.
- The school also hired a nurse, who has been extremely valuable helping to identify who should isolate, etc. To date, nine students have tested positive for coronavirus, with most being asymptomatic. Fr. Rob echoed how impressed he has been with the school's handling of the pandemic, to the point that the church has largely piggybacked on the school's plans and procedures.

#### **Treasurer's Report – Ryan Kelley**

- Eighty-seven percent (87%) of 2020 pledges were collected, which is understandable given the financial outfall from the pandemic but is down significantly from recent years.
- To date, \$309,000 has been pledged for 2021, which is quite a drop and is similar to pledge levels from 2014/15. As a result, our 2021 budget includes larger draws from the O'Ferrall Fund to meet operating expenses.
- The O'Ferrall Fund was valued at almost \$2.8 million at the end of 2020 (\$1,477,000 restricted).
- Fr. Rob thanked Ryan for his tremendous work as Treasurer, as well as the crucial role he played in getting our online streaming up and running.

#### **Associate for Congregational Development Report - Rev. Liz Embler-Beazley**

- With regard to our Children and Youth ministries, the key words have been adapting and flexibility.
- We brought back single-use activity bags for our Sunday services.
- Mtr. Liz has conducted some porch visits with St. Paul's youth and plans to conduct more in the near future.
- Confirmation will be held on Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>, and Mtr. Liz encouraged all to attend to show the youth – who have been very faithful in their preparation – how much we care about them.
- All were encouraged to go online and watch the adorable Children's Christmas Pageant.

#### **Parish Life & Outreach – Rev. Liz Embler-Beazley**

- A big "thank you" to Betsey Stoner and William Barousse for continuing our outreach efforts to Covenant House, Lantern Light, and the St. Anna's Food Pantry. Throughout the pandemic, St. Paul's has been faithful to our mission partners.
- Also "thank you" to Lori Parault for bagging donut holes to continue our post-Sunday service tradition, as well as for organizing the annual meeting luncheon.

- Also of note, Melissa Carnall, Lauren Homer, and Kate Wasson started new Bible studies/women's groups to meet parishioners' needs during the pandemic.

**Rector's Address - Rev. Rob Courtney**

- Fr. Rob began by underscoring how well the church and school navigated the crisis. We had tried online worship before, but the necessity brought on by the pandemic propelled us forward.
- As a church, we will continue to focus on spiritual practices and discipleship.
- A big "thank you" to Mtr. Liz, Lori Lavelle, Dr. Jeanne Robertson, Mr. John, Matt Wood, and Kristen Wheeler, who do so much for St. Paul's.
- Also a big "thank you" to outgoing Vestry members Tom Oliver, Alison Quayle, and Jean Pritchett.
- In response to a question from Gillian Eggleston as to how we can help those in our congregation who are hurting financially as a result of the pandemic, Fr. Rob noted that he's been using his discretionary fund for such needs. He added that the Vestry has set aside about \$8,000 for Outreach.
- Speaking from a parishioner's perspective, Jim Kepper thanked Fr. Rob, Mtr. Liz, and everyone involved in responding to the pandemic for their imagination and creativity.

Fr. Rob closed with a Litany for the Church. David Russell then moved to adjourn the annual meeting, Eston Fain seconded, the motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jean Pritchett

**The Rev. Rob Courtney**

Rector

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**The Rev. Liz Embler-Beazley**

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**Stephen Kepper**

Senior Warden

**Melissa Carnall Fauci**

Junior Warden

**Todd Simmons**

Organist/Choir Master

**Lori Lavelle**

Parish Administrator

**John Joseph**

Sexton

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