ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA
November 15, 2026
9:15 a.m.

I. Opening Prayer

II. Election of recording secretary.

III. Thack's welcome and opening remarks

IV. Nominations and first ballot for vestry and delegates to diocesan convention

V. Reports from St. Paul's Staff:
   i. Christopher Conger – Music
   ii. Elizabeth Faust - Christian Education and Preschool
   iii. David Kielek – Howard Wilson Life Center Sexton
   iv. Hali Nestande - Youth

VI. Senior Warden's Report and Men's Group Report– Tom Walker

VII. Jr. Warden's Report – Joe Cook

VIII. Treasurer's Report – Terri McMillan for Mike Sermon, Treasurer

IX. Thrift Shop's Report – Kathy Mallory

X. Exceptional Foundation's Report

XI. Report from Daughters of the King – Libbi Crowe

XII. Report from The Garden of The Resurrection – Liz Cobb

XIII. Election results

XIV. Adjourn and Closing Prayer

RECTOR'S 2026 ANNUAL REPORT

It's time to reflect on what has happened in the life of the parish in 2026 and my hopes for the coming year. First, let me say that St. Paul's is truly a wonderful community and I am honored to serve as your rector. I cannot think of a better job than serving our Lord and you at St. Paul's.

I. WORSHIP

Worship is something we all do as a parish. Our corporate worship flows from Jesus' proclamation, *"Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there I am in the midst of them."* (Mt. 18:20). Worship provides a source of energy for all components of parish life and provides a time and a place for spiritual renewal.

St. Paul's has been blessed with significant growth this year. Each week we have visitors and many have decided to stay and make St. Paul's their church home. Our average Sunday attendance has increased as well! Additionally, we continued reading Morning Prayer on our Facebook platform six days a week and will continue to let this be part of our weekly worship offerings.

The Revs. Judith Comer, Albert Kennington, and Bob Graves, along with seminarians Necie Borroni and Vivian Silliman have been a great help to me with our weekly services and have allowed me to share more of the liturgical responsibilities. We continue to have baptisms and pastoral services such as weddings, celebration of life services, and the Blessing of Animals. Our Lay Eucharistic Visitor ministry has grown because of the number of homebound parishioners we have. These ministers assist in the administration of the Eucharist and take communion to parishioners who cannot attend church because of illness or infirmity. Other opportunities for sharing gifts of time and talent include participating in worship as choristers, musicians, chalice and paten bearers, lectors, acolytes, vergers, servers, ushers, greeters, counters, revitalized Prayer Team, sanctuary bell ringer, or working diligently behind the scenes arranging flowers with the flower ministry or serving on our hard-working altar guild.

Sacred music continued to have an important role in our spiritual life. The choir and New Song offered traditional hymns, classic anthems, Gospel and contemporary Christian music for our worship. The two choral groups, each consisting of dedicated volunteers, offered this ministry under the leadership of talented musicians, especially Christopher Conger, our choir and music director, and Clay Rankin, the leader of New Song.

Christopher Conger deserves special recognition for his invaluable contributions to our music ministry. His solos, preludes and postludes have been superb! We are fortunate to have him share his gifts with us.

Finally, I am pleased to report that our Women's ministry, Daughters of the King, was quite busy in 2026! Besides adding new members, this group of faithful and dedicated women and children assist the clergy with prayer and pastoral care, both to and for the clergy and congregation. I offer special thanks to Jo Delgado for raising up a core group of dedicated young women to form the Junior DOK. They are a great addition to our ministry lineup.

II. EDUCATION AND FORMATION

We nurture each other in faith and develop disciples. Growth in faith is the goal of Christian education. St. Paul's features educational opportunities for all ages and for almost every interest. Sunday school classes for the younger children, under the direction of Elizabeth

Faust and the Sunday school teachers, serve the children of our parish with a curriculum that includes the Old and New Testaments and the Sacraments. Elizabeth and Kristina McKenna also conduct Children's Chapel for our smaller children.

Hali Everette, our new Youth Director, has been facilitating the Bible study class for the older children and teenagers. She will also meet with the Junior and Senior High youth on Wednesday evenings

Adult education programs include those facilitated by Elizabeth Faust, Terri McMillan, Janet Norman, and Becky and Mark Costlow. I facilitate educational programs on Sunday mornings in the Howard Wilson Life Center and via Zoom. We also have adult men and coed Bible studies on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings, along with book studies and discussions throughout the year during Great Wednesdays@6:00. Elizabeth Thomason facilitates a Young Women's Bible study on Wednesday evenings. We will have an Advent teaching series for three Wednesday nights during Advent as a part of the Great Wednesdays@6:00 program. The Anglican Studies/Confirmation Classes for adults will begin meeting again next January on Sunday afternoons from 2:00-4:00. In addition to this program, Elizabeth Faust, Hali Everette and I team teach Confirmation classes for our youth. These classes will begin in January 2027 as well. Elizabeth also assists me with first Communion classes to our younger children twice a year. Janet Norman and Terri McMillan continue to facilitate the EfM class on Monday evenings.

Finally, our nursery staff, augmented by parents and youth volunteers, provides warm, nurturing care for toddlers and infants so parents can participate in church activities.

III. PASTORAL CARE

Ministry to each other forms an important part of parish life. In addition to the pastoral care ministry that the clergy offer, St. Paul's is blessed to have a large cadre of volunteers who minister to our parishioners daily. Our Pastoral Care Committee consists of a number of subcommittees dedicated to serving the needs of our parishioners and the people in the broader community. The Heaven and Health Committee, coordinated by Judi Gulledge, has volunteers who assist the clergy by providing food, prayer and the ministry of presence to parishioners in need. Because of other commitments, Judi had to resign as chair of the Heaven and Health Committee. I offer my personal thanks for her years of faithful service. The Cooking Ministry coordinated by Margaret Cummins, and Prayer Circle, coordinated by Phyllis Bruce, provide much needed care and attention to our parishioners. As previously mentioned, our Daughters of the King chapter is a great addition to our pastoral care ministry. Finally, our Parish Nurse program augments the pastoral care ministry at St. Paul's by providing health advice and advocacy to parishioners preparing for surgery. Under the direction of Donna Nolte, St. Paul's is blessed to have these committed people serving our congregation.

IV. FELLOWSHIP

We enjoy each other's company at St. Paul's! Our fellowship includes parish picnics ably coordinated by Elizabeth Faust and the Men of St. Paul's. Speaking of the Men of St. Paul's, they continue to grow in number and are a very visible presence here. Under the leadership of Tom Walker, they assist in maintaining the church grounds, prepare the monthly parish breakfast, and stand ready to assist parishioners in times of need. Other social activities include our supper clubs; small group ministry; Shrove Tuesday pancake supper; and Cursillo Reunion Groups. In addition, the Ushers and Greeters welcome parishioners and visitors alike before the

services. They help to make newcomers feel at home at St. Paul's.

V. BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Volunteers assisted our Junior Warden, Joe Cook, and our cleaning service in taking care of the physical plant. They periodically clean and make repairs to the building, maintain the lawns, and do the landscaping. David Kielek, Joe Cook, Tim Michael, Liston Jones, Matt Cassity, Donna Brown, Tom Walker, Cindy Hoeb, Bob Hoeb, Lee Richards, Peggy Connell, Matt Thomason, Sam Thompson, and Coleman Wood, spend many hours changing light bulbs, plunging toilets, and doing minor maintenance. Finally, Liz Cobb and the Garden of the Resurrection Committee have done a superb job of maintaining the Garden and preparing the final resting places for our departed loved ones. We could not afford to pay these wonderful volunteers for the work they do for this parish. We can thank them, however, whenever we see them.

We embarked on a small Capital Campaign to raise funds to pay for necessary deferred maintenance issues around the parish. Through your generosity we exceeded our goals and have already replaced a couple of HVAC units in the Howard Wilson Center, recarpeted the office and replaced the flooring in Malone Hall. Many thanks to our Junior Warden Joe Cook, Matt Thomason and Dr. Michael Quinn for organizing this work.

VI. OUTREACH

We reach out to those in need in our community, region, nation, and the world. This is integral to our Christian life and throughout our history outreach has been a vital component of St. Paul's witness.

One of the most visible outreach ministries is the St. Paul's Thrift Shop. It provides affordable clothing, housewares, furniture and appliances to the community, and typically uses the sales proceeds to support St. Paul's Parish, Wilmer Hall Children's Home, Daphne Fire Department, William F. Green VA Center in Bay Minette, Camp Beckwith, Veterans' Court, The Lighthouse (home for battered women), St. Paul's Pre-School, Construction Missions to the Dominican Republic, scholarships for deserving college students, and other charitable institutions and agencies in our area. Thrift Shop managers Kathy Mallory and Paula Collier, under the supervision of the outstanding Thrift Shop Board and every volunteer, should be specially commended for their fine service.

Another visible outreach ministry is St. Paul's Pre-School. Under the direction of Elizabeth Faust, this important ministry provides a safe, nurturing childcare program in a Christian environment for the young children in our community. Our Pre-School offers one of the best childcare programs on the Eastern Shore.

St. Paul's is also a significant supporter of Wilmer Hall Children's Home; University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee; Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD); the Exceptional Foundation of the Gulf Coast; and Ecumenical Ministries.

St. Paul's has been very supportive of the recovery ministries in Baldwin County for several decades. As testimony to this commitment, St. Paul's hosts an ALANON group on Saturday mornings in the Howard Wilson Center. This group has been meeting at St. Paul's continuously since 1982 and is the longest running group of its kind in Baldwin County.

In addition, we participate in and fund overseas missions to the Dominican Republic. Historically, St. Paul's has been the most significant contributor in the Diocese to the

Medical/Dental and Construction Missions to the Episcopal Diocese of the Dominican Republic, both financially and in terms of volunteer missioners. Our youth also conducted mission trips to the Dominican Republic in recent years. Marty Olinger is the Construction Mission liaison and helped to coordinate the construction mission activities for our parish.

Finally, I want to make a special comment about The Exceptional Foundation. The Exceptional Foundation is a ministry to adults with special needs. EF's mission is to help adults with special needs live productive and engaging lives through weekly fellowship, physical activity, art therapy, and unconditional love. St. Paul's has a number of folks serving that ministry, including David Kielek, Linda McNamara, Edith Henry, and Jim Gordon who offer their time and love to this ministry. The participants meet Monday through Thursday in the Howard Wilson Center, and it has been a joy to have them use our space.

VI. STAFF AND OFFICE VOLUNTEERS

With respect to the aforementioned ministries, none of them could have flourished without the time and attention of a dedicated staff that sees to the administrative issues in our life as a parish. The administrative staff includes Terri McMillan, our Administrative Assistant, ably assisted by the Joan McKnight and Donna Brown, our Treasurer Mike Sirmon, and our cadre of *Tentmaker* folders. Terri and Mike keep the financial and administrative sides of the ship running and I would be lost without them.

Our choral director and church musician Christopher Conger and Clay Rankin also offer their *considerable* talents to shepherd our music ministry.

The Revs. Judith Comer and Albert Kennington have also been a great help to me as Priest Associates and always stand ready to assist me with the sacramental and pastoral needs of the parish. The Rev. Bob Graves also shares his gifts with the parish. Our Seminarians Necie Borroni, and Vivian Silliman have also assisted with our worship, and I'm pleased about their participation.

Hali Everett is our youth coordinator. Hali faithfully coordinates our Junior and Senior High youth programs. She has also taken on the "Sweet Treats" ministry and thanks to your generous donations of home baked goods, this ministry has already collected $1,400 payable to the Building Fund. The late Airrior Norwood started this ministry in 2008 and retired from it in 2019. In those eleven years she collected over $100,000.00 for the Building Fund.

Elizabeth Faust, and our wonderful group of dedicated volunteers, do an outstanding job coordinating our ministries and Christian education programs for our young people. Incidentally, Elizabeth and the many volunteers will put on another wonderful Vacation Bible School next June.

David Kielek is our dedicated and gifted sexton and works *many* hours behind the scenes setting up the Howard Wilson Center for its programs and activities. He also supplements the work the Junior Warden and other volunteers do to maintain the buildings on our campus. Finally, I am charged with providing the vision, oversight, and coordination of the various ministries and activities of the parish, and attend to the pastoral, spiritual, and Christian formation needs of the congregation.

VII. VESTRY, COMMISSIONS, AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

We are blessed to have an energetic vestry who attend to the fiscal and management decisions of the congregation. Under the current leadership of Senior Warden Tom Walker and our Junior Warden Joe Cook, the vestry is a wonderful steward of the resources they are

entrusted with. The assistance they provide me helps to enhance the mutual ministry model employed at St. Paul's. The various ministries of the parish are coordinated by enthusiastic Commissions, and our finances are carefully monitored by the Finance Committee. The vestry is also augmented by the active support offered by former Senior and Junior Wardens, including Tim Michael, Donna Brown, Ken McNamara, Michael Quinn, and Tim ÒptHolt, just to name a few.

VIII. DIOCESE OF THE CENTRAL GULF COAST

St. Paul's financially supports the Diocesan budget to help fund the Diocesan ministries and programs such as Wilmer Hall, Camp Beckwith, the Episcopal Diocese of the Dominican Republic, and many others. We pledge a significant amount of our budgeted income to the diocese. Additionally, some of us are also quite active within the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast. While service on these Diocesan Commissions is time consuming and sometimes involves considerable travel, it is important to the life and mission of our Diocese and a reminder that we are part of a larger community of faith. Other parishioners serve faithfully on Boards, Commissions, and Committees, and are always being asked by the Bishop to offer their time and help with the mission and ministries of the Diocese.

Like so many of you, I also serve at the Diocesan level. I am a member of the Commission on Mission Engagement. I am the Dean of our Clergy Convocation for Baldwin County and also active in the Cursillo movement.

IX. HOWARD WILSON CENTER

The Howard Wilson Center has greatly expanded our ministry opportunities at St. Paul's. Besides being used as a space for significant events in the lives of our parishioners, the Howard Wilson Center has provided a wonderful meeting place for the Bird Watchers Society, Scouting programs (Boys and Girls), and Mercy Medical Continuing Education, just to name a few. These outreach activities have made the Howard Wilson Center an important piece of our ministry puzzle. "The Underground" has become the center for mission, ministry, fellowship and fun for our youth and they are grateful to the parish for such a wonderful space.

X. STEWARDSHIP

The 2027 stewardship campaign is still ongoing. Our treasurer Mike Sirmon is doing a great job for the parish by managing the parish's resources. If you haven't already done so, please turn in your Annual Giving Card as soon as possible so Mike and the Vestry can prepare the 2027 budget.

XI. WHAT'S AHEAD?

It's my hope that St. Paul's will continue to flourish spiritually and through service in our community. We have a reputation in our Diocese for being focused on ministry beyond the boundaries of our campus. It is not an exaggeration to say we are quite probably the most ministry minded congregation in the Diocese. However, to accomplish all we feel committed to do requires the hearts and hands of the entire congregation. If you aren't actively involved in ministry, please consider getting involved. We need you, and more important, Christ needs you.

XII. A TIME OF TRANSITION, THANKSGIVING AND HOPE

As I approach my retirement on July 31, 2027, I find myself reflecting with profound gratitude upon the extraordinary journey we have shared over these past twenty-five years. We are entering a season of transition, a time when one chapter in the life of St. Paul's is drawing to a close and another is preparing to begin. While I am gradually winding down my ministry among you, I do so with great expectation and hope for the future of this wonderful parish. A new rector will bring fresh energy, new perspectives, and a renewed vision for the ministry and mission of St. Paul's. I believe with all my heart that God has wonderful things in store for this congregation, and I am excited about the opportunities that lie ahead.

I will never forget the day Rebecca, Virginia, and I first arrived at St. Paul's. You welcomed us with open arms, embraced us as members of your parish family, and surrounded us with a love and generosity of spirit that have sustained us throughout these twenty-five years. You have encouraged me, supported me, prayed for me, and walked beside me through the joys and challenges of parish ministry. Whatever good we have accomplished together has been the fruit of our shared faith, our mutual commitment to Christ, and the grace of God working through this remarkable community. For all of that, I am more grateful than words can adequately express.

I must confess that this is a bittersweet season for me. There is excitement about what retirement may bring, but there is also sadness in preparing to leave a congregation and a ministry that have been such an important part of my life. We have celebrated together, struggled together, laughed together, and sometimes wept together. We have baptized children, celebrated marriages, commended loved ones to God's eternal care, and gathered countless times around the Lord's Table. Through it all, we have been reminded that the Church belongs not to any one rector or generation, but to Jesus Christ, who remains its faithful shepherd through every season of change.

My greatest hope is that you will welcome your next rector with the same generosity, affection, and encouragement that you extended to me and my family. Give your new priest the freedom to dream, the opportunity to lead, and the support necessary to help St. Paul's grow into the fullness of what God is calling this parish to become. The future of St. Paul's is not simply a continuation of what has been, but an invitation to discover what God is preparing to do next.

As I prepare to take my leave, please know that I can never adequately thank you for the privilege of serving as your rector and sharing in your lives. You have blessed me far more than you can imagine, and I will carry those blessings with me for the rest of my life. Long after my ministry here has ended, St. Paul's will remain in my heart and in my prayers. I leave with abiding affection, profound thanksgiving, and an unshakable confidence that the God who has been faithful to us in the past will continue to lead you into a future filled with promise and hope.

May God bless St. Paul's Episcopal Church, its people, its ministries, and all those who will come through its doors in the years ahead. And may the grace, mercy, and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ continue to guide you in all that you do.

Peace, Thack

Music Report

I am pleased to be able to say that the choir is doing very well! I am incredibly thankful for their dedication and hard work. I am especially grateful for the sacrifices they have made and for the ways they continue to go above and beyond to enrich the life of our church. This includes preparing a Choral Evensong, working on difficult anthems, and singing at both Sunday services.

Serving St. Paul's as organist and music director continues to be a blessing to me every day. I look forward to church every Sunday and to rehearsals each Wednesday.

I am grateful for all of my choir members, for Newsong, and for all of the help, encouragement, and mentorship they have given me. I am also very thankful for our new members this year: Audrey Ford, Susan Waites, and Rachel Wetzel. It is a joy to have them with us. I pray more will join us!

As we enter this joyful season, the St. Paul's Choir is preparing for Lessons and Carols at both services on December 6. Following Lessons and Carols, we will begin rehearsals for Christmas Eve. We are also looking forward to singing at the drive-through nativity December 20.

Later today at 2:30 p.m., I look forward to hosting the Eastern Shore Chamber Music Festival. Dr. Robert Holm and Sahada Buckley will present a concert featuring works for violin and piano in celebration of the 250th anniversary of our country.

I am very grateful for the musicians of St. Paul's and for the opportunity to serve my church through music. I look forward to the Advent and Christmas seasons and all that we will share together.

Annual Report – St. Paul's Christian Education and Children's Ministry
November 2026

The mission of Christian education at St. Paul's Episcopal Church is to enable and support personal relationships with a loving God for everyone: child, youth, and adult. We fulfill this mission by offering a variety of experiences through play, study, and worship utilizing the strength in differences within our community. Our church, and the willingness of our community, offers an experienced, dedicated, and Godly team of volunteers to help execute our mission. The result is truly an example of God's plan at work.

Each Sunday, St. Paul's Episcopal Church offers the following:

- Our nursery continues to offer friendly, loving support to parents by providing a safe and comfortable place for children, age infant through 4 years, to experience social play with other children while parents attend church. Stefanie Patterson and Kristina McKenna are our 2 adult Nursery staff workers who are helped by Audrey Faust, who volunteers monthly.
- At the beginning of each service, children preschool age through third grade are invited to worship using a hands on, interactive curriculum in "Children's Chapel", which is currently being held in both the Children's Chapel. Every week we worship with a "Those who Serve" sign up upon arrival before beginning our child friendly, abbreviated service followed by a hands-on sermon and activity. Elizabeth Faust and volunteers help to create a friendly, loving, and respectful environment to worship and experience the love of Jesus through art, music, and story telling. At the peace, children return to their families to participate in the Eucharist with their church family. On the way, the children can pick up a bag of quiet activities at the Narthex to help keep their hands busy (and their hearts open) during the remainder of the service.
- Between the services at 9:15, St. Paul's offers a variety of Sunday School opportunities for all ages.
- I know that when I bring my children to church on Sunday, each one of us will be fed spiritually through fellowship, study, and worship. We are a very blessed community!

The fellowship, study, and worship continue throughout the week, as well. The church calendar reveals a plethora of activities for all ages. We have EFM, Bible studies, First Communion, Confirmation, Anglican Studies, Lenten Programs, St. Francis animal blessings, Advent Make & Take, Christmas pageant, Live Nativity Drive Thru, Easter celebration and egg hunt, VBS, and Rally Day, just to name a few! We have formed Social/Spiritual groups through Small Groups, Supper clubs, Sharing Faith Dinners, Bowling group, Youth group, Sunday Night Live, Family Nights, St. Paul's Men's Group, Platinum Treasures, and Daughters of the King. We have activities planned for the families in our church to provide fellowship for our children, as well as, ourselves.

There are no words to describe what a blessing and privilege it has been to serve and grow at St. Paul's for the last 18 years with the amazing staff and support of our community here. I know God is at work here and is doing big things!

Submitted by: Elizabeth Faust

St. Paul's Preschool

2026 Annual Report

In the fall of 2026, St Paul's Preschool began it's 31st year of outreach ministry to young children and their families in this community. This school year, the program has 30 children enrolled, representing 26 families and 4 of those families attend St. Paul's regularly. The goal of the preschool is to offer excellent early childhood experiences within a loving, supportive, and Christian environment to our parish and community. The preschool provides 4 classroom hours from 9am- 1pm with extended operating hours to include before school care from 7:30-9am and aftercare from 1-5:00pm to meet the needs of working parents. The preschool board supports the ongoing work of St. Paul's Preschool and employs a dedicated staff consisting of three teachers: Macie Gilmore, Lila Hearn and Charlotte Patterson, along with Director, Elizabeth Faust, and Assistants Ceela Hearn and Georgia McKenna. school day the excitement and energy generated by this amazing group surges throughout McCann Hall!

The preschool operates on a separate budget from the church budget. The fees and tuition collected, plus fundraisers provide expenses for payroll, resources, supplies, maintenance, utilities, field trips, outdoor and classroom equipment.

The preschool is so grateful for the support it receives from the parents, St. Paul's Thrift Shop, Father Thack, St. Paul's Church and the St. Paul's Vesty, St. Paul's Men's Group, and other gracious friends. This school year, the St. Paul's Men's Group made our dreams of a grassy play area come true, which has drastically reduced the amount of flood water entering the building from the playground, and repaired rotten posts on the breezeway. The prayers and gifts, as well as the donation of time and talents, offered by so many allow St. Paul's Preschool to continue reaching out to young children and their families in this place.

Thank you for this opportunity to serve!

Submitted by Elizabeth Faust

Howard Wilson Life Center Report
By David Kielek

2026 was a full year for events at the Howard Wilson Life Center; some of the highlights follow:

Regular and normal maintenance items regarding plumbing, toilets and sinks, heating and air conditioning, burglar alarms, flooring and carpets, lights and lighting fixtures, maintenance on the floor in the Grand Hall etc. have been completed as planned.

Recently myself and other Vestry members began an initiative to update the fee schedule for various rental events in the gym and conference rooms. It has been quite a few years since prices were updated and new fees will go into effect after the first of the year.

Thanks to the success of the recently completed capital fund campaign, delayed projects such as stucco repair and weatherstripping installation have been completed.

This summer the wi-fi and internet infrastructure were upgraded to fiber optic gigabit ethernet, replacing the slower, twisted-pair arrangement we had previously.

We have had problems with water leaks for several months now. In May we had a major operation to fix a 2000 gallon per day leak in the main pipe right outside the kitchen window, a fix that required a small backhoe and 3 men working for 2 solid days to fix. We still have a smaller leak, on the order of 10-20 gallons per hour, that we, as of yet have been unable to locate. We have had 3 different plumbing companies looking with the latest leak detection equipment, but so far they have been unable to isolate it. In recent weeks the rate of water loss has increased, which is a good news/bad news event; bad news, because we are losing more water than before, but good news as the increased loss should be easier to find. Joe Cook and I are still working to resolve this issue and I will keep you updated on any new information as it becomes available.

Thank you,
David Kielek, Sexton, Howard Wilson Life Center

Youth Ministry Annual Report

Hali Nestande

This year has been a busy and exciting year for our youth ministry! We have continued our Sunday morning gatherings at 9:15 AM through The Underground, along with our Wednesday evening youth group at 6:30 PM. We have enjoyed spending time together through Bible studies, activities, and fellowship.

Some highlights from this year include:

- **Sweet Cart:** We have raised $1,275 so far!
- **Trunk-or-Treat:** We had a great turn out and we are so grateful for all of the youth, parents and attendees!
- **Friendsgiving:** Join us for an evening of food, fellowship, and time together on November 18th.
- **Drive-Thru Nativity:** Our youth are preparing to help bring the Christmas story to life on December 20.
- **Shrove Tuesday:** Continuing our tradition of serving pancakes to the parish on February 9th.

Looking ahead, one of our biggest goals is to get more middle and high school students involved. We have some great things happening, and we would love to see more families and students take part. We want youth ministry to be a place where students feel comfortable, make friends, grow in their faith, and know they have a place at St. Paul's.

We are excited to continue building on what we have started and look forward to another great year!

Senior Warden's Report
November 15, 2026

Our church has experienced growth this year in many ways. We have added members to the Daughters of the King, Altar Guild, and Men's Group. We have added new young people who are serving at the 8 and 10:30 services.

We held grounds workdays in April and September. We trimmed the azaleas by the fountain in the courtyard in April and worked on trimming trees and removing ground cover in September. Scouts, who meet here, along with numerous church members greatly improved our campus grounds on these workdays.

Parishioners were asked to donate to a Capital Improvement Campaign. You not only met our goal but exceeded it! Thank you very much. We have used those funds to accomplish many projects around the church campus. Now, we need you to submit your 2027 Pledge Cards so that we can finalize next year's budget. Everyone please turn-in a card no matter the amount.

We are making plans to celebrate Thack Dyson and wish him well in his retirement. This celebration will take place in July of 2027.

We will be forming a search committee to find our next rector. All church members will receive a questionnaire to collect information needed to fill the vacancy. Next year will be challenging, but with lots of prayers we will find the best fit for our church.

We are looking forward to a wonderful Come and Behold Him event in the Howard Wilson Life Center next month.

Thank you,
Tom Walker, Sr. Warden

St. Paul's Men's Group

It has been a very productive year for the Men's Group. We started the year with our annual meeting at Champy's. We decided to use the funds raised in 2025 for numerous projects at the church and around the campus. We assisted the Capital Improvement Campaign with the accomplishment of some of the items on their list.

We have 4 teams that take turns cooking breakfast throughout the year. The men do a wonderful job of preparing and serving a delicious breakfast on the first Sunday of each month. We also cooked several hamburger and hotdog lunches for the parish. We served fried fish dinners as a fund raiser for the Mission Trip to the Dominican Republic.

We held work days at the church property. There were numerous jobs completed such as: power washing, weed pulling, shrub trimming, ground cover removal and sod laying. Some of the scouts that meet at St. Paul's assisted on a couple of the work days. We have more work days planned for next year.

If you want to join the Men's Group, we would like to talk to you. We are a very active group and are always happy to welcome more members. Please contact Tom Walker or any of the team at breakfast.

Thank you for your support.

Tom Walker
St. Paul's Men's Group

Junior Warden Report

11/8/2026

I appreciate the opportunity to serve as the Junior Warden for St Paul's Episcopal Church.

I am thankful to the congregation for their generosity that fully fund our Capital Campaign Drive. The Property Committee identified and prioritized the items that need attention on our campus. We have already accomplished several of the larger items. We are working diligently to accomplish remainder of the items on our list. Keep an eye on the Tentmaker to see more of the projects as they are completed.

I encourage everyone in our congregation to pray for the financial health of St Paul's Episcopal Church. We are coming up on the end of the year at a significant financial deficit in our operating budget. Our pledge drive will be wrapping up soon. We need a solid financial budget for 2027. Your help and commitment is all it takes!



Joe Cook
Junior Warden
Joeecook1@gmail.com
251-402-8467

We worship together as we seek God, serve God and share God with love and acceptance for all.

Financial Report - 2026
Mike Sirmon., Treasurer

We are just completing a very successful Capital Maintenance Campaign, whereby we have well exceeded our goal of $200,000. You should already be seeing the results of this effort in and around the church with new flooring, carpet and painting. Thanks to each of you that supported this campaign in any way. These funds will carry forward for additional maintenance in 2027.

Our operational budget is not doing as good. We are half through November of our 2026 calendar year and up to this point we are $80,000 behind budget with Operating pledges. With only a little over a month remaining in the year, we have a lot of ground to catch up to break even. We have received a couple of unpledged, unexpected donations that will help us to meet expenses by 2026 years end; however, we cannot count on such gifts to come every year. We still need a good November and December in pledge payments to close this gap. We continue to receive extraordinary support from the Saint Paul's Thrift Shop. We are so blessed to have the Thrift Shop and many thanks to them and the many volunteers. Please give them a hand if you get a chance.

We sent out contribution statements at the beginning of the month. Please use this as a tool to see if you are up to date on your 2026 pledge. We ask that you help us finish the year strong and cover some of our shortfall.

We are currently working on our Annual Budget for 2027. We continue to work hard at reducing our expenses where possible. We realize that costs are rising everywhere and it's hard to find reductions, but we continue to look for savings. You have received your 2027 Pledge Cards. If you have not submitted yours, we encourage you to PRAY OVER it and return it to the church office as soon as possible. These pledge cards are what we use to budget and guide our financial decisions going into 2027.

One of our larger financial hurdles is our mortgage debt. Our monthly payment is approximately $18,000. We would encourage you, if possible, to make an additional monthly pledge to our Capital Campaign to reduce our mortgage. It will take ALL of us doing our part to accomplish these goals. Your ministry is a Labor of Love, a Love for Our Lord Jesus Christ, a Love for Our Church and our brothers and sisters in Christ. God's Ministry is Worthy of your gifts, your money, your tithes and your prayers.

ST. PAUL'S THRIFT SHOP ANNUAL REPORT
NOVEMBER 15, 2026

ACTIVITIES:

I am glad to report the Thrift Shop has been as busy as ever this year! We are blessed to be given the opportunity to assist our church and community.

We had many activities this year to try to involve more of the congregation and the community. Some of our activities for the church have been holding an Open House at the Shop between services and sponsoring one of the coffee hours. To involve more of the community, the Thrift Shop has a veteran appreciation day two times a year with special discounts for our veterans. We also have a customer appreciation day on the founding day of the shop (July 7th). On that day, customers draw for discounts on their purchases. We celebrated our 49th "birthday" this year. Think of that, in business and still thriving after 49 years!

STAFF/VOLUNTEERS:

We are a small but mighty group of staff members and volunteer angels. Paid staff consists of Will Lomers who drives our truck for pick-ups and deliveries and helps all over the Shop. Jayden Mayo assists Will with handling our furniture deliveries and pick-ups. Tom Walker is around the Shop on any given day willing to help with whatever is needed. He keeps everything all organized! Joey Teague has been with us for five years now and handles donations and assists customers outside. Also, on the staff is cashier Heidi Kierstin, assistant manager Paula Collier and store manager Kathy Mallory. It's hard to believe how much we do accomplish every single day.

More importantly we have an army of volunteers who actually run the Shop. We have about 65 active volunteers. As always, our volunteers are the real reason we have been successful for so many years. Some have been volunteering at the Shop for more than 25 years!

We have volunteers who price, clean, decorate, cashier, handle jewelry, count Mardi Gras beads, bag purchases, arrange furniture, repair and test electronic items, fold linens, sort and price shoes and purses, post information about the Shop and sales on our Facebook page, and we even sell items on Ebay. As you can see, there is a job for everyone.

We realize we are the face of the church to our community. We take that responsibility very seriously. We are in constant need of new volunteers and would love to see more of our church members at the Shop. There is always something for everyone to do.

PROGRESS:

As in past years, our donations and sales have increased. We thank the parish and the community for continuing to support our mission. Thanks to all of you who have donated or shopped with us this year!

Just to give you an idea of how many items we sell, so far this year, we sold 112,771 individual items...29,000 pieces of ladies' clothing alone! As far as sales, this year we are on track to have over a whopping $600,000! I know our founding members would be so proud their idea of a sale to help the church has become so successful.

Even though our sales are important to the church and to the community, we provide much more inside the doors of our little shop. There are many times customers and volunteers just want a friendly person or a kind word to get through their day. We gladly take the challenge of being that support.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT:
As in the past, we support our community through in-kind donations, as well as financial contributions. We donated monetary gifts to 30 agencies and to the church from this past year's profits.

Just from January to September, we gave assistance to over 385 individuals with vouchers. This does not include the many homeless who walk in daily. We also donated items to clients of many local agencies including Prodisee Pantry, First Church Mobile for the homeless, St. John's Clothesline Ministry for the homeless, Keeton Correctional Center, Restore (Habitat for Humanity), Baldwin County Schools, Baldwin County animal shelters, Alta Pointe, Project Literacy, The Exceptional Foundation, W.F. Greene Veteran's Home, St. Paul's Mission Trip to the Dominican Republic, extra changes of clothing to special needs children in Baldwin County schools, clothing and shoes to indigent patients at East Pointe, shoes for the Soles for Souls project, and on and on. So many people in need and we are fortunate to have the resources to help.

In addition, we assist the many walk-in homeless who are in our area. Most only have the clothes they are wearing. They usually just want something clean and dry. All are in need of the support we gladly provide.

Again, this year, the Thrift Shop is proud to have given three $2,000 scholarships; The Howard Westbrook Scholarship, the Gerald Robinson Scholarship and one scholarship from the Thrift Shop.

As you can see, the Thrift Shop is a real connection to our community and beyond. Your donations and hours of volunteer work are the reason we are able to assist our community and church. We are proud to be a part of God's work.

We are forever grateful to Thack, Terri, Joan and Donna for their continued support. We also thank the Vestry and the Thrift Shop Board of Directors for their hard work and guidance.

"Giving our hands to serve and our hearts to love since 1977"

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Mallory, Manager
St. Paul's Thrift Shop

St. Paul's Annual Meeting- Sunday 11/15/2026

Exceptional Foundation Gulf Coast – 2026 Update

1) EFGC celebrated their 15th Anniversary on October 31st. The Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting ceremony to recognize this achievement. Thank you to St. Paul's for allowing us to utilize the Howard Wilson Life Center these past 15 years!

2) EFGC has served over (2,225) families from Baldwin and Mobile County in the past (15) years

3) EFGC currently serves an average of (60) Participants each day.

4) EFGC added a Life Skills Club to the activity list in 2026 – over (32) Participants have joined and are learning different skills to help with their daily lives. Some of the guest speakers presented on topics including; dental hygiene, budgeting skills, positive mental health strategies, and many more.

5) EFGC also assisted with some maintenance in the Howard Wilson Life Center in 2026. These projects included carpet and floor cleaning, plumbing maintenance, monthly pesticide service, and additional security cameras were installed throughout the building.

6) EFGC is always looking for Volunteers to come join us!!

Annual Parish Meeting Report:
Julian of Norwich Chapter, The Order of the Daughters of the King®

The Julian of Norwich Chapter of the Order of the Daughters of the King® at St. Paul has had a blessed year grounded in our lifelong vows of prayer, service, and evangelism. Throughout the year, our members have dedicated themselves to supporting the spiritual life of our parish and extending Christ's love to the broader community.

1. Prayer

- Prayer with Clergy & Parish Intercessions: Our chapter faithfully maintains the ongoing prayer list and parish prayer box requests.
- Lenten Quiet Day: On March 14, our chapter hosted a Lenten Quiet Day in Malone Hall led by The Rev. Martha Kreamer focusing on "Eucharist as Prayer," accompanied by fellowship and a simple soup-and-bread lunch.
- Book Studies & Formation: We deepened our communal spiritual formation through guided studies, including St. Benedict's Toolbox, reflecting on a rule of life, discernment, and spiritual rhythms.

2. Service

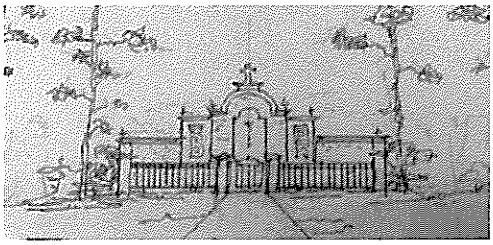
- Formation and Growth of the Junior Daughters: August 31, we formed the Brigid of Kildare Chapter of the Junior Daughters of the King. The Junior Daughters chapter met on the first and third Sundays of the month for study, fellowship, and crafts, building a strong foundation for their official chartering and initiation as the Brigid of Kildare Junior Chapter under the direction of Directress Jo Delgado.
- Baldwin Family Village (BFV): Members plan, prepare, and provide monthly meals and essential support for the residents at Baldwin Family Village.
- Parish Outreach Initiatives: We led and supported key seasonal ingatherings, including Undies Sunday in January, our Sockober" sock collection drive for those in need, and making and collecting hats for the Episcopal ministry The Seaman's Church Institute.
- We have hosted Coffee Hour twice this year

3. Evangelism

- Parish Hospitality & Events: The chapter has assisted with parish-wide events, including preparations and hosting presence for the "Come and Behold Him" Nativity event.
- Members represented our chapter at regional gatherings, including the Spring Diocesan Assembly at Camp Beckwith in April and the Province IV Fall Assembly at Camp McDowell in September.
- Advent Quiet Day & Assembly Preparations: our chapter is preparing to serve as host for the upcoming Advent Quiet Day and the Central Gulf Coast Assembly Fall Assembly, featuring retreat leader Sister Madeleine Mary, CSM, alongside our chaplain, The Rev. Judith Comer. The event will be on December 12.

We are deeply grateful to our clergy, and all our chapter members whose steady devotion sustains our Order. We look forward with joy to continuing our service For His Sake.

Respectfully submitted,
Libbi Crowe, President
Julian of Norwich Chapter, St. Paul's Daphne



St. Paul's Garden of the Resurrection

November 15, 2026

Our History: On May 18, 1982, A service of dedication and groundbreaking was held to commemorate The Garden of Resurrection to be a Memorial Garden for the burial and interment of the ashes of our beloved deceased for St. Paul's and the community. The Garden is located between Malone Hall and the Thrift Shop just outside these doors.

Fast forward to November 2026, we are a ministry blessed to preserve and care for our sacred Garden, comprising of 15 active and dedicated members.

Accomplishments and Projects:

- We had 4 burials this year, whereby members prepare the ground and make sure The Garden looks it's best.
- Bronze Plaques are hung on the wall with birth and death dates to memorialize loved ones.
- Monthly landscaping jobs: Cleaning and maintaining the Fountain, weeding, pruning, adding mulch and pine straw.
- Completed 2 successful workdays where we teamed up to power wash the Garden and nearby sidewalks, with more pruning and weeding.
- The bridge got a fresh color and new coat of paint.
- Repair work was done to the stucco wall to protect and preserve it.
- The fountain wall and brick columns were recently painted to match the church's new color.
- Our storage closet is getting an organization makeover, thanks to some handy members.
- The old grill site was dismantled as it is no longer being utilized.

We hope you feel welcomed to sit, relax and reflect in our peaceful Garden feeling God's love and presence whenever you like. If you have any questions concerning either joining our ministry or wanting to purchase plots in the Garden, please contact

Liz Cobb at 205-657-6457. Thank you for allowing me to serve our church in this way.

Candidates for Vestry



Bill Harrrison

Thank you for considering my candidacy for the Vestry. Saint Paul's has been my enduring spiritual home and life-changing beacon over the past 25 years. During that time, I have had the privilege of serving two terms on the Vestry—including two years as Senior Warden—as well as serving as a Diocesan Convention delegate, Lector, and volunteer across various parish workdays and ministries.

I bring a straightforward, executive perspective honed over a long career managing commercial operations, physical plants, and complex budgets. Saint Paul's is entering an important period in the life of our parish, where thoughtful governance, organizational stability, and seasoned stewardship will be essential. I would be honored to lend my practical business background and prior vestry experience to assist our parish leadership in the coming term.



Rhonda Jones

Thank you for considering me for the nomination for Vestry member, I am honored that I have been asked to potentially help guide our church into our next phase of our journey forward. I've been a member of St. Paul's for nearly 40 years. There was an absence of 18 months while searching for a different congregation closer to home. That is a full disclosure but also a testament to what the St. Paul's family means to me and my family. It wasn't the same anywhere else and St. Paul's is my spiritual home and my extended family.

I have served in many capacities through the years when asked. Some of these include youth leader when my daughter was young, VBS volunteer, Altar Guild, Flower Guild, Cooking Ministry, Family Promise, and Convention Delegate. I am also in my third year of EFM studies here at St. Paul's. I have three grandchildren that attend St Paul's having grown up in this church. They serve regularly, attend bible study and volunteer also in many of St. Paul's events. This is their home too.

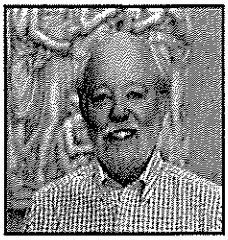
At this time in my life, I am retired from full-time work. I have owned two small retail business in my past, so I do understand the importance of running on a budget and also looking forward while sometimes making hard financial decisions.

St. Paul's is entering another very important time for our parish and for the future of our parish. I would like to be a part of that in whatever capacity is needed.



Mike Koepp

I ask for your consideration and vote to join Saint Paul's Vestry for the next term. Beverly and I have been members of our wonderful church since 2009. I've served on the Vestry for two terms, including holding the position of Junior Warden during one of the terms. I continue to serve with our Men's Group, Garden of the Resurrection, Grounds Sprucing, Coffee Hour, and Ushers/Greeters. Our church is very special, and I look forward to assisting with the continued growth and any decisions to be made in the future.



Clay Rankin

Born and raised in Montgomery, Alabama, Clay attended Tulane University from 1961 to 1964, where he majored in psychology. He attended the University of Alabama School of Law (1964- 1967), where he served as Editor-in-Chief of the Alabama Law Review (1966- 1967) and was a member of the Order of the Coif and Bench and Bar. He has practiced law in Mobile and Baldwin County for 59 years and continues his practice in Fairhope as Rankin Law LLC. He and his wife Anita joined St. Paul's in 1976, 50 years ago. He has served on the vestry for two terms and has been senior warden both times, including when we called Father Dyson. He has been and continues to be a lay reader and chalice bearer. He is one of the founders and still a member of the New Song contemporary music group. He has served on Cursillo staff as a musician, table leader and lay rector for 40 weekends since 1987, He was chairman of the Cursillo Commission from 2005 to 2009.



Cathy Slagle

I joined St. Paul's Church in 2003. I was reconfirmed into the church in the Spring of 2004. During the next four years I attended Education for Ministry (EfM) and in the following years I also attended a weekend at Camp Beckwith for Cursillo. Later on, I was on the volunteer staff for another Cursillo weekend. Since then, I helped establish the Eating Out Dinner Group and I do try to volunteer for the Grounds Clean Up when needed. I also try to attend GW@6 and the Sunday Bible Study. I have been on St. Paul's Memorial Garden of the Resurrection committee for the last 6 years. I was also honored to be able to attend a Diocesan Convention.

I would very much like to serve on the Vestry, again, as I feel my Faith journey has prepared me to help guide our church to fulfill God's intended mission. Cathy Slagle



Gaye Wilson

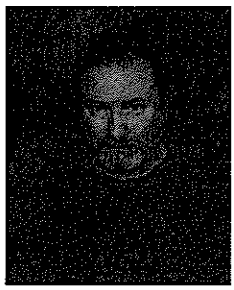
My name is Gaye Wilson, and I have been a member of St. Paul's church since 1994. I was previously a member of St. Paul's church in mobile where I grew up with my family. I am currently retired from full time work, and I enjoy helping others with pet sitting. I also play golf, kayak and garden in my spare time.

While at St. Paul's Daphne I have enjoyed being an active volunteer for the thrift shop and have served on the thrift shop board for many stints, being chairman of the board, and secretary. I have served on the vestry, and had the opportunity to work as senior warden.

I am a lay Eucharist visitor, and an usher for the 8:00 service. I serve on the altar guild and the flower guild and the cooking ministry. I have also helped with Bingo, and the nativity exhibit, and am a member of the Daughter's of the King. In the past, I have served on the standing committee for the diocese and have been a delegate to the diocesan convention, and I have working on staff for cursillo many times.

I love this church, and I look forward to its future. I would be honored to serve on the vestry and will work hard to help make positive plans for the future of st. Paul's.

Candidates for Delegate
To the 2027 Diocesan Convention



Richard Foster

I am a lifelong Episcopalian and have been a member of St. Paul's since birth. My parents were married at St. Paul's, I was baptized at St. Paul's, all my siblings were also baptized at St. Paul's, I was married at St. Paul's. I lived out of state for a long time, but when I moved back to Baldwin County, I immediately returned to St. Paul's. When I was getting my confirmation information, I discovered it was done at St. Paul's in Columbus, IN. I guess St. Paul's is my destiny. Outside St. Paul's, I am a registered nurse, and I currently work as a dialysis nurse. I have served as a verger, chalice, usher, lector, lay eucharistic visitor and was a member of the hand bell choir. I have completed the lay preaching class and am currently enrolled in the lay worship leader class. Additionally, I have volunteered for Friday bingo. It would be a privilege to represent St. Paul's and be a delegate for the convention. Thank you for your time and for considering me to serve as a delegate for St. Paul's.



Rhonda Jones

My family and I have been St Paul's parishioners for approximately 38 years. During that time I have participated in many roles, from youth leader, ECW for our women, altar and flower guild, to name just a few. Perhaps one of my favorites was co- leading the Family Promise ministry with Melissa Keilak. Opening our church doors for families in need and showing them the St Paul's hospitality when they needed a hand up meant a great deal to me. I am currently in my third year of EFM studies at St Paul's.

I attend regularly the 8:00 am service with my family and sometimes come to the 10:30 service to see other familiar faces. My granddaughters, Mary Claire and Emma Grace McTaggart serve at the early service also. MC and I have been blessed to attend the Diocesan Convention for the last couple of years and have come back to St Paul's afterwards feeling excited about our time spent there and learning more about how to serve our church community. I would love to serve again this year as your delegate.



Terri McMillan

I am the Administrative Assistant at St. Paul's and was Received as a parishioner in 2006. I love St. Paul's and do my best to serve wherever I might be needed. Along with working in the office, I enjoy so many of the ministries offered including: The 4-year EfM program, *graduated in 2010*, Cursillo, Adult Sunday School, the Wednesday Noonday Healing Service, Great Wednesday programs, Lector, Server, Chalice and Paten Bearer. I read Morning Prayer with Thack most mornings. I host the 10:30 Wednesday Morning Bible study, and I help assist Janet Norman, our amazing EfM mentor on Monday evenings. A great love of mine is working with Thack and Immanuel Tours to plan Holy Land Pilgrimages. The Diocesan Convention is the perfect opportunity for me to engage with others in our Diocese and watch the Body of Christ at work. The workshops offered at convention are very informative and present new ideas which in turn, help me to better serve our parish. I am so very honored and blessed to be asked to run as a Delegate for the 2027 Diocesan Convention in February. Thank you.



Michael J. Quinn

It would be an honor to serve as a delegate representing our church during the 2027 diocesan convention. I am married to Debbie Quinn, and we have two sons, Neil and Bryan. Neil and his wife have four children attending Fairhope schools. Neil works as a FedEx pilot and a pilot trainer for the US Marines. Bryan and his wife currently live in Austin Texas and Bryan is a LTC in the US Army. They are blessed with a young daughter. I am a lifelong Episcopalian, growing up attending Saint James Episcopal Church in Fairhope. As a retired physician I most recently worked at Thomas Hospital, Fairhope, for 33 years. In the past I have served as a vestry member and senior warden at Saint Paul's multiple times and have enjoyed the responsibility of the time spent aiding in the decision making for our church. I would appreciate your support, and I thank you very much.



Matt Thomason

After growing up attending St Paul's as a child, I was happy to rejoin the congregation with my wife and two kids when we moved back to Daphne in 2018. Since coming back to St. Paul's, my family and I have been welcomed with open arms, and we feel at home here. We really enjoy participating in the many worship, fellowship, and ministry opportunities at St Paul's. It would be an honor for me to represent our Church as a delegate to the Diocesan Convention next February.



Tom Walker

My name is Tom Walker, and I would like to be a delegate to the Diocesan Convention. I am married to Evelyn, and we have two daughters and 4 grandsons. I am active at the church in several ways. I am Senior Warden of the Vestry, and I work at the Thrift Shop. I am also part of the Bingo crew, the cooking ministry, and leader of the Men's Group. I would appreciate your vote.