St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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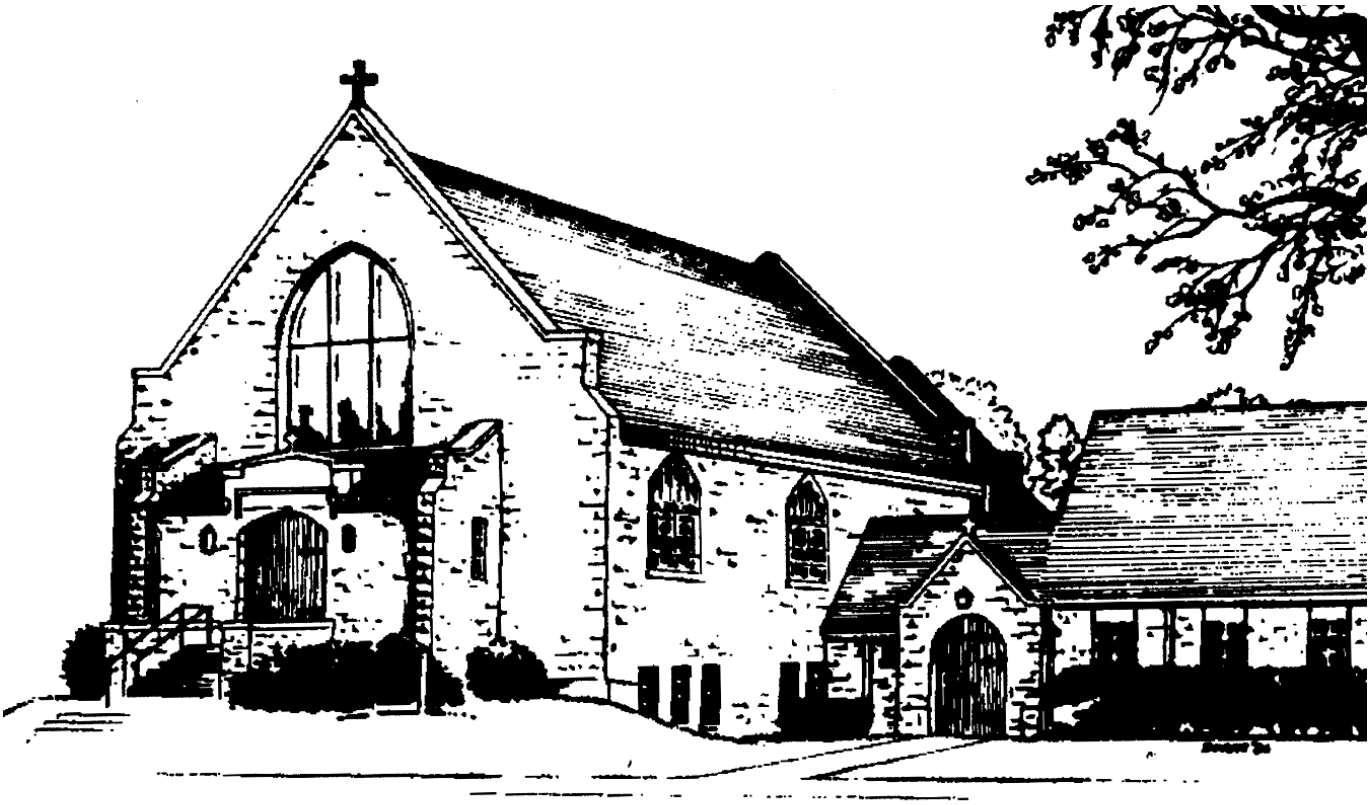

The Mission of St. Paul's is to love God and to love our neighbor, sharing with gratitude and reverence the Light of Christ.

Parish Report for 2025

March 1, 2025

SENIOR WARDEN

What a wonderful year at St. Paul's!

We continued to work together and makes things happen as we waited for our new rector. Parish worship leaders stepped up and led services, and Rev. Dr. Natalie Molineaux faithfully served our church every month, celebrating Easter with us, and spending all Holy Week in Batesville. We got to meet our new Canons- Canon of the Ordinary, Melanie Lemburg, and Canon of Congregational Vitality, Warren Leibowitz. Bishop John Harmon visited twice- during our annual visit with two confirmations, and during the summer. Reverend Shelley Ryan was with us for all of Advent, and Canon Warren filled the pulpit for our Christmas Eve services.

We accomplished so much in 2025. From fellowship activities and prayerful worship together, to needed and unanticipated church repairs. With Soup Sale, Mardi Gras, Shrimp Dinner, church potlucks, and Pie sales, we have celebrated the hospitality we love to share with others! We have worshipped together in our prayerful celebration of Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Advent, and Christmas. The choir has led us with beautiful music at 10:30 and we were led in worship by the children during the 5:30 Christmas service with a puppet show! Our church has been kept beautiful by repairs being completed in Anglican Hall, to our HVAC. We called Reverend Carolyne Adhola to be our new rector and eagerly anticipated her arrival.

We represented St Paul's in the Batesville community by continuing our outreach at Lyon College and by taking part in an ecumenical Lenten Lunch series with several other churches. Let's not forget Halloween on Main Street, where a multitude of little goblins, witches, robots, and fairies were greeted with smiles and candy as they trick or treated.

We have continued Outreach in the community with our Wednesday night Community meals, Blessing Box, and donations to Our Father's Table.

We have explored our faith in several ways: Adult Sunday School, Children's Sunday School, The Chosen series groups, and EfM.

We look forward in 2026 to continuing college ministry at Lyon and expanding it to UACCB, and to continuing Outreach in our community by working with Our Father's Table.

I would like that thank all of you for your support and prayers this year. It has been a blessing to serve the church as Senior Warden the last two years. I look forward to our continued ministry together with our new Rector, Reverend Carolyne Adhola!

With love,

Sarah Harmon, outgoing Senior Warden

JUNIOR WARDEN REPORT

In 2025, keeping up with a 108-year-old church, a 95-year-old rectory, a 73-year-old parish house, and 68-year-old Anglican Hall continued to be a challenge, but less so than in 2024.

In addition to the expected, routine, and mundane, major unexpected work this year included:

1. Continuing repairs to brick wall failure on Anglican Hall. Continuing from last year's report, M&A Jones/built a structural wall against the inside of the west wall so that the brick wall can be repaired without danger of the roof collapsing. Temporary work has been done to mitigate the problem, including installing a tarp (with Fuller Bumpers' name) on the west wall facing Fuller's office. The rector's office, chapel, and conference room are back in use. We are getting bids for work to make a permanent fix on the west wall and roof tiles this spring.

Cost paid so far: $35,000

Expected additional cost: about $15,000, more or less

2. Entergy-caused damage to electrical equipment. On Saturday evening, December 28, 2024, a car knocked over an electrical pole on 4th Street behind Fuller Bumpers' office. In addition to knocking out power to a chunk of Batesville, it took down the transformers and electrical feeder to the church, parish house, and Anglican Hall. Entergy was able to repair the damage that night, but, unbeknownst to us, they hooked the feeder back up incorrectly. (If you want the gory details, Google "Damage from switching two phases in a three-phase system.") This only affected equipment connected to three-phase power such as air conditioning equipment, the dishwasher and garbage disposal in the parish house. This electrical problem was not discovered until March 26 when Harrison Energy came out to do routine preventive maintenance before turning on the church air conditioning system. At this point, we discovered this was what caused the dishwasher failure on January 1, 2025, as well as causing one air conditioning compressor at the parish house to be ruined. Entergy refused to correct the problem, so we had to pay Wade's to swap the phases back on our side of the meter before we could run the air conditioning systems. The dishwasher seems to be working again, but the pump is on its last legs. A claim was filed with Entergy, but, after repeated requests for more documentation, was denied.

Costs associated with this problem:

Diagnosis of cause by Harrison Energy (paid by church): $1500

Correct wiring by swapping phases on our side of meter (paid by church): $579

Replace dishwasher pump (work not yet done): $5700

Replace air conditioning compressor (work not yet done): $4500

We could submit a claim with Church Insurance, but only a small portion would be covered, and they would probably make it back in premium increases over the next few years.

This matter is currently in the hands of our lawyer.

There is additional maintenance work which has been deferred, most notably tuck pointing in the western (church) side of the bell tower, bell tower doors, and rotted ladder to roof inside bell tower. (These could qualify for a historic preservation grant, for which we'll need to come up with the matching funds.) Also, the floor and equipment in the parish hall and kitchen were installed 25 years ago (anybody remember Raise the Roof?) and are due for serious updates. All part of having a facilities of these ages and sizes.

Thanks to Superhost Fred Krug and his crew, St. Paul's Place kept the rectory in functional shape for our new rector to move right in. You'll find his report elsewhere in this packet. He and his crew took this on as a very successful moneymaker during the interim period, but this had the additional effect of lightening the load on the Jr. Warden, allowing me to concentrate on the major problems listed above. Thanks, Fred!

Much and continued thanks to Brenda & Nikki Bittle, Regina Cooper, Kyler and Abby Dickey, Katie Janke, Junior and Tammy Kipfer, Fred Krug, Mike and Rhonda Mundy, Mike Schmidt, Dwight Ford, and Pam Baxter for a variety of help and hard work. I could not have done this job the last two years without your help. I've probably left some people out and, if so, I apologize.

Most special thanks to Sr. Warden Sarah Harmon and the vestry for your hard work, support and encouragement.

And eternal thanks to my long-suffering wife Ellen for putting up with me when I was frustrated and offering me sage and logical advice, support, and love when I needed it most.

We have not only a beautiful church but also a great congregation, and now a fantastic rector to lead us. I hope my work has, in some small measure, helped us continue to move forward in our mission of sharing the Light of Christ

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Massey

TREASURER'S REPORT

The church ended the year with a gain of $32,987.22 against a budgeted gain of $12,621.29. As we said last year, this is great news! This added to our gain of $52,698.73 from 2024 has built our cash reserves. Our operating account ended the year with a balance of $84,987.02. As we welcome our new Rector, Rev. Carolyne, these reserves will allow us to focus on rebuilding our congregation in 2026. Please see the attached financial statements for the detail.

As of February 22nd, pledges for 2026 total $164,530. That is down by $45,464 from 2025's total of $209,994. As mentioned previously, 2026 will be a year focused on rebuilding the congregation. Because of the cash reserves we were able to build over the last two years, the finance committee recommended and the Vestry approved a $79,455.32 deficit budget for 2026. The budget includes only the necessary expenses to keep the church running with no extras added. If you would like to see a detailed copy of the budget, please let me or a member of the finance committee know.

The finance committee for 2026 includes Nelda Mitchell, Virginia Cruse, and Steve Massey.

If you have questions on this report or at any time during the year, do not hesitate to ask.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dwight Ford, Treasurer

***For YTD Statement of Activities & Statement of Financial Position for 2025, see attached.**

CHOIR REPORT

We had yet another wonderful year filled with beautiful music at St. Paul's. We welcomed a new member to our choir, Laura Reynolds. We are so thrilled for you to join the choir at St. Paul's. We were able to bring in special guest singers, thanks to the Stinson Music Fund. The special singers joined our choir for services during Holy Week and Christmas. I would like to personally thank those singers for their hard work; Westley Gibbs, Nick Czerwinski, Grace Huetson and Rebecca Little. We have had preliminary discussions about the possibility of raising money for new choir robes. We were able to get all the pianos tuned throughout the church this past year. Future development of the St. Paul's music department has included talk about incorporating a hand bell choir. I will continue to explore all avenues to expand the music offerings at St Paul's as it is such a vital ministry to the community. May God bless and keep you.

-Kristian Ameigh, Organist/Choir Director

SUNDAY SCHOOL YEAR-END REPORT 2025

St. Paul's Sunday School may be small, but we are mighty.

The Spring of 2025 continued with our walk through the Bible with "Weaving God's Promises" curriculum. We have used this for many years, but it is also on the same 3-year cycle as church, and there is always something new to relate with these lessons. The curriculum also provides crafts and activities that these kids seem to enjoy. And if nothing else, they love melty beads and pretty much anything crafty.

The kids also did the annual Mardi Gras parade, hid Easter eggs, and put on a tremendous Sunday School Celebration in May.

Fall 2025 - we were so thrilled to have Julie Dozier rejoin Sunday school, and Norma Perkins' children, expanding our age range from 7 to 15 (?)

Watching these kids interact with each other is most heartening that these will be kind, empathetic, productive leaders in our society. Well done, Parents.

So back to Fall 2025: All were strongly in favor of a Year of Service, and in the first weeks we surveyed the church and found several projects just at St. Paul's. These included updating the wonderful Prayer garden near the tulip tree, cleaning and organizing the nursery, and converting the back room of the undercroft into a meditation/prayer room (still in progress.) MANY, MANY thanks to Danny Dozier for finishing the scraping and wall repair and replacing rotted door facings.

We are ready to paint and furnish this spring!

We are also doing lessons each week from "Finding God in the Craziness of Life" tackling some pertinent and tough topics with great discussions.

The kids also accompanied the Care Team to sing at Mountain Meadows this fall and plan to do this again soon.

Christmas Eve was so very special with an entertaining puppet show, music, and the kids participating with the readings and prayers.

We will repeat,

St.Paul's Sunday school is not for only the kids. Please feel free to join in anytime - the kids need to know all of you from our church - it is extremely meaningful for them to have these connections.

…Most youth ministry professionals believe that the biggest predictor of a true meaningful lifelong Christian faith is not whether they have peers to go to church with, it is whether the youth have five significant relationships with adults of faith in addition to their parents. Put more simply: a would-be Christian needs people in their life with the authority to say "Yes, this is God, and He is working on you."

Our prayer is that we will continue to have an eclectic group of kids of all ages, talents, and interests who will regularly attend and that we will all have a meaningful, joyful time learning about our church, the Bible, the Prayer Book, and each other, and support each other outside of Church.

Love in Christ,

Nikki, Vicky, Julie, and Suzanne

EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY (EfM)

I have been so excited about our EfM (Education for Ministry) group and how great it is going. This group of people continue to be a meaningful and enriching experience for all who participate. Each session is set by honest conversation, mutual respect, and a lot of laughter. We are engaging deeply with the material and with each other. This is a true environment where learning and faith truly come alive. It has been a blessing to see how the group supports one another while exploring scripture, theology, and history. And the snacks aren't bad either.

If anyone would be interested in starting the next semester of EfM. Just let me know and I will be glad to tell you about it, or you can talk to one of our ten students that would also be glad to talk about it.

With God's Grace

Brenda EfM Mentor

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

With a slow start to our Adult Sunday School Class, I am happy to announce that attendance has been strong, discussions have been meaningful, and the class has become a place of genuine connection, learning, and spiritual growth.

We have started reading Adam Hamilton's books and each week people come prepared to engage in conversation. It has been very uplifting to see friendships deepen and understanding expand as we study and learn side by side.

If anyone is interested in attending, please let me know, or just show up at 9:15 am on Sunday Mornings. We would love to have you.

Brenda

ALTAR GUILD

The greatest challenge for the altar workers during 2025 was the often-changing set ups requested by our visiting priests (bless their hearts) and remembering how to do Reserve Sacrament set-up. But hooray, all that is in the past. The only priest we have to serve is the Rev. Carolyne!! We are so happy about that and all the other advantages to having one boss.

Speaking of bosses, this year will see a regime change for our ministry because I am in the process of handing over the reins to Rhonda Mundy. She will make a dedicated chairman who is attentive to the details. Once we get through Holy Week and Easter, she will be good to go.

Rhonda is handling the flower schedule now. Also any scheduling conflict issues can go through her.

I can still hear my mother's peers warning "It's time for these younger folks to step up and do the work at church."

I am so grateful the Rhonda is willing to take this on.

Also, thank you to those parishioners who provide our altar flowers each week (except Lent and Advent). If you would like to furnish flowers in honor of someone, check with Rhonda for available dates. (870 612-0928)

Jo Cargill-Krug

ST. PAUL'S CHURCHMEN'S CLUB

The St. Paul's Churchmen's Club was able to host two events this past year. We hosted Mardi Gras Celebration and Shrimp Dinner. These events allow us to raise money to support our church and community services. With the support of our church members and community we were able to make donations of $2,500.00 to the Cedar Ridge Backpack Program and $1,500.00 to Christmas brings Hope.

At this time, the men's group has been put on hold to try and re-organize the group.

We want to thank everyone who contributed to our events this past year. We hope to get the organization back up and running sometime in the future.

Thanks,
Scott McSpadden

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN (ECW)

St. Paul's Episcopal Church Women (ECW) is a group of sisters in Christ which exists to support one another and our church. While women have traditionally been the backbone of our congregations, we can only truly support each other if we find the time to gather.

In 2025, we held only three meetings. While our pie sale was a success, we know we are capable of much more than our current lunch meetings provide. To better inspire our church and strengthen our bond, Rev. Carolyne would like to meet with us after Easter. We hope to see all of our sisters there.

Please remember that every woman in the church is a member of the ECW, and we look forward to seeing you soon!

Respectfully,
Beverly Grigsby and Ellen Massey

COMMUNITY MEALS

I am happy to share that the community meals continue to go very well. Each week we serve meals in a welcoming room that is very warm during these cold spells. None of this would be possible without all our teams, we are grateful for everyone that has helped make this ministry such a success.

If anyone is interested in starting their own team or joining one of the already existing teams feel free to contact me, or the team you wish to join. Your time and willingness to help make a difference in our community would be a benefit to our outreach.

Brenda

ST PAUL'S PLACE

When our rectory went unoccupied for several months in 2024 an idea was put forward to rent the house out to boost church's treasury. Fred Krug spearheaded the project and learned about Air B&B, the online home rental agency.

After vestry approval, we signed up with Air B&B and in October, 2024, were in business. After a slow start, the period from December on through the next December was all the business we could handle!

Not all of our tenants came through AB&B. Some of them were famities of our parishioners and others who came directly through Fred's efforts. (No fees to the agency that way).

We had people from far and near to visit Batesville for family reunions, to support Lyon College, and to shop and work in our town. A crew building a skate park in our new river project stayed in our place for six weeks ($200 per night).

Church members helped by furnishing the rectory with furniture and kitchen supplies. Volunteers kept the housekeeping chores always ready for the next check-ins.

We were able to pay for four new beds and mattresses, a new kitchen floor, a new water heater, a new washer and a new sofa with money raised with enough left over to add to the church's coffers. ($40,000 before expenses).

Thanks to Fred, our rental was honored with 35 Gold Star Ratings during our year with AirB&B and he was named a Super Host.

Fred had a very good idea which benefited St. Paul's. We now have a furnished rectory, updated and repaired and best of all we have a permanent occupant. Welcome, Rev. Carolyne Adhola.

Submitted by
Jo Cargill-Krug

CARE TEAM

In 2025, the Care Team has done the following things to help our Church community:

1. Coffee Hour
2. Pub Theology
3. Choral Evensong
4. Sent cards to members
5. Brought food to sick members or grieving members
6. “The Chosen” Bible Study
7. Delivered communion to sick, hospitalized or shut in members

In 2025, the Care Team has done the following to help the community of Batesville:

1. Partnered with other churches in a Lenten series
2. Collected food items for distribution in the Blessing Box
3. Collected toiletries to be placed inside the Blessing Box
4. Stayed connected with Our Father’s Table and the Ministerial Alliance to help better serve the homeless in our community.
5. Gave out information and stickers at Lyon College move in day and continued Lyon college lunch outreach once a month. (Bringing snack bags with info and goodies)
6. Began a quarterly visit to Mountain Meadows, bringing treats, Kleenex, hand wipes, etc, and leading a singing program with residents.

Submitted by,
Sarah Harmon