



St. Paul's Episcopal Church

**Loving the Lord and
Our Neighbors**

MISSION STATEMENT

St. Paul's mission is to share the love of the Lord with everyone through meaningful worship and prayer, education for all ages, service to others, and supportive relationships within our church family and community.

**Annual Parish Meeting
January 15, 2023
9:15 A.M.**

[\(Click here to view the recorded Zoom\)](#)

St. Paul's New Core Values, Vision and Mission Statements

CORE VALUES

WE BELIEVE THAT

Worship: St. Paul's deepens our connection with God through a rich (liturgical) worship tradition of scripture, prayer and music.

Fellowship: St. Paul's builds relationships that value, enrich and support one another.

Children and Families: St. Paul's nurtures children and youth and those who care for them in a loving relationship with God, in a safe-environment.

Inclusivity and Belonging: St. Paul's welcomes people from all walks of life and stages of their faith journey.

Outreach: St. Paul's is the hands and feet of Christ, supporting the community through service and prayer.

VISION

We welcome everyone to join us in loving the Lord and our neighbors

MISSION

St. Paul's mission is to share the love of the Lord with everyone through meaningful worship and prayer, education for all ages, service to others, and supportive relationships within our church family and community.

2023 Annual Meeting Agenda

- I. Opening Prayer & Call to Order by the Rector
- II. Assigning Meeting Scribe by the Rector
- III. Sr. Warden's Report: Harlan Matthews
 - A. Recognition of Outgoing Vestry: Stephen Adcock, Craig Henderson, and Peter Parsons
 - B. Election of New Vestry Members: John Johnston, Kevin Joyce, and Jason McKey
 - C. Recognition of 2023 Council Delegates: Clergy: Mark Wilkinson; Lay: Mary Brimer, Ted Howden, Peter Parsons, and Harlan Matthews
- V. Junior Warden's Report: Peter Parsons
- VI. Rector Report: The Rev. Mark Wilkinson
- VII. Staff Reports
- VIII. Committee / Commission and Program Reports
- IX. Financial Reports: Bruce McKee (*printed summary included*)
- X. Old Business
- XI. New Business
- XII. Adjournment and Blessing

Sr. Warden's Report

Dear St Paul's Family

Let me start with saying a Big Thank You for all your efforts in 2022. We have faced many challenges in 2022, but we always faced those challenges reflecting Bishop Curry's recent Christmas Message of "LOVE. Always!" The Vestry and others spent the first quarter redefining our Vision-Mission-Core Values as serving each other through our liturgically traditional Worship, participating in the Fellowship before and after our services, supporting our Katy neighbors in Outreach, building loving relationships with our Children and Families, and being a church for ALL people. THANK YOU for showing "LOVE. Always" thru Our Vision, Mission and Core Values.

When I joined the Vestry, we were still working thru the pandemic and slowly coming out of the restrictions required to keep us safe. We have emerged stronger and more responsive to any challenge thrown our way. Example One was the Budget Gap where we closed that difference between pledges and expenses with quick responses. Example Two was the Fall Fest where so many of us worked the background roles to allow our neighbors to enjoy the shopping, check out the Emergency Response vehicles, eat some great food and play some awesome children games. Example Three was the recent Freeze where our brand-new Disaster Committee activated so that our most vulnerable could be checked on and any damage quickly resolved. Example Four was the request for more picnic tables under the tree for Hutsell parents and children to gather to snack and play. Each of these examples show how St Paul's responds to show LOVE for each other and the neighborhood that surrounds us. So, let me touch on each of the Core Values and how they relate to Our Vision of St Paul's.

First is Worship. Father Mark does a great job with setting up the different services, using his Story-Telling skills and adding in new items. Father Mark has also done well in selecting good Supply Priests to cover his absences and even had backup sermons ready for your Senior Warden when illness struck. We have an excellent choir and organist who provide a safe environment for singers to practice their songs and stretch their voices. We even get some fine piano playing after 1030 service from a parishioner if you stick around for coffee. The fine work of our Daughters of the King, Altar Guild, Lectors, LEMs, Video Team, Acolytes and Ushers make our services so enjoyable. Think about how you can get involved in the service, do you want to Read in a Safe Space, do you want to watch the computer record our service, or do you want to perform the Usher duties. All of these are open to more volunteers.

Second is Fellowship. The Fifth Sunday Brunches, Pancake Dinner, Trunk-or-Treat, Christmas Dinner, and Easter Meal were expertly executed and then parishioners jumped into cleanup afterwards. All the work to make our Fall Fest happen by the Setup Crew, Children's Team, Parking Lot Team, and the Breakdown Crew. Then the Spring and Fall Cleanups are big hits as we care for our grounds. Each time we perform a Fellowship activity, I can just feel a fire growing inside of the Parish and hear Bishop Curry's "LOVE. Always".

Third is Outreach. We continue to support value added programs and have even expanded into more. Programs like The Beacon, The Gathering Place, Katy Christian Ministries, Homework Buddies, Katy ISD Schools with schools supplies and coats, Scouts and ToastMasters would not thrive without our open doors and open hearts. This year though, we went several steps further and opened our hearts even further. KatyCares showed up at our doors thru a reference from Emma Zone. We had a huge personal supplies drive, invited them to Fall Fest, and now hold special classes in the Parish Hall during the week. The Neighborhood Garden also came knocking and

after some negotiating with the Diocese we now have a small garden growing in space that we were not using. The Garden participated in the Fall Fest and now have several other requests to build gardens at other churches in the Katy area. We have also started to engage with “Amazing Place” which is a Katy area program for those needing Memory Care. We truly live the spirit of “LOVE. Always” when we support these programs.

Fourth is Children and Families. Our children remain well looked after. Children Formation, Children’s Chapel, Christmas Pageant, Vacation Bible School, Baptism viewings, and Acolytes are all ways we see our children grow. We also have a fully staffed Nursery to take care of childcare needs during Formation and Church. Adult Formation is well led by Father Mark or a substitute where we continue to grow our knowledge.

Fifth is Inclusivity and Belonging. We continue to see visitors every Sunday. Typically, the visitors have viewed our Facebook live services. Our Ushers and Vestry on Duty are engaging the visitors to invite them back. I see us welcoming Everyone who comes thru our doors showing that true spirit of “LOVE. Always”.

Let me close with saying that we are living our Vision, Mission, and Core Values. We could always increase our level of participation. Because, like a fuel feeds a fire, so does our LOVE for each other fuel our souls. So, what will you choose to become the fuel for “LOVE. Always”.

Sincerely,
Harlan Matthews
Senior Warden

Bios for Vestry Candidates

John Johnston



John and his wife Ann live in Rosenberg. They have five children and ten grandchildren. Born in Chicago, John has also lived and worked in New England and in New Mexico. He and Ann have been in Texas for almost twelve years. He has been a member of St. Paul's since 2021. In previous ministry service, he has served as vestry member, stewardship committee member, visiting Lay Eucharistic Minister, Lector, Chalice Bearer, usher, greeter, and in other services. He is also a member of Kairos Interdenominational Prison Ministry for which he recently trained volunteers and led the first post-COVID Kairos 4-day weekend for prisoners inside the Richmond Jester III Unit. He currently serves at St Paul's as usher, lector, and Beacon volunteer. John is looking forward to the opportunity to serve as a member of St. Paul's Vestry with joyful enthusiasm for doing and encouraging Christ's work within and beyond our church community.

Kevin Joyce

My name is Kevin Joyce I am married to my high school sweetheart Beverly for 49 years. We have two daughters in the area with 4 grandchildren. I am a native Texan (born in Houston TX). I recently retired in July of 2021. I am a cradle Episcopalian and my father was an Episcopal priest (late in life seminarian like Father Mark). I have previously served as a vestry member (junior warden) at Grace Episcopal Church in Pine Bluff Arkansas. I work for 46 years in Information Technology. I am slowly working towards finding things to do in retirement. I am volunteering at Memorial Hermann Katy driving a golf cart 1 day a week. I help people get to and from their cars in the jungle they call the parking lots at MHK. I would like to help St. Paul's in its continued outreach to help others in our community.



Jason McKey



We moved to Katy in 2013. Having been married at and established members of St. Martin's Episcopal Church in Houston, we continued attending services there. However, in 2018 it was becoming more and more difficult to get back and forth to St. Martin's on Sundays and be involved in activities throughout the week. Therefore, we decided to find a church in Katy that could serve our family spiritually and allow us to be more involved. We found that in St. Paul's Episcopal Church. We immediately felt at home as the St. Paul's members welcomed us with open arms and we knew Rev. Ken from St. Martin's, where he had just retired from serving as Vice Rector. It was just the perfect scenario for our growing family. After several years of being members, I feel it is time for me and my family to become more involved at St. Paul's. It

greatly concerns me that our church attendance continues to be down post COVID and some of the other associated trends I see along with that. I pray that we can start building that attendance

back and that more and more younger families become involved and reengaged on a weekly basis. Jason and his wife, Kassi have two boys, Hunter who is seven years old and Grayson who is three years old and a daughter, Everleigh who is 7 months old. It is truly humbling to be a candidate for the vestry at St. Paul's Episcopal Church and I thank you for your consideration.

Outgoing Jr. Warden's Report

First of all, I want to acknowledge the efforts and contributions of all who have made my job these past years as Jr. Warden a success. Many have contributed time and resources. However, there are a few who have consistently gone above and beyond in keeping the grounds in great shape and the building functional. Pat Gorman, Iris Poteet, Lisa Sivils and the Coussens, Harold Frauli, Alan Cook, Ted Howden, along with those who participated in the Spring and Fall Grounds Days, including Fr. Mark are very deserving of our appreciation.

Here are the major events of 2022:

- New A/C units were installed for the education wing of the admin building. The a/c unit for the office was relocated for better efficiency.
- The transformer in the Youth Room partially failed and was replaced.
- The 'junk' that had accumulated along the South property line was removed.
- New LED lights were installed in the kitchen.
- The water heater for kitchen was replaced.
- Four picnic tables have been placed under the trees on the east side of the property.
- The Fences around the playground were power washed and stained.
- The dead tree on Drexel was removed, and the oak trees trimmed.
- The dead tree along the East property line was removed, thanks to Josh Singleton (Neighborhood Garden).
- The non-working failure of the parking lot lights were addressed, and a part is on order. In the meantime, they will remain on 24/7.
- The new phone system was installed in late December. Thanks to Jennifer's husband, Casey, who troubleshot prior to the installation.
- To bring the year to a close, we had an exterior water line break during the Christmas freeze.
- And, finally, a complete inventory of church property was completed and documented; as well, a St Paul's Facilities Information manual is now available.

Submitted by Peter Parsons, Jr. Warden

Annual Report to the Parish from the Rector

January 2023

Rector's Report

I would like to begin my portion of the meeting by thanking all of you for being here, both in the parish hall and on Zoom. That welcome by itself tells you something about this past year. We have come out of the depths of Covid in 2020 with some initial recovery in 2021. 2022 saw a return to many of those events, patterns of worship and formation have made this year feel a little more normal. That said online participation is still important. There are still members who feel uncomfortable in large settings, and I certainly understand that and respect that. So, we continue with our online presence.

Our online presence is here to stay. I do not foresee us ever going back to only in person activities. Our world has changed and changed forever. We are getting back to some semblance of regular numbers although we have a way to go. We have gone from a little over 2000 people worshipping on Sunday in-person in 2020, to a little over 4000 in 2021 and this year we added another 1000 with over 5500 people attending on Sundays. Christmas service saw a jump from 140 to 205 this year. That's significant progress. But there are still people who watch us online. There are also many who visit us for the first time online. We have very few visitors that have not seen us online. I know one family that looked at us while still living in another state. When they came to us, they already knew that this was the church for them. Online worship is critical to our evangelism efforts, and we could use some additional people to learn to run the video system. We have two new potential people but can always use more. The system was designed to be easy to use.

Now I am going to leave the finances to Harlan, our senior warden, and Bruce our Treasurer because I want to focus on what we are able to do with our budget.

I believe one of the most significant achievements this year is the dedicated group of people who took a lot of time last winter to develop our Core Values, those things that are at the heart of who we are. From those Core Values we then developed our new Mission and Vision statement. Please turn in your packet to the first page where we have these laid out. This document is what drives every decision the vestry makes in running the parish. It doesn't matter if it is worship, Christian Formation, or our Outreach programs. If they don't align or conflict with these values and missions, we do not do them.

If there is a theme to where we are going it is the word relationship. Our values are full of this word and concept. Relationships with God, each other, and our greater community. As we regather, the relationships within the parish are starting to come back together. Our 5th Sunday single services and potlucks are a very good start to strengthening the bonds of faith and fellowship of our parish family. Christian Formation is up and running and I hope more of you will take part in our offerings.

The cutting edge for relationship building is with our greater community. How many of you know very much about the neighborhood around us? How many know that Hutsell is a title I school because of the low income level. Did you know that over 60% of the school population is Hispanic? That over 60% of the children are considered at risk because of income level. I've been driving around the area and have noted the variance in quality and types of housing. This is not typical of where most of this congregation lives which is in Cinco Ranch area. We need to learn about our neighbors if we want them to feel a part of what we are doing.

This next year, we will work with Eric Moen from the diocese on a deep look at our outreach programs and how they relate to our immediate community. Like the work we did with values and mission we will be laying out a blueprint for our future work. Eric works for the Episcopal Health Foundation and their focus is health, but they know that the health of a community is affected by many factors outside of just health. Education, nutrition, income, equal opportunities, family well-being are all factors that are not strictly health related but do impact the health of a community.

The premise of the Episcopal Health Foundation is that we need to move beyond just charitable giving. That's a Band-Aid, an important Band-Aid and we are not going to stop programs like our food collection for Katy Christian Ministries and the backpack and coat drives for Hutsell and Katy Elementaries. The most effective outreach ministries are ones that bring systemic change to the system that often leaves people trapped in poverty or dysfunctional families. What makes the difference is building relationships in the community. Once the relationships are built real change can begin to happen. This is the cutting edge for us at St. Paul's and we have already made a good start. How do we build these relationships?

The first is easy and something the diocese is asking parishes to do. It is to simply open our doors. Open our doors to community groups that have programs that help the community but need a place to meet. I would like to see activity in the building every day, all day. We have made a start on this. The tutoring program from KCM is one example as is our work with Katy Cares, a program for single parent families at risk. Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Toastmaster are all programs that build community.

For the first time this past year we have developed a relationship with Hutsell Elementary. When Eric Moen comes to lead a vestry retreat in a couple of weeks, we are going to start to brainstorm ways we can deepen our relationship with Hutsell. They want to do this and so do we. I look at our parking lot most afternoons and see many families picking up their children at the end of the day. Since we added the picnic tables on nice weather days you will see a couple dozen families out under the trees having a snack and playing. They feel welcome in this space and that's a start. Eric is going to help us figure out how to make them feel more welcome and supported by our parish. Fortunately, the diocese has experience with building community relationships, and we are now going to be involved in their programs.

How do we open our doors? Saying yes is a start. Three of our programs were started because someone asked us, and we said yes. I will let Harlan talk about some of these, but the three I'm thinking of are the tutoring program from KCM, Katy Cares and the Neighborhood Garden. Community gardens are one of the most effective ways to build relationships in a community. There is a cohort of parishes getting started from all over the country that have or are working to establish garden programs and I have applied to be part of that cohort. It is part of the church planting and revitalization project of the diocese and the national church.

The other way we build relationships is knocking on doors. This summer I went over and met with the guidance counselor at Hutsell, and she was delighted to have us join their support system. This is something new, and I suspect that she will hopefully come here some Sunday and talk with us about how we can help support the children at the school. What is key here is in listening to the folks at the school for what they need and basing our plans on their needs, not our ideas. That is really important.

From talking with long time members, I think we already have more involvement with the community than in the past and I believe we have just started. What will this look like? God only knows, but we are called to be open to the Spirit and listen where God is going to take us.

Do we have challenges? Of course we do! Finances are always a challenge for churches, and that never changes, for there is always more than we are called to do. The past three years have been challenging to every parish and we are no exception. But we are coming back, and I believe will be even stronger in the future.

I am certain of one thing. That is that we are firmly on the way to becoming a vital parish filled with the Spirit to make a difference in our community.

Mark+

Staff Reports

Family Formation Coordinator Report

The Family Formation program at St. Paul's is back full swing. In 2022, we offered Sunday morning programming for children. Sunday school education (9:15-10:15) using Godly Play curriculum, and Children's Chapel during the 10:30am worship service. We also continue our annual Easter egg hunt, activities and games during the Sunday school hour. We were excited to present Vacation Bible School in June, The Spark Studio VBS program welcomed more than 50 children to our church for a week of stories, songs, crafts and play. We are blessed to have such loving volunteers work with our kids, and this year's program took many hands to create. We are already in planning mode for VBS 2023, which will also take place in June. We continued some special events this fall, including a Sunday morning celebration of Halloween in which kids wore their costumes to church, enjoyed some Halloween themed activities, and trick-or-treated at our Trunk or Treat in the parking lot following the 10:30 service. This year's Advent celebration included wreath making, a celebration of St. Nicholas and our children's pageant was presented at the annual parish dinner, complete with costumes and led by our youth as they told the story of Jesus' birth. Our family formation program continues to thrive and grow, with flexibility and with grace.

Many thanks to Julia who was with us through VBS last summer. We are sorry that she had to leave her position, but we all understand how demanding her job as the Jr. High choir director is. We hope to replace her later this year if possible.

Laura Babbitt, Volunteer Family Formation Coordinator

Music Director Report

The music area continued to persevere over the course of 2022. Unfortunately, choir membership has not rebounded to its pre-COVID levels. This is an ongoing concern for me as the choir director. We have lifted all restrictions in the choir loft and have not experienced a large incidence of COVID infections. Nevertheless, the challenge of limited volunteer participants, as was the case last year, persists despite multiple entreaties to the congregation. At my request, Fr. Mark has placed several articles in the weekly announcements and newsletters soliciting the congregation for choir membership, but the results of this ongoing effort have been limited.

We lost one of our scholarship singers due to his other obligations. Fortunately, we gained another. Elliot Sam, is a Houston native and a graduate of TSU seeking to enter a graduate program

within the next year. Brittany Taylor, the other scholarship singer has become a favorite of the congregation for her stirring solos and her vibrant soprano voice. She often brings her mother, who sings with us, and does so very well, with her. Both Elliot and Brittany have done a lot to stabilize the sound from the choir loft despite dwindling numbers. Hiring a third scholarship singer to further cement the ensemble would be a goal to which I aspire and seek support. One particularly consistent and talented volunteer, Jane Woodward moved further away and can no longer attend services. Good news; at Christmas, a couple who were a mainstay in the choir returned. Dr. Lucian Zidaru has replaced the former organist, Carl McAliley. Carl continues to substitute for us whenever the need arises. We are grateful for his continued service to the music program.

We completed the year with our annual Christmas Eve service with enhanced music featuring additional singers and instrumentalists, mostly TSU students. I was unable to host the choir at my home as I did last year due to scheduling challenges, but I hope to have them over early this year.

Dr. Jason Oby, Music Director

Membership/Communications Report

This position has really changed over the past several years for a variety of reasons. In looking at some of the changes brought about during Covid, diocesan reporting requirements and our financial analysis of the 2023 budget, the vestry and Finance Committee have decided to consolidate and redesign Jennifer's position to cover much of what this position did in the past.

With using a Google Docs signup that Jennifer has designed, we are close to having all the scheduling done a quarter at a time. This allows all who sign up for lector, usher etc. online and to make changes if there is a conflict. (The only exception is Acolytes and that is always a challenge given schedules of youth in today's world.) We have successfully used this for the past year to cover Vestry on Duty for Sundays. In the week after New Year's we covered all but a few Sundays from now until Lent. This is far more efficient.

We also need to cover Safe Church record keeping which was under Julia's job position and the training has also changed because of Covid restrictions.

With some new volunteer help we will be able to cover all of the work done by this position so we have eliminated the Membership Communications position. This will reduce the budget cost while continuing to get all the necessary work done. When I spoke with Christie, she understood and said that it was time for her to look towards a half or full-time position. Thank you to Christie for her 3 years with us.

Rev. Mark Wilkinson, Rector

Committee / Commission and Program Reports

Altar Guild

Greeting from the guilders! This past year has been a quiet, but good one for the guild. No major (or even minor) catastrophes to report. Our merry band continues our joyful task of "setting the table" and "washing the dishes" each week. I joke about it being like kitchen chores and in a practical way, it is just that. We do physically wash the vessels and iron the linens. But what we do has a sacred importance. We are guardians and stewards of the physical things that make our weekly worship services special. In our homes we may not bring out the china, crystal, and silver,

unless it is a holiday. In church we do it every week precisely because each service IS a special holiday - every Sunday is in some ways a little Easter, and that makes it very special indeed.

Our four teams of two people each meet on Saturday mornings to prepare the sanctuary for Sunday services. The teams, along with other members of the guild help with clean up after the services on Sundays. I am immensely grateful to each and every one of them for their dedication to our tasks.

While I'm sad to report the loss of one member due to a cross country move, I'm pleased to report the addition of a junior altar guild member to our ranks! Junior altar guild assists with clean up on Sunday so if there are any "short people" out there in the congregation that would be interested in helping, please reach out to me and I'll happily put them to work. (Don't worry parents, it's only a short 10-15 minute time commitment after the 10:30 service). Being a Junior Altar Guild member is a great way to learn about why we use certain items as well as learning about church history. Plus, it's fun! And, as always, if there are any "taller people" interested in helping out with altar guild, we always welcome new faces to our ranks. (And did I mention that it's fun?!)

--Rachel Adcock

Fellowship Committee

The St. Paul's Fellowship Committee is a working subcommittee of the Vestry that coordinates with the Rector, staff and Vestry. The committee implements parish wide events for all the congregation to enjoy.

What do we do? Our committee oversees coordinating the social fellowship events that the church puts on. The list of events that are being planned for the 2023 year are as follows:

Annual Meeting-January	St. Paul's Birthday/Back to school-September
Pancake Supper- February	4 th Fifth Sunday-October
2 nd Fifth Sunday-April	5 th Fifth Sunday- December
Easter Egg Hunt- April	Christmas Dinner-December
Parish Picnic-May	Bishop Visit- TBD
3 rd Fifth Sunday- July	

--Stacie Perez

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee is a subcommittee of the vestry that seeks to serve as part of the checks and balance regarding financial matters, make budgetary recommendations, and coordinate annual audit. Members include Bruce McKee (Treasurer), Peter Parsons, Amy Hall, and Harold Frauli. The finance committee meets monthly via Zoom to review the financials. If you're interested in joining the finance committee, please let the office know.

Outreach Committee

The Outreach Commission is a subcommittee of the Vestry that seeks to coordinate the parish's efforts in serving as the hands and feet of Christ in the world by organizing a variety of opportunities that engage the members of St. Paul's in the community.

The Outreach Commission had a successful 2022. St Paul's parishioners continue to live the Vision of "Loving Our Lord and Our Neighbors" through our programs.

Joyce Davis led two very successful collections for our partner schools, Katy Elementary and Rhoades Elementary. Before school started, we held the annual School Supply Drive which netted FORTY kits for the children. Then before Christmas, we held the Winter Coats Drive collecting coats, socks, hats and gloves for Katy Elementary and Hutsell Elementary, the school across the street. Twenty-seven coats were taken to each school, for a total of FIFTY-FOUR COATS. St Paul's has a huge heart for giving and the counselors at each school are so grateful. The children especially loved the hand knitted items as they knew they came from people who cared.

St. Paul's also hosts several programs on-site which benefit Our Neighbors:

- Homework Buddies is a program held every Wednesday afternoon during the school year that is run by Katy Christian Ministries with St. Paul's providing a place to meet. This program provides tutoring to Elementary students in Katy ISD that need that little extra help. We have several parishioners who volunteer to tutor and help is always needed. Contact Rev. Mark if interested.
- The Beacon led by Tracy Meyer is a program that feeds the homeless in downtown Houston. Several parishioners go to the Beacon on the fourth Thursday of each month.
- The Gathering Place led by Iris Poteet and Mary Brimer is a once a month program for caregivers of loved ones suffering from dementia and/or Alzheimer's. It is so caregivers can have time to take care of themselves. Our guests are entertained, have exercise and are given lunch. More volunteers are needed if you have 4 hours a month on the first Thursday come and see what it entails and have lunch.
- Quarterly Blood Drives led by Andrea Smith started in 2021. The Regional Blood Center truly appreciates every donation they can get in this critical time period. She is always looking for volunteers to help on the day of the drives and is currently in the process of securing dates for 2023.
- We also opened the campus back up to local Girl Scout troops, Boy Scout troops, Young Men's Service League, International Exchange Students, and ToastMasters.

At the end of the year, leftover budget funds were dispersed to The Gathering Place, Katy Christian Ministries, Christ Clinic, The Beacon and The Neighborhood Garden Project.

If you have any ideas, need to volunteer or want to contribute, then feel free to contact us. Keep an eye on the Epistle or Announcements in Sunday services for future opportunities.

We look forward to a very rewarding 2023. We are pleased to Tracy Meyer joining as one of the chairpersons on the Outreach Commission for the coming year. We will restart regular meetings of the Outreach Commission, add a few new programs, grow our donation opportunities, and show even more Love for Our Lord and Our Neighbors.

Respectfully submitted for the Outreach Commission

--Joyce Davis and Harlan Matthews

Property Committee

The Property Committee is a subcommittee of the vestry that seeks to assist the Jr. Warden by ensuring general maintenance of the facilities, monitor facility needs, organize clean-up days, and make recommendations for future improvements.

Details on activity for 2022 by the Property Committee can be found under the Jr. Warden's report above.

--Peter Parsons, Outgoing Jr. Warden

St. Lydia's Guild

St. Lydia's Guild are the helpers behind the scenes. We complete various administrative duties including preparing materials for children's programs, compiling mailings, and folding the Sunday bulletins and announcements. We have a few faithful attendees but are always looking to add more. If you are available on Thursday mornings to join in the work and fellowship, then please come join the group in the Conference Room at 10am. The First Thursday of the month, we meet at 1:15pm after The Gathering Place wraps up. *--Jennifer Kuhn, Parish Administrator*

The Neighborhood Garden Project

Dear Friends of The Neighborhood Garden Project

2022 has been an eventful, challenging, and yet gratifying first year as we've embarked on our mission to provide Old Katy with a venue for community gardening, education, and food production for disadvantaged segments of the "neighborhood." During 2022 we obtained our 501(c)(3) status and began to put early, generous donations toward building our facility on the grounds of St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Our site has 54 raised beds filled with rich soil and equipped with automatic irrigation. Our project has been supported by many in the community, with special thanks to community leaders who have encouraged their flock to participate.

Although the Christmas freeze has impacted our anticipated January harvest, we are working hard to re-establish a late winter crop of seasonally appropriate vegetables. Our community garden section will officially commence in early January when 10 of the 22 families interested, are assigned plots, attend orientation, and are provided with the supplies to start planning and cultivating their gardens. Our January fundraising efforts will focus on raising the needed \$10,000 to build the additional community beds required to accommodate the remaining families in time for the spring season.

Since its inception in April 2022, The Neighborhood Garden Project (TNGP) has raised \$18,000 in donations from various organizations and individuals. These donations allowed us to create the initial infrastructure of the project (54 wooden raised beds, soil, irrigation, signage) plus fund the monthly expenses such as insurance, water, fertilizer, seed, etc. Labor in 2022 was entirely donated by Josh Singleton, our founder, and other volunteers. The good news is that most of our initial setup has been completed! In 2023 the focus of our fundraising will be to generate sufficient funds to sustain TNGP's ongoing requirements, i.e., maximizing the benevolent mission of the project and maintaining an aesthetically appealing venue for the community. Our goal in 2023 is to raise \$80,000.

Important operational objectives for 2023 are; 1) to implement several pending community outreach programs, such as; a) Boaz House (a women's shelter in Brookshire), b) Hutsell Elementary School (waiting for the school-initiated grant), c) fostering involvement with residents and businesses in the immediate neighborhood, and d) other emerging opportunities, including pursuing a second garden site, 2) plant, cultivate, harvest, and donate the major spring crops of vegetables in the critical Feb-Jul timeframe, 3) provide education and support to community garden members, 4) Pursue new and innovative donation avenues to sustain the project throughout 2023 and beyond.

A Special Thank You to Groups and Individuals Who Have Donated, Volunteered, or Participated in Some Way to Our Success in 2022:

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Kingsland Baptist Church
St. Peter's Methodist Church

Eric Reiter
Katy Lion's Club
Boaz House

Power House Church
Nina Miller
Scott Orbon

The staff at Hutsell Elementary School
Katy ISD student volunteers
Misty Porter

All other local agencies, businesses, and individuals
who have donated time, supplies, or financial support.

We welcome your feedback and fellowship and look forward to serving the community in 2023!
--The Board of Directors of The Neighborhood Garden Project and Josh Singleton

Video Ministry

Our video ministry has been going strong now for over a year. Our web and social media presence is essential to successful evangelism. Our livestreams on Facebook are our most effective evangelism tool. Almost every person who walks in our door for the first time has already watched our services on Facebook and visited our website. I am grateful for our video ministry and their faithful work. I would like to have a few more people trained to do this work. If you are interested in working the video feed, let me know and I will sit with you to make sure you are confident with the equipment. This video ministry has also allowed people to attend funerals, watch baptisms and be part of our family even from a great distance.

--Stacie Perez

Financial Report

Revenue:

Our Total Operating Revenue for 2022 was \$377,258 vs. \$360,789 in 2021. An increase of \$16,468 over the previous year. This amount is over our anticipated revenue budget by \$43,573. Total pledge revenue ended the year more than \$5,000 above what was anticipated. We also benefitted from two factors boosting revenue in 2022 – (a) the successful “Close the Gap” initiative in which many participated, and (b) the diocesan grant that enabled many parishes throughout the diocese to shrink budget deficits that were caused by the pandemic.

Operating Expenses

- Staff Compensation – We ended the year a little over \$16,000 under budget for Staff salaries, due largely to the Family Formation Coordinator position being vacant during the second half of the year
- Buildings & Grounds and Utilities – We were a little more than \$10,000 over budget in 2022 due to necessary A/C and electrical repairs, and because of rising energy costs. We anticipate joining in a co-op of churches within the diocese being formed later this year in order to share in lower wholesale power costs that will hopefully bring the cost of our electricity nearly back to the levels they have been at in the past.
- Formation and VBS – Another successful VBS happened in June. Overall costs at or slightly under budget in 2022, as in general, those costs are shared between the Youth/Children/VBS categories, and supplies are used interchangeably. We anticipate a slight increase in expenditures going forward as we endeavor to reactivate and rejuvenate our youth activity that had been dormant during the pandemic.

- Parish Activities – Total expenditures for all activity areas was about \$2,400 under budget last year.
- Diocesan Assessment, Insurance, Council & costs – These were back to more normal levels, following a reductions in assessments for pandemic relief in 2021, and were very near to the amounts budgeted.
- EGiving Fees – Once again, thank you to all who have covered their EGiving credit card fees. Actual costs for 2022 was \$2,763.68 and parishioners covered \$1,537.38 of those fees. If you are unsure how to do this, please contact Jennifer in the office.

Overall, our 2022 Operating Expenses totaled \$372,878, vs \$364,076 in 2021. This was \$13,624 under the total that was budgeted. We ended the year with a Net Operating Loss, including debt service, of just \$7,020, roughly half the amount of deficit with which we ended 2021, and far under the \$64K deficit we anticipated at the time the 2022 budget was prepared.

--The Finance Committee

2022 Financials

Revenue	2022 Actuals	2022 Budget
Contributions	325,660.05	320,384.00
Loose Plate Offerings	4,439.00	2,400.00
Fundraiser	2,625.00	4,000.00
Other Income	1,135.86	1,000.00
Interest Income	25.71	0.00
Altar Flowers	4,130.00	4,700.00
Children/Youth Events	780.00	1,200.00
Donations	1,100.79	0.00
Close the Gap 2022	37,361.44	0.00
Total Revenue	377,257.85	333,684.00
Expenses	2022 Actuals	2022 Budget
Staff Compensation	227,289.45	244,728.00
Staff Benefits	20,066.22	24,431.00
Building/Grounds	15,128.19	8,190.00
Utilities	21,656.34	18,300.00
Office Expenses	11,637.62	11,900.00
Commercial Insurance	23,581.50	23,876.00
Adult Formation	245.79	250.00
Youth Formation	0.00	1,000.00
Children's Formation	1,639.06	2,000.00
Vacation Bible School	1,540.84	1,500.00
Hospitality	0.00	350.00
Outreach	4,000.00	4,000.00
Liturgy	4,942.30	5,400.00
Music	651.49	705.00
Events	974.20	1,000.00
Fall Festival	1,173.80	1,500.00
Sunday Hospitality	1,349.97	1,000.00
Daughters of the King	200.00	200.00
Diocesan Assessment/Insurance	31,522.01	31,522.00
Diocesan Council	1,736.98	2,200.00
Discretionary Fund	1,200.00	1,200.00
Donations	1,100.79	0.00
Banking/EGiving Fees	1,241.30	1,050.00
Total Expenses	372,877.85	386,502.00
	2022 Actuals	2022 Budget
Total Revenue	377,257.85	333,684.00
Total Expenses	372,877.85	386,502.00
Crump Loan Payments	11,400.00	11,400.00
Net Income (Loss)	(7,020.00)	(64,218.00)

WAYS TO DONATE TO ST. PAUL'S

There are several ways to make a donation to St. Paul's. You can drop your check or cash in the plate on Sunday mornings. Many people pay by having an automatic payment sent from their checking account to the church monthly.

CONVENIENT ONLINE GIVING

If you're not able to easily drop your pledge payment in the plate on Sundays, St. Paul's would love for you to utilize online giving. Please check with your bank and see if your account includes free Online Bill Pay or Online Checks. If so, you can easily send a check through your bank at no cost to you, nor St. Paul's, and checks can be set up as a one-time or reoccurring payment. This is safe for your identity as your routing and account numbers are not included on your check. Another way to give online is using EGiving (<https://giving.ncsservices.org/app/giving/stpaulskaty>). You can set up payment via bank account or credit card. However, EGiving is not free for St. Paul's as we incur EFT or credit card fees for each transaction. You can help out St. Paul's by selecting the box to cover fees associated with your payment. If you currently have a reoccurring payment with EGiving and would like to help cover fees, you must cancel the reoccurring payment and create a new reoccurring payment where you will be able to check the box.

IRA DONATION

If you are over 70 you can make a donation directly from your IRA. Simple tell your broker or IRA fund manager to make the disbursement payable to St. Paul's and have the check sent to the church. Please be sure to let the [office](#) know to look for the check since it will have the fund name on it and not necessarily your name. Please consult your tax accountant about the details of this type of gift.

STOCK DONATIONS

You may also make a donation of appreciated stock directly to St. Paul's and this may save you capital gains taxes. (Please consult your tax specialist). The donations are made through LPL Financial within Amegy Bank. LPL Financial can be contacted via phone (888-673-3380) or email (wealthselect@amegywealthadvisors.com) to get details on setting up the stock transfer.

MAXIMIZING DEDUCTIONS TO YOUR ADVANTAGE

One way of making donations that help some people is to double up on donations one year so that you can reach a level above the standard deduction. We then take the extra years donation and mark it as prepaid. For example in 2022 one member paid their full pledge in January. That money goes into a pre-paid pledge fund that is then spent at a rate of 1/12th every month. They then paid all of 2023 at the end of December (using a stock gift). This was recorded on the 2022 giving statement, but the money is placed in the 2023 budget as a pre-paid pledge. This member then was able to itemize in 2022 and will take the standard deduction in 2023. Whether this would work for you is a question for your tax person or financial advisor. Some financial services have some very interesting ways to accomplish this.