

Submitted by: The Rev. Sean K. Rousseau
St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Haymarket, Virginia
February 8, 2026

Rector's Report 2025

Good morning! Welcome to our 13th Annual Meeting. Thank you for your prayers and presence here at St. Paul's! Thank you for all the ways you offer your Time, Talent, and Treasure as: "We Walk By Faith." You may already be active here, or you may still be considering how to be involved. I am happy to help you to participate in one of our existing ministries, or maybe in a new ministry we have yet to begin. Either way, I think St. Paul's will be stronger as everyone becomes more connected here.

First, I am thankful to Kerry, my wife. For all the ways you are active here at St. Paul's: the Children's Choir is always amazing, your voice with the Adult Choir, and the many ways you welcome people here and participate here. Not to mention, all you do to support me, encourage me, and put up with me. I am also thankful to Eowyn, Summer Grace (when she is home from school), and Aislinn and Anthony for all the ways you are part of our community, and I am also thankful for L.J. and Daria.

I am thankful to George Fulda for his presence in providing music on Sundays, and for funerals and weddings as our Director of Music Ministries. We have much to look forward to with the talent of George, and the involvement in so many ways of Samantha and their family, Rebecca and Elliot.

I am thankful to the Vestry Members and Officers for the time they give to St. Paul's. We will post the Officers Reports given today in the Weekly Email. I encourage you to read the Officer Reports by our Senior Warden - Tom Coyle, Junior Warden - Kathy Vergano, and Treasurer - Susan Douffas. They provide an excellent summary of the ways we stayed connected this past year!

I want to thank our Past Vestry Members who still live in Virginia and are active:

Neil Bagnell, Dave & Kelly Carson, Allison Campitelli, Jack Cunningham, Peter Demaree, Samantha & George Fulda, Connie Gallant, Jean Gentry, Sandy Hauk, Nelson Kersey, Amanda Maroon, Jean Seelig, Jerry Thacker, Megan Zeoli.

I want to thank our outgoing Vestry Members, Class of 2025, with their term ending today:

Tom Coyle, Peter Knudsen, Kathy Vergano.

I want to thank our Current Vestry Members:

Bob Coggan, Diane Demaree, Dave Zeoli - Class of 2026,
Vince Ammann, Jr., Jill Barr, Judy Umland - Class of 2027.

I look forward to the presence of our anticipated new Vestry Members:

Paula Lelansky, Kathy Vergano, Buddy Wagner - Class of 2028.

Anyone may attend a Vestry Meeting. Our next meeting will be on Sunday, March 22 at 12:30 PM. At that meeting, we will determine the new Vestry Officers. I anticipate that we will appoint:

Kathy Vergano - Senior Warden,
Vince Ammann - Junior Warden,
Millie Wesson - Register,
Susan Douffas and Jackie Clattenburg - Co-Treasurer's,
Kelly & Dave Carson - Annual Convention Delegate & Alternate Delegate,
Valerie Bowman and TBD - Region Delegate & Alternate Delegate,

Aimee Lowry - Vestry Representative as Board Member of Haymarket Regional Food Pantry,
Bonnie Weatherhead - Vestry Representative as Board Member of St. Michael's Academy,
Potentially TBD - Vestry Representative as Board Member of Carried To Full Term.

The Virginia Women & Family Support Center a.k.a. Carried To Full Term is a non-profit ministry on our church property which ministers to moms and their babies through both emergency assistance and residential assistance. CTFT residents live in the Meade House/Yellow House for up to two years with storage in the Church Office attics. Their annual lease began in 2016, is well-below market value, and they intend to stay a long time. Last year, CTFT opened a second home as phase two after the moms live here. We/they anticipate a possible future addition to the building through another non-profit: HomeAid. They are making plans for their 10th Anniversary celebration this June.

St. Michael's Academy has two campuses. The Vint Hill Campus for Grades 1 - 5 is just a few minutes away at 6848 Johnson Drive, Warrenton. The Fayette Campus is at 6735 Fayette Street and is also known as the Parish Hall. Their lease extends to August 2031. Remember, we can use that parking lot for parking on Sundays as we grow. In August 2021, St. Michael's Academy and St. Paul's formalized our relationship through a Memorandum of Understanding. As a result of the MOU, we now sponsor the school, hold two seats on the Board of Directors, and hold chapel services for the students. Last year, Grades 1 - 5 accomplished full accreditation and received an award as a School of Distinction through Cognia, and now the preschool is considering the accreditation process.

The Haymarket Regional Food Pantry is a 100% volunteer organization. We held a 20th anniversary celebration in December 2025 at La Grange Winery as a thank you for the many volunteers and donors. In 2025, the HRFP served over 40,000 clients with over 552,000 pounds of food, and is currently located at: 7669 Limestone Drive, Gainesville. In contrast, in 2005 the HRFP began in a closet at St. Paul's and served 39 households per month. We support the pantry through donations of non-perishable items collected at the church on Sundays, the Fresh Produce Delivery from the Fauquier Education Farm in Warrenton from May to December, and the Easter Ham Drive during Lent. The HRFP always needs more volunteers to sign up for a shift to receive and organize donations on weekday mornings and distribute donations to clients on weekday evenings and Saturday mornings. If you are interested in learning more, please let me know.

I thought I would mention a few of St. Paul's numbers too. Our average Sunday attendance grew from: 2012 - 31 people, 2013 - 41 people, 2014 - 61 people, 2015 - 75 people, 2016 - 86 people, 2017 - 98 people, 2018 - 100, 2019 - 110, 2020 - 107 (based on first 10 weeks of 2020), 2021 - 108 people including 67 in-person and 41 online views (an online view is from 1 to 4 people and this information was only collected in 2021), 2022 - 100 people, 2023 - 109 people, 2024 - 122 people, and in 2025 - 130 people. So, we are growing each year!

At the end of 2025, we had 275 registered members and 202 other souls who call St. Paul's home. During 2025, we added 19 registered members. We have already registered 4 people in January 2026, and hopefully, many more people will continue to join us in 2026 and in the coming years, so we can add staff and programming. Just so you know, the normal size for an Episcopal Church in Virginia is between 400 - 800 members. In the Church Directory, you will notice an "asterisk" next to some names. This denotes a Registered Member. Please let me know if you would like to become a Registered Member of St. Paul's. It is quite easy to do.

In 2025, we continued to improve our buildings and property through your generosity through the Wishing Well Program. The list of projects is long, and all are important. The biggest projects included: the new Church Office doors, windows, and blinds, and the new Columbarium Area Bench. As each project is completed, there is plenty of joy over its accomplishment - especially from me.

I look forward to our prayers and presence together each week, both in-person and those joining us online, as we celebrate the liturgy throughout the year, and for special events such as: Baptisms, Confirmations, Receptions, Weddings, and Celebrations of Life during Funeral/Memorial Services.

In 2025, we celebrated Baptisms for:

Talen Cunningham (grandson of Jack & Ruthie),
Aidan Olson (son of Sean & Taylor),
Nora Schade (daughter of Alex & Emma),
Grant Fitzgerald (family attends St. Michael's Academy),
Lorraine Chapman (granddaughter of Steve & Arlene Louton-Brown).

In 2025, we celebrated Weddings for:

Antoinette Roland & Luis Cruz (Antoinette is the daughter of Bruce & Mary Roland),
Marc Mascarenhas & Isamar Mendoza (Marc is the son of Peter & Arlene Mascarenhas),
Aislinn Garcia & Anthony Roland (Aislinn is the daughter of Sean & Kerry Rousseau
and Anthony is the son of Brice & Mary Roland),
Martha Leipertz & Kurt Hickman (who are old friends of Sean & Kerry Rousseau).

In 2025, we held Celebrations of Life during Funeral/Memorial Services for:

Bruce Prouty (partner of Helen Friedman),
Simon Abraham Carson (son of Dave & Kelly),
Kathleen Aust (sister of Barbara Kenefake),
Robert & Alice Fulda (great grandparents of George),
Thomas Tobey (father of Kelly Carson).

We will hold Funeral services for Marguerite & Rene Kocher on Saturday, February 21 at 11:00 AM. In their loss, their families were showered with comfort and support. Thank you. "Bring us, O Lord God, at our last awakening to the house and gate of heaven."

It is my intention to stay at St. Paul's as Rector well into the future and until I can retire someday. It has been over 13 years since I answered the call to serve here in September 2012 when we replanted the congregation. I think we have a bright future to look forward to together. I am thankful for the opportunity to serve you as a priest in The Episcopal Church. Thank you and God bless you!

Prayerfully yours,
The Rev. Sean K. Rousseau +
Rector