

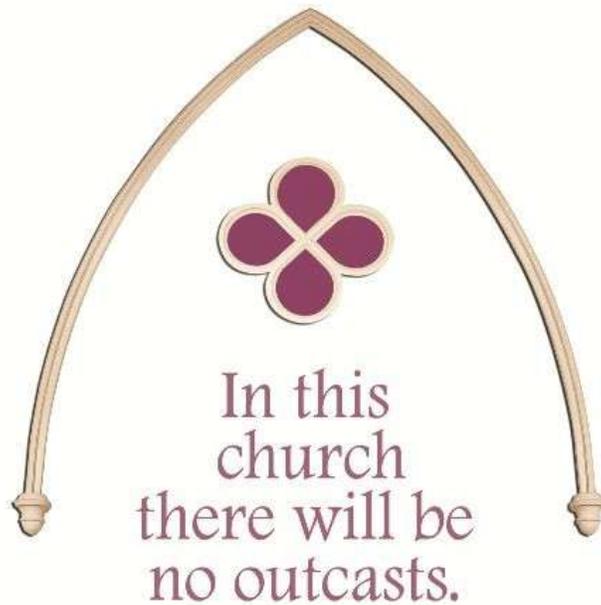
The 2025 Annual Report of St. Paul's Episcopal Church

65 North Main Street Wallingford CT 06492

203-269-5050

stpaulswallingford.org

January 25, 2026



St. Paul's
Episcopal Church

*"In this church
there will be no outcasts."*

Table of Contents
Annual Parish Meeting
January 25, 2026

Annual Meeting Agenda..... 3

Minutes of Annual Meeting–2025..... 4-6

Priest-in-Charge Report 7

Wardens’ Report 8-9

Treasurer’s Report..... 9-13

Christian Education Committee Report 14

Christian Education Director Report 15

Music Director’s Report..... 16-17

Stewardship Committee Report..... 17

Property Committee Report 18

ECCT Annual Convention Delegate Report 18-19

Lawn Brigade Report..... 19

Healing Prayer Ministry 19

Lay Eucharistic Visitors Ministry Report..... 19

Community Building Report..... 20

Thrift Shop Report 21-22

Adult Forum Report 22

Hospitality Report 22-23

Resolution 7 Report 23-24

Project Starfish Refugee Resettlement Report..... 24

Memorial Garden/Columbarium Report 24-25

Harvest Fair Report 25-26

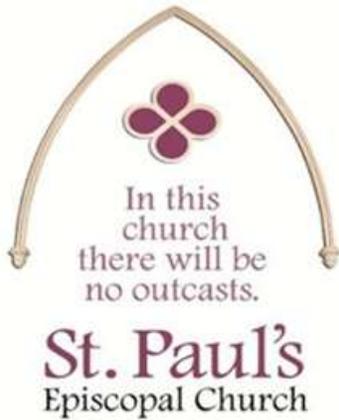
Outreach Committee Report 26

St. Paul’s Altar Guild Report 27

Food and Diaper Drives Report 27-28

St. Paul’s Nursery School..... 29

Report of the 2026 Nominating Committee..... 30



St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Wallingford, Connecticut

Annual Meeting Agenda
January 25, 2026

Discussion Questions

Where do you encounter God in your life?

Where do you encounter God at St. Paul's?

1. Meeting Called to Order
2. Reading of Canon Law regarding Voting Members
3. Approve Minutes of January 26, 2025 Annual Meeting
4. Presentation and Affirmation of the 2026 Budget
(as presented by the Treasurer and Finance Committee and approved at the December 9, 2025 Vestry Meeting)
5. Various Reports of our Life Together
6. Report of the Nominating Committee and Elections
7. Closing Prayer/Adjourn

***Let us go forth into the world,
rejoicing in the power of the Spirit!***

St. Paul's Annual Meeting

January 26, 2025

Attendance: Brian Sahlin, Chuck Maynard, Ted Hartsoe, Larry Stowe, Gene Gervais, Shelley Cruz, Marie Mumaugh, Darci Schaffer, Wendy M Hartley, Deborah Rice, Wendy Oestreicher, Curtis Griesing, Kathy Schave, Charmaine Craggs, Patti Cullen, Karen Rowe, Carole Ireland, Jane Smith, Denise Adamczyk, Al Adamczyk, Linda Krasko, Lauren Laird, Katie Desjardins, Joseph Dansohoff, Melissa Fahy, MaryLiz Williamson, Claire Minneman, Sarah Stapleton, Sunnie Scarpa, Dave Desjardins, Kristin Liu, Jared Liu, Arthur Sousa, Sharon Rogalski, Amy When, Sharon Kesilewski, David Adams, Fiorella Adams, Hope McGrath, Nathan Leach, Elizabeth Curtis.

Father Greg called the meeting to order.

Amy read the Canon Law regarding voting members.

2024 Annual Meeting Minutes

- Nathan moved to accept the meetings
- A parishioner accepted.

2025 Budget Presentation (Ted Hartsoe)

- Highlights three numbers:
 - Anticipated a budget deficit of \$20,000 for 2024 with the assumption of a half time priest for the whole year.
 - The deficit would have disappeared because the income was stronger and the spending was lower, ended up with a \$44,000 surplus in 2024.
 - For 2025, we are again looking at a \$40,000 deficit. Income is not quite as strong as what we experienced in 2024. More new pledgers than we've had in recent memory. But we've also had a larger decrease in the number of overall pledgers, and a larger number of people who decreased their pledge.
- Endowment distribution will be lower next year. Endowment did well in 2024, it was lower in 2022 and 2023, and the percentage is based on a 3-year average.
- Property insurance and cleaning service will go up in 2025.
- Ways to make up the deficit: additional fundraising, increased pledges.
- Ted opens the floor for questions:
 - Jared—testament to Ted that the investment accounts are growing, and takes restraint not to dip in to those accounts. How are recent donations and bequests different than other donations?
 - Offertory is counted as regular income. Bequests come when a parishioner has passed away, or a special donation is made in memory of someone. There have been half a dozen or so over the last few years. Typically, they are held until there is something specific to use it for.
 - Jared: If everyone took their gifts up by a certain percentage (what is that), it would set us on the right track?
 - Ted said \$5 per week. Can't answer off the top of his head.

- Linda: How many online pledges are there, are they consistent or hit or miss?
 - A good number pay their pledges online. Some do it every week, or once a month, or once or twice a year in larger lump sums. Not that different than other forms of pledges (by mail).
 - Father Greg: may have missed some pledges because people give online regularly, and may not have filled out a pledge form as it is automatic.
- Hope: There was a suggestion about fundraising, different ways to make it easier to give? QR codes. Will we brainstorm this as a parish?
 - Ted: The vestry has talked about this. Stewardship Committee has looked at this (QR code), but no progress yet.
 - Father Greg: How do we weave that into our financial reporting?
- Sharon: Jesus Campaign. How much longer will we get pledges from that?
 - Ted: May be in the last six months.
 - Amy: Thinks that it's 3 more months.
- Missy: Do those payments automatically stop?
 - Ted: We will follow up with ECCT to check that.

Annual Reports of Committees

- Nursery School
 - Jared: What is the purpose of the Nursery School? Looking at this from the budget perspective.
 - Nathan: Person best situated to discuss is Helen Stowe who not here today.
 - Carole: They teach 3 and 4 year olds. It's been a part of our community for many years. We subsidize some students who need scholarship to attend. They pay rent, so we receive income, and they receive money from the space. We raised their rent this year.
 - Jane: Nursery School has changed a lot over the years. She was here when it first started. Ann Twing started it, and Rector was very involved. At the time, likely more church based. It has evolved, the people in charge don't have connection to the church and it's run as a nursery school. We provide the space.
 - Lauren: Early childhood background, wonderful that we are continuing it, it's an outreach. And we may pick up a family or two. Good to have liaison work with directors.
 - Hope: Affirm the spirit of Jared's question. What is the purpose of the Nursery School, and how does it fit into the Ministry of the Church? Why do we charge what we charge? How do we decide about increases (modest), how does it impact our utilities? This might help us with future decisions.
 - Father Greg: What are we doing and why? Good thing to have clarity.
- Altar Guild: Karen: Omitted the name of Cathy Shavy. Also had help for Christmas.
- Thrift Store: Jared called them out, they are crushing it.

Jane: When was the report made available to parishoners? It would be helpful to have in advance, so that we had more time to have questions. At least a week in advance.

Warden's Report:

- Thank you to everyone: Tammi. The Vestry, the entire parish. Everyone has been bringing their gifts to this place and sharing them, and trying out new gifts. Volunteering for all kinds of things that has gotten us through a lot of transitions. Thank you to Greg for the gifts you are bringing us.
- What we call Greg: At the time of search committee per ECCT, we could call Greg Priest-in-Charge, and after three years we could decide if we want to convert the title to Rector. Now ECCT says we don't have to wait three years, we can convert from priest-in-charge to Rector quite soon. The Vestry voted to begin the process of converting Greg, and we are happy that this will hopefully move quickly. The next Vestry will take us through this process.
- So, going forward, when we call him Rector, we will be correct.

Nominating Committee:

Thanks to Amy, Tammi, Patti, and Carole who are cycling off the Vestry.

- Vestry affirmed this slate at the last meeting.
- Senior Warden: Kristin Liu
- Junior Warden: Art Sousa
- Treasurer: Ted Harsoe will continue
- Clerk: Claire Minneman

Continuing:

2026: Dave Adams, Wendy Oestreicher, Linda Krasko (for Kristin's place)

2027: Larry Stowe, Sharon Turlis, Shelley Cruz

2028: David Desjardins, Karen Hlavac, Karen Rowe

Patti Cullen and Brian Sahlin continue as ECCT Annual Convention Delegates.

Chuck Maynard moves to accept the slate, Carole seconds.

No other business

Father Greg ended with a Closing Prayer

Motion to Adjourn, all.

Rector Report 2025

A year ago, I suggested that our most pressing issue was the need to organize our ministry with a half-time priest. That has been an ongoing adjustment, and I believe that we have managed this well. I am encouraged that the church seems to know about healthy boundaries and members know how to care for each other. I find I can get help when I know who to ask. The parish does not make unreasonable demands. I find most of the pressure to do more comes from outside the parish, as people outside the community expect me or the church to be always available.

I find it very rewarding to serve in a church where I have long connection, with old friends and many more newer members. I am encouraged by the many gifts shared and the many excellent ministries. We have an excellent music ministry led by Jay Lindsay. I am so happy that I get to sing from time to time with our choir. I also get to sit next to them week by week as many people share their artistry to lift all our voices in praise.

We all miss our friend, the Rev. Nathan Leach, and we rejoice as he and his family are beginning a new life in North Adams Massachusetts. Our children's ministry did not slow down at all. First, parents and leaders took up leadership and kept ministry going as we searched for a new director. We are all pleased the Becky Scalese has agreed to return to the position she had held once before.

Jennifer Parsons has kept us organized and supported through all the uncertainty of the past few years. As I work only half time and she as well, we try to cover at least three days a week in the office, but outside meetings, illness and vacations often leave the office empty. It is helpful that parish leaders have been timely with information for bulletins and our newsletter. If there is a challenge it is the present version of a very old challenge. The church continues to lose people, money and influence. The organization of the parish with part-time employees may hold off the crisis for a time, but the long-term prospects for our congregation are uncertain. We are facing challenges that began in the sixties and seventies as our surrounding culture has changed. We can show good stewardship through various efficiencies and perhaps some new ideas or program, but none of this will change the fact that the world is changing. We will be tempted to react in desperation. We will also be called to faithfulness and hope. Our gift to the world is not our excellence or our attractiveness. The only thing we have is the good news of God's love for the world. Our best way to offer this is to live the truth of it in our community.

We proclaim good news in our worship. We proclaim good news as we share God's love with our young people. We proclaim good news as we provide food for the hungry and welcome to strangers. This is our bottom line, and I am happy that we keep focused on what matters.

Greg+

Wardens' Report 2025

After a few years full of transitions, how exciting it is to write that 2025 was our first full year under Greg's steady leadership. Looking back to early 2025, though, the Vestry still had to make that official vote to move Greg from Priest-in-Charge to Rector, which we did eagerly and unanimously. It has been wonderful to have his consistent cheerfulness and calming presence at the helm as he urges us to all step into our own roles as leaders within St. Paul's.

Over the course of our year, the Vestry worked with dedication to help open space and shift mindsets so everyone within the parish could feel empowered to take on new ministries. We saw groups gather to play games and share prayers, make meals or serve coffee, attend ECCT sessions or adult forum, celebrate major events like baptisms or support each other through loss. We also saw new or re-invigorated outreach initiatives like Project Starfish helping to resettle an Afghan family in the area, Holiday for Giving, support for the emergency shelter, and food and diaper drives galore.

In the summer, after the thoughtful planning from our building and grounds team, over a dozen parishioners worked to clean up the grounds and clean out the undercroft, filling an entire dumpster in a matter of a few hours and fully clearing out our basement space. This is work we could largely do on our own (other than removing the old oil tanks), but other projects, such as refinishing our floors, removing aging trees from the parking lot, and powerwashing and repointing our masonwork, required seeking bids and hiring experts. We did what we needed to do to take care of the property, and the results have been rewarding see.

But as we've said before, taking care of our property is an important part of how we care for our resources, but our church is so much more than our beautiful building - it is the people inside it and the work we do to carry on in Jesus's name. Those people - all of you! - were especially active in September and early October with our wonderful Ingathering, Ministry Fair, Unity in Faith food drive, and, of course, Greg's Celebration of New Ministry. Then came Celebrate Wallingford, pie making, the Harvest Fair, Celtic service, and our ongoing pledge campaign - it was a busy but beautiful season for our church as we all came together to pull off so much. It has been remarkable to see so many people step up to help or lead this year.

Closing out 2025, our Holiday Stroll was a successful night with many new visitors to our church (thanks again to the volunteers who made that happen!), and St. Nicolas Sunday was a delightful way to kick off our Advent season.

As we met for a final time in December to both review the year and look ahead to next year's budget, the Vestry had so much to be thankful for. Our church was active and engaged in worship and also outreach this year, making life better in ways big and small for people in our parish, our immediate area, and even further afield. Along with Greg, we have the long-standing ministry of Jay Lindsay directing our music program, Jen Parsons in the office keeping everything running smoothly, and now Becky Scalesse back in the role of Director of Christian Education. These wonderful staff members support our parish in ways seen and unseen, and we're so grateful to work alongside them.

To them, and to everyone at St. Paul's, thank you for a terrific year. We have the capacity to keep building on our efforts, and I am eager to see how we grow in 2026.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristin Liu, Senior Warden
Art Sousa, Junior Warden

Treasurer's Annual Report for 2025

We ended the year with the tiniest of surpluses (\$230). This result was due in part to the Employee Retention Tax Credit that we received earlier in the year—a payoff from one of the federal government's pandemic stimulus programs that the IRS is still trying to sift through all the applications. Without the ERC income, our deficit would have been \$21,413, which is about half of what we expected it would be when we adopted the budget last year.

We received nearly as much income as we had projected at the start of the year. Pledge receipts were lower, but holiday donations and plate offerings were better. We also earned more through our fund-raising efforts (Harvest Fest) than we anticipated. The Thrift Shop also had a good year.

Expenses were less than we expected. Part of the savings was the absence of a Director of Christian Education, but fortunately this hole in our staff lasted only a couple months. Property expenses were less than anticipated. Our new cleaning service is good at cleaning but not at submitting bills to be paid! After being without an elevator service company for most of the year (due the prior company's owner retiring), we hired a new service company in December. Most of our utilities came in a bit below our budget, except for telephone and internet service because we opted to raise the level of our service. Other Expenses were a good bit below what we budgeted because our Directors of Christian Education were frugal this year, and we weren't asked to fund many new initiatives.

The lack of a budget deficit helped to keep our bank accounts healthy. The savings account has grown the past couple years, primarily due to the Joining Jesus Capital Campaign and the budget surplus we accumulated in 2024 when we were without a rector. The endowment has crept over \$2 million again after falling below in the bear market in 2022. We have not had to take extra withdrawals from our endowment funds the past couple years, in part because we now use much of the monthly distribution from the Sacred Trust Fund for the operating budget, a change we made at the annual meeting at the start of 2023. As a result, the General Fund is no longer declining precipitously, as it was in the years before 2023.

Looking ahead to the budget for next year: We increased the salaries of our primary employees according to the guidelines required by ECCT. The premium for our property insurance increased a good bit. We will have to pay for a full year for our elevator service contract. We are hoping that maintenance, snow plowing and utilities will be comparable to this year. We did not make any significant increases in the Other Expenses categories. Overall the budget projects a similar deficit to what we anticipated in the budget for 2025.

We continue to take steps to facilitate more convenient donations. Several years ago we started accepting donations through on-line payments; this year we added a QR code in the bulletin to enable donors to access the on-line payment portal more directly. We are submitting our financial identification information to several donor-advised funds, to enable donors to give through these portals. And we are in the process of opening a brokerage account to enable the direct donation of stocks and bonds. Stay tuned for the details.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church Budget
Adopted by Vestry 12/9/2025

	2020	2021	2022	2022	2023	2023	2024	2024	2025	2025	2026
	<u>Actuals</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>								
Donations and other income											
Pledges	230,238	211,562	200,000	188,967	185,000	200,388	190,000	195,931	190,000	181,827	190,000
Other donations											
Christmas	4,267	3,897	4,000	4,723	4,000	2,385	4,000	1,343	2,000	3,778	2,000
Easter	2,546	3,003	3,000	3,321	3,000	3,920	3,750	590	1,000	1,549	1,500
Plate offerings	3,201	8,994	7,000	7,188	7,000	7,398	7,000	10,558	7,500	11,340	11,000
Other	873	339		(99)		3,139		500			
Other operating income											
Church services		500		48		27		1,847		129	
Fund raising (net)	15	3,148	8,000	3,250	4,000	4,770	4,000	5,548	5,000	8,087	5,500
Thrift shop	2,332	4,256	12,000	9,888	12,000	11,427	12,000	13,928	13,200	13,304	13,200
Nursery school	7,800	7,400	7,800	7,800	8,300	8,350	8,700	8,650	8,850	8,800	9,150
Organization Contributions & Rentals	1,540	700	1,000	2,220	2,400	1,790	2,000	1,350	1,200	1,200	1,200
Investment income											
Interest/dividend	345	161	120	95	50	62	72	93	100	118	120
Investment Fund distribution	38,002	34,849	33,550	33,452	89,198	89,198	84,844	88,794	80,548	80,548	80,870
Total income	<u>289,157</u>	<u>276,887</u>	<u>274,479</u>	<u>258,847</u>	<u>314,948</u>	<u>332,852</u>	<u>318,388</u>	<u>327,117</u>	<u>309,398</u>	<u>308,457</u>	<u>314,548</u>
Expenditures											
Salaries											
Child Care	273			210	1,650	1,065	1,726	50	50		50
Deposit processors	1,172	1,280	1,855	1,750	1,855	1,470	1,855	1,578	1,855	1,558	1,855
Music director	29,988	30,498	31,810	31,610	33,854	33,854	35,547	35,547	37,004	37,004	38,207
Rector	87,826	88,778	71,288	71,288	78,348	41,355	30,851	8,880	36,978	36,978	38,178
Christian Ed Director	18,991	17,635	18,280	9,575	19,578	14,000	20,800	20,800	21,445	13,795	20,000
Administrative Assistant	33,988	34,543	35,804	35,804	38,348	38,348	40,263	40,263	41,914	41,914	43,278
Sexton	8,491	8,318	-								
Choral Scholars								3,530	3,200	3,280	3,500
	<u>158,507</u>	<u>159,028</u>	<u>158,835</u>	<u>150,235</u>	<u>171,831</u>	<u>130,090</u>	<u>130,842</u>	<u>110,446</u>	<u>142,444</u>	<u>134,528</u>	<u>145,066</u>
Benefits											
Insurance - workers compensation	1,478	1,491	1,580	1,580	1,716	1,238	1,330			408	
Lay payroll taxes	7,088	7,235	7,042	6,493	7,633	7,087	7,994	7,786	8,088	7,483	8,177
Lay pension	3,057	3,109	3,222	6,067	6,498	6,498	6,823	6,823	7,103	7,103	7,333
Rector's Continuing Education	14	180	500	87	500	18	500	200	1,500	887	1,500
Rector's health, life, dental insurance	38,980	38,868	39,984	39,984	27,660	13,830	22,002	3,547	14,907	15,288	16,425
Rector's housing allowance	32,500	32,500	32,500	32,500	32,500	17,804	15,000	3,750	15,000	15,000	15,000
Rector's pension	14,860	18,398	20,588	20,485	21,571	10,798	9,087	2,503	10,301	10,301	10,539
Rector's SSA allowance	10,113	10,229	10,482	10,482	10,994	5,954	4,831	1,277	5,250	5,244	5,371
Substitute clergy			1,500	505	1,500	5,317		18,311		270	700
Substitute organist	800	800	800	1,000	800	1,200	800	1,000	800	800	800
Substitute secretary	419	442	1,120		1,200		1,280		1,440		1,440
	<u>107,085</u>	<u>113,252</u>	<u>119,279</u>	<u>119,143</u>	<u>112,575</u>	<u>89,532</u>	<u>89,446</u>	<u>43,178</u>	<u>84,388</u>	<u>82,539</u>	<u>87,285</u>
Property Expenses											
Insurance - property	15,480	17,294	22,590	22,581	24,849	21,863	22,957	22,400	25,611	25,611	27,490
Cleaning Service		1,155	28,000	8,180	10,400	10,260	11,440	11,440	18,720	14,400	18,720
Janitorial supplies	805	598	1,000	587	750	779	750	283	750		200
Kitchen supplies	904	922	1,500	809	1,000	1,918	1,000	2,559	1,500	1,818	2,300
Maintenance - elevator	4,022	3,930	4,000	1,635	1,200	1,200	1,200	840	2,000	1,25	1,500
Maintenance & repairs - minor	3,197	3,451	4,000	2,884	2,500	2,289	2,500	2,783	3,000	2,939	3,500
Organ/Piano - minor	1,800	1,395	1,800	100	1,600	2,990	1,710	1,795	1,730	2,215	2,200
Security monitoring	1,877	1,723	1,740	1,877	1,800	2,129	2,000	3,087	2,400	2,850	2,424
Snow removal	3,127	5,511	8,000	6,817	8,500	1,880	6,500	3,180	6,500	6,823	6,500
Trash removal	1,202	1,052	1,580	1,582	1,680	1,710	1,880	1,999	2,040	2,783	2,180
	<u>31,814</u>	<u>37,031</u>	<u>69,990</u>	<u>46,852</u>	<u>52,279</u>	<u>47,018</u>	<u>51,917</u>	<u>50,328</u>	<u>84,251</u>	<u>59,142</u>	<u>68,994</u>

Adopted by Vestry 12/9/2025

	2020	2021	2022	2022	2023	2023	2024	2024	2025	2025	2026
	<u>Actuals</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Utilities											
Electricity	4,320	4,472	5,000	5,378	5,500	5,918	6,000	5,254	6,000	5,918	6,000
Gas	1,932	2,148	2,400	2,354	2,600	2,454	2,500	2,101	2,400	2,178	2,400
Telephone	5,040	4,995	5,000	5,286	5,520	5,052	4,500	4,880	5,040	5,820	5,700
Water & sewer	761	491	800	561	600	973	750	1,095	1,000	1,024	1,000
Thrift Shop expenses	1,802	3,243	2,500	2,773	2,700	2,428	2,700	2,423	2,500	2,369	2,500
	<u>13,855</u>	<u>15,350</u>	<u>15,700</u>	<u>16,350</u>	<u>16,920</u>	<u>16,823</u>	<u>16,450</u>	<u>15,732</u>	<u>16,940</u>	<u>17,106</u>	<u>17,600</u>
Other Expenses											
Altar expense	355	90	400	507	500	581	500	624	600	545	600
Bank charges		170	50	27	50		50		50	20	50
Books/publications	479	450	300	195	300	202	240	170	240	198	250
Church school expenses	1,451	1,898	2,000	1,112	2,000	380	1,000	696	1,000	42	1,000
Copier service	3,094	2,860	3,000	3,034	3,500	3,349	3,500	2,739	3,000	3,318	3,500
Community Building	1,374		1,000	924	1,000	1,000	1,000	602	1,000	1,000	1,200
Payment Processing fees	104	541	750	733	800	1,390	1,500	1,555	1,600	1,775	1,800
Food & Meals	203	406	600	793	1,000	891	1,000	322	1,000	1,107	1,000
Conference fees	80	88	270	340	350	516	500	254	400	315	400
Miscellaneous expense	904	1,520	500	188	500	5,856	500	373	500	200	250
Music/choir expense	533	594	500	481	500	450	500	579	500	583	550
Musicians for special services	277	1,400	1,500	2,600	2,700	2,600	2,700	3,100	2,600	3,250	3,500
Office expense	879	843	1,000	621	600	1,134	1,200	979	1,200	749	1,000
Technology/Software	2,604	2,382	2,400	2,177	2,400	2,232	2,400	3,636	3,500	2,968	3,500
Audit and accounting	3,950	4,033	4,100	4,124	4,400	4,020	4,100	5,024	4,200	3,983	3,400
Payroll services	1,231	1,190	1,250	1,240	1,300	1,231	1,300	1,271	1,300	930	800
Postage	1,242	921	1,000	894	800	855	900	776	900	503	600
Printing	505			590							
Advertising/Signs	1,520	1,868	1,000	452	500	96	500	251	500	391	500
Employee search costs		15	50	31	250	31	50	47	50		50
Stewardship expenses	996	633	500	621	600	798	250		200	74	200
Youth group expenses	330	501	500	37	250		250	33	250		250
Honorariums					3,000		3,000		3,000	1,000	3,000
New Initiatives (Inreach)					5,000		2,500	422	2,500	195	2,500
	<u>22,113</u>	<u>22,004</u>	<u>22,670</u>	<u>21,601</u>	<u>32,300</u>	<u>27,812</u>	<u>29,390</u>	<u>23,654</u>	<u>30,090</u>	<u>23,125</u>	<u>30,100</u>
Common Mission Support to ECCT	<u>33,948</u>	<u>37,152</u>	<u>36,685</u>	<u>36,685</u>	<u>37,671</u>	<u>37,671</u>	<u>39,475</u>	<u>39,475</u>	<u>33,432</u>	<u>33,432</u>	<u>33,432</u>
Total expenses	<u>367,322</u>	<u>383,817</u>	<u>423,159</u>	<u>398,866</u>	<u>423,373</u>	<u>328,748</u>	<u>337,520</u>	<u>283,013</u>	<u>351,525</u>	<u>329,870</u>	<u>368,477</u>
Budget Surplus (Deficit)	<u>-78,165</u>	<u>-107,210</u>	<u>-148,680</u>	<u>-132,019</u>	<u>-108,428</u>	<u>4,106</u>	<u>-21,154</u>	<u>44,104</u>	<u>-42,127</u>	<u>-21,412</u>	<u>-45,937</u>
Employee Retention Tax Credit										<u>21,643</u>	
Budget Surplus (Deficit) after ERC										<u>230</u>	

Account Balances at Year-End

Savings Account	As of December 31,						
	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Operating Savings	46,626.82	46,626.82	11,626.82	1,626.82	1,626.82	11,626.82	1,626.82
Major Capital Savings	32,154.99	37,607.85	26,625.34	26,716.69	37,812.15	40,323.90	46,206.25
Memorial Garden	4,830.85	4,806.85	4,306.85	6,685.81	6,724.03	6,938.15	6,372.52
Outreach Savings	782.30	1,282.34	7,863.96				
Sacred Trust Savings	15,879.70	15,879.70	15,879.70	24,807.38	41,709.10	43,065.44	13,671.51
All Saints	7,879.98	7,303.98	7,298.98	7,312.98	7,113.98	7,559.98	7,705.98
Sabbatical	6,240.95	6,240.95	7,240.95	7,240.95	12,000.00	12,000.00	12,000.00
Recent Donations & Bequests	34,720.00	32,220.00	32,220.00	32,220.00	20,545.00	20,320.00	500.00
Apple Pie-Making							-
Friends of Music and Arts	2,149.00	2,054.00	1,241.00	1,191.00	1,038.00	588.00	2,198.00
Capital Campaign Savings	84,073.39	70,501.60	48,782.89	8,967.49	120,621.78	54,804.44	
Total Money Market Savings	235,603.82	224,524.09	163,086.49	116,769.12	249,190.86	197,226.73	90,281.08
Checking Account	39,353.43	40,536.98	35,821.31	35,760.96	35,127.29	31,708.31	30,620.34
Accrued Expenses accounts							
(in checking account)							
Sacred Trust Disbursements	1,200.70	1,200.70	1,200.70	1,200.70	1,200.70	3,908.72	20,001.09
Anniversary Campaign	1,058.79	1,058.79	1,058.79	1,058.79	1,058.79	2,058.79	2,058.79
Mission Trip	5,346.63	5,346.63	5,346.63	5,346.63	5,346.63	5,346.63	4,935.63
Pass Through money	245.50	2,245.00	4,965.00	5,348.96	4,090.02	1,652.42	10,610.50
Total	7,851.62	9,851.12	12,571.12	12,955.08	11,696.14	12,966.56	37,606.01

*All data above from accounting accounts.

Investment accounts	As of December 31,						
General Fund	226,768.94	215,090.16	204,860.45	192,803.59	263,885.77	306,607.89	336,295.40
Special Gifts Fund	350,743.94	332,612.01	316,677.96	293,171.38	360,352.78	340,208.98	318,146.54
Sacred Trust Fund	1,429,168.16	1,355,307.15	1,329,341.49	1,230,525.80	1,497,188.21	1,427,524.78	1,321,866.92
Total	2,006,681.04	1,903,009.32	1,850,879.90	1,716,500.77	2,121,426.76	2,074,341.65	1,976,308.86

NOTE:

Additional withdrawals from the General Fund (beyond the regular monthly distributions)

0.00	0.00	0.00	135,000.00	100,000.00	50,000.00	50,000.00
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Christian Education Committee Annual Report, 2025

It's been a full year of fun and learning for the children of St. Paul's this year. While we were sad to see Nathan depart, the Christian Ed committee came together to keep church school running smoothly and vibrantly. We weathered the transition in the second half of the year and are now so happy to welcome Becky Scalesse back! We are particularly proud that we maintained consistently strong programming for our children even in the months without an official director, and we'd like to thank our families for maintaining their commitment to the church. We are so grateful for all of our fantastic volunteers who share their time and energy with St. Paul's children.

Throughout the year, we had thoughtful lessons about weekly scripture, amazing story walks, and kids participating in the service once a month (and learning about the service in and out of church). There's a lot to celebrate!

Here's a rundown of our highlights:

- Our annual pancake supper and pancake races on Shrove Tuesday
- Holy Week and Easter, complete with an abundance of treats to find on the north lawn
- A spring movie night/brewery night for parents
- Celebrating and saying goodbye to Nathan
- Ingathering in September
- Celebrate Wallingford in early October - all church school students helped by prepping the dog treat bags we handed out for St. Francis Sunday, and some kids helped at the tent, handing out flyers and greeting passersby with their typical energy and enthusiasm
- Harvest fair - kids and families worked the "sweets and treats" table
- Family tractor ride at Blue Hills organized by Helen Stowe
- Christmas Eve Pageant
- Winter and spring Story Walks focused on miracles of Jesus
- New format for those days (meet at 9:20 at park and pick up after worship)
- Bells took a hiatus during the fall season
- Performed wonderfully on Christmas Eve and on 1/4/26 for The Three Kings visit

As we see friendships between children and parents alike growing stronger each week, we feel so rewarded. We look forward to what 2026 will bring under Becky's guidance!

With gratitude,

Dave Desjardins, Kristin Liu, Helen Stowe, Missy Fahy, Caroline Golschneider, Sunnie Scarpa, and Hope McGrath

Christian Education Annual Report: 2025

My name is Becky Scalesse and I am thrilled to reintroduce myself as the Director of Christian Education and Formation here at St. Paul's. Some of you may remember me from my time serving in this role in 2013, and it is truly a joy to be returning and reconnecting with this faith-filled community. I have lived in Wallingford since 2011, and this town has truly become home. I share life with my loving husband, Matt, and our three children—Noah, Amelia, and Colin—who keep our days full of laughter, curiosity, and chaos. As both a parent and an educator, I care deeply about creating a church school environment where children feel safe, valued, and excited to explore God's love together.

I am passionate about nurturing children's faith through storytelling, creativity, and holy wonder. I look forward to partnering with families, supporting our wonderful teachers and volunteers, and walking alongside your children as they grow in faith.

I can't wait to see familiar faces and meet many new ones. Please don't hesitate to reach out with questions, ideas, or just to say hello.

Since my time here thus far has been brief, my report will also be brief. First and foremost, I'd like to thank the supportive families and parents. What an accomplishment to have run the church school program on their own and with much passion and success.

With the help of others, I have helped coordinate the Christmas Pageant and Three Kings Sunday. I will be implementing a format in Church School where the group will be divided into 2: grades K-4 and 5-7. This will allow lessons, activities, and conversations to be better tailored to each developmental stage, creating a more engaging and meaningful experience for every child.

Goals for 2026:

- Encourage intergenerational connections through service projects and special events
- Find ways for children that have aged out of Church School to be involved (mentor/volunteer opportunities, youth group, teen nights)
- Increase the pool of volunteers
- Create a prayer or wonder wall outside the nursery

I am always on the lookout for more volunteers so please don't hesitate to reach out. Remember, you don't need to be a parent to help. All you need is a caring heart, a listening ear, and a willingness to help nurture faith and wonder.

Looking forward to a wonderful 2026!

Warmly,

Becky Scalesse
Director of Christian Education and Formation

Music Director Report 2025

It is my pleasure to share with you the highlights and achievements of the music program at St. Paul's in 2025. Our mission to enhance worship through music has been evident through the many worship services and events that we have participated in. I'm thankful to the many members of our choir and music ministry program for all their hard work.

The choir at St. Paul's has had a very successful year. They've led us in many special worship services this year including Holy Week services, an Easter service with brass accompaniment and a Christmas Eve service with string quartet accompaniment. Rehearsals have continued to be a source of fellowship and community building. If you or someone you know is interested in singing, please consider joining the choir!

The choristers program relaunched in 2024 and has been a great success. They have sung several times in 2025 and are steadily growing in number. We look forward to singing in worship in 2026. The group is open to anyone in K-8 who would like to sing. We rehearse immediately following the 9:30 service on every 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month.

In addition to the choir and choristers, there are a few other people in the music program I want to make sure I acknowledge. Our cantor, Samantha Martinez, has been a huge asset to the music program, whether she's singing solo or lending her support to the soprano section of the choir. Darlene James plays at the 8 am service and fills in for me at the 9:30 service when I am on vacation. I feel very fortunate to have her as a colleague. I also want to thank Helen Stowe for her beautiful flute playing and leading of the Bells for Beginners program.

I also want to take this opportunity to highlight the success of our Celtic Worship Services. The services feature prayers, poetry, and music from the Celtic tradition. Music has been provided by local Irish band, the Jolly Beggars, along with St. Paul's choir. In 2025, we held two Celtic Worship Services. The services were very well received, and we plan to continue holding them in 2026.

We have continued to receive generous donations to the *Friends of Music and the Arts* fund throughout the year. This fund makes it possible to hire our wonderfully talented cantor, as well as other musicians for special services throughout the year. If you would like to support the choral music at St. Paul's, please consider donating to the *Friends of Music* program. Your name will be included in the program as a donor in future music programs.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all the members of the choir, staff, and other volunteers and supporters who have contributed their time, talent, and resources. With your continued support, I'm looking forward to an exciting year of music making in 2026!

Respectfully submitted,

James Lindsay, music director

Annual Report for St. Paul's Stewardship Committee, 2025

This year's stewardship work began by trying to redefine - or at least expand - what stewardship has meant at St. Paul's. We wanted to clarify the term "stewardship" to encompass all the gifts we might give and continue to manage - our time, our talent, and yes, our treasure - and we wanted our Annual Pledge Campaign (fall pledging) to be just one aspect of that.

We began the Annual Pledge Campaign a bit earlier than in years past, laying the groundwork in September. The theme of this year was "Tell Out My Soul", and we encouraged parishioners to do just that in our Stewardship Speaker Series that ran through October and early November. Each Sunday, a range of voices showed all the different ways St. Paul's is important to us as individuals or different cohorts within the church, and why we are called to contribute. We would like to thank Patti Cullen, Dave Desjardins, Chuck Maynard, Claire Minneman, Tammy Napoli, Charmaine Craggs for the time and energy they put into sharing their own stewardship stories with us this year. Their words varied widely in wonderful ways, but they were all inspirational.

We are pleased to report that at the time of this writing (early January 2026), despite a slight drop in our total number of unique pledges, this year's annual pledge campaign has surpassed last year's monetary total by almost \$6,000 (and pledges are still coming in), currently totalling \$167,629. We had 64 total pledges, including four new pledges, and of those 64, 33 increased their giving amount. We would like to thank everyone who gave so thoughtfully and generously, and if you have yet to make a pledge for the 2026 year, we encourage you to get that in to us as soon as possible. You can find pledge forms at both entrances to the church or on our website.

So much work goes into stewardship at St. Paul's, and we would like to thank Greg and Jen for directing and managing stewardship in the office, Ralph Nardi for managing the donation process and sharing regular updates to keep us on track, Ted Hartsoe for his guidance on goals and new initiatives, and Sharon Turlis for sharing her expertise from the previous years.

As we enter into a new year, we are filled with gratitude for this community. We hope we can continue to live, learn, pray, and give together in a spirit of abundance for many years to come.

On behalf of the Stewardship Committee,

Kristin Liu and Patti Cullen

Property Committee Annual Report 2025

First thing I'd like to do is to thank all the people who work so hard keeping the grounds groomed, including mowing the lawn.

Members of the property and grounds committee have many new things in the works. I am hoping to have committee meet twice in the new year.

Then we had the dormers on the south side repaired, making them watertight, replacing rotted wood and resealing the stained glass and replacing plexiglass.

We cleaned the cellar & removed the oil tanks. We repaired the wall in the block room.

We striped the parking lot and added one more handicapped parking space.

We removed the trees at the rear of the building.

We sanded and refinished the floors in the sanctuary and the hallway by the chapel.

We repaired the steps at the front of the church and the southside entrance.

We repaired the northside entrance to Wilkinson Hall and the steps leading to the office and classroom area and replaced damaged bricks.

Respectfully Submitted
Gene Gervais

2025 Annual Convention Delegate Report

The 241st Annual Convention of the CT Episcopal Church was held in Bristol CT on October 24th and 25th. Our Rector, Rev. Dr. Greg Welin attended, as well as the St. Paul's delegates Brian Sahlin and Patricia Cullen.

As part of ECCT business, convention members approved a 7 million dollar budget. We revised the minimum Clergy Compensation Schedule to include a 3.25 percent cost of living increase based on the consumer price index in the northeast area of the country. We adjusted Supply Clergy compensation which has not been changed in more than 10 years. Previously the fee was \$200 for one service and \$250 for two services. It is now \$250 for one service and \$325 for two services and will also include mileage reimbursement at the IRS business mileage level. Convention members also revised the ECCT hiring process, mandating that searches to fill ECCT staff positions will promote, to every extent possible, consideration of people of color as candidates.

In addition, Convention approved two parish mergers. St. Paul's Bantam and Christ Church Bethlehem merged. The merged parish will have two campuses and is named St. Paul's Parish-St. Paul's Church with Christ Church Chapel. Also, St. John's Episcopal Church in East Windsor

and Grace Episcopal church in Windsor merged. The merged parish is named Grace Episcopal Church and is in Windsor.

Convention attendees also voted to elect members to various positions such as Standing Committee, Mission Council, Deputies to General Convention, and many other positions. Congratulations to our Rector Rev. Dr. Greg Welin who was elected to the Cathedral Chapter, Class of 2028

On the ECCT website- episcopalct.org there is a link to watch the convention on You Tube. You can choose to watch the entirety of Day 1 or Day 2 or just the Bishop's address separately. We encourage everyone to watch the Bishop's address as Bishop Jeff laid out his vision for the church in the upcoming year.

--Submitted by Brian Sahlin and Patti Cullen

2025 Lawn Brigade Report

A very big Thank-you goes out to the 6 Parish members who make up the 2025 St. Paul's Lawn Care Brigade. These volunteers can be seen trimming, cutting and picking up the grounds each week. The lawn looks great, and funds are freed up for other church needs. A Shout out to Chuck Maynard, Joe Sholtes Art Souza, Larry Stowe, Kathy Schave and Curt Griesing for their efforts and hard work from May through October.

--Submitted by Curt Griesing

Healing Prayer Ministry 2025

The Healing Prayer Group meets the first Tuesday of the month in the Chapel. During our meetings we pray together for the people on our prayer list, study healing stories of the Bible, and have meditation time.

One Sunday a month our prayer teams gather together in the back of the church. After receiving communion, individuals can come to the prayer team for confidential prayer requests and prayers.

--Submitted by Stephanie Crump

Lay Eucharist Visitors Annual Report – 2025

The Lay Eucharist Visitors bring communion to our home bound parishioners in their homes, nursing homes, Independent and Assisted Living Facilities monthly. Two team members give a short written service, which includes communion wafers and wine.

--Submitted by Stephanie Crump

Community Building Annual Report 2025

Community Building is the name given to St Paul's volunteers who help at church sponsored and community events. Community Building was formed in 2012 with the goal of increasing awareness of the many positive things that happen at St Paul's, with the hope that more members would get involved in parish life and new individuals/families would join the church.

Funding to purchase items needed for activities was budgeted at \$1,000.00 this year in St Paul's Operating Budget. With those funds 900 red stress balls were purchased with St Paul's contact information printed on them. Along with the stress balls, St Paul's pens, pencils and flashlights (from previous years purchases) were handed out at the church's booth during the Celebrate Wallingford weekend in October. All items were well received by the public. In addition, information sheets on upcoming church activities were also handed out. Many church volunteers gave of their time helping at the booth that weekend.

Volunteers also helped coordinate and bake for St Paul's participation in Wallingford's Holiday Stroll, the first Friday evening in December. St Paul's had a table filled with home baked cookies and treats available to the public as they entered the church. The Henry family graciously donated gallons of cider that was served hot that evening. There was also a table where prayer requests were taken. Music Director, Jay Lindsay, played festive holiday music and lead a community Carol Sing.

In addition, and as needed, volunteers compile welcome bags that are available in the church sanctuary to be given to new attendees after services. The welcome bags include a recent St Paul's Newsletter, an informational booklet about the Episcopal Church, a booklet about the Book of Common Prayer, St Paul's pens, pencils and this year a stress ball. Volunteers also oversee the updating and distribution of pew cards and church brochures.

Many thanks to all who helped this past year. New volunteers and ideas are always welcomed.

Submitted by –
Carole D Ireland

THRIFT SHOP ANNUAL REPORT - 2025

St. Paul's Thrift Shop had a very good year!! We brought in a total of \$12,605, which goes into the church's operating budget. We have a wonderful and dedicated group that meets every Wednesday morning to price, sort, and put out new seasonal items. This group is always seeking ways to improve the shop and expand our clientele.

The shop is open Thursday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. It hasn't always been easy to fill the slots due to illness, travel and other personal reasons. For the past several years, we tried new things: opening during Celebrate Wallingford and during the Holiday Stroll. "Celebrate" and "Stroll" openings brought in new shoppers, and sales were good.

Occasionally, we stop accepting donations so that we can focus on organizing the upstairs and reducing the amount of items that are stored there. We are now accepting donations, but ask that items be left only when the shop is open and that clothing be seasonal and gently used.

In the process of changing over seasonal items, we were able to donate 32 large bags of clothing, several boxes of shoes and toys to Loaves and Fishes in New Haven.

From the positive response we've had all year and the income we've generated for the church, it is obvious that the Thrift Shop is serving an important role in our community.

Please join us any Wednesday from 10-12 to help with sorting and pricing. No need to make it a permanent commitment. Just come when you can, and we'll put you to work! If you would like to be put on the schedule to work when the shop is open, please contact Helen Stowe (asclepiashs@hotmail.com or 203-848-7113).

Submitted by
Carole Ireland
Helen Stowe
Carol Gervais

THRIFT SHOP ANNUAL REPORT TOTALS - 2025

MONTH	GROSS	EXPENSES	NET
JANUARY	\$ 1,201.80		
FEBRUARY	\$ 903.20		
MARCH	\$ 1,234.90		
APRIL	\$ 641.05		
MAY	\$ 1,202.60		
JUNE	\$ 703.80		
JULY	\$ 1,150.95		
AUGUST	\$ 1,211.35		
SEPTEMBER	\$ 951.05		
OCTOBER	\$ 1,429.35		
NOVEMBER	\$ 1,084.45		
DECEMBER	\$ 887.40		
TOTALS	\$ 12,601.90		

Adult Forum Annual Report – 2025

The Adult Forum is a discussion-based study group for adults in the parish that meets via Zoom. In 2025 we had five different sessions of the Forum. At the start of the year we read together Anne Lamott's *Somehow: Thoughts on Love*. During Lent we read *Practicing the Way*, by John Mark Comer as we considered his suggestions for ongoing spiritual growth. In the spring we tackled Paul's Letter to the Galatians. After a break for the summer, we spent the fall reading *Made for Goodness*, by Desmond Tutu and his daughter Mpho Tutu. During Advent we reflected on the weekly gospel readings from Matthew. All parishioners are welcome to join in at any time throughout the year.

Submitted by Amy Foster

Hospitality – 2025 Annual Report

The Hospitality Committee was formed at St. Paul's in 2019 to work together as a team to help with receptions and special events. 2025 was a busy and exciting time at St. Paul's.

In January we welcomed a visit from Bishop Jeffrey Mello with a special service of baptism and confirmation followed by a reception. At the end of January we set a pot-luck brunch for our Annual Parish Meeting.

In March we helped with the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper to start the Lenten Season.

In April we hosted a commemoration of the Lord's Supper on Maundy Thursday with a simple supper of soup, salad, and bread.

In June we said a bittersweet goodbye to Nathan Leach, our Director of Christian Education and Formation, as he and his family moved to Western Massachusetts.

In September we kicked off the "new year" at St. Paul's with our Ingathering pot-lunch brunch, We also set up for our Ministry Fair where people had an opportunity to sign up to serve in various ministries.

In October we welcomed our "new" rector with the Celebration of New Ministry of The Rev. Dr. Greg Welin followed by a reception in Wilkinson Hall.

In December we held a special service and coffee hour hosted by our church school to celebrate St. Nicholas Sunday.

The Hospitality Committee also arranged funeral receptions for four of our parishioners during the year.

Coffee hours were hosted throughout the year, including during the summer months as a simple gathering.

We always welcome parishioners to help out at parish events. If you are interested in helping, please contact Sharon Rogalski or Art Sousa.

Sharon Rogalski
Arthur Sousa

Resolution 7 Task Force

At the October 2020 General Convention, the Episcopal Church in Connecticut adopted Resolution 7 which seeks to address issues of racism and racial reconciliation. The resolution reads, in part:

Resolved, that this Convention direct each Parish, Worshipping Community, and Intentional Episcopal Community to take steps to discover and document historic complicity in racism in their parish and communities.

In response to the above section of Resolution 7, a task force was formed at St. Paul's in 2021 to research our parish's connection to slavery. In past years the task force has conducted research and shared it with the parish, installed Witness Stones in honor of Grace and Esau, organized parish records and artifacts, and participated in townwide Juneteenth events.

After a hiatus in 2024, the group began to meet again in 2025 with some new members. The task force is chaired by Amy Foster and includes Charmaine Craggs, Caroline Goldschneider, Nancy Harrington, Kristin Liu, Hope McGrath, Rob Page, and Greg Welin. We have arranged for our Witness Stones to be remounted and reinstalled in order to be more visible as people enter the church. We have also begun planning for an event this spring that will remember and honor the lives of all of the enslaved people who were connected to St. Paul's.

-Submitted by Amy Foster

Starfish – Refugee Resettlement Project

Starfish is an interdenominational group that is assisting a refugee family from Afghanistan resettle in our area. The family consists of a father, a mother, a daughter in elementary school, and a son in middle school. The father has significant injuries from a Taliban attack; he uses a wheelchair and has ongoing medical needs. Until his departure last spring, Nathan Leach had represented St. Paul's on the Starfish coordinating committee; Amy Foster took over this role from Nathan and attends biweekly meetings of the committee. St. Paul's is playing an important role in helping support this family of four. Sharon Turlis has given rides to medical appointments, Nancy Harrington has provided tutoring, and Will and Jenna Andreycaak donated art supplies and games for the children. St. Paul's has provided financial support through outreach money and the free will offering at the fall Celtic Worship Service. It is gratifying to have representatives from several area churches work together to support this family as they move toward becoming self-sufficient in their new country.

-Submitted by Amy Foster

The Memorial Garden & Columbarium Committee Annual Report 2025

The Memorial Garden and Columbarium continue to serve as a peaceful and sacred place for remembrance, reflection, and prayer. Families and visitors often express gratitude for the quiet beauty of the space and the comfort it provides.

Our focus throughout the year has been to maintain an atmosphere that honors those interred and supports anyone seeking a moment of stillness. Our volunteer season runs from April through October, giving us approximately 28 weeks of care and attention to the Garden. We are fortunate to have a steady committee of five dedicated volunteers, each offering their time one to three times during the season. Occasionally, a family chooses to participate for a single session, and their willingness to help is always greatly appreciated. Volunteer tasks include watering, light weeding, seasonal clean-up, and general care of the plantings and pathways. Two committee meetings were held this year to coordinate schedules, review needs, and ensure the space remains welcoming and well-maintained. The commitment of our volunteers is the heart of this ministry.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Art Sousa, whose steady and compassionate service has been instrumental in each burial this year. His care in preparing the resting places for ashes is a quiet but deep ly meaningful ministry, and we are grateful for his dedication. This year, we held five services for beloved members of our parish family conducted with reverence by Reverend Greg Welin. Marilyn Page Reitman, Janet E. Leone, Trudy B. Guth, Robert Bartosiak, and Daniel W. Lyon. We will be providing a service for Robert C. Knowlton in the coming New Year, continuing our commitment to offering a peaceful and dignified resting place for those entrusted to our care.

Annual expenses—such as plantings, maintenance supplies, and occasional improvements—are covered entirely by the Memorial Garden fund. This allows us to maintain the space with care and stability while remaining a self-sustaining ministry within the parish.

As we look ahead to the coming year, we remain grateful for the steady support of our volunteers, the trust of the families we serve, and the peaceful beauty of the Memorial Garden. This ministry continues to be a quiet blessing within our parish life, offering comfort, dignity, and a place of remembrance for all who visit. We are honored to care for this sacred space and to serve our community with compassion and respect.

Submitted by
Sharon Turlis

Harvest Fair – 2025 Annual Report

A special thank you to everyone who had a part in making this year’s Holiday Fair such a fun-filled and successful event -- whether it was buying supplies, making pies, setting up tables, wrapping baskets, selling raffle tickets, cooking and serving lunch, or simply coming to the fair to have fun and support our church. And a special thank you to the Henry family and Blue Hills Orchard for donating the many bushels of apples. We made a total of 272 pies (168 large and 94 minis) and donated 17 to Master’s Manna.

The final totals are in -- the amount raised from the 2025 Harvest Fair is \$6,322. This is approximately \$400 over what we made in 2024.

The breakdown profit from the St. Paul's tables is:

\$3,441 -- Pies
\$695 -- Lunch
\$891 -- Basket Raffle
\$720 -- Gift Card Raffle
\$ 95 -- Sweets & Treats Raffle
\$480 -- Vendor Fees

The Harvest Fair is the biggest fundraiser for our parish. The success and future of the Harvest Fair at St. Paul's depends on new people getting involved with new ideas. We held a wrap-up meeting after the fair and had new people at the meeting who showed interest in being involved in the Harvest Fair, and some new ideas presented, such as a Holiday Room, and two separate Gift Card/Lottery raffles. We also need new people to learn the various aspects of the pie-making – getting supplies and apples, making the dough, assembling and baking the pies. If you are interested in getting into the “pie business,” please talk with Chuck Maynard. There are many “behind the scene” things that need to be done to keep this event going. We welcome you to join us.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS – the 2026 Harvest Fair will be held on **October 24, 2026** with pie making taking place the week before starting on Monday October 19th.

Sharon Rogalski

Outreach Allocation Committee 2025

The Sacred Trust bylaws dedicate a portion of the fund's earnings to outreach. A committee determines a set of recommendations to the Vestry regarding how those funds should be allocated, and the Vestry makes the final approval. This year the committee included: Amy Foster, Carole Ireland, Lynne Merrick, Claire Minneman, Nathalie Szilagyi, and Greg Welin. The total amount to distribute from the 2025 funds was \$7300.

Here is how the 2025 outreach funds were distributed:

St. Paul's Nursery School	\$2900
CT Foodshare	\$1500
Episcopal Relief & Development – Hurricane Relief	\$1500
Wlfd. Community Dinners	\$500
Starfish Refugee resettlement	\$400
Wallingford Emergency Shelter	\$500*

*This money has been set aside to purchase food for the dinners that St. Paul's is providing in January and March of 2026.

-Submitted by Amy Foster

Report of the Altar Guild of St. Paul's Episcopal Church 2025:

The Altar Guild of St. Paul's is a ministry dedicated to preparing the sanctuary and altar for our services. The elements of communion consisting of a paten, silver chalices and bread box are filled with wine and bread respectively and placed on the credence table beside the altar. Other duties include decorating the sanctuary for Christmas and Easter, preparing the palm for palm cross making, putting up the hymn numbers on the hymn board, filling oil candles on the altar and light dusting and sweeping of the altar area. One altar member washes and irons the altar and communion linens. Any service that is held in the sanctuary is prepared as necessary. A baptism will have the baptismal font set with water and oil. A funeral will have the paschal candle placed near the casket or behind the table where the decedent's ashes are placed. Our preparation is traditional, reverent, and fulfilling.

In 2025, sadly there were several funeral services held in our sanctuary in addition to our regular Sunday services. Of note, a memorial service was held in honor of the life of June Lape who was a faithful and dedicated member of St. Paul's and former director of the altar guild. A \$500.00 donation in her memory was given to the Altar Guild and this money will be used to purchase new altar linens. Also in 2025, we had a visit from our Bishop Jeffrey Mello who baptized and confirmed a lovely group of parishioners.

The Altar Guild would like to thank the extra helpers who pitched in to decorate this Christmas. Thank you, Linda Liversidge-Daley, Sharon Kesilewski, Charmaine Craggs, Jane Smith and Patti Cullen for all your help and creative input. Thank you also to our dedicated team: Kathy Schave, Diane Simpson, Maura Ryan, and Karen Rowe.

The Altar Guild would like to recognize and thank Kathy Schave for her many, many years of dedicated service. Kathy was fun to work with and did great decorating of the sanctuary at Christmas and Easter! She has retired and moved to Florida with her husband Curt. We will miss Kathy (and Curt) very much.

The Altar Guild welcomes new members! Please see Karen Rowe at the 9:30 service or Maura Ryan at the 8:00 am service.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Rowe, Co-Director and Maura Ryan, Co-Director
Altar Guild of St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Food Drives – 2025 Annual Report

On Saturday, December 13th, as the last bag of food was unloaded at Master's Manna and the last toy was delivered, we celebrated the five-year anniversary of what started as the "Love Your Neighbor as Yourself" campaign at St. Paul's during COVID. It was 2020 – COVID hit our nation. We weren't gathering in church. The Regathering Task Force at St. Paul's recognized the need to gather to support Master's Manna was greater than ever. In July of 2020, we held our first drive-thru food drive in our parking lot, filling two SUV's with 468 lbs of food and cash contributions of \$460, as well as \$635 for diapers and wipes for the Community Health Center. That December, we partnered with Wallingford's "Holiday for Giving" and collected a carload

of toys and gift cards to help those less fortunate in our community have a blessed holiday. At the end of those first six months we collected 2,553 lbs of food and cash contributions totaling \$2,274 for Master's Manna, \$1,630 for diapers, toddler clothing, and toys, and gift cards for Holiday for Giving totaling \$340.

And so it continued . . . We never would have imagined when we started this ministry in 2020 that we would reach the heights that we have. Over the last five years, we joined with other churches in Wallingford in the Unity for Faith food drives and the Holiday for Giving food and toy drives. We invited the Wallingford community to participate in our monthly food drives. We started Souper Bowl Sundays in February and Cereal Sundays in March.

Our success this past year was overwhelming.

In May, we stood outside Stop & Shop on a Saturday morning to collect food to help fill the empty shelves at Master's Manna. Art Sousa said his goal that morning was to collect 500 lbs of food. We filled two SUV's and had to call Chuck Maynard to bring over his van. When the carts were loaded on the scales at Master's Manna, the final weigh-in was 1,260 lbs of food.

In September, St. Paul's joined with other churches for the Unity in Faith food drive. Our goal was to collect 750 lbs of food. We weighed in at Master's Manna with 744 lbs of food, coming in third among all the churches.

In November, we came to the call for help from Master's Manna for food due to the government shutdown and people not being able to receive SNAP benefits – 1,132 lbs of food was delivered to Master's Manna from our November food drive.

In December, we held our Holiday for Giving food/toy drive. We collected 78 toys, \$355 in gift cards, 25 packages of toddler socks, underwear, and sweat pants, and \$110 for diapers for the community day care. We also collected 564 lbs of food for Master's Manna. Our Rector, Greg Welin, designated all plate collections for the rector's discretionary fund for the month of November to go to Master's Manna. We collected \$650 from plate collections and \$850 from separate parishioner personal donations, giving Master's Manna a check for \$1,500 from our Holiday for Giving campaign.

All total, this year we delivered 4,778 lbs of food to Master's Manna, plus \$1,565 in cash donations. We received an e-mail from them saying, "You and your volunteers are amazing, and we appreciate all that you have done for and donated to Master's Manna over the years!!"

In the five years since we started this ministry, we collected a total of 21,493 lbs of food, \$9,619 in cash donations, and donated 77 mile-high apple pies, 987 cans of soup from Souper Bowl Sundays, 480 boxes of cereal from Cereal Sundays to Master's Manna, and collected \$6,789 for diapers and other items for the Community Day Care.

But the need continues. Times are hard for all families. People are having trouble meeting their own family needs, but yet, the parishioners of St. Paul's still find a way to help others. We plan to continue this ministry in 2026, starting with Souper Bowl Sunday on February 8th and Cereal Sunday on March 15th. We thank everyone for your support and generosity – we couldn't have done it without you.

Sharon Rogalski, Art and Pat Sousa, and Our Food Mascot Bowie.

St. Paul's Nursery School 2025

Our 2025-2026 school year has been filled with lots of fun and learning! We've met a lot of really wonderful families and are thrilled with how our school community continues to grow. Our families are so excited to participate in our school functions. They were able to come out and celebrate Halloween and Christmas with us. For the fourth year, our school collected pajamas, toiletry items, and toys that were donated to Fostering Family Hope, an organization that provides support and supplies to local foster families. It was amazing to watch the generosity and caring pour beyond the walls of our classroom and into our community!

Returning to the classroom this year are head teachers Michelle Michael and Natasha Sousa. In our 4-year-old class, we have welcomed Catherine Carter back as an assistant teacher. Cat brings a love of learning, fun spirit, and a knack for all things science. Our afternoons are lead by the amazing Adrienne Ferretti, who brings her expertise from the kindergarten classroom into 3 amazing hours of science, nature, literacy, and more. Our 3-year-old class welcomed Patricia O'Brien and Elizabeth Giatrelis back to the classroom for another year of learning and fun.

This fall, our 4-year-olds embarked on walking field trips around the center of town. We visited the fire department and, in December, walked to the post office to mail a letter to Santa. During our visit, the children sang a Christmas carol for the postal workers (with permission) to the delight of the patrons. In the spring, we will visit a yoga studio, and the post office to mail our Valentine's. We are so lucky to be located in the center of our community. Our students are able to see where all of the community helpers work and, at the same time, learn their role in the community - that of a young learner in a school nestled safely between the fire station and post office. This year, we are excited to continue our library program to our class. Every three weeks, we walk to the library to exchange our books and see all that our library has to offer. If you see our students walking on the sidewalks, be sure to beep your horn or say hello! Spreading kindness throughout our community is one of our classroom goals on our walks!

On February 7th, our preschool will once again participate in the Early Childhood Education Fair at the Wallingford Library. At the same time, we will be hosting an Open House at our school. In the past, this event has provided many families the opportunity to walk over to our school and learn, in person, all our program has to offer. Many of the families that stopped by our table had heard of us from other families. Word of mouth continues to be our most effective form of advertising, so this was reassuring to hear. We look forward to meeting new families this year! If you know of anyone who is interested in learning more, have them stop by! As we look toward the spring, we excitedly anticipate more family events, such as our Mothers Day Tea, Ice Cream Social, and our Easter Celebration.

Although we've said it before, and the words never seem to be enough, we are grateful for the continual support of the church. On behalf of our students, their families and our staff, we thank you!



Report of 2026 Nominating Committee

Officers

Senior Warden	Kristin Liu
Junior Warden	Art Sousa
Treasurer	Ted Hartsoe
Clerk	Claire Minneman

Vestry

Class of 2029	Class of 2028	Class of 2027
Zac Boulter	David Desjardins	Larry Stowe
Stephanie Crump	Karen Hlavac	Sharon Turlis
Jennifer Oquendo	Karen Rowe	

Buildings & Grounds

Gene Gervais, Chair, Joining Jesus Project Manager
Chuck Maynard, Joining Jesus Project Manager
Joe Sholtes
Stephanie Crump
Larry Stowe
Art Sousa
Tammy Napoli
Ben Henry

ECCT Annual Convention Delegates:

Patti Cullen
Brian Sahlin

St. Paul's Memorial Garden and Columbarium Committee

Class of 2028	Class of 2027	Class of 2026
	Stephanie Crump	Art Sousa
	Eli Henry	MaryLiz Williamson

Chair, Sharon Turlis
Vice Chair, Larry Stowe
Secretary, MaryLiz Williamson

Members: Art Sousa, Lauren Laird, Curt Griesing, Kim Berthiaume, Marie Mumaugh, Eli Henry, Lois Olesen, Stephanie Crump, Joseph Ransohoff

2026 Nominating Committee

Class of 2027 Vestry members, Rector, Wardens