

# St. Paul's

Episcopal Church

## December 2025 Newsletter



**St. Paul's Christmastide  
schedule is on page 11**

# DECEMBER AT A GLANCE

## SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:00 A.M. Rite I Holy Eucharist  
9:30 A.M. Rite II Holy Eucharist (9:30 A.M. is livestreamed to YouTube)  
\*2<sup>nd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays Morning Prayer at 8 A.M. and 9:30 A.M.

## CHURCH OPEN FOR PRAYER & REFLECTION

Wednesdays 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

## WEDNESDAY FELLOWSHIP AND JOY CLUB

Wednesdays, 12:00PM (see page 10)

## ADVENT ADULT FORUM ON ZOOM

Wednesdays, 12/3, 12/10 & 12/17 - 7:00PM (see page 5)

## HOLIDAY STROLL

Friday, December 5- 4:00PM – 9:00PM (see page 7)

## VESTRY MEETING

Tuesday, December 9– 7:00 PM

## HOLIDAY FOR GIVING & FOOD DRIVE (see pages 9 & 10)

Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup> - 9AM-12PM

## STORY WALK AT MARCUS COOKE PARK

Sunday, December 21 – 9:20AM (see page 7)

## CHRISTMASTIDE 2025 AT ST. PAUL'S (see page 11)

**DEADLINE FOR THE JANUARY NEWSLETTER IS  
TUESDAY, December 16 by NOON**

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**\*\*\*SAVE THE DATE for these JANUARY events\*\***

### TUESDAY, JANUARY 6 (see page 11)

Annual reports due to parish office by NOON

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 25

Annual Parish Meeting

9:30 Combined Service followed by Annual Meeting & potluck brunch

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A gentle reminder to please be in touch with the parish office to advise and request dates and times for any activity or meeting that will be taking place at St. Paul's. It is important to make sure events are on the calendar to avoid any potential overlapping dates! Thank you in advance for your help with this important task!

## Advent Preparation

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It seems odd that I'm writing about Christmas when, because of deadlines, I haven't yet had Thanksgiving. We all know how to prepare for Christmas. We decorate our homes. We have a long to-do list and many presents to buy. We make plans to visit family and friends over the holidays. Even before we begin, we know that we have too many plans and part of our worry of the season is that we will overdo it and we will not have any energy left to worship as we ought.

We prepare in advent before we get to Christmas. I remember a time, when we greened the church on the Sunday before Christmas. That was a time when people did not decorate for Christmas until then. I also remember a time, when we would go out as a big group and sing Christmas carols to different houses along the streets in Wallingford. I can't imagine doing that in this culture. People would find it too intrusive.

Since times have changed, how do we prepare now for the feast we anticipate on December 25<sup>th</sup>? We know there's more to it than presents and green and red decorations. We know we are preparing for God entering our lives in a way that's surprising and loving. Our preparation can be more than the usual lists and cards and greenery. We can prepare by making space. We can make space by letting go. We can make space by listening. A way to do this is to set aside some time for prayer. And in that time of prayer, we make space to listen to be quiet and not just read another list of things we need.

We can also make space by letting go of some of our things and some of our expectations of this season. Perhaps we don't need to buy as much. Perhaps we don't need as much. Maybe we can seek ways to give to others who cannot give in return. We can give to the food bank, and there's talk of us working again at the shelter in Wallingford. We can listen to those who would not normally have time to listen and spend time with those who are shut in or in nursing homes. Of course, we can come and gather to worship, and in that worship to listen to what God has done

rather than demand what we think God must do for us. If we see this season as a blessing instead of a list of chores, we may be able to see how God is continuing to be at work in us not just 2000 years ago but today in the morning of December 25th.

Greg+

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## **Pledge Drive Update**

Pledge drive update

As of this writing, we have received 45 pledges for \$119,594. If you have not yet made a pledge for 2026, you can still find pledge forms at the entrances of the church, or you can make a pledge online on our website, here - <https://www.stpaulswallingford.org/give.html>. Thank you for your generous support of our life together!

## **Report of Annual Convention**

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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](http://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

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## **Vestry Update**

When the Vestry met in November, we took care of several items of business, including reviewing pledging numbers so far, outlining the timing for building our 2026 budget, and choosing a contractor to maintain our elevator. We also celebrated the success of the Harvest Fair and Celtic Service, two events that served to bring us closer as a parish and also brought scores of new people into our doors. We shared ideas, opinions, and a lot of laughter.

This is the work of the Vestry. Yes, it is work, and it is important, but it is also joyous. We get to know each other in new ways. We are working together, praying together, talking together, and laughing together. We have the responsibility of serving on the Vestry, but we also have the privilege.



# Treasurer's Report

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

**Treasurer's Report**  
**October 2025**

Wallingford, CT

|                                  | This month     | Budget         | Difference vs Budget | Last Year      | Difference vs Last Year |
|----------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Income</b>                    |                |                |                      |                |                         |
| Pledges                          | 144,234        | 150,000        | -5,766               | 153,509        | -9,275                  |
| Other Donations                  | 10,992         | 7,250          | 3,742                | 6,595          | 4,397                   |
| Other operating income           | 23,578         | 23,350         | 228                  | 24,315         | -737                    |
| Group contributions              | 1,100          | 1,000          | 100                  | 1,250          | -150                    |
| Investment income                | 67,221         | 67,208         | 13                   | 72,719         | -5,498                  |
| <b>Total Income</b>              | <b>247,126</b> | <b>248,808</b> | <b>-1,682</b>        | <b>258,388</b> | <b>-11,262</b>          |
| <b>Expenditures</b>              |                |                |                      |                |                         |
| Salaries                         | 112,210        | 117,955        | -5,745               | 86,619         | 25,591                  |
| Fringe Benefits                  | 52,250         | 53,814         | -1,564               | 30,572         | 21,678                  |
| Property Expenses                | 58,459         | 58,976         | -517                 | 45,081         | 13,378                  |
| Utilities                        | 14,136         | 14,050         | 86                   | 13,002         | 1,134                   |
| Other Expenses                   | 19,484         | 25,520         | -6,036               | 20,306         | -823                    |
| Common Mission Support to ECCT   | 27,860         | 27,860         | 0                    | 32,896         | -5,036                  |
| <b>Total Expenditures</b>        | <b>284,399</b> | <b>298,176</b> | <b>-13,777</b>       | <b>228,476</b> | <b>55,923</b>           |
| <b>Surplus/Deficit</b>           | <b>-37,273</b> | <b>-49,368</b> | <b>12,095</b>        | <b>29,912</b>  | <b>-67,186</b>          |
| ERC                              | 21,643         |                |                      |                |                         |
| <b>Surplus/Deficit after ERC</b> | <b>-15,631</b> |                |                      |                |                         |

## Starfish Update

Starfish is the ecumenical group of area churches that is providing support for an immigrant family from Afghanistan. The family has many medical, educational, and financial needs, and Starfish has been able to provide significant assistance to help this family on their way to self-sufficiency in their adopted country. St. Paul's is a vital part of this effort, providing transportation, tutoring, school supplies, and more. At our recent Celtic Worship Service we took up a free will offering to support Starfish and raised \$300. Thank you to all who donated and to all who are providing assistance for this family! If you have any questions about this ministry, speak with Amy Foster or email her at [foster9092@gmail.com](mailto:foster9092@gmail.com).



### THE THRIFT SHOP

**NEEDS YOU...** for sorting and pricing Wednesdays from 10-12.

Several of our regulars are away or are ill or have experienced a death in the family. Please join us, every Wednesday or whenever you can! We get things done and have a good time while we're at it! --Helen and Carole



## CHURCH SCHOOL

**Story Walk** -We will meet at Marcus Cooke Park at 9:20 on Sunday, December 21. Our story will be followed by a church school lesson in the

woods! Please return to pick up your children after the 9:30 church service is over. We will have the story walk and lesson at the church if it is too cold or windy or rainy. Questions? Helen Stowe 203-848-7113

**Nursery Coverage Needed** Please consider supervising our youngest parishioners in the Nursery on Sunday mornings. It's a wonderful way to welcome families with small children. If you're interested in this service, please contact Helen Stowe. The more volunteers we have, the fewer times you'll be in the Nursery. There is a sign up sheet on the cork board outside the Nursery with available dates. Feel free to write your name on the line next to the date(s) you're willing to work. Thank you. Helen Stowe : 203-848-7113 or [asclepiashs@hotmail.com](mailto:asclepiashs@hotmail.com)

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## THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE UPDATE

Our Thanksgiving Food Drive was a GREAT SUCCESS. The donations of food filled four SUVs as we headed off to Master's Manna. We topped the scale with 1,132 pounds of food, along with a donation of 12 mile-high apple pies. But that's not all, we also gave to Master's Manna \$1,200 from individual cash donations and plate donations from the past two Sundays. And we collected \$70 for diapers. A special thank you to all who helped us feed those less fortunate in our community.

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**Holiday  
STROLL**

### **Holiday Stroll: Friday, December 5th**

The Holiday Stroll is Friday, December 5 from 4-9 PM and St. Paul's will be open. Cookies or other

holiday treats are needed along with volunteers to welcome visitors into our church. A sign up sheet is on the easel on the back of church. A carol sing is scheduled at 6:30 PM. Please contact Carole Ireland 203-988-7405 for additional information.

## **2025 Harvest Fair UPDATE**

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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 cases of apples. We made a total of 272 pies (168 large and 94 minis) and donated 12 to Master's Manna. We still have some pies available for sale – if you would like to buy one for the holidays, please see Chuck Maynard or Sharon Rogalski.

The final totals are in: When we sell the remaining pies, the projected 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

A wrap-up meeting was held on November 16<sup>th</sup>, and it was agreed that **we will have a Harvest Fair on October 24, 2026, -- MARK YOUR CALENDARS** -- with pie making taking place the week before starting on Monday October 19<sup>th</sup>.

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 had both new people at the meeting who showed interest in being a part of the Fair, and we had 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. There are many “behind the scene” things that need to be done to keep this event going. We welcome others to join us. Again, thank you to all who helped this year and stay tuned for plans for 2026. If you have any questions or ideas, please contact Sharon Rogalski ([sroga156@comcast.net](mailto:sroga156@comcast.net)).



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## Holiday for Giving

St. Paul's will once again be partnering with Wallingford's townwide "**Holiday for Giving**" to help those in need in our community have a wonderful holiday. Because Thanksgiving is late this year, the St. Paul's Christmas Giving Tree is already up in the back of the church and decorated with "wishes" ornaments. This will give everyone wanting to make a donation the opportunity to take advantage of the sales over Thanksgiving weekend. We are asking for donations of new toys for children ages 2-12 and gift cards for Walmart and Target.

Please take a "wishes" ornament and bring back an unwrapped gift to place under the tree. We ask when you take a "wishes" ornament off the tree, you hang a shiny ornament on the tree so it will stay decorated throughout the Christmas season reminding us of the warmth and joy we brought to others this holiday season. **This year the deadline for delivering gifts is December 13<sup>th</sup>.** Gifts may be placed under the Christmas tree through Sunday December 7<sup>th</sup>. You may also leave gifts by the office during the week of December 8<sup>th</sup> thru 12<sup>th</sup>, or bring them to our drive-thru food/diaper drive on Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup> from 9:00-12:00. Unfortunately, **we will not be able to accept gifts after noon on December 13<sup>th</sup>.**

## DECEMBER FOOD DRIVE

Our December Food Drive will be part of our Holiday for Giving. On Saturday, December 13th we will be out in the parking lot from 9:00 – 12:00 collecting food for Master’s Manna. Donations of toys and gift cards will also be accepted at this food drive. Food donations can also be left in the boxes at the back of the church and by the office during the weeks prior to December 13th.

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## Christmas Memorials

Christmas is a special season to remember your loved ones. And what better way to honor their memory than with a Christmas memorial flower. If you would like to make a donation to the Christmas memorials, please submit a form with the names of those you would like remembered along with your check payable to St. Paul’s Flower Fund in the amount of \$35.00. Forms can be found at both entrances. You may place your form in the collection plate or drop it off at the church office on Wednesdays or Fridays between 11:00 and 2:00, or at the Food/Diaper Drive on Saturday, December 13th. **The deadline is December 14th.** Please be sure to include your name, address and phone number. If you have any questions, please contact Sharon Rogalski at 203- 678-4824 or [srogal156@comcast.net](mailto:srogal156@comcast.net).

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## The Wednesday Fellowship and Joy Club

We meet at noon to worship, share a bag lunch and then join in playing some simple games and conversation.

Usually ends by 2pm.



## **Christmastide 2025 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church**

**65 North Main Street Wallingford CT 06492**  
**203-269-5050 [www.stpaulswallingford.org](http://www.stpaulswallingford.org)**

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### **Wednesday, December 24: The Eve of the Nativity**

- 4:00 PM** Family Pageant Service with Holy Eucharist  
**9:30 PM** Choral Prelude with St. Paul's Choir,  
flute & string quartet  
**10:00 PM** Candlelight Service with Choir &  
Carols & Holy Eucharist

### **Thursday, December 25: The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ**

**Single service at 9:30AM Holy Eucharist**

### **Sunday, December 28: The First Sunday After Christmas**

- 8:00 AM** Holy Eucharist, Rite I and  
**9:30 AM** Holy Eucharist, Rite II  
*No Nursery or Church School.*

### **Sunday, January 4: The Second Sunday After Christmas**

- 8:00 AM** Holy Eucharist, Rite I  
**9:30 AM** Holy Eucharist, Rite II  
*Nursery & Church School resume.*



***The Church will be open Wednesdays from  
10:00 am to 1:00pm for prayer & reflection.***

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**Contact information for the Rev. Dr. Greg Welin:**

You may reach me in the office on most Wednesdays and Thursdays. It would be best to make an appointment to see me if you can. My email is [rector@stpaulswallingford.org](mailto:rector@stpaulswallingford.org) . In the event of an emergency, you may call my cell phone at 203 206 4802. Please add my number to your contact list!

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**The Parish Office Hours**

The parish office will be open to the public on Wednesdays and Fridays from 11AM-2PM. Please email or call the office at (203) 269-5050 to arrange any additional times to meet during the week. Calls, emails and other matters will generally be addressed during business hours of 9:00-3:00 Tuesday-Friday.

Please advise us of

- change of address or telephone numbers
- illness, hospitalizations, deaths
- requests for baptisms, weddings, etc

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Times for St. Paul's Sunday Service  
Comcast Cable Channel 18  
Frontier Channel 99  
[www.WPAA.TV](http://www.WPAA.TV) - WPAA on the Internet  
Sunday - 5:00 PM  
Monday - 12:30 AM, 1:00 PM, and 11:00 PM

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[Click here to sign up for email blasts and text messages.](#)

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St. Paul's Episcopal Church Wallingford, CT

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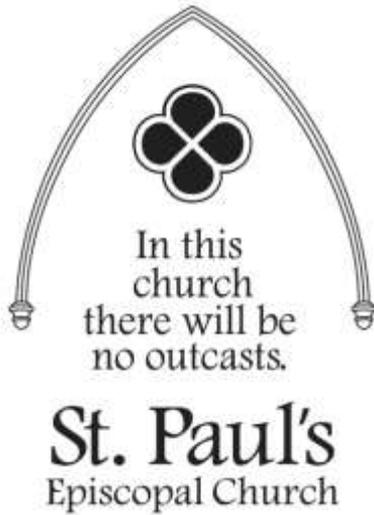


**Thank you for pledging!**

We appreciate your faithful giving.

You may give online by scanning the QR code or by going to [stpaulswallingford.org](http://stpaulswallingford.org) and clicking the "Donate Now" button, mail your gifts into the parish office or place your offering in the basket during Sunday worship.

It's all good! Thank you.



The parish office can be reached at (203) 269-5050.

E-mail – [office@stpaulswallingford.org](mailto:office@stpaulswallingford.org)

Fax – (203) 269-3813

Web Site – [www.stpaulswallingford.org](http://www.stpaulswallingford.org)

If we are not in the office, please leave a message.

The Rev. Dr. Greg Welin, Rector

[rector@stpaulswallingford.org](mailto:rector@stpaulswallingford.org)

(203) 206 4802

### VESTRY

Senior Warden, Kristin Liu

Junior Warden, Art Sousa

Clerk, Claire Minneman

Treasurer, Ted Hartsoe

David Adams

Linda Krasko

Wendy Oestreicher

Sharon Turlis

Shelley Cruz

Larry Stowe

David Desjardins

Karen Hlavac

Karen Rowe



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