

2020 Annual Parish Meeting

January 31, 2021 9:00 A.M.

AGENDA

- A. Call meeting to order and opening prayer**
- B. Approval of agenda for the Annual Meeting**
- C. Approval of the minutes of the 2019 Annual Parish Meeting held on February 9, 2020**
- D. Reception and File for Audit of the 2020 Treasurer's Report (separate document)**
- E. Reception and Approval of the 2021 Budget - Rick Johns**
- F. Report of the Senior Warden with Nominating Report – Maureen Gerrity**
- G. Election of new members of the Vestry – Lucinda Brunner (filling term of Jacob Maas), Marilyn Cleland (filling term of Bill Cummings), Steve deGolier (replacing Maureen Gerrity); with Gretchen Schlabach standing for Senior Warden and Lucinda Brunner standing for Junior Warden**
- H. Nominations and election for the delegates to the Diocesan Convention- November 2021: Jennie and Bill Cummings, Gretchen Schlabach; standing for Alternate, Lynne Jacobson**
- I. Reception of the Reports from the Subcommittees of the Vestry and Ministries of St. Paul's**
- J. Thank you: 2020 Convention Delegates, Jennie and Bill Cummings, Maureen Gerrity and Lynne Jacobson. Thank you to Maureen Gerrity for serving as our Senior Warden.**
- K. Adjournment and closing prayer**

The Episcopal Church of St. Paul
DeKalb Illinois
Minutes of the 2019 Annual Parish Meeting
February 9, 2020

Mother Barbara called the meeting to order at 9:10 am with an opening prayer and grace.

Rick Johns moved to approve the agenda for the Annual Meeting; Bill Cummings seconded and was approved by acclamation. Betsy Pool moved to accept the minutes of the 2018 Annual Parish Meeting held on January 27, 2019. This was seconded by Marilyn Cleland and approved by acclamation.

Treasurer Pat Brown reviewed the Treasurer's Report packet and highlighted several areas. She explained the packet includes a written Treasurer's Report Summary, Statement of Financial Position sheet, Statement of Receipts and Disbursements, Detail of Capital, Stock, Endowment, and Miscellaneous Funds and the proposed 2020 Annual Budget. Pat explained the need to continue to grow the Building and Capital Funds in the event funds are needed for a major building repair or need. She also explained the difference between Disbursements for Operations and fluid funds such as the flower, music and discretionary funds which receive funds for use through specific donations. There was also discussion about the best time of year to obtain needed money from the Endowment Fund due to the current market gains and the potential for a decline later in the year. It was stated that it will be best to follow the recommendations of the financial advisor along with the Endowment Fund Committee. Pat Brown who has been Treasurer since 2009 announced that Rick Johns will take over as Treasurer and Pat will be assistant. Pat was thanked for all her years of diligent work as Treasurer.

A motion was put forth by Vince McMahon and seconded by Donna deOliveira to receive and file for audit the 2019 Treasurer's Report. The motion passed by acclamation.

Donna deOliveira motioned to receive the 2020 budget and refer it to the vestry for approval. Rick Johns seconded and the motion passed by acclamation.

Marilyn Cleland voiced a suggestion for a parish-wide discussion related to our mission and goals. She stated much time is spent discussing the budget, but there seems a lack of discussion that involves how we at St Paul's are currently fulfilling our mission to the church and greater community and what direction we might seek to explore. After brief discussion, Lorraine Langer moved for the vestry to schedule a parish meeting this year and prior to the Annual Parish Meetings to review the parish mission and goals. The motion was seconded by Donna deOliveira. The motion passed by acclamation.

The draft copy of the revised by-laws revision was distributed for review. The approval is deferred to a later date, allowing time for parishioners to review. Thanks to Gretchen Schlabach, Peg Newby and Mother Barbara for their work on the revision.

Senior Warden, Maureen Gerrity referred to her written report. She stressed that we should not be discouraged (referring to budget deficit), that, "St. Paul's has so much to offer our community, and that is because of each of you!".

Mother Barbara referred to her written report and encouraged parishioners to review and ask questions or make comments they might have at the future meeting when St. Paul's mission is discussed.

Senior Warden Maureen Gerrity presented the Nominations for election of new vestry members—Bill Cummings, Jacob Mass and Gretchen Schlabach, with Gretchen Schlabach standing for Junior Warden. She also presented nominations for the delegates to the Diocesan Convention November 20-21 – Jennie and Bill Cummings, Maureen Gerrity and Alternate Lynne Jacobson.

Additionally, nominations for the Endowment Fund Committee—re-election to two 3-year terms; Dick Downen and Jamie Stubblefield. To fill the 2-year vacancy left by George Nenonen; Vince McMahon (amendment from the agenda which stated Rick Johns).

Donna deOliveira motioned to approve the election of the above listed. The motion was seconded by Terry Dickow and approved by acclamation. An amendment for Marilyn Cleland to be the Alternate Delegate to the convention in place of Lynne Jacobson was motioned by Rich Johns and seconded by Gretchen Schlabach. Motion was approved by acclamation. Marilyn Cleland suggested the delegates report to the parish following the convention to share their experience.

Gretchen Schlabach moved and Donna deOliveira seconded to approve the reception of the reports from the subcommittees of the Vestry and Ministries of St. Paul's. The motion was approved by acclamation.

Thank you: Appreciation was given to 2019 convention delegates, Jennie and Bill Cummings, to Maureen Gerrity for serving as both our Junior and Senior Warden and to Rick Johns for his help as assisting treasurer. Appreciation was also given to Rick Johns and Peg Newby for consistently acting as counters of the Sunday offerings.

Donna deOliveira motioned for the adjournment of the meeting. Bill Cummings seconded. Motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 10:18 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Jocelyn Prall; Clerk

COMMITTEE AND PROGRAM REPORTS (attached)

- **Rector's Report**
- **Senior Warden's Report**
- **Junior Warden Report**
- **Altar Guild Report**
- **Art and Music Ministry Report**
- **Communication and Technical Support Report**
- **Endowment Fund Report**
- **Episcopal Church Women Report (narrative)**
- **Flower Guild Report**
- **Garden Report**
- **Greeting Cards Report**
- **Mission and Outreach Report**
 - **KHUSA**
 - **Salvation Army**
- **Re-Entering the Building Report**

FINANCIAL REPORTS (separate document)

- **Annual Budget for 2021**
- **Treasurer's Report**

Rector's Report

To God's Beloved at the Church of St. Paul, DeKalb,

Grace to you and peace.

To again cite a far over-used word describing this past year, it was, indeed, "unprecedented." From about March 15th, we were unable to gather around Christ's table in our beautiful sanctuary out of deference to guidelines established to try to quell the COVID-19 pandemic. Because of our diminished ability to meet, our committees and ministries have had very limited opportunities, so I will be wrapping brief comments about Stewardship and Taize here in my report. As of this writing, it still not safe to return to worship in the manner we enjoyed last January.

Nevertheless, we've persisted! Attendance has hovered at right around 32-36 people each Sunday. At the earlier worship gatherings via Zoom attendance was rather low. Many people needed significant help with computer technology in order to take full advantage of gathering virtually online, and we began initially with just one service. As the time lengthened and it became obvious that we were not going to return to the Sanctuary anytime soon, we added an 8 o'clock and a 10:30 AM service and eventually the Zoom team (a million thanks to Lorraine—along with Hannah and Tyrique later) set up in the Sanctuary for a virtual communion service with guidelines allowing no more than 10 people in the Sanctuary at a time.

Sadly, we had two "leave-takings," with the deaths of Henry Leonard and Jan Bach late in the year. They are greatly missed. And we've celebrated the baptism of Adaline Russell and the wedding of Peggy Anderson and Dick Downen.

We enjoyed just two **Taize events**, in January and February—which were well attended, then had to stop because of the pandemic guidelines.

Through the year, we've had various opportunities for worship and education, guided mindfulness meditations and a four-week introductory course in Benedictine Spirituality and Mindfulness Meditation. We had a few months of Lectionary Bible study but because attendance was low, we stopped with that. Still, book study continued more or less throughout the year, beginning with a month's long discussion of *The Lost Art of Scripture: Rescuing the Sacred Texts*, by Karen Armstrong. I personally am just winding up requirements for graduation this month, through the Greater Good Center, from the Mindfulness Meditation Teacher Certification Course, affiliated with the University of California, Berkeley. I remain a member of the Diocesan Antiracism Committee which has met via Zoom monthly and I supervise a seminarian Intern from Chicago Theological Seminary.

Finally, reporting for the **Stewardship Committee**, I can report that we've gained two new households and that our pledged income has, by the grace of God and this generous congregation, remained steady with a slight increase projected for 2021.

The pandemic restrictions are seemingly lessening as fatalities are finally dropping off and I think we can tentatively look forward to returning to our Sanctuary in the next month or two.

Respectfully Submitted,
Barbara+

Senior Warden's Report

Dear St. Paul's Family,

2020 has been a challenging but fruitful year. We began the year with a budget deficit of over \$47,000. It was our hope that new programs such as Taizé, healing liturgies, Adult Formation programs, and Children's Chapel would attract new members. We increased the size of the vestry to broaden the vestry's perspective as it oversees the work of the congregation. We also were given a beautiful new Baptismal Font for our sanctuary - Betsy Poole created the basin and Rhys Prall crafted the stand.

Early in the year, we held a parish-wide meeting to begin the process of discerning who we are as a congregation and what our hopes are for the future of St. Paul's and its ministry to the community. Just a few weeks later, COVID-19 turned our world upside down. But, as you all know, it didn't stop our work. We quickly transitioned to the virtual arena, offering weekly online worship services. Mother Barbara initiated new virtual programs: Gospel Reflections, Lectionary Bible Study, and Compline. The book club transitioned to virtual meetings.

St. Paul's gardeners worked hard to plant, care for, and harvest our community garden. Produce was donated to local food pantries on a regular basis. This was a very important ministry as food insecurity in DeKalb increased dramatically because of job losses caused by the pandemic.

Our Treasurer, Rick Johns, applied for a Payroll Protection Program (PPP) loan on behalf of St. Paul's. We were approved for a loan of \$27,000 and the funds were received in May. We were notified recently that our loan has been completely forgiven.

This summer, vestry member Donna de Oliveira applied for a grant through Com Ed's Energy Efficiency Program for the purchase and installation of energy efficient light fixtures. We were awarded a grant of \$12,978.75 for this purpose. Donna also coordinated an energy efficiency survey to help St. Paul's find ways to reduce its energy consumption and lower its utility costs.

About halfway through the year, Junior Warden Gretchen Schlabach called upon the vestry members to begin the very difficult task of reviewing our income and expenses and looking for ways to reduce the budget deficit. The vestry participated in a Church Finances workshop with Tim O'Brien from North Park University. Tim stressed the importance of involving the congregation in the budget planning process. He felt it was important to discuss what is happening in the life of the church and how the congregation is carrying out its mission, and he encouraged us to start this conversation early in the year.

In August, a Reopening Committee was formed to begin the task of preparing the sanctuary for in-person worship services. The Diocese has a checklist of tasks that must be completed before churches can offer indoor services. A plexiglass shield has been installed at the altar; touchless hand sanitizing dispensers have been ordered; and face shields have been purchased for the staff.

In September we held outdoor services, celebrating the Eucharist for the first time since March. These services were also offered via Zoom and continued until inclement weather set in. We then switched to Zooming the services from the sanctuary.

In November, the vestry earnestly began the 2021 budget discussion. At the time, we believed we were facing another year with a significant budget deficit. The alternative was drastic cuts. Because of this, the vestry felt that it needed to be actively involved in preparing the 2021 budget.

I am pleased to report that because of the PPP loan and some one-time bequests and donations, St. Paul's ended the year with a budget surplus instead of a budget deficit. We also have sufficient pledges and donations to present a balanced budget for 2021 to the congregation. Our Treasurer Rick Johns did a fantastic job incorporating the vestry's instructions in the final version.

The 2021 budget includes funding for program development (p.2, under Worship and Fellowship Expenses). Over the past few months, members of the congregation have submitted suggestions for new programs that serve & engage our community: outdoor neighborhood "sing-out" events; special programming designed to engage the community in spiritual development and enhance spiritual practices; workshops that address the spiritual needs of particular groups, such as senior citizens, parents & caregivers; and prayer services for specific concerns, such as sickness, loss, stewardship of the earth, and responding to crises. Other ideas include: creating a spiritual walking path for college students; allowing DeKalb County Community Gardens to use a section of our land for a garden plot to expand their ministry to those suffering from food insecurity; planting fruit and nut trees; and offering outdoor worship services and special events using our natural amphitheatre. As I read through this list, I marvel at how much St. Paul's has to offer!

I want to express my deepest gratitude to Mother Barbara, Gretchen Schlabach, the members of the vestry, Treasurer Rick Johns and Assistant Treasurer Pat Brown, Lorraine Langer, Susan King, and each and every member of St. Paul's for helping our congregation through this extraordinary year. The pandemic has sorely tested us, and I believe we have passed with flying colors! I look forward to seeing God's plan for us unfold in the year ahead.

In Faith and Hope,
Maureen Gerrity
Senior Warden

Junior Warden's Report

MARS HILL Annual Meeting 2021

As 2020 unfolded in February, it was clear that the vestry had their work cut-out given the significant budget deficit and COVID 19. In putting on my rose-colored glasses and reflecting on 2020, the vestry continued the work of the church through Mother Barbara's effective leadership and Maureen's experience. The vestry minutes (shout-out to Rebecca Smith, Clerk, for ensuring detail and accuracy) captured some important work and considerations as we navigated 2020. The vestry:

FEBRUARY

- Gave appreciations of the new baptismal font was created by Rhys Prall and Betsy Pool,
- Recognized that the Taizé Gatherings as well-received and well-attended,
- Recognized the need to develop vestry goals,
- Voted to elect Mitrick Johns, Treasurer and Rebecca Smith, Clerk,
- Marilyn posed an additional parish meeting to look at ourselves not just endowment finances,

MARCH

- Recognized *coronavirus situation likely to last through July or longer* (NY Times projection). Mother Barbara researched on-line worship, Eucharistic options and maintaining pledges, as well as, using Zoom, Facebook Live, YouTube platforms,
- Discussed St. Paul's becoming a sanctuary church as part of underground railroad stop,
- Conversed about ministry to the community/ folks "fostered" by St. Paul's,
- Gathered for weekly bible study (continued through mid-summer),
- Accepted the vote for the changes in the By-Laws and entered it into the record,

APRIL

- Canceled NIU Annual spring clean-up,
- Recognized and appreciated the Garden group their work through the fall,
- Received information relative to online video streaming church services, Zoom "check-in" meetings,
- Announced that Saturdays at 1pm, 3rd Saturday of month will be Vestry Meeting guests welcome; Sundays Zoom at 9 am Liturgy of the Word and Prayers; Wednesdays Zoom 7pm-8p Bible Study,

MAY

- Examined individual goals as Vestry, Rector, Wardens for the year along with an instrument with which to evaluate effectiveness,
- Discussed the overview of the Diocesan plan to go back into the sanctuary for worship--- discussion,
(http://www.stpaulsdekalb.org/images/Episcopal_Diocese_of_Chicago_Reopening_Plan_Version_2_RV1.pdf) No in person worship in Episcopal churches before at least end of May

JUNE

- Reviewed an instrument that assesses the responsibilities of the vestry, Rector, Wardens, Clerk, and Treasurer,
- Discussed energy Audit by Green Sky, the adoption of church bushes, Francis (our summer guest),

JULY

- Purchased the additional Realm accounting module program,
- Began the conversation about the 2021 general budget,

AUGUST

- Learned that there would be three baptisms in the Sanctuary: Russell family, Myers family and Richardson family,
- Continued discussion relative to date to return to sanctuary and organization of a "work committee" for eventual return to worship,
- Continued the discussion regarding the budget and need for the vestry to take charge of planning for 2021,
- Assigned each vestry member a specific budget line items to monitor church line-item expenses,

SEPTEMBER

- Planned for re-entering the Sanctuary COVID-19 items expenses,
- Appreciated the addition of WIFI to the sanctuary (a few outdoor services),
- Recognized the addition of the spiritual book club,

OCTOBER

- Received DeKalb County Community Gardens ideas for outreach,
- Invited Tim O'Brien, director of The Academy of Church Leadership, to present a discussion on church finances,
- Discussed stewardship drive possible with the theme "Hope," Jeremiah 29:11 *"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope",*

NOVEMBER

- Began preparing for the 2021 budget,
- Recognized a new program, St. Paul's Mindfulness Meditation Course,

DECEMBER

- Gave appreciations to Rhys and Rick for stringing Christmas lights around the Church, as well as Peggy and Jocelyn for the Christmas decorations,
- Recognized Marilyn C's letter emphasizing a need for community programming, and
- Discussed the St. Timothy Center and St. Paul's parking lot as an internet hotspot.

I'd like to give a heartfelt shout-out to our Senior Warden, Maureen Gerrity, who helped navigate us through some unprecedented times. Absolutely nothing was routine about this year, yet you gracefully led us through the year with encouragement and confidence. You did an amazing job, and your leadership will be missed. Thank you so very much!

It's a privilege to serve on St. Paul's vestry. I enjoy the responsibility, conversation, and fellowship as we do our best to be good stewards. Further, I am so excited about what God has in store for us in 2021.

Brothers and sisters of St. Paul's, thank you for the opportunity to serve!

Gretchen

Junior Warden

Altar Guild Report

2020 Altar Guild Report for 2021 Annual Meeting

About the Altar Guild

The Altar Guild members help prepare our worship space for Sunday, weekday, and special services. Their ministry is carried out under the direction and guidance of the rector. In addition to preparing the altar, the group cares for the sacred vessels, linens, vestments, and candles. Hymn posting is another responsibility.

2020 has certainly made changes to our ways of worship due to Covid-19, which in turn involved changes in the duties of the Altar Guild. For a number of months in 2020 the sanctuary was not in use for Sunday or other services as they were zoomed from the rectory. In late summer and fall the Altar Guild assisted in preparing for a few outdoor services. Also, during the year, the Altar Guild assisted in setting up the sanctuary for a family attended Baptism, a funeral and most recently a wedding. Along with the Flower Guild, the Altar Guild prepared the sanctuary for Advent and Christmas.

This challenged us to downsize from years past with careful placement of items, working around multiple technical equipment set up areas while trying to locate items to be visible on camera to enhance zoom services. Thanks to Mother Barbara and the staff for their hard work in navigating the technology to provide all of us with a sanctuary setting for our services and providing guidance to the Altar Guild. We continue to set up for Sunday zoom services, including the weekly changing of the sanctuary candle by the Ambry which holds consecrated bread and wine (currently individual, disposable ones). We anticipate additional changes to our duties as we maneuver our way through the re-entry of congregants for worship in the sanctuary, while continuing the option of zoom attendance.

After putting several things on hold, we are again evaluating our current supply and vestment needs, using donation funds made to the Altar Guild.

Thank you to parishioners who served in this ministry during the past year----Peggy Newby, Jane Nenonen, Jocelyn Prall, Pat Brown, Pat McMahon, and Freyja Rasmussen-Johns. New members are always welcome!

Submitted by Jocelyn Prall
Chair

Art and Music Ministries

Music Ministries Report 2020
Annual Meeting via Zoom, Sunday, 1/31/2021
St. Paul's Episcopal Church, DeKalb, IL

The music ministries program hosts a multi-generational group of singers and instrumentalists (13 volunteers, 3 paid staff, 1 NIU student). The Adult/Youth and Children's Choirs are a very talented and dedicated group and they clearly represent one of the many strengths of St. Paul's.

Highlights of the year included:

- the promotion of Hannah Buckle to Assistant Director of Music;
- the choirs engaging in well over 15 choir rehearsal chats via zoom;
- choir members/instrumentalists participated in creating some virtual choir experiences, and
- two slide shows were created featuring pictures of our parishioners, sanctuary, building and grounds; furthermore, the videos were enhanced with the sounds of pre-recorded choral anthems from our very own choirs.

The maintenance and value of our musical instruments include:

- the Sanctuary's Pipe Organ is performing well and was last appraised at \$975,000.00;
- the Sanctuary Grand Piano is performing well and appraised at \$3,000.00;
- the Parish Hall Mason Hamlin Grand Piano (100+ years) and the St. Timothy Center Acrosonic Spinnet are in very poor condition and offer no appraisal value.

For more detailed information shared throughout the year about music ministries, please review the weekly email blasts as well as the monthly newsletters and vestry reports.

Lorraine Langer, Director of Music and Choirs

Communications and Technology Report

Communications and Technology Report 2020

Annual Meeting via Zoom, Sunday, 1/31/2021

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, DeKalb, IL

The newest and most progressive changes that St. Paul's has made in the last year are the additions of the Zoom platform and Wi-Fi in our Sanctuary.

Zoom continues to be a sort of life line for many of our parishioners to be able to attend worship services and many other church related activities and meetings during the pandemic including:

- mindfulness;
- pastoral care;
- book groups;
- adult formation;
- scripture studies;
- evening compline;
- choir rehearsal chats;
- staff meetings;
- vestry meetings;
- Diocesan meetings, and
- congregational gatherings.

Below is a chronological list highlighting streaming for the year.

- March, parishioners get Zoom and worship services begin via Zoom from the rectory to our homes;
- April, we purchased internet copyright and streaming licenses (CCLI), a new website hosting package that includes 3 years of internet Site Lock and Secure Socket Layer encryption for website protection (NS). The vestry is reviewing possible equipment upgrades (hardware and software) that may enhance future services and activities;
- April - August, worship services were continued via Zoom from the rectory to our homes;
- April - October, rector recorded sermons, staff edited, posted via YouTube, Website, Facebook;
- September, we added Wi-Fi capability to the Sanctuary;
- September, first parish wide video created featuring parishioners, Sanctuary, buildings/grounds, with choir music;
- October, we were able to stream live from the church during several out-door services;
- October - December, staff recorded, edited, posted sermon via YouTube, Website, Facebook;
- October, via a slide show, we had a non-service *Tribute and Celebration* (Jan Bach);
- November, while transitioning from no music to pre-recorded, to live music, we began streaming live via Zoom from our Sanctuary;

- November, St. Paul's hosted its first virtual *Celebration of Life Service* (Henry Leonard) via Zoom;
- December, first Christmas Eve Service live via Zoom and video of parishioners/building with choir performing, and
- December, St. Paul's hosted its first virtual *Wedding* (Richard and Peggy Downen) via Zoom. Videos created.

For detailed information shared throughout the year about Communications and Technology, please review the monthly newsletters and vestry reports.

Lorraine Langer

Endowment Fund Report

The Endowment Committee is very pleased to report that the rate of return on the fund for the period from 1/1/19 to 12/31/20 was 9.7%. That return is calculated treating all withdrawals as decreases in the fund balance. Our Endowment Fund grew by \$211, 454 over the course of a year filled with many unpleasant surprises. Overall a bad spring was overcome by a very judicious Investment Policy. I believe that our current policies service the Church of St. Paul very well. All of us need to contribute our prayer full thought and ideas on how to utilize the fund to insure a bright future for our church.

I invite all of the members of the committee to share their thoughts with me before a final report is prepared. I apologize for the late date getting this out.

Dick Downen
Chair

Episcopal Church Women's Report for 2018

St. Paul's Annual Lobster Boil was cancelled in 2020 due to the pandemic. There was no ECW activity for the year. The proceeds from the 2019 lobster boil have not yet been disbursed.

The ECW checking account balance as of December 31, 2020 was \$13,433.20.

Maureen Gerrity,
ECW Treasurer

Flower Guild Report

Flower guild: Not much to report, Thanks to Jocelyn Prall who brought lovely greens from her yard, we were able to decorate the alter for advent. Thanks to Mary Lincoln who bought Poinsettias we were able to decorate for Christmas.

Lori Judkins
Chair

Garden Report

What would be better than a tasty ripe tomato right now and a vase of bright red roses?

Our Garden Group, the “Green Team,” has grown from our experiences of working together in fellowship amidst the pandemic. We had three garden projects this year. The flower garden decorates and improves the soils around the entryways to the church building. The Memorial Garden is a place of refuge and prayer. The goal of the donation garden remains an outreach ministry to provide fresh, organic, garden produce to the food insecure in our neighborhoods and to members of the parish.

We began our 2020 season with a Parish meeting attended by eight people interested in learning about the garden. We created a garden plan and were fortunate to have most of our seeds donated from Blain’s Farm and Fleet. Additional seeds and plants were provided by the garden team from their own gardens and supplies. The flower and donation gardens were blessed in April by Mother Barbara with our gardeners present to assist. The gardens were a blessing to all of us as we were able to get out together, properly prepared for safe outdoor communion, enjoying one another as our labor produced an abundance of flowers, vegetables, and raspberries.

Flower Garden

Mary Short provided amazing leadership for our expanded flower beds with the assistance of Rick Johns, Rebecca and Brad, Rhys Prall, Mother Barbara, Kris Borre and Francis, our summer guest. This year we added some new perennials to the front raised beds, cleared out the unproductive beds around the foundation of the church, created a new rose garden border to welcome people to the front door, and a new hydrangea bush was planted by the front door as well. The tea garden cozied into the front entrance area was renewed by the furniture having a new coat of paint, additional mulching, and some native plants added in. The flowers are able to be harvested for use by the Flower Guild, but this year remained in our outdoor beds. If you have not had a chance to bring a picnic lunch with a few friends to this spot in summer, you are missing a true delight. It is a beautiful spot to gather, or to sit and meditate with a view of the flowers in the raised beds.

Mary Short is an avid gardener talented in landscaping and full of plant knowledge. She also is amazingly fit surprising us with her ability to dig deep beds in hardpacked old clay soil. She is the prime example of how gardening helps to keep us in good shape as we age as well as keeping us emotionally on an even keel during these difficult times.

Memorial Garden

Mother Barb and Lynn worked with Mary Short, Rhys Prall, and Rick Johns to renovate and restore the Memorial Garden. This required intense labor to clear out the overgrown bushes and trees, vines and weeds so that the memorial plaques and bench could be seen and used. The young father who has been to church services with his wife and infant daughter, Damien Richardson, worked hard to do the major heavy lifting of cutting and removing brush, shrubs and trees. This garden will continue to be maintained and developed during future years.

Donation Garden

Rebecca Smith and Jocelyn Prall led the efforts to make sure our Donation Garden was productive. Brad Smith provided much support as well along with Linda Lorbach and Kris Borre. Rick Johns assisted as needed. Mother Barb provided ongoing encouragement and support, including purchasing a new heavy duty, much needed hose. Chris Lewis, a Salem Lutheran parishioner, worked hard during the winter and early spring months to help prepare the garden, but we lost him after our communication lines failed when the pandemic hit. His work reminds us of how much we welcome and need the support of others outside of our Parish membership to meet the mission of providing much needed food to our hungry neighbors.

Another business supporting our work was Garden Prairie Organics from Garden Prairie, IL who provided high quality, animal waste free, organic compost for our beds. They deeply discounted the price for our order and provided delivery because we were a donation garden. We also received a Kennebec and Red Norland seed potato donation from Brittany Rasmussen from A&P Grain Systems in Maple Park. We hope you can support our business partners as much as possible when you can!

Our April workday with NIU Cares was cancelled this year due to the pandemic. This made our work preparing beds for spring much more difficult. Again, we are reminded about the importance of our community partnerships to achieve our goals. Whether or not NIU will be able to participate in NIU Cares Day this year is still unknown. Additionally, due to the pandemic, DeKalb County Master Gardeners were not allowed to work in any community projects until after July 6.

Eleven beds were planted with vegetables: onions, radishes, lettuces, beets, green beans, pole beans, peas, broccoli, collard greens, kale, carrots, Brussels sprouts, yellow squash, zucchini, lettuces, butternut squash, peppers, tomatoes, herbs, flowers, and cucumbers. We planted a new potato bed with both red and white potatoes this year and giant sunflowers. Our perennial bed of asparagus produced well this year and was our first harvest. We continued to intercrop this year to produce multiple harvests of bush beans, beets, onions, lettuce, and carrots. All the work on the raspberry bed paid off this year and we had a good harvest of raspberries. Gardening was much more enjoyable and easier because we prepared our walkways with a heavy mulch to prevent weed growth and mulched our beds heavily. Midsummer, Lorraine Langer surprised us one early work morning with donuts and water as well as additional masks and hand sanitizer! In November and December, we had our final harvests and put the garden to bed.

We distributed our produce weekly as crops were harvested to New Hope Baptist Food Pantry and to the Bethlehem Lutheran Food Pantry. The community members using the pantries remain thrilled to have our fresh produce and those running the pantries are always very appreciative.

Most popular and requested items include tomatoes, peppers, collards, green beans, squashes of all varieties, cucumbers, potatoes, carrots, and broccoli. We produced 312 pounds of vegetables this year for distribution. Our garden would have produced much more but due to the drought in June and July we lost production of many plants including collards, carrots, peas, summer and winter squash. With limited peoplepower and insufficient mulch on beds we were not able to water regularly and the rains did not come. Our bumper crops came from the mulched beds and included pole and bush green beans, cucumbers, beets, and beet greens. Tomatoes did well but we lost an early crop due to blossom end rot due to irregular water supply and calcium deficiency. After fortifying the plant bases with TUMS (for calcium) and water, tomato production improved greatly, and we had trouble keeping them picked.

The garden is an outreach ministry of the church that has much promise. Kris and Mother Barb are planning to meet with New Hope and Westminster Presbyterian to see if we can partner with them for the donation garden for next year. In addition, Lori Brown of DeKalb County Community Gardens met with Kris in August to survey the St. Paul's gardens and campus to brainstorm ways to use the gardens to connect to our community. Potential plans include a children's regenerative garden and food and nutrition education summer camp in partnership with NIU, developing an outdoor amphitheater worship area, working with DeKalb County Master Naturalists to redo the "Prayer Path" across our property to campus, and creating opportunities for outdoor concerts and community sings with neighbors and other churches. We assessed garden needs and opportunities including installing an irrigation system using rain collectors, developing a new water access system for the garden beds, developing a second fruit production bed with additional berries and fruit and hazelnut trees. DCCG currently is understaffed but can assist somewhat with plans and some materials. DeKalb County Master Gardeners are also a source of potential help. These plans were offered up to the Vestry for consideration.

All are welcome to join our garden-loving group. Our team needs outreach workers to transport our vegetable harvest to the pantries each week, so if you want to help but feel you can't or don't wish to get down and work in the soil, there is a role for you. We also need more members interested in working with the flower garden development and maintenance (regular watering). If you are not a gardener or are limited in mobility, please know that we have opportunities for you to assist that will not overtax you. It would be a joy to have you in our midst! Please contact Rebecca Smith, Jocelyn Prall, Mary Short, and/or Kris Borre to find out how you can participate or donate to the garden. If you have any ideas to share about how we can expand our outreach to partners in the community, please let us know as well!

Kris Borre

Greeting Card Report

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Greeting Card* Mailings 2020

January

A Newbys
B deOliveira, D.
B Stubblefield, L.
B Roberts, L..
B Little, M.
B Larson, J.
B Jacobson, L.
B Smith, R.
B DeGolier, J.

9

February

B Gerrity, M.
B Mason, R.
B Russell, B.
B Schlabach, G.
B Rasmussen-Johns, F.
GW Stubblefield, J.

6

March

B Russell, E.
B Nenonen J.
B Russell, D.
B Perkins, K.
B Stubblefield, J.
B Dickow, J.
B Lincoln, M.
B Piper, G.

8

April

A Mounts
B Roberts, D.
B Leonard, A.
B Faulkner, E.
B Johns, R.
B Russell, M.

6

May

A Judkins
B Buckle, H.
B Dickow, T.
B Mason, N.
B Maas, J.
5

June

A Meyers
A Russells, B.
A Clelands
B Sitzes, S.
B Short, M.
B Judkins, A.
B Prall, C.
B Sitzes, K.
B Faulkner, T.
B Faulkner, E.
10

July

A Pralls
B Prall, J.
B Cleland, M.
B King, S.
B DeGolier, S.
S Johnson, K.
6

August

A Johns
A DeGoliers
A Masons
A Smiths
B Rev. Barbara
B Kilday, E.
S Langer, L.
7

September

A Cummings
A Stubblefields
B Cummings, B.
B Russell, P.
B Russell, R.
B Leonard, B.
B Meyers, O.
B Langer, L.
B George, E.
B Brown, P.
B Newby, P.
B Stubblefield, J.
B Cummings, J.
13

October

A Roberts
B Downen, R.
B Piper, L.
B Meyers, D.

B Meyers, J.
B Leonard, H.
B Lorbach, L.
B Prall, R.
S Lorbach, L.
TY Bach, J.
All Saints Convent
11

November

A Pipers
B Cleland, C.
B Sitzes, J.
B Lee, S.
B Stubblefield, L.
B Mounts, J.
B Judkins, L.
B Judkins, D.
S Leonard, A&B
S Leonard, D.
TY Dickow, T.
GW Dickow, t.
All Saints Convent
13

December

A Dickows
A Wilson/Jacobson
A Russells, R.
B Stubblefield, A.
B Pool, B.
B Mounts, M.
C Kwan, S.
TY Fanning, G&A
S Torma, J.
9

Christmas

Anderson
Borrre/Wilson
Brunner
Brown
Buckle
Clark
Cleland
Cummings
DeGolier
De Oliveira
Dickow
Downen/Anderson
Edokpayi
Fanning
Faulkner
Fickling
Franklin/Smith
George
Gerrity
Graham
Jensen
Johns

Johnson
 Jones
 Judkins
 Kilday
 King
 Krueger
 Krogman
 Kwan
 Langer/Schlabach
 Larson
 Lee
 Leonard, A.
 Leonard, D.
 Lincoln
 Lorbach
 Maas, J.
 Maas, S.
 Mason
 McMahon, K.
 Meyers
 Mounts
 Nenonen
 Newby
 Newport
 Ostberg
 Ouellette
 Piper

Pool
 Prall
 Reed
 Retherford
 Roberts
 Russell, B
 Russell, R.
 Short
 Stubblefield
 Wilson/Jacobson
 Windsor
 Worden
 61

Summary of 2020 Mailings

Stamps remaining 12/31/19		22
Stamps purchased 3/27/20	100	
Stamps purchased 11/30/20		100
Total		222
Greeting Cards* Mailed 2020		164
Stamps remaining 12/31/2020		58

*Anniversary, Birthday, Sympathy, Get Well, Thinking of You, Congratulations, Christmas

Mission and Outreach Reports

Kids Hope USA

Kids Hope USA is a non for profit that has been connecting mentors from Churches and elementary schools for the past 25 years. Prior to Covid 19 we had approximately 5-6 mentors at Lincoln Elementary school. All being well by fall we will be back in the school meeting with our mentees on a weekly basis. The concept is simple yet powerful 1 Church 1 school 1 Child in need 1 hour per week 1 mentor. The Principal at Lincoln Elementary is very supportive of the program. The amount of kids who need a mentor exceeds our current support so if anyone is interested in starting the process to become a mentor for the fall it is never too early to start. The kids appreciate our mentors and St Paul's support hugely. Please know that this is a crucial outreach to the community and thanks to the dedication of our current mentors and the support from St Paul's the local program will continue to thrive.

Respectfully and prayerfully submitted
 Lucinda Brunner Kids hope Director.

Salvation Army Food Pantry

1596 items were donated by the parish during the first two months of 2020. We did not collect food donations after the end of February. Personal monetary donations from parishioners were made during the year, but I do not have that information.

Pat McMahon

Re-Entering the Church Building Report

Report for January 2021 Annual Meeting

In September of 2020, a team consisting of Mother Barbara, Lucinda Brunner, Bill Cummings, Maureen Gerrity, Lorraine Langer, and Peg Newby began Zoom meetings to discuss the steps we need to take to re-enter our worship and fellowship spaces. We meet as possible and as needed, using the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago's document "A New Season, Guidelines for Re-Entering Our Church Buildings, Version 2 / June 16, 2020" as our guide. (If you are interested in seeing this document, it can be found on the Diocesan website.) In order to return to our spaces, we need to complete and submit a plan. Here is a list of what you will see when we are able to be in our buildings:

- All Books of Common Prayer and Hymnals were removed from the pews.
- Plexiglass shields are in place at the altar and the lectern. There is a larger, free-standing shield to be used as needed.
- Face masks are available.
- In addition to bottles of sanitizer being available, handwashing stations are placed strategically around Parish Hall and the Sanctuary.
- "Distance circles," are on the floors to remind us to stay socially distanced.
- Pews have been marked with painter's tape (approved for our varnished pews) to indicate the "no seating" areas.
- Signs are on entry doors to remind those who enter that we are a facility that requires masks.
- Our contracted housekeeper, Ellen, will clean common spaces between services.

While this doesn't begin to cover everything that must be considered, it gives an idea of just how thorough our guidance document is. As we get closer to resuming services and events there will be additional information given as needed. (Where do I put my offering? Can I use the restrooms? What about coffee hour?) When we are able to re-enter our spaces, it will take cooperation from all of us to make sure our plan works to keep us safe. As with all plans, continuous feedback and evaluation will be needed so adjustments can be made.

Submitted by Peg Newby

Financial Reports are in a separate document